

Mumpower elected new TN Comptroller; Hargett, Lillard re-elected to another term

Members of the Tennessee Senate and House have elected Jason Mumpower as Tennessee's 35th Comptroller of the Treasury. The vote by acclamation was taken during a joint session of the 112th General Assembly on Jan. 13.

Members also re-elected David Lillard as the state treasurer and Tre Hargett as secretary of state.

Mumpower will be responsible for leading the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, which comprises 12 divisions and more than 560 employees, and ensuring the office fulfills its mission to make government work better. He joined the Comptroller's Office in December 2010, serving as former Comptroller Justin P. Wilson's deputy comptroller and chief of staff.

Prior to his service with the Comptroller's Office, Mumpower served in the Tennessee General Assembly as the state representative for Sullivan and Johnson counties. He was first elected to office at age 23. During his 14-year tenure, he held the positions of House Majority Leader and House Minority Leader.

The 112th General Assembly also re-elected Tre Hargett as secretary of state to his fourth four-year term. Hargett was first elected in 2009 to serve as Tennessee's 37th secretary of state.

Secretary Hargett is the chief executive officer of the Department of State with oversight of more than 300 employees. He also serves on 16 boards and commissions, on two of which he is the presiding member. The services and oversight found in the Secretary of State's office reach every department and agency in state government.

Hargett served in the Tennessee House of Representatives for a decade representing District 97 (Bartlett and Memphis) and was twice elected Republican Leader by his colleagues.

David Lillard was re-elected to his seventh, two-year term as state treasurer.

In his official capacity, Treasurer Lillard oversees the Tennessee Treasury Department and its more than 270 employees. The Treasury Department internally manages more than \$55 billion in state and local government funds.

Treasurer Lillard has championed issues of financial literacy and strives to find new ways to improve the financial lives of Tennesseans. Since first elected in 2009, he has worked with the



Jason Mumpower
Comptroller of the Treasury



Tre Hargett
Secretary of State



David Lillard
State Treasurer

Treasury Department to provide Tennesseans with financial tools needed to lead a better quality of life.

Treasurer Lillard has extensive professional experience in public and private corporate finance transactions, municipal finance, governmental budgeting and related fields.

Both the comptroller and the treasurer serve two-year terms; whereas, the secretary of state serves four-year terms. All are elected to their positions by a joint convention of the House and Senate.



Members of the 112th Tennessee General Assembly convened Jan. 12 to swear in lawmakers and elect leadership positions in preparation of a new legislative session. Lt. Gov. Randy McNally was formally re-elected for a third term as Speaker of the Senate. Rep. Cameron Sexton was re-elected to a second term as Speaker of the House.

112th TN General Assembly convenes; McNally, Sexton re-elected Speakers

The 112th Tennessee General Assembly was gavelled into session Tuesday, Jan. 12, to swear in legislators and to formally elect leadership positions.

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally was formally re-elected for a third term as Speaker of the Senate. Rep. Cameron Sexton was re-elected to a second term as Speaker of the House. Both called for unity amidst the backdrop of national unrest, a global pandemic, and the Christmas day bombing in Nashville.

During the two-day organizational session, appointments of legislative committee and subcommittee chairmen, as well as committee assignments were made.

A special legislative session called by Gov. Bill Lee is scheduled to begin Jan. 19. The special session will focus on education with teacher pay, student literacy, testing, and the difficulties caused by COVID-19 among the issues to be addressed.

The governor's annual State of the State address, when he releases

his proposed budget and provides information about his legislative agenda, is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Both speakers have released COVID-19 protocols, repeating many of the same procedures set in place last session, but adding new ones as well. Visitation to the state Capitol and Cordell Hull Building will be restricted and by appointment only. Annual Days on the Hill by various organizations will not be allowed to further limit the number of individuals on Capitol grounds.

Cities could still benefit from opioid suit after new TN Supreme Court ruling

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that opioid manufacturers can be sued under the state's 2010 Drug Dealer Liability Act, allowing a suit originally filed by seven district attorneys general on behalf of children born addicted to opioids and local governments to move forward.

The state supreme court ruling directly addresses a lawsuit filed jointly by Knox County District Attorney Charme Allen, Anderson County DA Dave Clark, Eighth District DA Jared Effler, Ninth District Attorney Russell Johnson, and Tenth District Attorney Stephen Crump. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of governments in their districts and two children born addicted to opioids. The suit alleges opioid manufacturers Purdue Pharma, Endo Pharmaceu-



Attorney J. Gerard Stranch IV speaks after the Tennessee Supreme Court announced its ruling over a suit brought against opioid manufacturers by several district attorneys general on behalf of two unnamed children born addicted to opioids and numerous county and municipal governments across the state.

ticals, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and Mallinckrodt were fully aware that their products were being diverted to illegal uses and were marketed in a misleading manner.

Mallinckrodt and Purdue Pharma have since filed for bankruptcy and were granted a stay of litigation, but the suit against the remaining companies remains active. Funds from Mallinckrodt and Purdue Pharma may still result from federal settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice.

A unanimous opinion, authored by Justice Sharon G. Lee, on behalf of the court found that the drug companies could not "invoke their status as otherwise lawful companies to avoid civil liability" for intentionally flooding "communities in East Tennessee with highly addictive opioids they knew would be sold in the illegal drug market."

Following the ruling, Eighth District DA Jared Effler released a statement on the court's findings.

"I am pleased that the Tennessee Supreme Court has affirmed our long-held position that the Drug Dealer Liability Act applies to Big Pharma," Effler said. "We

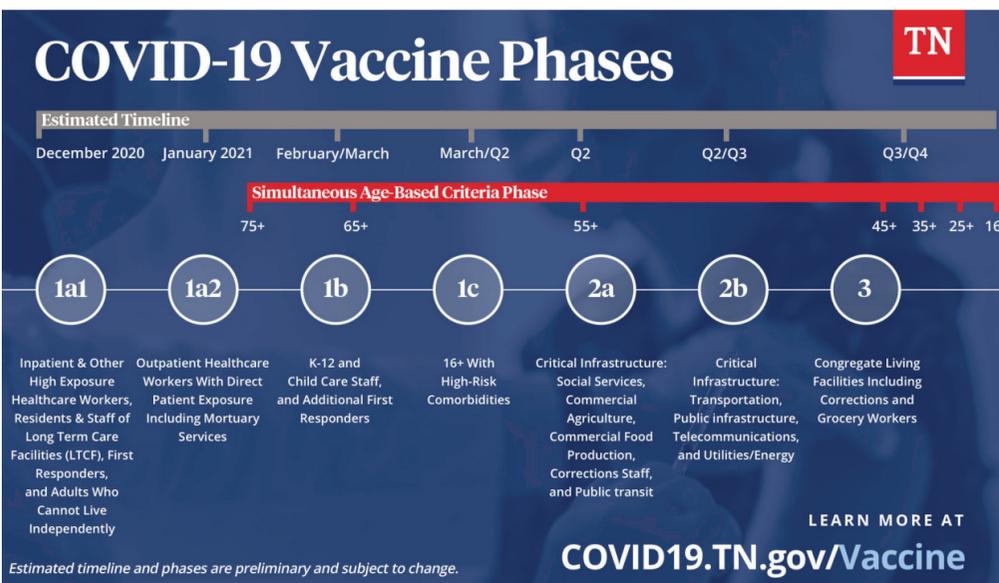


Jared Effler
Eighth District DA

look forward to presenting our case to a jury as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic allows us to do so."

J. Gerard Stranch IV, a Nashville-based lawyer who represented the district attorneys at the state supreme court, said local governments still stand to benefit from the lawsuit, which covers 47 counties and the municipalities located within them.

"The Tennessee Supreme Court affirmed our theory that the all the opioid manufacturers are liable under the Drug Dealer See RULING on Page 4



The Tennessee Department of Health has updated the Tennessee COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and its phased approach for administering COVID-19 vaccines to Tennesseans. For more information, go to : <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/>

State launches plan for vaccine roll out

The Tennessee Department of Health has released a plan and schedule for how the vaccine will be distributed.

Vaccines are now available in all 95 counties. But because the vaccine supply is limited, vaccines will be prioritized based upon in-

dividual risk and age-based phases. Phases will vary by county based on vaccine supply.

A new digital tool is available on the state website to help inform Tennesseans when they will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The eligibility tool allows

users to opt-in to receive updates and notifications about their vaccine phase and provides risk-based and age-based phase information at the county level.

Additional information about the vaccines can be found at <https://covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/>

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia is pleased to announce it has received a clean audit with no findings or irregularities reported by Henderson, Hutchinson & McCullough for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. During the fiscal year, the city's total governmental revenues increased by 12.1%, totaling \$4.7 million. Highlights from the yearly audit include, an increase in taxes in the general fund by \$1.3 million, a 5% property tax revenue that increased by 2.8%, totaling \$12.3 million, and a local sales tax revenue that increased 8.4%, totaling \$10.3 million. The city's investment program increased by 317%, earning taxpayers an additional \$406,342 in investment revenue. The city's building permit revenue increased 40.3% compared to 2019; and the city retired \$4.8 million (10.1%) in debt in 2020, while maintaining an AA+ bond rating from S&P reaffirmed Dec. 3, 2020. For 21 consecutive years, the city has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Excellence in Financial Reporting Award in recognition of outstanding financial reporting and high accomplishments in the city's stewardship of public resources. The city has also received a national award for the second consecutive year for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) from the GFOA.

FAYETTEVILLE

Direct Coil will establish its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Fayetteville, investing \$144 million and creating 75 jobs in the next five years. This will be Direct Coil's first manufacturing facility outside of its headquarters in Ontario, Canada. The company will renovate an existing facility at 1810 Wilson Parkway and plans to replicate its Canadian business model and processes in Fayetteville. Direct Coil supplies the North American market with innovative heating and cooling solutions. It specializes in industrial heating and cooling coils for a variety of heating ventilation air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) applications such as furnaces, air conditioning units, and other equipment involving air movement.

JACKSON

The city of Jackson has launched a new app aimed at making city transportation services more accessible. The TransLoc app allows users to see in real time when buses operated by the Jackson Transit Authority will arrive. The city received a \$35,000 grant from the AARP Community Challenge to help citizens who rely on public transportation. City officials hope the app will help residents have more information to plan trips, especially in periods of inclement weather. The app is part of service upgrades aimed at making public transportation more convenient and efficient.

KNOXVILLE

Fraleigh and Schilling has announced it will invest \$2.4 million to expand its operations in Knoxville, turning the facility into the largest owned by the trucking and logistics company. The 11,600-square-foot expansion will also create 100 jobs in Knoxville in the next five years, adding to the already 250 employed in the area by the company. The city's location and proximity to various interstates was one of the main reasons the facility was chosen for the expansion. Officials said the Knoxville office is the fastest

growing facility in the company. Headquartered in Rushville, Ind., Fraleigh and Schilling was founded in 1955. The company specializes in lightweight equipment for hauling heavy products such as tin for Bush Beans and aluminum for Arconic. It was named one of Knoxville's Top Workplaces in 2019.

KNOXVILLE

Two independent financial rating services have reaffirmed the city of Knoxville's credit ratings, which remain at the highest level in the city's history. S&P Global Ratings has assessed the city of Knoxville's debts and financial strengths and again rated the city at the AA+ level, its second-highest possible rating. Fitch has reviewed the city of Knoxville's general obligation bonds and again rated the city at a AAA level, its highest possible rating. Despite financial concerns amidst the pandemic, these strong ratings reflect a city that's financially healthy. The historically high ratings will allow the city to pay less money in interest for bonds in 2021 to finance one-time capital projects, such as completing the Public Safety Complex in North Knoxville and the Urban Wilderness Gateway Park in South Knoxville. The city's bond ratings have climbed four grades since the 1990s.

LA VERGNE

The city of La Vergne has launched a new program designed to help keep local streams clean and healthy. The "X-Stream Squad" will meet every month beginning in February and spend time cleaning trash out of banks and streams throughout the city. Many of the streams that flow through the city ultimately flow into Percy Priest Lake, which is part of the Cumberland River. These waterways also are used by the city's stormwater services. Each event will be limited to six volunteers to ensure proper social distancing can be maintained. Volunteers will be provided with gloves, bags, and bottled water as part of the clean-up.

MT JULIET

The city of Mt. Juliet has acquired 57 acres of land for development of the city's newest public park. The Tomlinson property located on Beckwith Road was purchased for \$975,000. The property is one of three sites the city has been considering since October for the location of a new park to accommodate population growth. Local developer Beazer Homes has already agreed to do several infrastructure improvements in the same area as part of a development agreement, which will help with planned growth in the area.

NASHVILLE

Revance Therapeutics will relocate its headquarters from Silicon Valley's Newark, Calif., to Nashville. As part of the relocation, the biotechnology company will invest more than \$10 million and create nearly 150 jobs in the next five years in addition to the company's more than 450 employees currently located in its California offices and throughout the U.S. The new headquarters will include a training and education center where employees, healthcare providers, consumers and patients can learn about the latest innovations in the company's aesthetics, therapeutics and financial technology (fintech) products and services. Revance Therapeutics is a biotechnology company focused on innovative aesthetic and therapeutic offerings, including its next-generation, investigational neuromodulator product, DaxibotulinumtoxinA for Injection. DaxibotulinumtoxinA for Injection is currently under

review with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for glabellar (frown) lines and is being evaluated in other aesthetics and therapeutic indications, including cervical dystonia and adult upper limb spasticity.

NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville will fund up to \$13.8 million in public infrastructure cost facilitate the River North development along the Cumberland River's East Bank as part of a new agreement with developers. In addition to the city's contributions, Monroe Infrastructure, LLC, will contribute more than \$7.1 million in public infrastructure costs as well as 5.5 acres of development land for public roads and at least 4 acres of land for public greenways and green spaces. The project will be located roughly between Cowan Court and Interstate 40. The agreement between the city and Monroe Infrastructure also establishes a River North Business Improvement District allowing River North property owners to voluntarily increase their property taxes on certain parcels of land, allowing the city to recoup its \$13.8 million expenditure on infrastructure over time. Additional future revenues from the district would go into the city's general operating fund, not earmarked for any particular spending. Under the participation agreement, city spending is capped at \$13.8 million, with Monroe Infrastructure LLC covering any additional costs.

PULASKI

Tenneplas will expand its operations in Pulaski, investing \$3.5 million and creating 50 jobs in the next five years. The 37,500-square-foot expansion will add capacity for warehousing and manufacturing at the company's Pulaski facility and will include an additional \$2.4 million investment of new manufacturing equipment. Windsor Mold started in 1972 and established Tenneplas in Pulaski in 2004 where it currently has more than 130 employees. Headquartered in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, the Windsor Mold Group of companies provides world class products and services for domestic and international Customers in the tooling and automotive plastic molding industries. Tenneplas produces exterior moldings, grille opening reinforcements, wheel liners, cow vents, and splash shields in Pulaski.

SPRINGFIELD

A nine-hole disc golf course will be coming to J. Travis Price Park in Springfield thanks to the donation of \$3,300 in equipment from a local disc golf organization. Discin Disciples Disc Golf Group donated the equipment and said they hope to expand the course to a full 18 holes in the future. The organization recently held an event at the park that attracted 60 to 70 people to test out temporary goals set up at the park. The organization said volunteers will help install the necessary equipment at the park.

SPRING HILL

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has awarded the design-build contract for the interchange to be built at Interstate 65 and Buckner Road in Spring Hill to Bell and Associates based in Nashville. Final project design and necessarily right-of-way acquisition, permit, approvals, and utility relocations are expected to be complete by fall 2022. TDOT projects construction could take a year and be finished as early as spring 2023 as schedules allow. The project was kickstarted by the city of Spring Hill with a federal BUILD grant totaling \$25 million in 2018. The interchange project will serve as a new gateway to Spring Hill and includes the extension of Buckner Road from Buckner Lane to Lewisburg Pike across Interstate 65 with a diverging diamond interchange.

Cleveland cuts ribbon on Taylor Spring Park



Cleveland officials have cut the ribbon on a new city park that honors both the birthplace of the city and Bradley County. Taylor Spring Park marks the property once owned by early settler Andrew Taylor that eventually became downtown Cleveland. The spring located on Taylor's property was what drew people to settle in the area and was recently uncovered as part of a joint project between the city, county, Allan Jones, and private donors. The park features a garden and a reconstructed springhouse modeled on one that would have originally been on the site near Andrew Taylor's cabin on the 160-acre originally known as Taylor's Place. After being chosen as the county seat, the emerging city was renamed Cleveland.

Eagleville accepts donation for city park scoreboards



Marsha Logue of Wilson Bank and Trust, left, presents Eagleville Mayor Chad Leeman with a check to replace the scoreboards at ball fields at Eagleville City Park. The park features three baseball and softball fields. Funds for the project were donated by the bank.

Greenbrier mayors join to celebrate unique connection



Greenbrier, Tenn., Mayor Bonnette Dawson, left, met with Greenbrier, Ark., Mayor Sammy Joe Hartwick to celebrate the connection between the two cities at the Tennessee Greenbrier's City Hall. The communities have begun a sister city relationship and the mayors exchanged gifts from their respective cities. Mayor Dawson has been invited to visit Arkansas in the fall and receive a city tour similar to that provided to Mayor Hartwick and his wife Cheryl.

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:** Anthony Haynes (ahaynes@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.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@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

WAUFORD

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

Local anonymously pays off balances for Gallatin Electric customers

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

While many across Tennessee were waiting for visits from Santa Claus, "Ms. Claus" delivered a surprise to dozens of customers of the Gallatin Department of Electricity.

A Gallatin business owner who wishes to remain anonymous along with members of her family donated more than \$10,000 to pay off past due accounts with the electric department. The donation will help approximately 120 residents pay off balances and restore service connections.

The payment is the second such Christmas gift made by the anonymous donor, who provided more than \$7,000 last year, benefiting 60 residents in the city.

The anonymous donor said she and her family wanted to help in a year when many have especially been hit hard financially.

According to Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, Ms. Claus said she was inspired by a news story that she saw from another part of the country and wanted to bring the same joy to some residents of Gallatin. The donor said she hopes this will give some people a chance to move forward a little bit and focus their efforts on other needs they may have. She also hopes her fami-



A Gallatin business owner known as "Ms. Claus" donated more than \$10,000 on Christmas Eve to pay off balances owed by approximately 120 customer balances at the city's electric department. Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown said the donation "made her Christmas" and showed the city's spirit of neighbors caring for each other amid trying times.

ly's contribution will inspire others to find a way to help someone.

Mayor Brown said that this donation "made her Christmas" because someone cared so much and was willing to help complete strangers.

"Gallatin has a strong history of caring for neighbors and this year has really shown how supportive our residents are of each

other," Brown said. "However, a donation this large that impacts so many unsuspecting folks is quite extraordinary and definitely touches your heart."

Gallatin Electricity Department General Manager Mark Kimbell said the department only recently ended its moratorium on disconnections due to the pandemic and is working with customers to

give them anywhere between four to 10 months to pay off overdue bills.

For some customers, the donation of \$50 or \$100 is enough to keep their service from being disconnected due to the financial impact of the pandemic.

While moratoria on utility payments have prevented cutoffs for many, more than 35 million Americans have had utilities cut

off due to inability to pay during the pandemic.

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) Executive Director Mark Wolfe said Americans who have been under moratoria will collectively owe somewhere between \$35 and \$40 million in back payments by March 2021 with some needing to pay as much as \$2,000 – more than some people pay for utilities in a single year.

Public Entity Partners transitions into new leadership, adopts strategic plan

2020 was a transitional year for Public Entity Partners, with a new president and CEO, as well as the adoption of a new strategic plan that will lead the organization's efforts for the next three years.

For more than 40 years, PE Partners has provided liability, workers' compensation, and property and crime coverage, along with claims administration and risk management training and services, to members throughout Tennessee. Today, Public Entity Partners serves approximately 500 Tennessee entities — nearly 90% of the state's municipalities.

In February 2020, Executive Vice President Charles DeMore stepped into the role of president and CEO to allow PE Partners' Board of Directors the opportunity to find the right candidate to lead the organization into the future. In August, after reviewing more than 100 resumes and interviewing the top candidates, the board selected Michael G. Fann to serve as of president and CEO.

"There is no doubt that Michael Fann's 35 years of expertise with Public Entity Partners in loss control, as well as his experience serving as vice president of Risk Services, prepared him well for his role in helping the team carry out our mission of serving our members," said PE Partners Chairman Curtis Hayes.

In addition, following a months-long planning process with the organization's leadership team, PE Partners' Board of Directors recently approved a 2021-2023 Strategic Plan that includes revised vision and mission statements and organizational values.



Michael G. Fann
PE Partners President / CEO

"The Board has worked hard over the past year to ensure that we clearly communicate the priorities and expectations of Public Entity Partners' membership to our leadership team," Hayes said. "We are pleased with the direction of the strategic plan."

PE Partners' newly crafted vision is to make a difference in the lives of Tennessee public entity employees and the citizens they serve. The mission is to partner with Tennessee governmental entities in providing effective risk management products and services with a commitment to member best interests. The overarching values that serve as a foundation for the organization are Service, Integrity, Stewardship, Inclusiveness, and Quality.

"Making a difference in the lives of Tennessee's public entity employees and the citizens they serve is an inspiring vision," Fann said. "The components of the stra-



Curtis Hayes
PE Partners Chairman

tegic plan represent the cultural core of our organization, and will guide and define the programs and services Public Entity Partners seeks to provide to members in the coming years."

Along with the vision, mission and values, the board approved five priorities for the next several years: organizational culture, stakeholder relations, change management, financial management, and high-value products and services.

"These priorities will help guide our continuing evaluation of the programs and services we offer our members to ensure each fit within the framework developed by our Board of Directors," Fann said. "The strategic plan will help ensure that we are aligning our operations with the priorities of our membership. While this process will not be completed overnight, we are highly committed to working together to carry out the components of the plan as laid out by the board."



Partnering for Success webinars continue

Are you ready for the next round of Partnering for Success webinars? Public Entity Partners is launching new webinars as part of the Partnering for Success series.

Beginning in February, webinars covering topics related to safety, risk management, and emerging issues for local governments across the state will be offered free of charge to all Public Entity Partners members.

The first webinar will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 1:30-2:30 P.M. CST / 2:30-3:30 P.M. EST. Mauricio Velasquez is an engaging presenter who speaks frequently on topics like respectful workplaces, employee engagement / trust, unconscious bias, and diversity and inclusion.

February's webinar is titled "Being a Diversity and Inclusion Change Agent" and is a follow up session to the "Diversity Today: Being More Inclusive Tomorrow" webinar that was hosted in August 2020. Mauricio Velasquez serves as president of The Diversity Training Group and is a diversity and inclusion strategist, consultant and trainer.

Velasquez provides training across the country and has trained more than one million employees, managers, and executives during his career. He has been a guest commentator on "Fox and Friends," *Hispanic Today*, and dozens of radio



Mauricio Velasquez
Diversity Training Group

stations. Mauricio is a regularly contributing author and speaker for Workforce Diversity Network and American Diversity Reporter and has presented at national conferences for the Public Risk Management Association and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources.

The webinar will be live and includes an opportunity for questions at the end of the presentations. Other sessions currently scheduled include Elected Officials Liability, Managing Sewer Backup and Overflow Claims, and Understanding the Basics of Underwriting Liability.

For questions about this program please contact Heather Hughes at Hhughes@pepartners.org or 800-624-9698. To register please visit www.PEPartners.org.

**COVERAGES DESIGNED
TO PROTECT
YOUR COMMUNITY**



www.PEPartners.org
800.624.9698

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



PEOPLE



Kyndra Brewer has been selected as the director of the Knoxville Office of Special Events by Mayor Indya Kincannon.



Kyndra Brewer

Brewer has been with the city since 2005 when she was hired by then-Mayor Bill Haslam to serve in the office. She has since served as the office's deputy director. Brewer has played a major role in city events such as the Christmastime Celebration of Lights and Festival on the Fourth. Special Events Office Manager Elaine Frank will take over Brewer's previous role as deputy director. A graduate of Northern Arizona University, Brewer also serves as board secretary for the Southeast Festivals and Events Association.

Scott Butler has been selected as the new deputy chief over the field operations and special operations units of the Franklin Police Department.



Scott Butler

A lieutenant with the Franklin Police Department, Butler was selected for the role after previous candidate Kenneth Winslow withdrew his candidacy for personal and family reasons. Butler has 25 years of experience in law enforcement, working with both the Franklin and Smithville Police Departments. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Tennessee Tech University and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from TSU/MTSU. He also holds two associates degrees from Georgia Military College in general studies and criminal justice.

Clarence Carter has been appointed to serve as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services by Gov. Bill Lee.



Clarence Carter

Before coming to work for the state, Carter served director of the Office of Family Assistance and acting director of the Office of Community Services with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. During his tenure, he was responsible for administering seven federal programs including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Carter has also served under the administration of President George W. Bush and three governors. He earned his bachelor's degree at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pa.

Tammy Dunn has been appointed as the city attorney for Oak Ridge following the retirement of Kenneth Krushenski.



Tammy Dunn

Dunn previously served as the city's senior staff attorney. A native of Oak Ridge, Dunn has served with the city's legal department for more than 20 years, starting when she was still in law school as a law clerk. She then served as an acting staff attorney for six months before taking on the position full-time for two years. While she primarily works on city contracts, Dunn has served in many capacities during her time with the city. She serves as the city's Title VI Coordinator, represents the city manager in personnel matters before the Personnel Advisory Board, and provides legal advice to all city departments with respect to policies and procedures, as well as state, local and federal laws and regulations.

Chuck Elizondo has retired as chief of police from the Paris Police Department after 42 years of service. Elizondo first put in his application to the Paris Police Department in the hopes of getting a job that would help him pay for the car he

had bought so he could commute to his studies at Murray State University. After 12 years as a patrolman, Elizondo was promoted to corporal in 1990 and to shift sergeant four years after that. He was selected to head the department's patrol division in 2007 and was then selected as the next chief of police in 2010.



Chuck Elizondo

Beth Harwell has been confirmed to the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.



Beth Harwell

Harwell worked with TVA on several issues during her time in the Legislature. Harwell was first elected to the Tennessee House in 1988 representing Nashville, serving as Republican Minority Whip and Commerce Committee Chair before being elected Speaker. She also served as chair of the Tennessee Republican Party. Harwell holds a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University, a master's from Peabody College, and a doctorate in social science education from Vanderbilt University.

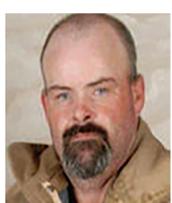
Jerone Holt has been selected as the new chief of police for the town of Burns.



Jerone Holt

Holt is a long-time chief deputy with the Dickson County Sheriff's Department, having served more than a decade in the role. He also served as the interim sheriff for the county in June until the November election. Holt has also served with the Dickson Police Department, Fairview Police Department and served for two years as a U.S. Marine at U.S. Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey.

Wayne Honeycutt, fire chief for the city of Jellico, died Jan. 3, 2021, at the age of 44 due to complications from diabetes.



Wayne Honeycutt

Honeycutt had served as the city's fire chief for about a year. Prior to that, he was a firefighter and dispatcher for the Jellico Fire Department and a volunteer member of the Jellico Rescue Squad. He had also served as chief of the South Whitley Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to his career as a firefighter, Honeycutt ran Gem City Wrestling.

David Kellogg has been selected as the new superintendent of Gallatin Public Utilities after the current superintendent David Gregory retired on Jan. 15, 2021, after 40 years of service.



David Kellogg

Kellogg has been assistant superintendent of GPU since 2006 and has been employed with GPU since 1990. He was selected amid 33 candidates and two finalists for the position.

Victor Lay, city administrator for the city of Spring Hill, has been hired as the new town manager for the town of Nolensville.



Victor Lay

Lay will retire from his position with Spring Hill and begin his tenure with Nolensville on Jan. 19, 2021. Lay has nearly 27 years of experience in city administration and has served as Spring Hill's city administrator since 2009. Prior to that, he was

the city manager of Waynesboro from 1995 until 2009. Lay holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Memphis and a master's of public administration from the Tennessee State University.

Dale Lott, a fire engineer with the city of Franklin, is retiring after 16 years with the department.



Dale Lott

Lott spent 17 years as an accountant before the events of 9/11 led him to apply for a volunteer firefighting position with the Nolensville Fire Department. A veteran of the U.S. Army with a degree from Florida State University, Lott went back to school in 2003 to obtain his emergency medical technician license and was hired by the Franklin Fire Department the following year. He has spent most of his career at Franklin Fire Department Station No. 3 serving the Cool Springs community.

Jim Lewis, city commissioner for the city of Dayton and retired state trooper, died at the age of 77 on Jan. 1, 2021.



Jim Lewis

A longtime resident of Rhea County, Lewis retired as a Tennessee state trooper after 30 years of service. He was first elected to serve on the Dayton City Commission in April 2015 and was re-elected to his seat in 2019. In addition to his service on the city commission, Lewis was a member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol Retired Officers Association, the Dayton City School Board, and the Dayton Planning Commission.

Tom Miller, former mayor of the city of Franklin, has died from complications following brain surgery at the age of 77.



Tom Miller

Miller was mayor of the city between 2003 and 2007 and prior to that served on the city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen as well as the city planning commission. During his term of mayor, he saw the acquisition of Harlinsdale Farm and several sites relating to the city's Civil War history. As a result of his leadership, he received a presidential appointment to the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation by President George W. Bush. A graduate of St. John's Lutheran College, Miller was a commercial broker for Benchmark Commercial Reality.

John Rose has been hired as the new economic development director for the city of Kingsport.



John Rose

Rose will support City Manager Chris McCartt and work closely with city Development Coordinator Elizabeth Rowe to advance the city's economic development efforts. Rose holds a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Tusculum College – now Tusculum University – and has worked with city government for 20 years. Most recently, he performed consulting work in development for the city. Prior to that, he served as operations manager at Vic Davis Construction and as director of operations at Edinburgh Group who worked in development in the area.

Mary Samaniego has been selected as the new senior planner for the Tullahoma Community Development Department.



Mary Samaniego

Samaniego comes to Tullahoma from Tampa, Fla., where she has

Collierville, White Bluff tie elections decided

Three municipal election races that ended without a clear winner on Nov. 3 have been decided.

The Collierville Board of Mayor and Alderman found itself with two run-off races after no candidates in the town's Position 3 Alderman or Position 4 Alderman seats managed to secure the 50% of the vote required on Nov. 3.

Incumbent Position 3 Alderman John Worley defeated challenger Harold Booker, both the top vote-getters in the Nov. 3. election, while newcomer Missy Marshall secured the Position 4 Alderman seat, fending off William Boone. The two run-off elections were also

the first time new Shelby County voting machines were used.

Meanwhile, a tied election for an open seat on the White Bluff City Council was decided by the flip of a coin.

The coin toss was held on Nov. 24 at the Bibb-White Bluff Civic Center, with Bryan Hill picking heads and winning over fellow candidate Eric Mason. The White Bluff City Council then honored the coin toss at its Dec. 1 meeting by officially appointing Hill to the council seat.

Hill and Mason agreed to the coin toss solution to avoid the city having to hold a run-off election.

Cities can still benefit from opioid lawsuit

RULING from Page 1

Liability Act, but said the district attorneys could not be the party that brought the lawsuit," Stranch said. "They would have to be the attorneys in the lawsuit, because that is the court's interpretation of the statute. Since the DAs have been bringing the suit on behalf of counties and cities, what we are doing is going through and substituting the counties and cities in the suit. We are going around getting those counties and municipalities authorizing the case to continue and a retention agreement, as we have already done in some counties before this ruling came down as a belt-and-suspenders approach. The case will then continue with no harm and no delay and more importantly no loss of statute date."

Stranch said municipalities could see significant results from the suit if litigation against the companies is successful.

"There could be millions of dollars coming into the coffers to deal with the opioid crisis," Stranch said. "We have lost a generation of people to opioids, and we don't have the funding at the county or the city level to deal with the problem. We have some folks we've talked to who said all they need is an ambulance so when someone has an overdose they can transport them to the hospital."

Municipalities in the counties listed in the lawsuits can best help the suit by fast-tracking resolutions, Stranch said.

The suit's journey to the Tennessee Supreme Court began in 2018 when a Campbell County judge ruled the Drug Dealer Liability Act "does not apply to manufacturers who are legally producing and distributing opioid medica-

tions," a ruling by the Tennessee Court of Appeals overturned it in September 2019.

Drug companies involved in the suit appealed the Tennessee Court of Appeals ruling. This prompted Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery's office to issue an amicus brief asking the Tennessee Supreme Court to hold the companies liable under the Drug Dealers Liability Act but asking that district attorneys themselves be prohibited from being plaintiffs in the suit themselves.

The attorney general was concerned district attorneys general serving as plaintiffs in such cases could jeopardize similar cases the attorney general's office is bringing against opioid manufacturers.

The original East Tennessee suit has since expanded to include similar suits filed in Middle and Northeastern Tennessee for a total of 47 of the state's 95 counties being represented by 14 district attorneys.

In 2019, Tennessee saw another record-breaking year in terms of opioid overdose deaths with 2,089 Tennesseans that year alone. The state's rate of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) also increased to its highest ever in 2019 with 69% of NAS cases seen in babies whose mothers had been prescribed opioids by a healthcare provider.

Stranch said that anyone who has questions about the suit can reach out to him at gerards@bsjfirm.com or contact their local district attorney.

To read the Tennessee Supreme Court's opinions on the case in full, visit <http://www.tncourts.gov/courts/supreme-court/opinions/2020/12/17/jared-effler-et-al-v-purdue-pharma-lp-et-al>

served as urban planner for the past six years. Samaniego has 25 years of professional planning experience. Her hiring comes on the heels of the reorganization of the city's previously separate planning and codes departments into a single department. Samaniego's senior planner position was known as the planning and codes director until the reorganization.

Travis Solomon has been named the new fire chief for the city of Oak Ridge.



Travis Solomon

Solomon previously served Oak Ridge Fire Department (ORFD) Fire Marshal and has served as interim fire chief since former Chief Darryl Kerley's departure in August. Solomon has served with the Oak Ridge Fire Department since February 2016 as Fire Marshal. In that role, he oversaw many procedures including inspections, plans review, fire investigations and public education activities. Prior to coming to Oak Ridge, Solomon was a deputy state fire marshal with the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office for more than 13 years. He served as assistant supervisor for the Eastern Region and was responsible for the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus. Solomon began his career at the New Market Fire Department, where many of his family also worked. Solomon holds a bachelor's degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University and an associate's degree in fire protection from Walters State Community College.

Johnny Tate, battalion chief for the Athens Fire Department, has retired after more than 27 years of service to the department.



Johnny Tate

Tate officially joined the department in 1993 after having served time as a volunteer firefighter. Tate most recently served as a lieutenant out of the city's Fire Station No. 2. He is a certified fire instruction I, fire officer I, and first responder.

Ricky Watson has been selected as the new chief of police for the Paris Police Department.



Ricky Watson

A native of Paris, Watson began his law enforcement career as a jailer with the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 1996. He was promoted to patrol deputy in 1998 and then graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy. Watson then began work with the Paris Police Department as a patrol officer in 1999. He became a K9 Handler in 2004 before joining the Metro Crime Unit in 2005. In 2013, he was selected as the officer in charge of the Metro Unit and was promoted to lieutenant in 2015 then captain of operations in 2017. Watson has also served as the Paris Police Department's liaison with the Tennessee Highway Safety Office since 2007.

STATE BRIEFS

A total of 1,135 people died on Tennessee roadways in 2020, 76 more people than the previous year. According to information from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, 189 pedestrians, cyclists, and users of non-motorized vehicles were among those killed, 32 more than recorded in 2019. THP officials expressed surprise that the number of traffic fatalities managed to increase despite less vehicle traffic on roadways due to the 2020 pandemic.

Better broadband access will come to rural areas of Tennessee following a Federal Communications Commission auction aimed at encouraging infrastructure buildout. Bids totaling \$149 million were received by the FCC to expand the state's rural access to broadband as part of \$9.2 billion being awarded to expand access in 49 states through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. A total of 180 bidders won contracts to provide broadband to 5.2 million locations nationwide in the next 10 years. Winning bidders must meet periodic buildout requirements that will require them to reach all assigned locations by the end of the sixth year. Providers are incentivized to buildout to all locations as fast as possible. A recent survey from Broadband Now, an organization that tracks national access to reliable internet, found nearly 8% of Tennessee households have no broadband access with rural communities having the least access.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has announced three new locations have been certified through the Select Tennessee Certified Sites program, bringing the total number of certified sites across the state to 65. The three new sites include the Columbia Tennessee Rail Site, the Stewart-Houston Industrial Park in Erin, and the

Huntingdon Industrial Park South. The Select Tennessee Certified Sites program has helped communities prepare industrial sites for private investment and job creation since 2012. The program sets rigorous standards to give companies detailed and reliable information during the site selection process. To learn more about the Select Tennessee Certified Sites program, visit tnced.com/sites/certified-sites/apply-now/.

Tennessee teachers, administrators, and educational professionals said they are working more hours due to the pandemic than before, according to a new survey conducted by the Tennessee Education Association (TEA). The survey of more than 7,000 educators found that 84% of teachers, 78% of school administrators, and 67% of certified professionals have been working more hours since the pandemic hit. The average Tennessee educator had to work an additional 235 hours in 2020's fall semester to overcome pandemic disruptions with 91% saying the shift to virtual learning has given teachers new assignments and responsibilities that differ from training and professional practice. The pandemic has also taken a psychological toll on educators with 84% reporting negative emotional impact due concerns they may become infected and classroom disruptions from the pandemic.

Holiday travel declined 28% on Tennessee roadways during the 2020 holidays with only one-in-four Tennesseans saying they traveled during the period. The information gathered by AAA found that 75% of Tennesseans said they felt it was too risky to travel in their personal vehicle while 60% said they felt it was too unsafe to risk traveling via flight. An estimated 34 million Americans canceled 2020 holiday travel plans amid the pandemic.

December state revenue collections exceed budgeted estimates by \$156 M

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Butch Eley announced that state revenue collections for December were \$156.4 million higher than the budgeted estimate and were 7.84% more than December 2019.

"Total tax revenues for December exhibited remarkable growth compared to last year and were boosted by gains from both sales and corporate tax receipts," Eley said. "The state's sales tax, representing November taxable sales and the early holiday shopping season, continues to signify strong consumer activity during the ongoing pandemic. Corporate taxes, or franchise and excise taxes, while volatile on a monthly basis, also demonstrated notable growth over this same time last year with nearly 87% of the growth coming from increased quarterly estimated tax payments. All other revenues, combined, posted marginal gains compared to recorded revenues of one year ago.

"Next month's January revenue report will fully capture consumer spending for the Christmas 2020 holiday season and while revenue collections continue to look promising, we will persist in monitoring our revenues and expenditures throughout the remainder of this fiscal year."

On an accrual basis, December is the fifth month in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Total revenues in December were \$156.4 million more than

the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded revenues exceeding budgeted estimates by \$158.4 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$2 million less than estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$28.4 million more than the estimate for December. The December growth rate was 6.56%. For five months, revenues are \$435.4 million higher than estimated, and the growth rate is 4.96 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$120.5 million more than the December budgeted estimate. Year-to-date revenues are more than estimates in the amount of \$259.7 million, or 3.34% above the same time period last year.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues decreased by 6.72 percent compared to last December and were \$3.9 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$99.2 million. For five months revenues are \$12.5 million less than estimates.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$1.9 million more than the December estimate and on a year-to-date basis they are \$10.3 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$5.9 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$17.2 million. For five months revenues are \$10.8 million more than estimated.

Privilege tax revenues were \$6 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$26.3 million. Year-to-date revenues for five months are \$34.9 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Two-day grant management training delivered live and online via Zoom

January 27-28, 2021
8:30 - 3:30 CT

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development: Center for Economic Research in Tennessee, Grant Writing USA and other regional hosts will present a two-day grant management workshop live and online, Jan. 27-28, 2021.

Dates for this live event not good for you? No problem - register and enjoy on-demand replay anytime through Feb. 27, 2021.

Beginning and experienced

grant managers, grant writers and administrators from city, county and state agencies, nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

A special tuition rate of \$565 is being offered by using the code. "Friends" to receive a \$30 discount off full price at registration. Tuition includes downloadable class materials in PDF format. Groups of 5 or more receive a \$50 discount per person. Discounts for Grant Writing USA alumni are also available. Please call for details, Janet Darling

GNRC honors local government excellence

The Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) has announced the recipients for its annual Local Government Awards.

"The work being done by the local communities and professionals working for citizens across Middle Tennessee is inspiring," said Michael Skipper, executive director for GNRC. "While we typically honor our award recipients during GNRC's Annual Meeting, we did not want our inability to celebrate in person to limit the recognition of those who have done great things during this trying year."

In its role as the region's council of governments, GNRC facilitates cooperative policymaking to prioritize state and federal investments into area social services and public infrastructure among elected leaders and local practitioners within the 13-county area.

Mayors and County Executives across Middle Tennessee guide the agency's work and create a public forum for Middle Tennesseans to shape regional decisions that impact their quality of life.

This year 21 awards were presented among seven categories:

Milcrofton Utility - Water Quality with Advanced Metering System

- Gallatin Public Utilities Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Excellence in Aging Services and Senior Activity Programs

- Westmoreland - Downtown Adaptive Reuse for New Senior Citizens Center
- Wilson County and Senior Ride Wilson - Older Adult Transportation Program

Excellence in Economic Development:

- Smyrna - Depot District Canopy Project
- Clarksville and Montgomery County Economic Development - Rebranding Initiative
- Portland - Adaptive Reuse of



Smyrna's synthetic ballfield at Cedar Stone Community Park was one of three municipal projects that took home awards for Excellence in Recreation and Youth Engagement from the Greater Nashville Regional Council's (GNRC) annual Local Government Awards. In total, 21 different awards were given out to local governments in the 13-county region.

Temple Theatre

- Gallatin - Economic Development Planning
- Lebanon - Adaptive Reuse of the Historic Mitchell House;
- Wilson County and the Watertown, Wilson, Mt. Juliet, and Lebanon Chambers of Commerce - COVID-19 Blue Ribbon Program

Excellence in Recreation and Youth Engagement

- Smyrna - Synthetic Ballfield at Cedar Stone Community Park
- Lebanon - Scout Your Ride Youth Engagement
- Maury County Schools and Columbia - Community First Partnership Project
- Montgomery County - The Rotary Field of Dreams - Civitan Park Expansion

Excellence in Protective Services

- Sumner County - Sumner County Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Man-

agement Agency COVID-19 Response

Excellence in Land Use Initiatives

- Hendersonville - Zoning Ordinance Update Initiative
- Sumner County - Zoning Resolution Update and Map
- Williamson County - Williamson 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Excellence in Community Engagement and Outreach

- Wilson County and Wilson County Joint Economic and Community Development Board - Tornado Response Partnership
- Wilson County - Coordinated Tornado Response and Partnerships
- Wilson County - New Wilson County Flag

To read a full summary, please visit www.gnrc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1769/2020-LGA-Recipients_Summaries_Final.

TN State Parks have \$1.84 B economic impact in 2020

Tennessee State Parks had an economic impact of \$1.84 billion in Tennessee in 2020 and welcomed 34.7 million visits, according to a report done for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The report notes that local area spending by visitors has a substantial impact on local economies. The parks reached historic highs in camping, recording four of the top 10 months ever, and set a pace for future success with \$184 million in investments in capital projects throughout the year. Those projects alone are expected to result in over \$400 million in economic impact to the state.

The figures show that Tennessee State Parks are not only a great way for Tennesseans to get outdoors but are a significant driver of a healthy Tennessee economy as well.

"Our state parks are a great source of pride for Tennesseans, and they have proven more important than ever during this challenging year," Gov. Bill Lee said. "These important Tennessee treasures provide substantial economic activity in communities across our state, and we are grateful for the way they continue to prosper."

"This study details extraordinary accomplishments by our state parks," TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said. "It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our parks staff, and Tennesseans

should be proud of the way the parks responded to public demand. The last year has been trying for Tennesseans, but we are confident the reliance on our state parks throughout this period bodes well for the coming year and beyond."

In total, the report found \$1.7 billion in economic impact from operations and visitor spending; \$126.7 million from capital projects; and \$11.4 million from facilities and land management maintenance projects.

The report found:

- 14,514 total jobs supported by parks activity
- \$110.3 million in state taxes reflected in parks activity, which is more than double what the state general fund contributes to state parks
- \$22.1 million in local county taxes generated from parks activity

The report was conducted by Impact DataSource, an economic consulting firm based in Austin, Texas, the same firm used by the state's Department of Economic and Community Development. It also relied on visitor spending data collected by the University of Tennessee Human Dimensions Research Lab. The report assesses the impact of the state's operating expenditures, maintenance and capital expenditures, and parks visitors' spending.

**Are You Confident
You are Secure from
Cyber Criminals?**



To learn more, go to
www.tml1.org/secure



Preferred Technology Partner





CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ACCOUNTANT, SENIOR

HENDERSONVILLE. This position is responsible for assisting with the day-to-day operations of the Finance Department. This position is under the general supervision of the finance director and assistant director and is responsible for the direct supervision over the Accounts Payable Division and, in the absence of the director and assistant director, assists by serving as department manager. Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field including or supplemented by a minimum of 12 semester hours in accounting. CPA or CMFO preferred. At least two years of experience in professional accounting. Previous governmental accounting and supervisory experience desired. Strong proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite programs. Ability to be bonded. Annual Salary: \$63,289 or DOQ To apply go to www.hvilletn.org and visit the 'Job Openings' page and read through the information. Open until the position is filled. 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, and can be submitted via email to hrstaff@greenevilletn.gov, or mailed to HR Director, 200 N. College St. Greeneville, TN 37745. Open until filled. EOE.

BUILDING INSPECTORS (2)

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for two building inspectors. The two full-time positions require experience with certifications from International Code Council (ICC) for residential and commercial building. Pay range/ \$18.25 top out in 3 years \$26.35. Excellent benefits and pension. Selected candidates will be required to

complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary for position. Valid TN driver license required. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. Open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

CITY ENGINEER

HENDERSONVILLE. This position directs the operations of Engineering Division of the city of Hendersonville Public Works Department. Bachelor's degree 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 of 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 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 license as a professional engineer required. Applications/resumes submitted online at: www.springhilltn.org/jobs.aspx. Questions to 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 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 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.jackstontn.gov or contact: City of Jackson Human Resources Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN, 38301, Phone: (731)-425-8252.

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 re-

quests 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-Pis 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

PLANNING & BUILDING CODES INSPECTOR.

FAYETTEVILLE. The City of Fayetteville is accepting applications for the position of Planning & Building Codes Inspector. The position will be a full-time, FLSA non-exempt position with City paid and Employee elected benefit options. Application and job description may be picked up at the City of Fayetteville Municipal Building, 110 Elk Ave S. Fayetteville, TN 37334 or online at www.fayettevilletn.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE.

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; presents findings and recommendations to staff, planning commission, Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Board of Zoning Appeals, various committees and commissions, and the public. He or she will supervise the work of the associate planner and planning assistant. This 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 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. Questions to 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. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

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. Position open until filled.

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

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 Waldrup, City Recorder; McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland; and Tommy Green, TMBF Marketing Representative.

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



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)

Doris Hensley
Mayor, Erwin
Blake Lay
Mayor, Lawrenceburg (District 6)
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 Morrell
President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund
Lionie 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 Perkinson (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 & Recorders
TN Government Finance Officers Assn.
TN Fire Chiefs Assn.
TN Fire Safety Inspectors
TN Assn. of Floodplain Management
TN Assn. Housing & 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 & Municipal Schools
TN Renewable Energy & 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.
Entegrity
Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee
1 STAR SPONSOR
Charter Communications
Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.
J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers
Local Govt. Corporation
Mattern & Craig, Inc.
NOESCO
Pavement Restorations, Inc.
Republic Services
Smith Seckman Reid
Tennessee 811
Trane Commercial Systems & 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

Anthony Haynes, Executive Director
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director
Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst
Kate Coil, Communications Specialist
Jackie Gupton, Administrative Assistant
Carole Graves, Communications Director
& Editor, *Tennessee Town & 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

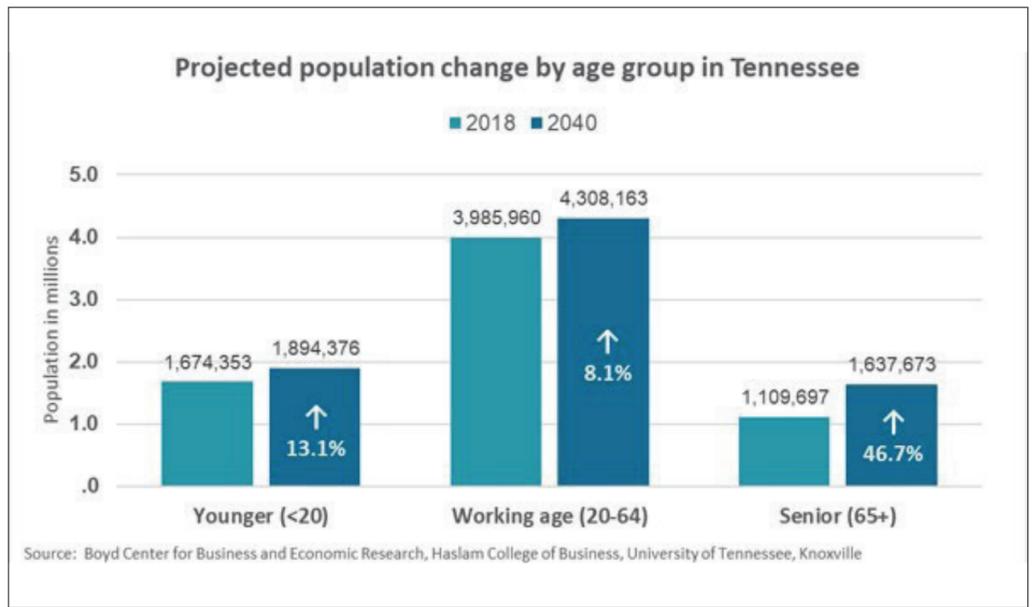
UT Boyd Center population projections: gains in Middle Tennessee, more seniors

One in five Tennesseans will be 65 or older by 2040 and the state's population is estimated to grow by more than 1 million people during that same period, according to the 2018-2070 population projections released last month by the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research in the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Haslam College of Business.

About half of that growth will be in Middle Tennessee. Boyd Center Associate Professor Matthew Harris, author of the projections, predicts that Tennessee's population will climb 0.7 percent annually from its current estimate of 6.77 million in 2018 to 7.84 million in 2040. By 2070 that number is expected to reach 9.35 million, with a slightly lower projected annual growth rate of 0.45 percent.

"We expect population to grow more slowly over the coming decades than it has recently," Harris said. "Falling birth rates and the fact that a very large cohort—the baby boomers—are aging both contribute to the decrease in population growth."

Tim Kuhn, director of the Tennessee State Data Center, analyzed the data and projects that more than half of the growth by 2040 will be in Middle Tennessee, with Davidson, Williamson, Rutherford, Wilson, and Sumner Counties expected to gain more than a half million residents. Across the state, 66 counties will see population increases and 27 rural counties will experi-



ence decreases. Carter and Sullivan Counties in northeast Tennessee are the only urban counties expected to see slight decreases—of 0.46 percent and 0.01 percent, respectively—by 2040.

The number of people ages 65 and older is likely to increase by 1.9 percent annually, or 2.67 times faster than the state's growth rate. The senior population will rise 46.7 percent by 2040, making one in five Tennesseans at least 65 years old. Factors such as declining death rates and more retirement-aged people moving to Tennessee are driving the aging population.

"The benefit of longer life expectancy and the overall attractiveness of Tennessee to retirees will also present challenges as this age group grows," Kuhn said. "In areas such as housing and transportation, both

urban and rural communities will be challenged to address the growing demand for senior services. This isn't unique to Tennessee; it is becoming more of an issue across the nation and around the world."

An aging population also means a decrease in the percentage of working-age adults ages 20 to 64, which is expected to fall from 58.9 percent in 2018 to 54.9 percent by 2040.

"Particularly in rural counties, we may be somewhat concerned about the ratio of working-age adults to retirees," Harris said. "That has implications for local tax bases and the types of services that the population needs. To the extent that caring for older relatives decreases engagement in the workforce, effects of this demographic shift on actual labor force participation may

be even more pronounced."

After analysis of the population projections, Kuhn created an interactive county-level dashboard of the data. (A mobile version can be found here, <https://myutk.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3cd94b7aa9d04707a361cea5a2e1ecd>) Other findings from the population projections:

- Rutherford County is on the move. Currently the state's fifth-largest county, it's projected to surpass Hamilton County for fourth-largest in 2026 and Knox County for third-largest by 2050.
- The state's white non-Hispanic population will decrease from 73.7 percent in 2018 to 66.6 percent by 2040 and 55.1 percent by 2070. This decline will occur in all Tennessee counties.
- The Hispanic population is projected to almost double from 5.6 percent to 10.2 percent by 2040, bringing it to roughly 800,000.
- With 1.32 million residents, the black non-Hispanic population will remain the second largest racial group in 2040. However, the state's Hispanic population is projected to become the second-largest racial group by 2063 with 1.47 million residents.

* The study uses birth and death records provided by the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Vital Statistics and migration data from US Census Bureau.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. population grew at its lowest pace between 2019 and 2020 in more than a century with population growth on track to be the lowest in the 2010s of any decade in American history, according to newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. population only grew by 0.35% between July 2019 and July 2020, the lowest annual growth rate since 1900. When the 2020 Census numbers are announced, the U.S. is poised to see the lowest growth of any decade since the first census was conducted in 1790. While the growth rate reported between 2019 and 2020 could reflect some stagnation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said the low numbers reflect recent trends of fewer births, more deaths, and uneven immigration, partially due to recent federal restrictions.

The pandemic has changed where and the types of

homes Americans are seeking as millions of Americans moved during 2020, many moved to the West and South. Southern states including Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Florida along with Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming and South Dakota saw some of the biggest net gains in populations with Vermont and Delaware also reporting an influx of new residents. Meanwhile, states including California, North Dakota, Kansas, Illinois, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, and Massachusetts saw the largest decreases in population. Americans wanting more space also saw an increase in sales of suburban and rural homes as well as luxury housing in cities. Buyers are also looking for homes with spaces for remote offices and remote learning as well as home gyms. Residences that can accommodate multiple generations of a family with guesthouses or suites are also selling better, with many Americans taking elderly relatives out of nursing home facilities due to risk factors. Major urban areas are seeing the greatest population losses as a result of the pandemic

though experts say younger works may continue to choose urban areas so long as discounted rents can be maintained.

The U.S. shattered financial records for disaster recovery costs in 2020 with 22 storms that caused at least \$1 billion in damage each. Hurricane Laura proved the most expensive storm of 2020 with a category 4 storm that created \$19 billion in damage and killed 42 people. Altogether, the U.S. incurred \$95 billion worth of disaster damage and saw the deaths of 261 people from wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, and other storms. The previous record for most expensive disasters was set in 2017 and 2011, both of which incurred \$16 billion in damage from severe storms in total. Weather officials also reported that 2020 was the fifth hottest year on record with all five of the hottest years on record having occurred since 2012. Additionally, 2020 saw the largest wildfire damage ever reported in the U.S. with a record 10.3 million acres burning. The previous record was 10.1 million acres set in 2015.

VOYA
FINANCIAL

Retirement is a journey

For more than 30 years, Voya in partnership with the Tennessee Municipal League has provided retirement plan services to municipal employees all across the great state of Tennessee.

Competitive Retirement Plan Services for Tennessee's Towns & Cities

Contact Ed Stewart at 615-627-5936 or ed.stewart@voyafa.com

Investment adviser representative and registered representative of, and securities and investment advisory services offered through Voya Financial Advisors, Inc. (member SIPC). 385783777_0321

Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CFP
Financial Advisor

Haynes details goals, hopes for Municipal League's future

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

As a new year begins, Anthony Haynes, the new Tennessee Municipal League executive director, is looking forward to setting new goals and attaining new achievements for the organization.

A native of Trenton, Haynes earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture at the University of Tennessee Martin and then a master's degree in public administration from Memphis State University. He also attended the Institute of Executive Management (IEM) at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

He began his career in public service in Washington, D.C., holding numerous roles including director of government relations for the National Association of Conservation Districts; as a congressional liaison for two Secretaries of Agriculture; as deputy administrator of the USDA Rural Utilities Service, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration; and as deputy governor of the Rural Telephone Bank. During his time at USDA, he received the department's highest award – "The Silver Plow Award" – for his work as a member of the Secretary's Civil Rights Task Force.

He returned to his home state in 2002 to serve as executive director of the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board. During his tenure, the board was voted "Best State or Regional Program" by the E-911 Institute in Washington, D.C., and led Tennessee to be one of the first states in the nation to complete wireless E-911 coverage statewide.

Haynes then went to work for the University of Tennessee where he served as director of state relations and associate vice president at UT, as well as vice president for government relations and advocacy before coming to TML.

TT&C: You've had an impressive career in government relations. What first interested you in government and public service?

Anthony Haynes: I've always had an interest and a calling in the public's business. I grew up in a household where my father was a federal government employee – he worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service – and my mother worked for our rural electric co-op, a non-profit utility.

Just knowing the importance of their work, as well as seeing them help the older people in our community, it really shaped my view of the world. It helped confirm that public service and serving the community was honorable work.

TT&C: How have your various roles with USDA, the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board, and the University of Tennessee helped prepare you for your role with TML?

AH: I can't think of a job I've had since graduating from college that didn't have some aspect that directly impacted municipalities. I think of the issues I worked on at those jobs: water quality, rural development, public power, emergency communications, broadband, and bridging the digital divide. In my last job at UT – as with any land grant university – we worked with towns, cities, and the state to improve the lives and economic prosperity of its citizens. I think all those experiences helped prepare me – to understand the issues and see all sides.

Through my work at the state E-911 board and UT, I traveled all across the state and learned so much about what is going on in different communities. I am a firm believer that this state has an enormous amount of untapped potential in terms of economic opportunity and growth. To realize it, it is just a matter of pulling together the right people and facilitating their work. What is good for one town or city, is good for all Tennessee. We really have to start looking at the world that way. The more we do to help each other, the more we do to help ourselves.

TT&C: Certainly, you have had a long and successful tenure with the University of Tennessee. Why did you want to pursue this opportunity with TML?

AH: It was a tug. I had a wonderful job at a university I loved – almost as much as my wife and family. I have always had an incredible passion for work at the intersection of government, politics, and public advocacy, especially on a grand scale. TML presented a leadership opportunity that directly benefits everyone that lives in the state of Tennessee. That had great appeal.

TT&C: What are some of your short-term goals and objectives for TML?

AH: I think right now it's important that I continue to assess the real strengths, capacity and opportunities of our organization and its members. I believe the full leadership potential of our organization and how it can move Tennessee forward has largely gone untapped. We need to change that. That starts with the current legislative session and helping lead our communities through the pandemic.

I also want TML to meet, if not exceed the expectations of all members and stakeholders. To that end, we will soon start the



Anthony Haynes
TML Executive Director

Right: During his tenure at UT, Anthony Haynes addresses a Weststar Leadership Class at the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the state Capitol.



Haynes, far right, discusses agriculture in Tennessee and the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture with Tennessee State House Majority Leader William Lamberth, left, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, center. A longtime advocate of farms and farmers, Haynes worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for several years in Washington, D.C., before returning back home to Tennessee.

“When actions taken by either the state or federal government make it hard on local governments to plan, manage or lead, the ultimate impact is on their ability to grow jobs, improve community quality of life and plan for the future.**”**

— Anthony Haynes,
TML Executive Director

process of developing a new strategic plan and membership/stakeholder survey. I've asked UT-MTAS for their assistance as the staff and board engage our partners, membership and key stakeholders in these two initiatives.

TT&C: Long-term, what do you hope TML as an organization will accomplish or will be recognized for?

AH: Four things. One, an even greater unified voice and unified movement. We, as municipal leaders, have to stick together. We have to stand together as one. When we do that, we will not only be a respected voice, but we will get the outcomes that all of us want for our towns and cities.

Second, enjoy even greater respect and credibility. We want when TML is mentioned that there is nothing but complete respect for it. And when we speak, our recommendations are taken. That takes work, a lot of engagement, and also being very conscious of the responsibility we all have to protect and promote the brand of TML, what it stands for, and the people it represents.

Third, communications and visibility. Communications are critically important not only among our membership but how we move the organization and our interests forward. We need to constantly be seen and heard on issues that our communities and state struggle with.

Last but not least is value. We want every member of TML, every municipal employee, and even the people of the state of Tennessee to recognize the value TML brings to the table. They may not know what all we do, but they need to have a positive association when they hear TML because they know we are adding value to the state. That value is something in the first 45 days



Haynes, left, speaks with Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, right, at the University of Tennessee's Howard Baker Center for Public Policy. In his more than 15 years of service to the University of Tennessee, Haynes has forged bonds with numerous lawmakers.

on the job I have seen in abundance. We need others to see that as well.

TT&C: What are you most looking forward to when it comes to working with TML's membership?

AH: For me, it is collaborating with local leaders in making great things happen for our communities, and ultimately our state. When we get through the pandemic, I am eager to meet with our membership in their communities because that is where great things happen and the work gets done.

TT&C: What do you think are the biggest issues facing municipalities today? How do we tackle those issues?

AH: Many of the greatest issues we face are tied to managing today's economic and political uncertainty and resulting risks. Local leaders are very creative and capable. They can manage through just about anything or any situation. But when actions taken by either the state or federal government make it hard on local governments to plan, manage or lead, the ultimate impact is on their ability

to grow jobs, improve community quality of life and plan for the future.

We can help our towns and cities by working to secure positive outcomes at the state and federal level. We have a number of years of collective experience and expertise among the TML staff, board and grassroots leaders. Bringing all these people together and effectively engaging with state and federal government leaders, will result in more positive results and overcoming our potential challenges.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with members of the Tennessee General Assembly?

AH: I have been very fortunate to enjoy the relationships I've had with legislators and officials over the last 15 years. I've been fortunate to enjoy their trust and benefited from being able to work with them on key issues of the state. A lot of members of the General Assembly and state government over the years have become like extended family. That dynamic motivates me even more to be a good partner.