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Event Game. TML's new Event Game creates Challenges throughout conference that can earn you points for a chance to win prizes. Challenges may be as simple as checking in at registration, attending a workshop, or interacting with an exhibitor for a specific task. With each challenge you will be provided a code to put into the app to earn the points. There will be separate Sunday and Monday award winners for first place finishers. It's not just getting the points but also getting there first! The first person to reach the



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Agenda. Tap on the agenda icon to view all of the conference events by time and date. You can tap the dates at the top to switch between days. Touching an event will reveal a description; and if it's a workshop, speaker bios are also available. As an added feature, you can create your own personal agenda by touching the plus symbol next to events. You can also set reminders for yourself of 15, 30, or 60 minutes. Conference events are color-coded by each event type. By using the filter button at the top right to apply a filter, you can quickly reference categories such as food, workshops, CMFO, or receptions.

**Speakers.** To learn about each of our conference speakers, scroll through the list and tap on the speaker's photo to reveal their bios.

**Exhibitors.** The exhibitors' section includes contact information, booth numbers, and links to company websites. And once you've left the conference, you can always refer back to this app to find all the contact information you need to get in touch with a vendor.

If you need help while at the conference, find a TML staff member to assist you.

# TMBF celebrates 37 years as your trusted partner for cost-effective borrowing

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) in recent years passed a major milestone of \$5 billion in total lending. Since inception, TMBF has closed more than 1,680 loans.

The TMBF was created by the TML Board of Directors in 1986 to provide municipalities in Tennessee with low-cost funds. It began by offering a pooled variable rate loan program as well as an alternative loan program, and has since expanded its operations to include both fixed rate and variable rate loan options.

TMBF was created for the sole purpose of saving cities and towns money. To date, the TMBF programs have saved cities and counties more than \$720 million in interest costs alone.

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

TMBF offers both a fixed-rate, and a variable-rate loan option with a draw feature where a borrower only pays interest on the amount drawn as projects are completed. TMBF has a stable of about 20 committed banks in their program providing internal competition on their loans.

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

TMBF feels that a valuable



Wade Morrell, TMBF President / CEO

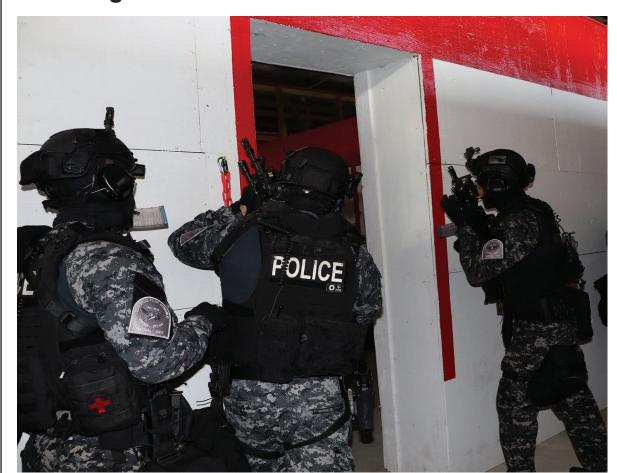
part of its job is maintaining great relationships with all municipal officials. This is a practice we have strived to create for more than 35 years.

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

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

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

### TML congratulates 2023 Achievement Award Winners



The Tennessee Municipal League is proud to announce the winners of the 2023 TML Annual Achievement Awards. The awards will be presented Tuesday, July 25, at the 83rd Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Pictured above are members of the Clarksville Police Department who will be recognized for Excellence in Police Services. To learn more about each award winner, go to Pages 5-7.

### TBI: Most crime rates decrease for 2022

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

The amount of most violent and non-violent crimes in Tennessee decreased in 2022, according to new statistics gathered from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI).

The 2022 Crime in Tennessee Report is compiled by the TBI Statistical Analysis Center based on statistics submitted from law enforcement agencies across the state.

Information for the report is submitted to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) program, which is designed to collect information on every single crime occurrence and on each offense and arrest connected to that occurrence. The TIBRS system has a greater degree of detail in reporting than the more traditional Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system used by agencies like the FBI.

A total of 502,198 offenses were reported statewide with 35.84% of those offenses cleared. Of those offenses, 7,121 were violent crimes. A total of 256,875 arrests were made in the state with 13,700 of those arrests being juvenile offenders.

Incidents of violent crime decreased in most categories in 2022 with only crimes against property seeing a 3.3% increase.

Murders were down 14.55%, weapon law violations 0.98%, rape down 10.61%, kidnapping or abduction down 11.98%, crimes against persons down 3.19%, and crimes against society down 8.67%.

Overall, the state reported 611 murders in 2022, 280 of which were cleared. There were also 39 cases of negligent manslaughter, 16 of which were cleared. The state reported 15,949 weapons law violations, 2,156 incidents of forcible rape, 1,954 incidents of kidnapping or abduction, and 36,692 incidents of aggravated assault. Simple assault was the most commonly reported violent See CRIME on Page 9

## Franklin pilot facility explores future of municipal water, wastewater services

By KATE COIL

A new, first-of-its kind water facility in Franklin is changing both how the city approaches water reuse and potentially how water and wastewater services operate across Tennessee.

Franklin's water purification demonstration facility is finding new ways to use technology to treat water and wastewater, augment local water supplies, and provide stewardship of water resources. The research being done in Franklin is also being shared with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) with the potential for its successes to be duplicated across Tennessee.

Michelle Hatcher, director of water management with the city of Franklin, said the concept for the pilot facility dates back to 2010 when the city created its Integrated Water Resources Plan looking at how Franklin's growth and population would impact water services into 2040. It was determined the city would need a new wastewater plant on the south end.

"As we saw the need for that, we started talking about concerns we had like water scarcity in other places, how we can reduce our operating costs with more efficiency, and lowering the nutrients we put into the river. That is how the idea for this facility was developed," Hatcher said. "We worked with TDEC to make sure we were going about it the right way. There weren't regulations in place yet, so we worked with them on what those would be and what made sense."

Construction started on the facility in February 2021 and the facility was opened October 2022



Michelle Hatcher, director of water management with the city of Franklin, demonstrates the capability of the city's new water purification demonstration facility.

with operations beginning that same month. The facility is near both the Harpeth River and right across from the site of the new Southeast Wastewater Plant for the city.

The facility has a five-step process of membrane filtration, ozonation, biofiltration, granular activated carbon, and finally ultraviolet disinfection with advanced oxidation. In the membrane filtration step, water is pumped at high pressure through hollow fiber membranes, leaving behind containments such as particles, bacteria, and protozoa.

"We have designed the facility with the ability to collect samples before and after each process," Hatcher said. "That allows us to see the efficiency and efficacy of each process and how that can be ratioed up on a larger scale. We have the ability to test for param-

eters upstream and downstream of each process but to also bypass some processes as well to see how one process might affect the overall outcome of treated water. Through that we've collected 10,000 samples. We collect about 1,000 samples every week. We analyze some internally with our staff and send them to two external facilities. We use all of those data points to ratio up and design the future facility."

In addition to processes that will shape the future wastewater plant, the demonstration facility also can test to see if reuse samples would make safe drinking water. Hatcher said Franklin will work with TDEC by using the data points collected at the facility to see what the optimal reuse options for the treated water are.

"One of those options is taking total reuse that would be taking that See WATER on Page 3

#### NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



#### **BRISTOL**

Progress is continuing on the construction of a \$4 million state-ofthe-art fire station in Bristol. The 8,000-square-foot facility next to Holston View Elementary School will replace Bristol's aging Fire Station No. 2 and is expected to open in September. The former fire station from the 1960s will be repurposed, possibly for training or logistics by the department. The new station will feature single bedrooms for on-duty firefighters, a gym, better storage for fire equipment, and equipment for other situations firefighters deal with include hazardous materials, technical rescue response, water rescue, and more. Officials estimate the station is around halfway completed.

#### **BROWNSVILLE**

Enchem American, Inc., will invest \$152.5 million to establish electrolyte manufacturing operations in Brownsville, creating 190 new jobs. Located at the I-40 Advantage Industrial Park, a Select Tennessee Certified Site, the plant will be the South Korean-based company's second U.S. plant. The Brownsville facility will operate similarly to Enchem's U.S. headquarters in Commerce, Ga., and will manufacture electrolytes for electric vehicle (EV) batteries as well as other EV battery-related services. Enchem America Inc. is a subsidiary of Enchem Co., Ltd., and specializes in the development and manufacturing of electrolytes and other additives for rechargeable batteries. With the additional Tennessee operations, Enchem will be able to further support its EV partners across the Southeast.

#### CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga EPB is launching its first quantum node in downtown Chattanooga, allowing both startup companies and research labs to test and share quantum technologies. The city-owned utility is already in talks with dozens of potential users including privately-owned businesses and public research laboratories in Chattanooga and around the globe. Quantum technologies offer the capability to encrypt and share far more data, quantum has the potential to dramatically boost computer calculations, cybersecurity, and communications. EPB has been testing quantum technologies for five years in a research partnernship with San Diego-based firm Qubitekk through a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to create a more secure electric grid. EPB has invested \$4.5 million to work with Qubitekk to develop the first commercial quantum network.

#### DAYTON

Officials with the city of Dayton and BlueCross BlueShield broke ground on renovations to the city's Pendergrass Park. Located on Main Street across from the Rhea County Welcome Center, the upgraded park will include two accessible play areas for both younger and older children, a splash pad, a fitness area, pavilions, benches, restrooms, and a walking track. Renovations are being funded by a \$4 million BlueCross Healthy Place grant with an additional \$800,000 from the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation set aside for park maintenance.

#### FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin was selected as one of the top workplaces of 2023 in Middle Tennessee by the Tennessean and Energage LLC. Franklin was ranked 18 on the list of top workplaces, which were judged based on a confidential workplace survey measuring 15 culture drivers critical to organizational success. This was the first year Franklin surveyed their employees for the program, and Franklin is the only municipal government to make it onto the list. City Administrator Eric Stuckey said credit goes to the employees for making the city a place where employees enjoy coming to work daily.

#### **GOODLETTSVILLE**

The city of Goodletts ville and Visit Goodletts ville have launched a new mobile app that will help visitors better plan and navigate their stays in the community. The Visit Goodletts ville app gives users the ability to explore what the area has to offer in terms of hotels, restaurants, attractions, activities, and events. Users can build their own digital itinerary with driving directions as well as share those plans with friends. The app is available in both the Apple store and on Google Play.

#### **LAWRECENCEBURG**

Blickman Industries, LLC, will invest \$2.7 million to establish manufacturing operations in Lawrenceburg, creating 48 new jobs. Founded in 1889, Blickman Industries provides the health-care industry with groundbreaking stainless steel and chrome solutions. The company offers the highest quality medical equipment and services to acute care hospitals, primary care offices and surgery centers across the nation.

#### LOUISVILLE

The town of Louisville has opened its new community park next door to Louisville Town Hall, providing a new accessible playground and with plans for further development. The playground features a poured surface and other safety features. The \$500,000 playground used town employees to do grading and building a nearby retaining wall to save money on the project. The town plans to expand the park complex in the future with public restrooms and a pavilion.

#### NOLENSVILLE

The Nolensville Police Department has received accreditation from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) after a long, three-year process. Nolensville has become one of only 76 agencies – roughly 21% of law enforcement agencies in the state - to have attained accreditation. The process for accreditation includes an application, a review of the department's policies, procedures, and processes, and concludes with a hearing before a TACP committee. The Nolensville Police Department was first established as a full-time department five years ago with three full-time personnel. It has since grown to include 18 full-time personnel and five reserves.

#### STANTON

The construction has gone vertical on the new Blue Oval City TCAT facility in Stanton, located at the West Tennessee Megasite. The TCAT campus will be located adjacent to the Ford electric truck manufacturing plant, SK battery plant and recycling facility, and numerous Tier 1 suppliers to both plants. The TCAT will help train individuals for the jobs at Blue Oval City as well as other EV battery and vehicle manufacturers. The \$40 million facility will feature hands-on-learning labs and provide on-board training from a 124,000-square-foot facility.

### Paris dedicates bicentennial mural



Officials with the city of Paris, local citizens, and artist Dan Knowles dedicated a new mural celebrating the Bicentennial of the city of Paris. The mural chronicles major events in the second 100 years since Paris' incorporation, which is placed next to a mural that honors the city's centennial with events from its first 100 years. The murals both feature prominent local visitors and personalities as well as local landmarks.

### Bristol cuts ribbon on TN Fast Charge station



Officials with the city of Bristol recently cut the ribbon on four new fast charging stations for EVs at the Pinnacle shopping center as part of the Fast Charge TN Partnership. Having the stations are expected to bring tourism, higher-paying jobs, environmental benefits, and positive economic impacts to the area. From left to right: Seven States Power Corp. Vice President of Partnerships & Project Development Lance Irwin; BTES CEO Clayton Dowell; Bristol Mayor Vince Turner; BTES Board Chair Erin Downs; Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable; and TVA Senior Manager of Energy Services and Programs Ray Knotts join together to cut the ribbon.

### Petersburg unveils new downtown murals



Three new murals have been unveiled around the historic Petersburg Square. Artist Noah Henderson, a recent graduate of Furman University, painted the three murals on the west side of the square. The first is a floral display depicting magnolia and dogwood blossoms facing a new park on the side of the town's old movie theater. A mural depicting Holstein and Hereford cattle graces the old Beasley Funeral Home while a third has the name Petersburg painted over a silhouette of the state of Tennessee above Jean's Sandwich Shop and Ice Cream Shop. Henderson was hired by a local businessowner to paint the murals.

## Decherd celebrates new fire engine



WAUFORD

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

Above: Members of the Decherd Fire Department gather around their newly acquired fire truck prior to a push-in ceremony at Decherd Fire Station No. 1. Visitors were invited to tour the fire station, learn about its multiple trucks, witness a vehicle extraction demonstration, meet the firefighters, and greet Capt. Kaleb Tyree's new Dalmatian puppy.

### Franklin pilot facility explores future of municipal water, wastewater services

WATER from Page 1

directly into the drinking water system or putting it into the reservoir and treating it in water plants," she said. "That will depend on how well we can treat drinking water."

By reusing water in this way, Franklin would be able to save money for both rate payers and the city itself by ensuring more water is locally sourced.

"The city of Franklin is served by four different water districts," Hatcher said. "In just the city's service area, we have to purchase two-thirds of our water from a wholesaler because the water in the Harpeth cannot provide enough for our whole service area. If we had the ability to supply all or most of the water from what we already have, that would be huge for our customers in terms of savings, water quality, and reducing some of the capital outlay of maintenance costs we have."

With water being a non-renewable resource, Hatcher said Franklin is not only readying itself for the future of water and wastewater but also getting to be part of the innovation that will shape that future.

"It is a lot more comfortable to do what we've always done, but we've started pushing that envelope a little bit," Hatcher said. "It's a hard conversation to have because there is a little bit of that yuck factor about people drinking wastewater, but really, it's what we're all drinking. We have led a public education campaign to show people. It's been an investment that Franklin has had to make, but it's an investment in our community and our sustainable operations, which is more beneficial to the community than not having that conversation."

This is especially important as communities across the country and the world are struggling with both having enough water or having enough water that is safe for human consumption. She said many countries, like Singapore, have been using similar processes of water reuse for years because

Franklin's multi-barrier approach Membrane filtration Ozonation **Purified water for** river and reservoir Biofiltration augmentation These water purification steps are designed to work together to remove Granular smaller and smaller physical, chemical, activated and microbial contaminants, resulting carbon in purified water that can supplement Ultraviolet light/ our current water resources. Advanced oxidation **Franklin Water Purification Demonstration Facility** 

This infographic showcases how the water purification demonstration facility in Franklin processes water and wastewater.

of the lack of availability of clean, drinkable water.

"We are not a water-scarce community yet; we aren't like communities in Texas or California that really have water scarcity," Hatcher said. "However, no one knows what things might look like in 20 or 30 years. Laying the groundwork for this is hugely beneficial for all of Tennessee. It helps TDEC write regulations and also shows other cities this is what we've done, this is what we can do, and this is what you can do to make it work in your

community."

Having the test facility operated by the city also has a different approach than might be seen in academia or in a private research lab.

"In Franklin, we are a very progressive community in the sense of fully vetting new technologies and not being afraid to try new technologies or be innovative," Hatcher said. "I think this is an example of that. It is important to have a community that can show we can do this and make it cost effective for our customers, improve the quality

of the Harpeth River, and improve the efficiency of our services."

In addition to preparing for the future of water, the facility is also helping Franklin train the next generation of water and wastewater treatment employees on the emerging technology that will become commonplace in the future.

"We have realized with the tours that we have given we have realized this is the next generation of water," Hatcher said. "We have exemplified that by having a lot of young professionals working at

the pilot facility because they will be operating the full-scale facility in 10 and 15 years. They will be the next leaders of our operations staff. We have also used a lot of the same technologies that have been there just in a different way. I think that's a great thing to show other cities as well."

To learn more about Franklin's pilot facility <u>click here</u> and to learn more about the processes the facility uses, <u>visit here</u>.



An aerial view of Franklin's water reclamation facility. The facility is doing innovative research that could change both how the city of Franklin and other water and wastewater plants across Tennessee operate.



Hatcher said the facility uses equipment already readily available at most water plants just in new ways. The facility is also training water and wastewater employees for the future.

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## **PEOPLE**



Ryan Cradic, a firefighter with the Johnson City Fire Department, died June 21, 2023, at the age of 42 after a 17-month battle with glio-



Ryan Cradic

blastoma. After graduating from Johnson City's University School, Cradic joined the U.S. Army and served in Iraq as a combat engineer where he earned the National Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He then graduated from Northeast State Community College and ETSU before serving for six years as a firefighter.

John Decker, former mayor and alderman for the city of White House, died July 1, 2023, at the age of 89. Decker served White House citizens



John Decker

for more than 33 years, first as a Ward 4 Alderman beginning in March 1989, then as mayor from 2005 until 2010, and then again as Ward 4 Alderman from 2011 until 2022. He also served on the Sumner County Commission as well as numerous boards, commissions, and committees in the city and county. In 2002, the White House Police Station at North Palmers Chapel and Tyree Springs Road was renamed in his honor for his years of service. A native of Michigan, Decker served as a helicopter crew chief with the U.S. Air Force for four years before graduating with degrees in chemistry and biology from George Peabody College in 1963.

David Eidson has been selected as information technology director for Johnson City. In this role, he will oversee the city's IT department



David Eidson

and support city staff by providing technological solutions to business operations. Eidson has more than 30 years of IT experience and for the past 12 years has served as division IT director for the Taylor Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics and math from Longwood University and attended the Georgia Institute of Technology for computer engineering.

Michael Ellis has been selected as the new city manager of Rocky Top after having served as interim city manager since March. Ellis recently retired as a high school teacher for Anderson County Schools and was formerly employed as a girls' basketball coach and road superintendent for Anderson County. Ellis takes over from previous City Manager Michael Foster, who now serves as a loss control consultant for Public



tant for Public Michael Ellis Entity Partners in East Tennessee.

Kirsten Ert Acuff, city manager for Lakesite, graduated from the Politics of Decision-Making Fellowship at the Carter



Kirsten Ert Acuff

School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. The program equips participants with meaningful conflict analysis and resolution ideas, skills, and experience to pursue more effective and peaceful political relationships, processes, and governance. Acuff has served as city manager of Lakesite since June 2022. Prior to that, she served as a senior community planner, city planner and government management graduate intern in Collegedale. Acuff graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu and holds a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Thad Jablon-ski, assistant city manager for the city of Columbia, has graduated as a member of the Leadership Middle Tennessee (LMT)



Thad Jablonski

Class of 2023. Jablonski completed a rigorous 11-month program that focused on leadership development, civic engagement, and community service. The Class of 2023 participated in a variety of learning experiences, including site visits, guest speakers, and hands-on projects. They also had the opportunity to meet with community leaders and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing a variety of Middle Tennessee cities.

April Norris has been selected as parks and recreation director for Johnson City. Norris joined the city in October 2021 as



April Norris

the assistant director for parks and recreation and has served as interim head of the parks and recreation department since February. She came to Johnson City from Bristol where she worked for eight years in human resources, risk management, purchasing, and

parks and recreation. Norris holds both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in business administration from King University.

will Righter has been named planning and development Services director for Johnson City. Righter joined the city in May 2018 as a planner. He



Will Righter

has held positions as planner II and development coordinator. Righter has also served as interim head of the planning and development services department since February. Prior to joining the city, Righter worked in supervisory roles in manufacturing for nine years. Righter served as a field artillery captain in the U.S. Army. He earned a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from East Tennessee State University.

Eric Stuckey, city administrator for Franklin, was recently selected as vice president for the Southeast Region by the ICMA Board



Eric Stuckey

of Directors. Stuckey has been city administrator for Franklin since 2009 and during that time has overseen the city's 780 employees as well as worked with the Franklin Board of Mayor and Alderman to secure numerous awards for the city. His 30-year public service career has included serving as assistant county administrator for Hamilton County, Ohio; assistant city manager and budget director for Elgin, Ill.; and service in the Dayton, Ohio, Office of Management and Budget. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Miami University and a master's of public administration from the University of Kansas.

Holt Witt has been appointed assistant commissioner for the legislative affairs for the Tennessee Department of Health. As assistant com-



Holt Witt

missioner for legislative affairs, Whitt will help develop the department's annual legislative package and work with key members of the Tennessee General Assembly to ensure the passage of key departmental initiatives. Whitt comes to TDH from the Tennessee Department of Human Resources where he served as senior policy advisor. Prior to that, Whitt served as interim chief of staff for the Speaker of the House as well as director of legislation. Witt holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from Virginia Commonwealth University.

# Yager, Brooks re-elected to TACIR leadership roles



State Sen. Ken Yager, R-Kingston, right, and Cleveland Mayor Kevin Brooks, left, have been reelected as chair and vice chair of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), respectively. TACIR was created in July 1978 by Chapter 939 of the Public Acts of 1978. TACIR was created in response to legislative findings in the late 1970s indicating the need for a permanent intergovernmental body to study and take action on questions of organizational patterns, powers, functions, and relationships among federal, state, and local governments

## Longtime lawmaker Herron dies following accident

Roy Herron, former state lawmaker and chair of the Tennessee Democratic Pary, died at the age of 69 on July 9, 2023, in Nashville from injuries sustained in a jetski accident on Kentucky Lake.

A native of Dresden, Herron earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin then a joint masters' of divinity and law degree from Vanderbilt University.

He served a total of 26 years in the General Assembly, ten years in the House of Representatives beginning in 1986. He was elected to the seat that had been vacated by newly elected Gov. Ned McWherter.

Herron then served 16 years in the State Senate where he served as chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus

After an unsuccessful run for Congress, Herron served two years as the Tennessee Democratic Party executive committee chairman beginning in 2013.

Along with former Gov. Ned McWherter and former Democratic lawmakers Craig Fitzhuh and Mark Maddox, Herron co-founded the Volunteer Center for Rural Development, an organization that developes educational programs with an emphasis on Tennessee issues.

A longtime advocate for rural Tennessee and particularly rural education, Herron is survived by



Roy Herron

his wife Nancy; his three sons John, Rick, and Benjamin; and many beloved cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Rev. Nancy Carol Miller-Herron, Herron's spouse of 36 years, issued a statement on behalf of the family.

"Roy loved his family with all his might," she said. "He passed doing what he loved most—spending time with our sons and their friends in the Tennessee outdoors where his spirit was always most free. Roy was defined most by the love and care he showed so many. We know his thoughts and prayers would now be with our friend, Kayla McDonald, who was also injured in the collision and who is recovering from her injuries."

## No loan is too large or too small



The City of Lebanon was one of the first borrowers when the variable rate loan program started in 1986. The city has used our programs 34 times since 1986. The most recent loan was a fixed rate loan in the amount of \$5 million to finance a portion of the costs of a new municipal sports complex for the city. Wilson Bank & Trust in Lebanon provided the financing. Seated is Lebanon Mayor Rick Bell. Standing L-R: Stuart Lawson, Commissioner of Finance and Revenue; Linda Mooningham, TMBF Marketing Director and Legal Coordinator; Taylor Walker, Chief Credit Officer of Wilson Bank & Trust in Lebanon; and TMBF Marketing Representative Kevin Krushenski.

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



The City of Charleston has used our loan program five times beginning in 2010. The latest was a \$100,000 capital outlay note issued to purchase a building to use as a new city hall. Pictured seated are: Mayor Donna McDermott and City Recorder Janet Newport. Standing is Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative



### TML congratulates 2023 Achievement Award winners

## Algood: Excellence in Community Development



Algood officials break ground on what will become the new Algood Clty Park. The finished project will feature walking paths, a dog park, an amphitheater, splash pad, and picnic pavilions.

Leadership in the city of Algood has brought together employees from all levels of municipal government to improve both offerings and service delivery for the city's parks and recreation, utilities, sanitation, and fire department in an overall effort to improve the entire community.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by Algood municipal officials to improve individual aspects of their community to better the whole, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present the city of Algood with an award for Excellence in Community Development. T Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

City leaders recently completed the first phase of a new Algood City Park, which will provide 21 acres of recreational opportunities in the city center. The park will include walking paths, dog parks, an amphitheater, splash pad, and picnic pavilions by the end of the project with citizens already enjoying a walking path, playground, and more.

The creation of a new municipal parks department also puts oversight of these services in the

hands of Algood officials, providing facilities maintenance and allowing for the creation the new Algood Fall Festival and Easter celebration and expansion of other events like the city's Christmas, Fourth of July, and annual Quilt Festival.

Algood has also completed a waterline expansion that will serve both municipal and county residents as well as sewer expansions into areas suffering from system failures.

The city has already used camera work to clean and prepare for the sewer project with TDEC ARP funding to help finance the sewer improvements.

A new program in place also monitors the safety and condition of both sanitation and fire trucks in the city, allowing better safety for both operators and the community. A new garbage truck will help provide back-up services to the small community and allow for service expansion.

By investing in city departments, Algood has been able to both expand the size and scope of city services as well as improve the quality of life for its citizens.

## **Kingsport: Excellence in Economic Development and Revitalization**



The redevelopment of historic buildings like the former Kingsport Press Building, Dobyns-Taylor Warehouse, Kingsport Carousel, and Kingsport Grocery Building have provided both economic anchors for downtown Kingsport and kicked off economic revitalization that has led to both commercial and residential redevelopment in the area.

Officials with the city of Kingsport are living up to the community's nickname as the "Model City" by enhancing economic development efforts through a variety of means that have both paid dividends locally and earned the city national recognition.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by Kingsport officials to focus on the development and redevelopment of local assets to better the community's economic future, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Kingsport with an award for Excellence in Economic Development and Revitalization.

The city began with the establishment of a full-time economic development office and created a database of existing and available properties. This, in turn, allowed officials to better work with developers, brokers, property owners, and business owners on a variety of both commercial and residential projects to benefit the city.

These efforts have been rewarded with three new stores

opening at the Kingsport Pavilion, and the expansion of one retailer in the city. Hull Properties also invested more than \$5 million into the Fort Henry Mall with renovations and additions that would add square footage to the property and improve outparcels on the lot.

Outreach efforts from the economic development office including a business park roundtable, creating the retail center database, and building relationships with developers have led to renovations on three major properties: Pappy's, the Kingsport Grocery Building, and the Citizens Supply Building. Three large parcels and a smaller lot are already under contract along Airport Parkway.

Kingsport has particularly gained attention for the redevelopment of the Kingsport Press – also known as the Quebecor Press Building – as part of a major \$9 million redevelopment of Sullivan Street. The anchor project kicked off with a community brick-breaking, allowing residents to take part in demolition. The façade of the building was removed and the interior gutted to be rebuilt into a modern commercial and medical center. Connected to the offices of the

Kingsport Chamber of Commerce and Kingsport School Board, the Press Building was once home to the city's second largest employer.

The Press Building serves as the anchor for a larger redevelopment project including the Dobyns-Taylor Warehouse, Food City Shopping Center, Kingsport Farmers Market, Kingsport Carousel, and nearby Town Park Lofts. At full build-out, the project will represent a \$24 million reinvestment in downtown Kingsport. Increased walkability, sustainability, and equity have all been major focuses of redevelopment. The project even earned Kingsport the Innovation in Economic Development category from the American Planning Association's Economic Development

One upshot of the city's commercial development is an increase in residential development. Home construction is at an all-time high in the city and of the 246 units spread across more than 30 mixed use centers in the city, approximately 91% are occupied. Developers of the new townhomes at Centennial Row near the redevelopment of the city's Brickyard Park have also decided to increase the number of units they are building from 386 to 442.

## Smyrna: Excellence in Governance



worked hard and planned ahead to ensure citizens receive quality service without tax increases.

As the community continues to experience rapid economic growth, leadership in the town of Smyrna continue to strive for efficient and effective government practices that enhance quality of life, improve municipal service delivery, and leverage economic assets.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by Smyrna officials to continuously assess local needs and assets while working together with citizens to create positive solutions and outcomes, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Smyrna with an award for Excellence in Governance.

Much of the basis for Smyrna's proactive approach to growth is the Town Comprehensive Plan, that directs the rapid development of the community in a way that involves all segments of the population and ensures the values of stakeholders will be upheld in the community. By planning ahead, Smyrna has been able to accomplish numerous major infrastructure investments including the \$36 million expansion of their wastewater plant to a 9 million gallon per day capacity, the \$8.5 million Olive Branch Utility expansion, and the Jefferson Pike Utilities expansion taking place in conjunction with the Sam Ridley Parkway Widening project.

The \$13 million Sam Ridley Parkway Widening Project is one of numerous transportation projects dealing with congestion and connectivity to other communities. The \$10.5 million Enon Springs Road West Extension will connect with the Rocky Fork/McEwen Connector, a project that brought together officials from Smyrna, Franklin, Brentwood, Nolensville, Rutherford and Williamson counties to connect Interstate 24 and Interstate 65. Smyrna is also working to implement a \$2.1 million intelligent transportation system (ITS) interconnecting all 53 traffic signals at the town's traffic operations center, allowing for the reduction of congestion, noise, and traffic issues more quickly.

The town is also working to expand fire protection with the construction of Fire Hall No. 4. The facility has the potential to also serve as a police department and information services hub as well as space to accommodate community outreach needs with the \$12.5 million project expected to begin this year.

This year, Smyrna celebrates 40 years of partnership with Nissan, which has led to both an important relationship between the company and town as well as with Smyrna's sister city of Zama, Japan. Looking toward its economic future, Smyrna recently sold nearly 41 acres and approved mixed-use development that will bring high-end retail, restaurant, office, residential, and hotel space to Stewart's Landing. Further economic, education, and development will also be possible through the expansion of Google Fiber's high speed broadband service to Smyrna this year.

Residents of Smyrna have plenty of opportunities to get involved, have fun, and give back in their local community through the seasonal Smyrna Depot Farmers Market, Captain Jeff Kuss USMC Memorial and Top Gun Night Run 6K, the Smyrna Outdoor Adventure Center and Splash Town facility, the Freedom Playground at Lee Victory Park, the Jefferson Springs Greenway Expansion to the Sharp Springs Natural Area, development of Cedar Stone Park, Annual Police and Fire Youth Academy, Kids Safety Day, and Smyrna Christmas Parade benefiting the Nourish Food Bank.

The town is working on an accessibility transition plan to ensure all Smyrna residents can safely navigate their community and town facilities. Smyrna's Love Where You Live Initiative encourages residents to show their town pride through beautification and has provided educational resources to reduce litter.

Smyrna has managed to remain a town on the cutting-edge and encourage residents to invest both economically and personally in the community with no property tax increases in 10 years and a healthy general fund. The town recently earned a Standard and Poor's rating of AAA and was a recipient of the GFOA Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for their audit report.

# Paris: Excellence in Green Leadership



From left to right: Paris BPU CEO Terry Wimberley, TVA's Mark Yates, and Silicon Ranch's Matt Brown officially flip the switch at a new solar farm that will provide cost savings and energy efficiency to the city of Paris and local electricity customers.

From LED lightbulbs to EV charging stations to an 80-acre solar farm, officials with the city of Paris have made numerous investments in green energy resulting in both financial savings and community beautification.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by Paris officials to make their community more sustainable and invest in energy efficient, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Paris with an award for Excellence in Green Leadership.

The city of Paris began building its sustainability portfolio with a project that transitioned 2,500 streetlights to LED bulbs. This led to the modification to several municipal buildings to have LED lighting, programmable thermostats, movement sensors for lights, and updated HVAC systems. The energy savings generated from this move has more than paid for the associated debt service as well as given the city a more modern feel. Upcoming plans include adding LED lighting to local sports fields.

Officials in Paris have also worked to improve the community's walkability, utilizing three grants totaling more than \$2.5 million to construct new sidewalks. These projects have connected four

schools to a main retail thoroughfare via sidewalks and has daily use

in the community. By working with the Paris Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and TVA's power supply flexibility program, Paris officials contracted with a solar developer to provide 5% of the community's annual energy. The Paris Solar Farm sits on 80 acres and supplies 6.75 megawatts of power, enough to power 1,000 homes. The solar farm provides electric rate stability and will save \$300,000 in power costs. Local industries will also be able to claim renewable energy certificates assisting with carbon reduction goals.

The Paris Solar Farm is also powering four Waypoints solar powered EV charging stations at the city's Eiffel Tower Park. These are the first Rivian solar powered EV chargers to go live in Tennessee. Paris continues to work with Paris BPU and TVA to add four more fast charging EV stations to the downtown area.

By building on past sustainability successes and securing partnerships and grant funding to make projects a reality, Paris has successfully combined sustainability, cost efficiency, and beautification.

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### TML congratulates 2023 Achievement Award winners

### La Vergne: Excellence in Fire Services



Through a dedication to continuing professional development among its personnel, the La Vergne Flre Department has managed to riase the city's ISO rating from a Class 3 to a Class 2.

As many communities struggle to recruit and retain first responders amid rapid growth, the La Vergne Fire Department has made a continual effort to promote professional and personal development in order to bolster both the department and their community.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the La Vergne Fire Department to pursue professional development to provide the best services possible to their community, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present La Vergne with an award for Excellence in Fire Services.

Since its reincorporation in 1972, La Vergne has seen its population explode from around 5,000 residents to more than 38,700 at the last census due to its

proximity to two major airports and the recruitment of major companies.

One of the ways the city has dealt with this growth is the establishment of a municipal fire and rescue department in 2013.

The growth of Middle Tennessee has a whole has made the recruitment and retention of fire and EMS officials a challenge for many departments and La Vergne Fire and Rescue has met this challenge head on with an intentional focus on increased professionalism.

Members are encouraged to take part in continued professional growth through higher education coursework, advanced levels of professional certification, and professional licensure.

Of the departments 48 fire-

# its personnel, the La Vergne ass 3 to a Class 2. fighters, 10 hold degrees ranging from associate's to master's, eight are actively pursuing degrees, and three

classes in the fall.

As a result, half of the department will hold some level of higher education certification.

are registered to begin their

Within the past 12 months alone, members of the department have collectively earned 42 accredited professional certifications or levels of licensure above what is required for their position.

This dedication to professional advancement is shown both in how the department responds to community emergencies and their elevation of the profession as a whole. These accomplishments have also contributed to the improvements of La Vergne's ISO rating from a Class 3 to a Class 2 this year along with the department's fire prevention, community risk reduction, and fire suppression efforts.

As a result, the La Vergne Fire Department is now ranked in the top 5% of Tennessee departments and the top 6% of fire departments nationally.

## Clarksville: Excellence in Police Services



Members of the Clarksville Police Department participate in a local festival as part of community outreach efforts.

To combat increasing violent crime and improve services, the Clarksville Police Department has implemented new programs aimed at the city's youth, mental health services, and in-house health and wellness to better help officers serve the public.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the Clarksville Police Department, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Clarksville with an award for Excellence in Police Services.

Under the professional leadership of Clarksville Police Chief David Crockarell, the Clarksville Police Department has made a calculated and strong investment in both officers and how they serve the community.

As Clarksville continues to rapidly grow, the prevention and prosecution of violent crime has become a primary concern for the public. To proactively tackle this issue, the department has created a new Juvenile Engagement Team (JET), a new Intelligence Unit, and a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

The JET program is part of a DOJ hiring grant that has served 155 middle school students as well as reaching out to athletic leagues, teen Citizen Police Academies, and afterschool and summer activities to provide violence prevention services

and youth justice diversion for young offenders.

The new Intelligence Unit combines a crime analyst and a detective to use data to perform complex, multi-agency investigations allowing data and technology to help in complicated investigations.

The CIT unit now totals 41 officers and three civilian staff members equipped to identify and respond to incidents involving mental health issues, prioritizing the safety of citizens and responding officers in these situations. Additionally, 65 students have also been trained in CIT practices by the department.

Additionally, the department has implemented a wellness program to address both the physical and mental health of officers. This department provides resources for officers including an in-house wellness counselor.

The department is on track to receive CALEA accreditation again in 2024 with its last accreditation in 2020 and will receive its third TLEA accreditation in 2024. Additionally, the department opened its third precinct in 2021 with plans for a fourth to open in 2024.

As a result of these efforts, Clarksville has seen both its violent crime rate decrease in recent years and a lower crime rate than comparatively sized cities in the state.

## **Excellence in Strategic Planning in Fire Service: Nolensville**



As Nolensville continues to grow and change, the town has seen its local fire service go from a volunteer department to a full-time municipal fire department. In order to meet the needs of a growing community, strategic planning has allowed the department to not only purchase its first ever fire truck but has also seen ground broken on the first fire station for the department. The new station will help transit the department from its former facility that belonged to the volunteer department into a new facility that will position the department for future growth.

As municipalities experience significant economic and community growth, the pressure is on to ensure adequate service delivery to a growing city, a challenge the city of Nolensville has met head on.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the city of Nolensville to incorporate strategic planning that ensures the local fire service can meet the demands of a growing community, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Nolensville with an award for Excellence in Strategic Planning in Fire Service.

The Town of Nolensville has experienced a great deal of change in recent years, both in terms of how the municipality works and the growth the area is experiencing. Among these changes is transforming a volunteer fire department into a full-service municipal department.

Town officials worked with fire officials and UT-MTAS to create a new fire and rescue department that will serve more than 14,000 residents in Nolensville as well as an additional 4,000 residents living in Williamson County. The department also has an automatic aid agreement with Brentwood. Strategic planning was vital to ensure that the department was built to serve the community from the ground up.

From hiring a new chief, new fire personnel, and creating policy manuals and best practices to planning for the growth and expansion of the department's footprint and equipment, Nolensville officials were largely starting from scratch.

After initially borrowing vehicles from the outgoing volunteer organization and Williamson County, Nolensville purchased its first stock fire engine. Negotiations are ongoing to transition equipment from the volunteer department to the municipal department. A fire impact fee has also been approved to help finance capital needs for the department, especially as the average home size in Nolensville is generally above the state average.

Other equipment acquired for the department includes Life Pak 15 defibrillators, 16 self-contained breathing apparatus, portable radios, three smaller vehicles, and a temporary living facility. Two FEMA grants are presently being considered to help finance a ladder truck and air compressor. Overdue maintenance has also been made to fire hydrants throughout the town with hydrants placed on the Town's GIS system.

Ground has also been broken on the first municipal fire station for the city with an additional piece of property being purchased for an additional station. The department presently operates out of the former volunteer facility owned by Williamson county.

Planning has also led to personnel growth and professional development including the first state fire inspector certification, a fire marshal, car seat technician certifications, pumper driver training, and the hiring of numerous firefighters.

### Collegedale: Excellence in Public Works



A collision between a semi-truck driver and a train carrying a concrete beam in Collegedale presented the community with numerous challenges, including damage to infrastructure, issues with traffic, and environemnt concerns in a nearby creek. The Collegedale Public Works Department has overseen the city's recovery from this event from the moment of impact. Employees protected the Wolftover Creek from any potential leaks, have helped coordinate traffic patterns as repairs are made, and have worked with contractors to repair both road and rail damage.

Following a train derailment that damaged an important intersection on a major thoroughfare in the community, Collegedale Public Works immediately went to work ensuring the safety of citizens and has continued to work to repair the damages sustained during the accident.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the Collegedale Public Works Department to respond quickly and efficiently to this incident, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Collegedale with an award for Excellence in Public Works.

On Dec. 20, 2022, a truck struck a Norfolk-Southern train that was carrying a 137-foot concrete beam, resulting in a train derailment.

Police said the driver attempted to drive across the

railroad crossing but stopped halfway across the tracks, bringing his tractor trailer into the on-coming lane of traffic when the train hit.

The derailment caused three engines and 10 rail cars to leave the tracks. This also resulted in damage to the city greenway and sidewalks.

Collegedale Public Works employees were on the scene within seconds of the crash as one employee was driving by when it happened. This employee immediately checked on the safety of the people on the train and surrounding area.

A code enforcement officer also immediately responded from his office and provided first aid to one of the train engineers until EMS could arrive.

Public works employees then aided police and fire officials with clearing the area of people, directing traffic, and helping set up barrels, cones, barricades, and traffic signs to both detour people around the site and be able to respond in case of fire.

Additionally, the public works department assisted with transporting and deploying boom socks along the nearby Wolftever Creek to catch any diesel fuel and oil lost in the accident before it could negatively impact local waters

In the aftermath of the incident, the public works department has designed, bid out, and worked alongside contractors to repair the damage caused by the accident to the roadways, greenway, and damaged sidewalks.

In addition, public works employees have also helped with the creation of detours and safety signage to direct traffic around the site while repairs are ongoing.

## TML congratulates 2023 Achievement Award winners

## Morristown: Excellence in Recreation Facilities



The indoor swimming pool at Morristown Landing is one of several features that has made the recreation facility popular in the local community. Morristown Landing features a 10-lane lap pool, full fitness center, climbing walls, meeting rooms, and four courts that can accomodate basketball, volleyball, and pickleball players. The facility has already drawn in multiple tournaments into the city and exceeded its one-year goal for memberships within months of its opening date.

When Morristown officials cut the ribbon on Morristown Landing earlier this year, they celebrated the culmination of a city project decades in the making

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by the city of Morristown to improve community offerings and health and wellness outcomes, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Morristown with an award for Excellence in Recreation Facilities.

Morristown leadership had long held the goal of opening a new community center with amenities that would contribute to the health, wellness, and quality of life for citizens.

Through a series of public meetings with staff and citizens in 2020, officials began planning and designing a facility that would provide resources for athletics and fitness as well as provide community space.

The resulting vision became actualized in a design featuring four basketball courts capable of being converted for use to play volleyball and pickleball; a walking track; a 10-lane lap pool with diving and slides; a zero-entry pool with play area for therapy use; a full fitness center; a series of climbing walls; and

various meeting rooms that can accommodate events, meetings, and conferences with in-house catering options.

A splash pad outside the facility was donated by the Morristown Rotary Club to honor their centennial in the city.

Working with LOSE Design and Bur-Wil Construction, Morristown officials broke ground on the Morristown Landing Facility in 2021 and officially opened the facility in 2023 under the management of Sports Facilities Company.

Despite delays in supplies and construction created by the pandemic, Morristown was able to still bring the project in under budget. Costing a little more than \$32 million, the project was funded by a \$0.25 property tax increase assessed beginning in 2020.

Morristown Landing is already proving to be an invaluable community investment. In the first six weeks after its opening, the 115,000-square-foot facility hosted three weekend-long tournaments – one volleyball and two basketball tournaments – that hosted more than 50 teams.

In the same period, Morristown Landing already exceeded its year-one goal for memberships.



The War Memorial at Harriman's David Webb Riverfront Park is one of several features of the facility, which will soon be connected via greenway to the city's new Baisley Park and Margrave Boat Ramp.

## Harriman: Small City Progress

By successfully building both community infrastructure and local programs, city leadership in Harriman has taken significant steps to improving the overall quality of life for its residents and why the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Harriman with an award for Small City Progress.

Under the leadership of Harriman's city manager, mayor, and city council, the community has made significant investments in public safety and public recreation.

The Harriman Police Department has purchased a drug analyzer to help more quickly identify dangerous narcotics as well as offered the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program to homeschool students in the state.

Additionally, the department has stepped up its community policing efforts to better determine what issues the community is facing.

HPD also supports several

HPD also supports several programs for the public including an annual youth camp, women's self-defense classes, and citizens police academy.

Harriman will expand its parks and recreation offerings this summer with the opening of the new Baisley Park, including a half-mile nature trail and additional parking for the Margrave  $Boat\ Ramp.$ 

Further development at the park includes the addition of a disc golf course and eventually connecting Baisley Park to the city's David Webb Riverfront Park.

Offerings are also expanding at Riverfront Park with plans for a new pier for kayak and canoe launches. The city's 9-hole golf course – the oldest in the state – will be celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

The city's parks are often the focus of numerous community-wide events including Hooray for Harriman, the seventh annual Pirate Fest, and National Police Week service.

## **Lakesite: Small City Progress**



While community evnts like the annual children's fishing rodeo and 50th Annivesrary Celebrations have helped bring Lakesite residents together, city officials also consider efforts such as strategic planning, improved pedestrian safety, stormwater improvements, IT upgrades, government transparency, and competitive employee pay and benefits to be integral parts of providing good governance locally.

## White House: Excellence in Parks and Recreation

As the city of White House continues to grow and develop, the city's parks and recreation department also continue to grow and develop the programs, events, and services they provide to the community.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by White House officials to offer new and exciting parks and recreation opportunities and programming to their community, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present White House with an award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation.

White House has recently added a Nature Trail in its city park that connects to its 3.5-mile greenway and has planned sidewalk projects that lead back to the greenway, allowing it to make a loop around the city. Lighted walkways make the greenway safer for citizens.

The greenway provides five trailheads each with parking, water fountains, and benches, and connects to the city's Veterans Memorial, which itself incorporated technological signage that allows visitors to go more in depth to learn more about fallen soldiers from the area.

The city's splash pad and pavilion are popular attractions, drawing numerous visitors for birthday parties and other events. White House added an amphitheater to this area to attract more visitors to outdoor events such as concerts, and the location of White House library along with the new White House City Hall and Community Center has further



The White House Municipal and Recreation Complex will soon expand with a new community center featuring ball courts, a walking track, and esports gaming center. At present, the complex is home to the municipal offices, a senior center, meeting rooms, the White House Public Library, a playground, splash pad, and amphitheater. The complex is just one of several major recreation facility upgrades and additions the city of White House has made recently as the city continues to grow and develop parks nad recreation opportunities.

anchored this area as a central hub for the city.

The former city hall and senior center is now being turned into a 70,000-square-foot recreation center that will house basketball courts, fitness equipment, a walking track, and esports center, furthering drawing residents to the area. The newly renovated White House Museum is dedicated to the city's namesake and houses both important information on community history and the White House Chamber of Commerce. Each fall,

the museum is the focal point of "The Gathering," a living history festival that explores local history.

Approximately 2,600 children participate in youth sports yearly at the various football, baseball, and soccer fields, and basketball courts located throughout the community. Looking toward the future,

White House officials are planning the development of a recently purchased 104-acre property that will further enhance and extend parks and recreation opportunities.

As the city celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the city of Lakesite is proud of its many accomplishments and why the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Lakesite with an award for Small City Progress.

Incorporated on Jan. 20, 1972, Lakesite has gone from a population of around 500 to one of more than 1,850. This growth has necessitated the city to grow from three to five commissioners and the hiring of its first full-time city manager, Kirsten Ert.

Under the current leadership, Lakesite has completed the city's first ever strategic plan with the assistance of UT- MTAS, and is in the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which will hopefully help with obtaining grants for future projects.

The city also took over the management of the community pool, previously maintained by volunteers, with a long-term goal of replacing the pool with a larger and more modern facility.

Other improvements include:

• Completion of the final phase of the pedestrian enhancement

- project in the commercial district through the help of TDOT grant funds; and
- Stormwater improvements through the use of ARPA funds.

Internally, the city has overhauled its personnel policies to make employee benefits more competitive and boost morale; has over-hauled financial processes such as payroll and compliance; and has made major IT upgrades including email, servers, and cyber security.

The city is also working to be more transparent by posting agendas, minutes, and other information into an online depository, and has created an online building permitting and payment system that will save the city \$12,000 annually.

The city is also using social media to provide community engagement and has expanded its partnerships with local business in an effort to increase the amount of community events held by the city, including its popular children's fishing rodeo.



Awards will will be presented Tuesday, July 25, at the TML 83rd Annual Conference held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

#### STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee will receive more than \$813 million dollars for affordable, high-speed internet projects as part of \$42.25 billion announced by the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced Tennessee will receive a total of \$813,319,680.22 through the program, which is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The BEAD funding will be used to deploy or upgrade broadband networks to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service. Once deployment goals are met, any remaining funding can be used to pursue eligible access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses. To learn more about the program, visit InternetforAll.gov.

Only around a third of Tennessee's students meet proficiency in English and math while less than half are proficient in science and social studies, though Tennessee Department of Education officials said the state saw increases in academic efficiencies in all tested subjects and across all grade levels. Results from TDOE found that 38.1% of students scored as proficient in English, a 1.6% increase from last year and an 8.3% increase from the pandemic. Statewide, 34% of students scored proficient in math, a 3.2% increase from last year and an 8.1% increase from the pandemic. In science, 43.2% of students scored proficient, a 3.4% increase from last year and a 4.9% increase from the pandemic. For social studies, 43.2% of students scored as proficient, 3.4% above last year and 4.9% since the pandemic. For more results and in depth analysis, learn more here.

Gov. Bill Lee signed an executive order creating a 13-member council intended to position Tennessee to lead the nation in support of service members, veterans, and their families. The Tri-Stars and Stripes Council will work to support current and former service members, including veteran transition and employment, workforce development and important resources for military families. The Council will consist of 13 members, including members of the Lee administration, the Tennessee General Assembly, local leaders, key veterans service organizations and a military family representative. The council will submit a strategic plan to the Governor by Jan. 1, 2024, and will continue to provide key updates and recommendations to benefit service members, veterans, and their families.

Tennessee was ranked third in CNBC's recent poll of **America's** Top States for Business. Tennessee rose from sixth place last year, and moved up in rankings for workforce, infrastructure, cost of doing business, technology and innovation, business friendliness, education, and access to capital. However, the state declined in rankings for life, health and inclusion; economy; and cost of living. Tennessee's best individual ranking was third in terms of infrastructure while its worst ranking was 43 out of life, health, and inclusion. North Carolina took the top space on the list, the second year at the top of the list for the state, followed by Virginia in second, rising from third last year. States were ranked on 86 metrics in 10 categories by an array of business and policy experts and using data from a variety of sources.

# Four municipalities to share in state site development grants



The Adamsville-McNairy County Industrial Park in Adamsville is one of the recipients of nearly \$6 million in site development grants recently awarded by TNECD. Adamsville is one of four municipalities and 10 entities total that will share in the funds.

Four municipalities are sharing in nearly \$6 million in site development grants awarded by the state of Tennessee to 10 entities.

The grants, totaling approximately \$5.9 million, are designed to help communities invest in infrastructure and engineering improvements to land economic development projects and achieve Select Tennessee site certification.

The **Adamsville-**McNairy County Industrial Development Board was awarded \$100,000 for due diligence studies at the Adamsville North Industrial Park. The city of **Brownsville** was awarded \$1 million for access road construction and sewer infrastructure at the I-40 Advantage Industrial Park.

The town of Halls was awarded \$1 million for water, sewer, and gas infrastructure at the Beech Bluff Industrial Park. The city of Savannah was awarded \$500,000 for purchase of the Boyd Property at the Savannah Industrial Development Board.

Other grants include:

\$100,000 to the Agricenter International in **Memphis**,

• \$100,00 to the Industrial Board of Fentress County for the Clarkrange Business Park,

• \$1 million to Henderson County for the Highway 22 Connector property,

• \$100,000 for the Maury County Industrial Development
Board for the Innovation
Campus Site,

• \$1 million for the Robertson County Industrial Park, and

 \$1 million the Sullivan County Economic Development for the Partnership Park II.

"We're committed to providing rural communities with the resources needed to support continued investment and create quality jobs for Tennesseans," said Lee. "I thank the General Assembly for partnering with us to fund these 10 additional industrial sites and look forward to the economic growth and opportunity that will result from these projects."

The Site Development Grant program, part of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act, works in tandem with TNECD's Select Tennessee program. Since 2016,

TNECD has awarded 153 Site Development Grants across the state, totaling more than \$60 million in assistance to local communities and generating approximately 6,400 new jobs for Tennesseans.

"The latest round of the Site Development program will bring 10 Tennessee communities one step closer to achieving Select Tennessee Site Certification," said McWhorter. "Shovel-ready sites are in high demand, and through this program, we are working with local leadership across the state to bring this needed infrastructure to every community."

Applications were reviewed by an advisory committee made up of TNECD, Austin Consulting, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Tennessee Department of Transportation.

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

## Tennessee May revenues more than \$117M above estimates

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson announced revenues for May were \$1.6 billion, which is \$117.3 million more than the budgeted monthly revenue

"May revenues exceeded the budgeted monthly estimate, and sales tax collections, fuel taxes, and business tax proceeds all continued to grow during the month," said Bryson. "Corporate tax revenues, which are represented in franchise and excise taxes, were short of budgeted estimates, however they continue to show positive growth for the year. Because corporate tax revenues fluctuate more than other tax revenues, we will closely monitor these trends in the months

ahead.

"Several state tax revenue sources saw positive growth compared to May of last year, however total revenues for the month were \$18.6 million less than May 2022 and overall growth was negative 1.16%."

On an accrual basis, May is the tenth month in the 2022-2023 fiscal year

General fund revenues were \$95.3 million more than the budgeted estimate while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$22 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$112.1 million more than the estimate for May and 1.84% more than May 2022. For ten months, revenues are

\$1.2 billion higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate is 7.61%.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$8.4 million less than the budgeted estimate in May and the growth rate compared to May 2022 was negative 23.83%. For ten months, revenues are \$699.6 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 6.80%.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for May increased by 12.29% compared to May 2022 and they were \$10 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$103.5 million. For ten months, revenues are less than estimates by \$2.5 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$0.4 million less than

the May estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, revenues are \$32.1 million more than the estimate.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$0.3 million less than the May budgeted estimate of \$21.3 million. For ten months, they are \$12.3 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$23.3 million less than the May estimate and decreased 34.39% from May 2022. On a year-to-date basis, August through May, revenues are \$79.9 million less than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$16.3 million more than the May estimate. For ten months, revenues are \$73.9 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Mixed drink, or liquor-by-thedrink, taxes were \$7 million more than the May estimate. For ten months, revenues are \$56.2 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other tax revenues were more than estimates by a net of \$4.3 million.

Year-to-date revenues, for ten months, are \$2 billion more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$1.8 billion more than the budgeted estimate and the four other funds were \$173 million more than estimated.

For additional information about budget estimates and updated revenue projections, <u>click here</u>

## Tennessee has fewest distressed counties in state history

Gov. Bill Lee announced Tennessee has reduced the number of distressed counties to eight, the fewest in state history, marking a significant milestone in the Lee administration's mission to accelerate the transformation of rural Tennessee.

According to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Grundy and Morgan counties advanced out of the distressed designation this year, reducing the total number of distressed counties from 15 to eight since 2019.

Since taking office, Gov. Lee has prioritized significant workforce, education and infrastructure investments to ensure economic growth, job creation and a greater quality of life across rural Tennessee.

With these investments, the Governor has secured 213 economic development projects in rural counties that have netted more than \$16 billion in capital investment and 33,000 new job commitments since 2019.

Notable strategic investments include:

#### **Executive Order 1**

- Directing all state departments to issue a statement of rural impact and examine how they are serving rural areas in Tennessee, specifically distressed counties.
- Requiring departments to provide recommendations for improvements on how to best serve rural communities in a variety of areas, including workforce development,



business recruitment, critical infrastructure, education and more.

#### **Workforce Development**

- Prioritizing career and technical education in distressed and at-risk counties through the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE)
   Act, which expanded access to work-based learning, apprenticeship programs and dual enrollment courses for trade and technical programs.

   More than \$200 million to im-
- prove and expand Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) infrastructure across our state, in addition to more than \$98 million for the TCAT Enrollment Initiative since 2021 to help reduce waitlist times for students to participate in vocational education programs.

#### K-12 Education

- \$500 million to expand middle and high school career and technical education programs across the state
- Extending additional dual enrollment credits for high school juniors and seniors through the GIVE program
- More than \$1 billion in new, recurring funds to reform the state's 30-year-old funding formula through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Act, an innovative education model that funds each Tennessee student based on individual needs, paying particular attention to rural students
- Creating the Future Workforce Initiative to increase STEM training in K-12 schools, aimed at placing Tennessee in the top 25 states for creating technology jobs by launching new computer science

programs

Modernizing In-

#### Modernizing Infrastructure

and STEM-focused

\$447 million to provide broadband access to more than 150,000 unserved homes and businesses across 58 Tennessee counties
\$1.3 billion for water and sewer development, approved by Tennessee's Financial Stimulus Accountability Group

This year, Gov. Lee prioritized additional investments that will continue to prepare rural Tennessee for long-term growth and success, including:

- A \$3.3 billion investment to implement the Transportation Modernization Act, a new transportation and infrastructure strategy to widen rural interstates and alleviate urban congestion, including \$300 million for local highways across Tennessee without raising taxes or going into debt
- \$1 billion to complete the TCAT Master Plan to improve 16 existing TCATs, replace seven outdated facilities and build six new TCATs at strategic locations across Tennessee
- More than \$400 million in tax cuts for Tennessee fam-

ilies and businesses through the Tennessee Works Tax Act, one of the largest tax relief measures in Tennessee history

- The Rural Brownfields Investment Act to begin remediation efforts for 175 known brownfield sites, including the creation of a new state-administered grant and technical support program for remediation and economic development of existing brownfields
- \$50 million Nuclear Fund and creating the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council to recruit companies to our state that will establish a nuclear development and manufacturing ecosystem built for the future of Tennessee
- \$350 million in additional funding to local education agencies through the TISA and an historic pay raise for teachers, making Tennessee a top-10 state for teacher pay

Each year since 2007, the ARC has compiled an index of county economic status for every county in the U.S.

Economic status designations are identified through a composite measure of each county's three-year average unemployment rate, per capita market income, and poverty rate.

Based on these indicators, each county is then categorized as distressed, at-risk, transition, competitive or attainment.

To learn more about how the ARC classifies counties as distressed, <u>click here.</u>

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Member Services Rhett Pratt, Government Relations TBI: Most crime rates decrease for 2022

**CRIME** from Page 1

crime with 72,801 incidents.

For property crimes, the report found burglary incidents have dropped 18.21% while the state has seen a more than 25% increase in identity theft, nearly 27% increase in motor vehicle theft, and 77.5% increase in extortion or blackmail. Destruction, damage, or vandalism was the most commonly reported crime against property with 46,478 incidents.

For crimes against society, DUI arrests, arrests associated with meth labs, meth importing offenses, arson, and juvenile rests have all trended downward over the last year while animal cruelty, juvenile victims of crime, and non-violent offenses have increased in the same time frame.

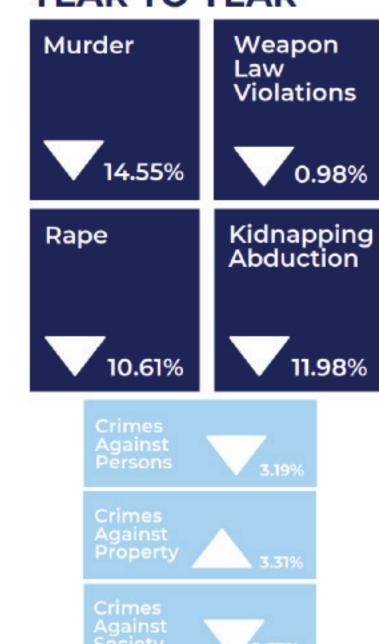
Drug and narcotics violations were the most commonly committed crime against society at 50,944 followed by drug and narcotic equipment violations at 30,763 and weapons violations at 15,949.

July was the month with the most reported offenses at 44,490 while November saw the least at 38,964. Most offenses occurred between 3-6 p.m. (84,988) while 3-6 a.m. was the least common time for crimes to be reported. Residences were the most common location for crimes to be reported at 41.13% followed by roadways at 15.21%, schools at 2.23%, and hospitals at 0.63%.

Women were more likely to be victims of crime than men with 183,167 female victims to 161,452 male victims. Those aged 25-34 were most likely to be crime victims while the under 18 age range was the least likely and those over 65 the second least likely.

Among domestic violence victims, nearly three-fourths were female with those age 25-34 most likely to be victims of

## YEAR TO YEAR



A look at how the amount of various offenses in Tennessee have changed between 2022 and 2021. Most violent and non-violent crime offenses are down over the previous year. The rise in property crimes was buoyed by an increase in motor vehicle theft, identity theft, and extortion or blackmail.

domestic violence. Those aged 65 and over were the age group with the lowest number of domestic violence victims. More than 65% of all domestic violence offenses reported in 2022 were simple assaults though 96 murders and 585 rapes in the state were connected to domestic violence incidents.

For information on how the report was created and agency specific data, click here.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

The average age of the U.S. population is older than it has ever been with new census data showing the average median age for Americans is now 38.9. This is up from 35 in 2000 and 30 in 1980. While American remains on average younger than its European peers – where the average age is 44 – this can also pose challenges for workforce, the economy, and social programs, especially as low birthrates remain the main driver of why the nation's average age is increasing. Despite birthrates ticking back upward since the pandemic, they have remained historically low since the Great Recession in 2007. Immigration is a factor that has kept American younger than Europe as most immigrants are usually working-age adults and typically have more children than native-born residents.

Murder rates in major cities have fallen nationally by more

than 12%, the second year in a row a decline has been reported. Murder rates spiked three years ago prior to the pandemic and still remains 10% higher than they were in 2019. The U.S. murder rate also remains significantly below its peak in the 1990s and 1980s. Policy may have played a role in why murders have declined in the past two years, particularly through anti-violence strategies and hiring more police officer – such as community programs that focus on violent individuals as well as proactive policing programs. With these drops, experts suggest that 2023 could see the biggest drop in the U.S. murder rate in the more than 60 years since statistics were first kept.

Hiring slowed nationally though wages rose and unemployment remained low, signs that inflation is cooling while the labor market remains resilient. The economy still added 209,000 jobs in June with an unemployment rate of 3.6%, down 0.1% from May. This marks the 30th consecutive month of gains in payrolls. Wages also grew 0.4% from May and 4.4% from June 2022.

Inflation fell to its lowest annual rate in more than two years during June, a sign that inflation is continuing to cool from a more than 40-year high. The consumer price index increased 3% in June from the same time the previous year, putting it at the lowest rate since March 2021. On a monthly basis, the index rose 0.2%. By stripping out the most volatile sectors - food and energy prices - the core CPI rose 4.8% over this time last year. The rate change shows that policies put in place by the Federal Reserve over the past 16 months are working to cool inflation, though it is still above the Fed's annual target of 2%. The Fed may continue to raise rates again until this metric is achieved. One reason inflation is not cooling as rapidly is because housing costs account for a large share of inflation and are not coming down as quickly as other measurements.

#### TENNESSEE **FESTIVALS**

July 21-22: Pittman Center **Greenbrier Mountain Festival** 

This festival celebrates the history and heritage of Pittman Center with free admission to music, entertainment, and kids activities.

July 21-22: Franklin Bluegrass Along the Harpeth

A fiddlers' jamboree in honor of local legends Sam and Kirk McGee, this festival benefits the Williamson County Cultural Arts Commission.

July 21-22: Rutledge

30th Annual Tomato Festival Celebrate the legacy of Grainger County's most famous cash crop.

July 28-29: McEwen

169th St. Patrick's Irish Picnic and **Homecoming** 

One of the oldest, continuously-held events in the state of Tennessee, this picnic celebrates the legacy of St. Patrick's Church, the St. Patrick's School and the Irish immigrants who founded McEwen.

July 29: Gruetli-Laager 154th Annual Swiss Festival

seum.

Celebrate the Swiss immigrants who founded the Colony of Gruetli in what is now Grundy County at the Stocker-Stampfli Farm Mu-

July 29-30: Monteagle 64th Annual Monteagle Mountain

More than 100 talented artisans and crafters will display works of fine art, leather work, pottery, furniture, bird houses, quilts, jewelry, metal art, and glass art at this annual arts and crafts show.

Aug. 5: Hendersonville Sumner Fest 2023

Sanders Ferry Park is home to this fourth annual festival that features kids activities and ballon rides.

Aug. 13: Smyrna <u>Depot District BBQ Festival</u> Live music, food vendors, inflat-

ables, and more arrive to Smyrna's Depot District for this festival.

Aug. 17-19: Johnson City Meet the Mountains Festival

Come to Winged Deer Park to experience the outdoors and learn more about adventures in the local area.

Balloon Festival

Aug. 19: Townsend

Great Smoky Mountains Hot Air Take to the skies with this summer-

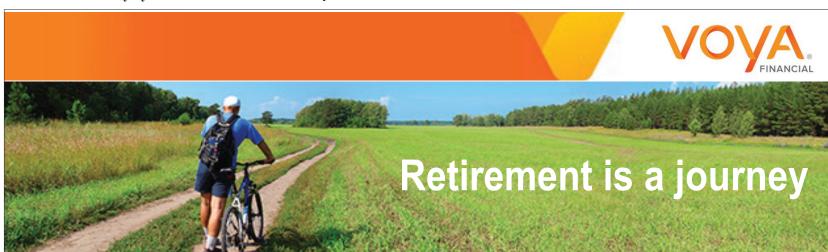
time spectacle over the mountains.

Aug. 19: Ardmore Crape Myrtle Festival

John Barnes Park hosts this local tradition of food, family, crafts, music, and entertainment.

Aug. 20: Elizabethton 6th Annual BBQ Blues and Brews **Festival** 

Elizabethton's famed Covered Bridge is home to this festival that brings together good music and good food for a good time.



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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF **Financial Advisor** 

## Tennessee cities celebrate Fourth of July



**Top Left:** Fireworks explode over Smyrna's Lee Victory Park as part of the city's Independence Day festivities.

**Top Right**: A float showcases George Washington and crew crossing the Delaware River at Kingsport's 69th annual Mack Riddle Independence Day Parade.



Gatlinburg begins ringing in July Fourth at midnight with its July 4th Fireworks display and the First in the Nation Parade.



The Sweetwater Fire Department helped residents beat the heat during the city's Fourth of July festivities by hosting a community water fight.

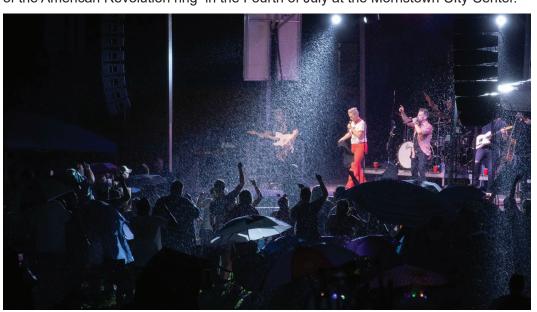


Watertown Fourth of July Parade participants helped the audience cool off with a supersoaker fight.





Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney helps members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution ring in the Fourth of July at the Morristown Clty Center.



Johnson City residents enjoy concert performances during the city's 36th Annual Independence Day Fireworks Celebration



Bell Buckle residents turned out in red, white, and blue for the town's Fourth of July Celebration in Jenny Hunt Park.
In addition to a concert, the Dec-

**Left**: Somerville residents gather to watch the entertainment and fireworks prior to the city's Fourth of July festivities.





show online here.