

General Assembly passes budget, recessed until June

In response to the coronavirus, the Tennessee General Assembly fast-tracked the state budget and other critical legislation last week in an effort to complete its essential duties before going into recess until June 1.

“In the best interests of public health, we have jointly decided to limit all remaining legislative business to fulfilling our constitutional requirement of passing a balanced budget, and any associated actions that will ensure Tennessee can keep its doors open,” Gov. Bill Lee said in a joint statement with House Speaker Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville, and Speaker of the Senate and Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge.

“This is a serious time for our state and country, and we all must make adjustments in response to this threat,” the joint statement said. “Our approach will take into account the unique public health challenges this complex virus presents, as well as the economic disruption likely to occur as a result of its spread. Passing an amended budget now and recessing will allow the General Assembly to focus on an immediate plan of action, while still determining needs down the road. This pathway forward should only be reserved for extraordinary circumstances. We will continue operating out of an abundance of caution and take

additional action if it becomes necessary.”

The Republican leadership said the intent is to return at the conclusion of the recess to complete additional legislative priorities. However, in the event that it was not possible to return to work following the recess, the modified budget and essential legislation that was adopted last week will need to be sufficient to continue government operations into the next fiscal year.

Included in the governor’s approved budget, is Lee’s original proposal to allocate \$100 million in grants to local government. Cities were to receive \$50 million and counties \$50 million. However recognizing the impact that the coronavirus will have on cities’ economic activity and revenues, the governor proposed and the Tennessee General Assembly approved to double the amount of the original proposal to \$200 million – \$100 million for cities and \$100 million for counties. In addition to the original allowances for these grants, the modified proposal will allow cities to use grant monies to offset COVID-19 effects.

TML is grateful to Gov. Lee, Lt. Governor McNally, Speaker Sexton, and other state leaders for their hearing and responding to cities’ concerns.

2020 Census modifying operations in response to Coronavirus pandemic

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and follow the guidance of federal, state and local health authorities. The bureau is adjusting some operations as outlined below with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of the bureau staff and the public, and fulfilling the statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the President on schedule.

As of March 16, more than 5 million have responded online to the 2020 Census. Currently, the planned completion date for data collection for the 2020 Census is July 31, 2020, but that date can and will be adjusted if necessary as the situation dictates in order to achieve a complete and accurate count.

- We are adjusting operations to ensure college students are counted.
- We are working with group

quarters administrators – which counts people in nursing homes, college dorms, prisons and other institutional living facilities – to ensure we count their residents.

- We are working with service providers at emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens and regularly scheduled mobile food vans to adapt plans to count the populations they serve.
- We are delaying the start of our Mobile Questionnaire Assistance program.
- We are delaying our Early Nonresponse Followup operation.

The key message right now for anyone with questions about how COVID-19 will affect the 2020 Census: It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker.

Vigilance, good health techniques key for slowing spread of Coronavirus

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

As concern spreads over the coronavirus, state health officials are urging citizens to practice good health-conscious techniques, avoid mass gatherings, and to be prepared that things could get worse before they get better.

As of March 20, 228 cases of the virus have been confirmed across the state, prompting Gov. Bill Lee to declare a state of emergency on March 12 and order the closure of all public schools on March 16.

The state of emergency expanded COVID-19 testing sites, authorizes TennCare to provide medically necessary services to endangered individuals, works with health insurers to coordinate patient care, implements price gouging protections on certain items, and relaxes other laws aimed at combating the virus.

“This action will move us into a position to utilize additional emergency funds as needed and relax provisions of certain laws to provide the flexibility needed to respond to this disease,” Gov. Lee said. “While the risk to the general public remains low, we encourage all Tennesseans to exercise caution and maintain good hygiene practices as there are serious risks to our vulnerable populations. We will continue to evaluate and adapt our position accordingly to fit what we believe is best for Tennesseans.”

Lee also announced resources will be provided to help school systems impacted by closures.

“Superintendents and local leadership have the full support of my administration to determine effective dates for closure this week as they evaluate what is best for families within their respective



Both testing by the Tennessee Department of Health’s State Laboratory and private insurers are expected to increase the speed at which coronavirus tests can be conducted. The state has been sending some samples to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

districts. We understand the tremendous burden school closure places on families, and we will continue to work with both the federal government and school districts to ensure we continue essential supports like meals for students in need. Every Tennessean has a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and I urge Tennesseans to be quick to help neighbors as new needs surface with the closure of schools.”

The Tennessee Department of Health confirmed the first case of COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Williamson County on March 5. The patient had recently traveled out of state but not out of the county.

To date, there are 101 positive cases in Davidson County, 35 positive cases in Williamson County, one in Anderson County, one in Blount County, one in Bradley County, one in Campbell County, two in Cheatham County, two in Cumberland County, two in Dickson County, one in Dyer County,

one Greene County, one in Hamblen County, five in Hamilton County, one in Jefferson County, three in Knox County, one in Maury County, three in Montgomery County, two in Robertson County, one in Rutherford County, one in Sevier County, four in Shelby County, one in Sullivan County, 11 in Sumner County, one in Tipton County, two in Washington County, and three in Wilson County.

The state has conducted 352 tests, 22 of which were positive. Another 51 positive tests were reported to the state by commercial and private laboratories.

The state initially was sending tests for the virus to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for additional testing. Testing kits were not initially widely available in the state, but Tennessee Health Commissioner Dr. Lisa Piercey said they would become more widely available as further kits from the CDC for governmental use. See **VIRUS** on Page 3

COVID-19 and Municipal Governments A Hot Topic Q & A for Tennessee Municipalities

BY DENNIS WOLF
MTAS Fire Consultant
and
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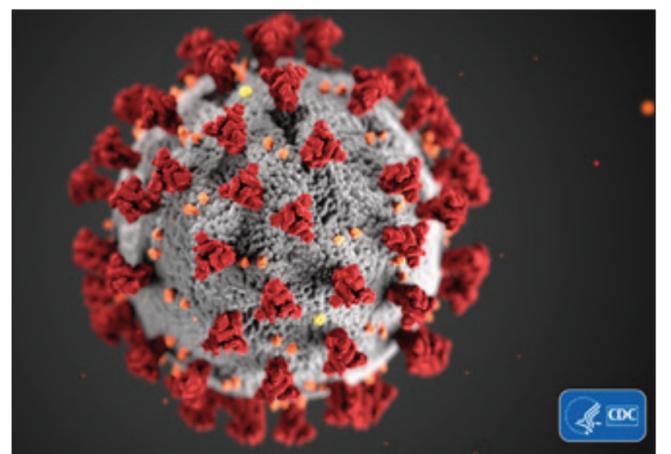
The first case in the United States of 2019-nCoV, the 2019 novel coronavirus, now classified as COVID-19, was diagnosed on Jan. 20, 2020, in Snohomish County, Wash. Since then, more people have been diagnosed with COVID-19, and cities are struggling to find information of how to respond to the spread of the virus and how the virus will affect the city’s ability to continue to provide municipal services. This MTAS Hot Topic will provide some guidance for cities on these issues.

One of my employees just came to me and said they may have COVID-19.

Unless they are very ill, tell them to go home and contact their primary health care provider for additional advice. People who think they may have COVID-19 or are mildly ill are encouraged to avoid the emergency room. Currently, there is no treatment for COVID-19 except supportive care. The employee should remain at home and self-quarantine for 14 days. The availability of testing for COVID-19 is very limited, so you should take precautions even without a positive test result.

Find out who the employee had contact with while at work. Document those exposures and consider sending those personnel home if the exposures are deemed to be of close proximity (within six feet), for more than a brief length of time, and with the possibility of personal contact (handshake, etc.) or the spreading of droplets. Though COVID-19 can be spread by various methods, the primary route of exposure is through the respiratory system.

Clean (remove dirt, germs, impurities, etc.) and then disinfect (kill germs on surfaces) any



surfaces the employee touched. A bleach solution of 1/3-cup of bleach to a gallon of water will kill the COVID-19 virus.

What can we do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in city facilities?

- Cities should increase the frequency of the cleaning and disinfecting of city facilities. All facilities should be cleaned daily, and more frequent cleaning may be needed for high traffic areas.
- Check the labels on commercial cleaning products to see if the product is capable of killing the coronavirus. If not, use a bleach solution. A bleach solution of 1/3-cup of bleach to a gallon of water will kill the COVID-19 virus.
- Provide hand sanitizer or wipes at counters where the public interacts with employees.
- Wipe down shared work surfaces frequently with disinfectant wipes that contain at least 70% alcohol or are otherwise capable of killing the coronavirus.

Cities should encourage staff and visitors to city facilities to do the following:

- Wash their hands frequently and use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Practice respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Observe social distancing: try

to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others, reduce the length of time for face-to-face contacts, and avoid handshakes and close personal contacts.

- Consider allowing employees whose jobs permit to work from home.
- Order employees to remain at home during times of illness.

Cities should consider recommending that residents conduct as much business as possible by telephone, email, mail, or through drive-up windows. Complete applications on-line, pay bills by mail and on-line, and call or email city staff if they have questions. Call city staff before going to a city facility. Provide hand sanitizer to city staff working the drive-up window.

Should we close recreational, meeting, and similar facilities?

Generally, yes, but cities may want to make that decision on a case-by-case basis. Closing communal recreational facilities and meeting spaces is a social distancing practice that will help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently advises that all events of 50 or more people should be cancelled from now until at least May 11, 2020.

See **VIRUS** on Page 5

Six questions your organization should be asking about the dark web

BY JOE HOWLAND
VC3

The Dark Web is a term that is used often as cybersecurity conversations pick up. But, why does it matter to your organization?

What is the Dark Web?

In simple terms, it’s the part of the Internet that is only accessible with special tools and users can remain anonymous. Unfortunately, that creates an environment that is ideal for illegal activity to occur.

What information is on the Dark Web?

When hackers steal information through cyber attacks like data breaches and phishing, they often put it on the Dark Web. This information is primarily compromised login information, Social Security Numbers, credit card numbers, and other personally identifiable information (PII).

It is common for an organization to be totally unaware of its stolen information on the Dark Web.

What can happen if your organization’s information is on the Dark Web?

It can impact your organization’s finances, operations, and reputation. For example, a hacker



- could:
- Block access to your primary software applications;
 - Use personal information to send more convincing phishing attacks;
 - Access and publish sensitive customer or resident information.

Compromised credentials become especially problematic. Employees often mistakenly use the same password to login to different services. Hackers can quickly use breached credentials. See **VC3** on Page 4

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



COLLEGEDALE

The McKee Foods Corporation plans to invest \$500 million and create 580 jobs at its Collegedale plant over a 15-year period. The maker of Little Debbie Snacks, Drake's Cakes, and other snack foods will initially invest \$225 million in the first phase of the project over the next seven years, creating 125 jobs. Further hiring and financial investment is expected after this initial phase is complete. Headquartered in Collegedale since 1957, McKee Foods employs more than 3,000 people at its Tennessee production facilities and corporate offices. The privately-held, family-owned company was initially established in Chattanooga in 1928.

COLLEGEDALE

Collegedale officials were joined by Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner Clay Bright to break ground on the \$93.1-million Apison Pike/State Route 317 improvement project. Work will soon begin on the 3.4-mile project that will improve the Apison Pike Corridor from Ooltewah-Ringgold Road/State Route 321 to east of Layton Lane near the Collegedale Municipal Airport. The project includes grading, drainage, construction of several new bridges and retaining walls, signals and paving. Once completed, the roadway will have five lanes with curb and gutter, sidewalks, bike lanes and greenway connections. Much of the project will be constructed on new alignment, including a large bridge that will span the railroad tracks. Charleston-based Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc., is the contractor for the project, which is slated for completion by June 30, 2024. The project is one of two projects in the area funded through the IMPROVE Act. The second is a future project in development on Apison Pike that will widen a 0.9-mile section of the road to three lanes between Layton Lane and East Brainer Road and will include bike lanes and sidewalks.

COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has put the finishing touches on the city's first-ever dog park. The park was made possible through a partnership with the city of Columbia, Maury County Parks, Maury Alliance, and a Dog Park Dash grant awarded to the city of Columbia from the Boyd Foundation. Columbia received a \$100,000 grant from the foundation in 2019 to construct the park. The play equipment in the dog park is "GreenCircle" certified recycled equipment by PLAYTOPIA and includes a fire hydrant leap, weave posts, dog crawls, and a double jump. Other amenities include benches, a watering station, and doggy bag dispensers. The enclosed park is divided into three areas: a small pup play area, a large pup play area, and a free-for-all area. There will also be seating and a trash receptacle outside the enclosed dog park.

ERWIN

The town of Erwin has approved a \$18,450 proposal from Barge Design Solutions, Inc., for up-

grades and a redesign of the town's Fishery Park. Initial plans for the park include upgrades to existing bridges, wetlands, and basketball and tennis courts. Town officials also expressed a desire to include a new, large amphitheater at the park that could be used for music, performances, and as a centerpiece to local festivals. A new playground, volleyball court, picnic areas, fishing piers, a bike pump track, and an expanded pool area have also been discussed. Town officials and the public will be working in coming weeks to develop a master plan for the park that will then be voted on by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

GATLINBURG

The East Gatlinburg community of Gatlinburg has earned Firewise USA recognition based on its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire. East Gatlinburg joins 26 other communities in Tennessee to earn this designation since the program started in 2002. A ceremony was held at the American Legion Hall in Gatlinburg where the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry presented the community, local leaders, and the Gatlinburg Fire Department with a commemorative plaque and Firewise street signs to honor the accomplishment. To earn the recognition, the community worked with the Gatlinburg Fire Department and Division of Forestry to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and develop a protection plan to address safety concerns. Residents are now working together to implement the plan to reduce fire risk. The plan allows the community to apply for specific grants within the Division of Forestry. For more information on the Firewise program, visit <http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise.html>.

GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown and the Germantown Performing Arts Center is working with Ohio-based public art consultant Designing Local as well as a local artist and consultant to develop a public arts plan for the community. The \$100,000 project is being financed through a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the city itself. The project, currently dubbed ArtsLaunch, is encouraging citizens to give feedback through surveys and interactive component such as an art cart residents could submit ideas to. The city is also exploring alternative ways for citizens to give feedback as the project continues.

HUNTINGDON

Dynamix Casting Fluxes will establish a new production facility in Huntingdon, investing approximately \$7.5 million and creating 25 jobs. Park. Dynamix Casting Fluxes anticipates startup of the plant in the second quarter of 2020. The company plans to hire engineers, data scientists and production workers. Dynamix Casting Fluxes manufactures granular fluxes used to optimize lubrication and heat transfer in the continuous casting of steel. The company uses data science and analytics to determine the best formula for the customer's

Tullahoma officials break ground on new police department headquarters



Officials with the city of Tullahoma and Tullahoma Police Department broke ground on the new Tullahoma Police Department Headquarters. The new station will be built on land adjacent to the location of the old station on West Grundy Street on land donated by Fran and Dan Marcum. The new building will include increased floor space for interview rooms, office space, a public restroom, and allows for growth of the department. Funding for the \$3.2 million construction project will come from a \$7.5 million loan borrowed by the city from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) for several municipal projects. It then manufactures products to precise standards. These data-driven fluxes are needed for advancements in steel grades and casting productivity.

LEBANON

NAPA Auto Parts is expanding its presence in Lebanon by creating 150 new full-time jobs at its distribution center on Logistics Drive. Most of the new positions at the facility are in logistics and distribution while the rest are management based. The distribution center in Lebanon provides supplies to approximately 200 NAPA Auto Parts stores throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. NAPA has already invested \$48 million into its more-than-300,000-square-foot facility in Lebanon.

LENOIR CITY

Construction is nearing completion on the new downtown fire hall in Lenoir City. Officials expect the project to be completed sometime in May after weather-related delays impacted construction. The Lenoir City Council approved a new metal building to house fire engines and equipment beside the former Lenoir City Utilities Board service center in August, approving a \$67,255 bid from Holston Construction for the project. The LCUB service center on Depot Street is now the home of Bussell Island Distilling and Brewing Company, who has allowed the fire department to operate out of unused space. The metal facility constructed alongside the building will include three main bays and more lodging room for firefighters including an office, day room, two restroom facilities, and a training area.

NASHVILLE

CloudOne officials will invest \$2 million to establish a call center operation in Nashville, creating nearly 320 jobs. CloudOne will locate its new Nashville operations at 1101 Kermit Drive in Nashville. The facility will accommodate CloudOne's continued business growth. Founded in 2010, CloudOne provides auto dealerships with customer service infrastructure to facilitate new and used car sales. Based in Vancouver, Wash., the company also offers digital marketing services, customer retention marketing and credit-based lead generation through its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Unicoi receives donation of Clinchfield railroad caboose



The historic Clinchfield Caboose 1111 is hoisted into place outside the Town of Unicoi Tourist and Visitor's Center. The caboose was brought to Unicoi from the CSX railyard in Erwin and was a donation of the Clinchfield Railroad Museum by way of CSX to the town of Unicoi. The more than 40-year-old caboose will be restored by volunteers and will serve as a reminder of the area's railroad history.

Elementary students take tour of Eagleville City Hall



First-grade students from Eagleville School learned about city government and toured Eagleville City Hall in a recent field trip. Students had a chance to ask questions of city employees and were shown by Mayor Chad Leeman how the Rutherford County Clerk satellite office at city hall could be used.



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Nashville events commemorate city's role in women's suffrage

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

As the nation celebrates both Women's History Month and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, both the Tennessee State Museum and Nashville Public Library will be holding events to honor Nashville's role in the fight for women's suffrage.

The Tennessee State Museum in Nashville will unveil its exhibit "Ratified! Tennessee Women and the Right to Vote," which will be available through March 28, 2021. Joe Pagetta, director of communications for the Tennessee State Museum, said the exhibit will showcase both Nashville's and the larger state of Tennessee's role in this historic event.

"The final vote for ratification at the State Capitol in Nashville on Aug. 18, 2020, was historic not only in its outcome, but for its thrilling 11th-hour circumstances and the great uncertainty surrounding the outcome," Pagetta said. "There is, of course, much more to the story. The Tennessee State Museum will not only explore the circumstances in and around Nashville that August, but also delve in to the story of women's suffrage throughout the entire state of Tennessee in the decades leading up to the vote – and its impact on the century that followed."

Pagetta said the exhibit will track the suffrage movement from its earliest roots in Tennessee through artifacts, documents, large-scale graphics, videos and interactive elements.

"The 8,000-square-foot, two gallery show tells the story of how Tennesseans came to have decisive roles in American women's struggle to gain voting rights," he said. "From the state's beginnings, women found ways to express their political views. In the 1840s, a national women's suffrage movement started to develop in the North. After the Civil War and Reconstruction, Tennessee suffragists spent many years building the movement within the state despite considerable opposition."

The Tennessee State Museum will also hold a variety of events connected to the exhibit including a Suffrage and Fashion Program in partnership with Nashville Fashion Week, lecture tours, a Songs of the Suffrage Movement with the Nashville Opera, and a lecture by Elaine Weiss, the author of *The Woman's Hour*.

Meanwhile, the Nashville Public Library will be introducing its own permanent exhibit highlighting



Above: Jeanette Tillotson Acklen holds the banner she marched with during the Tennessee campaign for women's suffrage. Acklen was the wife of suffrage proponent and U.S. Rep. Joseph H. Acklen, D-Tennessee.

Top Right: The banner Acklen carried during the suffrage marches in Nashville now resides at the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, one of three suffrage banners currently held in the museum's archives.

the city's role in the suffrage movement and ratification of the 19th Amendment at the library's Main Branch downtown.

Andrea Fanta, special assistant for marketing and communications with Nashville Public Library, said the exhibit will be opened in the late spring or early summer of 2020 and will include interactive exhibitions similar to those in the Main Branch's award-winning Civil Rights Room.

"The learning experience will cover a variety of areas such as the deciding role Tennessee played as the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment so it could become federal law, including how that legendary state vote came down to one lawmaker," she said. "It will also highlight people who played a major role in the movement, not only advocating for women's right to vote but also against it, including people from right here in Nashville and across Tennessee."

Fanta said the exhibit will feature political cartoons from the era that show the satire, emotion, passion, and arguments involved during the movement on both sides. Meanwhile, a voting simulator in the center of the exhibit will illustrate for people in real time the difference their votes – or abstentions – make.

"We're still determining the details of events, classes, and work-

shops that will happen in, but I can tell you now they will focus on examining this history in order to have safe, respectful community conversations, neighbor to neighbor, about which policies, practices, and issues still create barriers to full empowerment for girls, women, and all people today," Fanta said. "We already use this technique in our award-winning Civil Rights Room, which is located just across the hallway from where the Votes for Women space is being built."

The location of the Nashville Public Library's Main Branch – in walking distance of important local suffrage landmarks like the Hermitage Hotel and State Capitol – is also an asset for the display.

"It's a really interesting story about what happened here in Nashville and at the State Capitol, just blocks from where the Library Main Branch sits now," Fanta said. "In the six weeks leading up to the vote, the Hermitage Hotel was the campaign headquarters for both those sup-

porting and against ratification. As we come upon this anniversary, it is really important that this story that culminated in Nashville gets told in Nashville."

The Parthenon and Centennial Park will also be celebrating their role in the suffrage movement from March 2020 through March 2021. The Parthenon will host an exhibit spotlighting the creators of the Woman's Building at the 1897 Centennial Exposition, including a family-friendly "Dress the Part" area, and links between Athenian democracy and American voting rights. Public programming will include an informal recreation of the Suffrage Walk from the Capitol to the steps of the Parthenon.

Suffrage Events Elsewhere in Tennessee

CLARKSVILLE

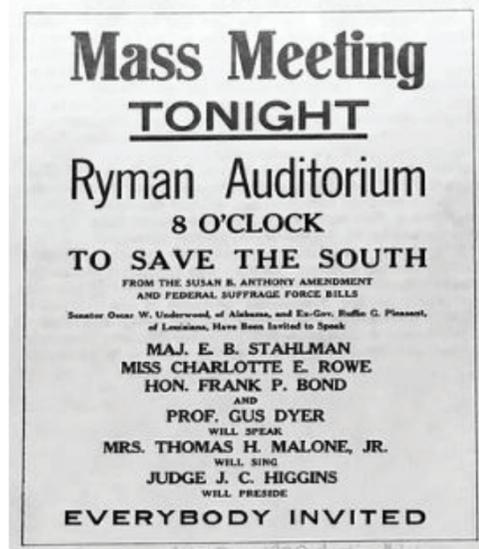
March 26 - Paula F. Casey, a 19th Amendment expert, will give the 2020 Betty Joe Wallace Memorial Lecture in Rooms 303-305 of the Austin Peay State University Morgan University Center. She will speak on "Tennessee's Superb Suffragists," spotlighting the women who organized across the state as well as those men who were allies.

June - Beginning in June, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library will host a series of children's book story times using books about strong American women. Customs House Museum and Cultural Center will present an exhibit of Montgomery County suffragists from June through September 2020.

Aug. 15 - Clarksville officials will unveil a 7.25-foot bronze monument of a woman voting in the 1920 election, Tennessee Triumph, surrounded by a Suffrage Walkway of commemorative bricks, on Saturday, Aug. 15.

MEMPHIS

April - Memphis officials will unveil the Memphis Suffrage Monument on the riverside of the University of Memphis Law School. The monument will have two steel walls with glass panels, six bronze busts, and LED lighting. It will be visible from the Mississippi River, the I-40 Bridge and Riverside Drive. Memphians who played a major role in the suffrage movement will be featured on the monument including Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, Marion Griffin, Rep. Lois De Berry, Lide Smith Meriwether, Lulu Colyar Reese, Alma H. Law, Maxine Smith, Minerva Johnican, Frances Grant Long, and Happy Snowden Jones.



Above: The announcement of an anti-suffrage rally to be held at the Ryman Auditorium. This handbill is one of several items that will tell the suffrage movement's story at the Nashville Public Library.

Vigilance, good health techniques key for slowing spread of Coronavirus

VIRUS from Page 1 as well as private sector healthcare facilities began to acquire more.

"The game is about to change for testing," she said. "We will very soon move from not just public state health lab testing, but also commercial availability. The state lab will continue to test, but the expanded capacity will be significantly expanded given the commercialization."

Remote assessment sites for COVID-19 are quickly becoming available through the help of private providers. Remote assessment sites, casually referred to as "drive through testing" allow Tennesseans to safely pursue COVID-19 testing without creating unnecessary risks in traditional clinical settings. The updated list of remote assessment sites is available at <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/remote-assessment-sites.html>.

All of the state's major health insurance carriers said they would be covering the costs for customers who needed to be tested for the virus. The Department of Commerce and Insurance also announced that all state-licensed medical insurers will cover all costs for coronavirus testing. Piercey said the state will provide care to uninsured patients the way it always does: through safety-net facilities and charity care protocols. The state has received \$10 million from the federal government to combat the disease.

To combat the spread of the disease, Gov. Lee also announced the creation of a Coronavirus Task Force to help coordinate efforts to prevent, identify, and treat any possible cases in the state. The task force includes education, healthcare, and insurance officials from both the public and private sectors.

"As confirmed cases of the coronavirus spread across the country, it is important that Tennessee remains prepared," Lee said. "To help us be even better prepared, this

COVID-19

Protect yourself and loved ones

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

+ WASH YOUR HANDS
Wash your hands with soap and warm water regularly.

+ COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE
Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.

+ DON'T TOUCH
Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.

+ KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

+ STAY HOME
If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.

+ GET HELP
If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.

Basic health practices like covering coughs and sneezes, keeping hands away from the face, and regular hand washing can help the spread of coronavirus, especially to more susceptible populations like the elderly and immunocompromised.

group of experts will work closely with me and my administration, along with local, state, and federal agencies as we continue to monitor any potential developments. I appreciate their willingness to serve our state."

Bill Christian, associate director of the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Communication and Media Relations, said the state

health department is working closely with medical professionals across the state to monitor the situation.

"We have been closely monitoring the situation in China and around the world since early January," Christian said. "We activated our State Health Operations Center, which allows us to maximize our capacity and available resources, and we are working closely with the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the metro and regional health departments across the state on all COVID-19 related activities. We have issued two Tennessee Health Alert Network messages to approximately 18,000 clinicians, hospitals, and public health professionals in Tennessee and are maintaining a website with the most up to date guidance and information available."

In the meantime, Piercey said it is important to avoid panic concerning the disease while still taking

proper precautions.

"Fear, panic, and misinformation can be just as dangerous as an outbreak itself. If you want additional information, I encourage you to seek a reputable source of news, such as the CDC or the World Health Organization."

Tennessee-specific information about the coronavirus and how the state is handling it can be found by visiting www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html.

National Response to Coronavirus

On the federal level, several measures have been taken to combat the coronavirus.

- The U.S. and Canada have agreed to temporarily close their borders to all "non-essential traffic." The U.S. has already barred entrance to the country by all foreign nationals from China, Iran, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

President Donald Trump recently signed a bill passed by Congress setting aside \$8.3 billion to aid federal public health agencies with combating coronavirus. The legislation will provide funds for vaccine research, tests, and potential treatments as well as help state and local governments prepare and respond to the disease.

- The Trump administration is considering a stimulus plan that could reach \$1.2 trillion. The package may include direct payments to individuals, small-business lending, payroll tax cuts, and credit facilities for larger businesses and commercial paper facilities as well as bailout funds for airlines and other impacted industries.

- The Food and Drug Administration, in an effort to speed the development of coronavirus tests, announced that states could approve tests developed in laboratories in their states — without getting FDA authorization.

Coronavirus cases have now been reported in all 50 states. More information on the virus can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jackie Benton has become the first female captain in the history of the Jackson Police Department. Benton received her captain's pin from her father, retired Marine Col. James Davis. Benton served in the U.S. Army from 1987 until 1991, completing Basic Military Police School and serving in the Fort Dix Military Police Company based in Fort Dix, N.J. Benton began her career with the Jackson Police Department's patrol division in 1988. She was promoted to sergeant in the Metro Narcotics Unit in 2009 and to lieutenant in the special operations unit in 2015, which oversees the narcot-



Jackie Benton

ics, gang and K-9 units among other specialized divisions.

Tim Potts, police chief for the city of Columbia, has announced his intention to retire after 34 years of service. Potts began his service with the Columbia Police Department in January 1986 as a first lieutenant patrolman. He worked as a sergeant primarily with the department's narcotics division before serving as assistant chief. He has served as chief of police since August 2012. A Columbia native, Potts' final day will be May 27.



Tim Potts

Former Sen. Bill Frist has been tapped to chair the Metro Nashville Coronavirus Task Force by Nashville Mayor John Cooper. The former Senate Majority leader is also a medical doctor, earning his doctorate in medicine from Harvard Medical School in 1978. As part of his duties as committee chair, Frist will oversee the deployment of resources to community-based organizations fighting coronavirus through the COVID-19 Response Fund set up by the United Way of Greater Nashville. The fund has more than \$1 million to benefit those in need as a result of the virus' spread.



Sen. Bill Frist

Bedford County mayors hold first in series of luncheons



The four municipal mayors and county mayor of Bedford County held their first in a series of planned "mayors' luncheons" aimed at increasing local corporation. The top priority of the first meeting was to involve the municipalities in the county's growth plan and work with the city of Shelbyville and the county on downtown redevelopment. From left to right, Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright, Normandy Mayor Charles Whitaker, Wartrace Mayor Cindy Drake, Bedford County Mayor Chad Greshman, and Bell Buckle Mayor Ronnie Lokey.

Six questions your organization should be asking about the dark web

VC3 from Page 1

to try and access other systems.

How do I know if my organization's information is on the Dark Web?

Dark Web scans and ongoing monitoring can uncover the information. The scan identifies discovered compromised account login information associated with your domain (e.g. vc3.com). However, the Dark Web is growing and evolving every day. So, the tools and companies that perform these scans have an uphill battle to keep pace with its rapid expansion. As a result, the accounts found with a scan do not necessarily constitute all the compromised accounts associated with your domain on the Dark Web.

Because that gap exists, it's important to have ongoing Dark Web monitoring. You and your organization need as much information as possible to enhance the protection of your organization and its employees.

What should I do if my data is on the Dark Web?

Immediately change compromised passwords and NEVER use that password again professionally or personally. This often leads to a good conversation with employees to ensure they are using unique passwords at work and at home to maximize protection.

Once information is on the Dark Web, it cannot be removed. The toothpaste is out of the tube. As a result, you may notice some of the compromised information is old and no longer relevant. This could include past employees or old login information.

What's my long-term plan?

Ongoing monitoring is only part of a strong cybersecurity plan. Its value depends on strong employee awareness training paired with login monitoring and Multi-factor authentication. You need to take corrective action on compromised credentials and then proactive training to avoid future issues. Login monitoring will help detect atypical login behaviors to prevent the use of a compromised credential before it becomes a major problem. Multi-factor authentication combats the use of stolen credentials because hackers need more than a user name and password to access an appropriately configured service.

If you don't have a cybersecurity plan in place, speak with a professional. Cybersecurity is a specialized component of Information Technology (IT) and, as a result, often requires assistance beyond your current IT team.

For more information on VC3 and its services, head over to TML's TECH page, <https://www.tml1.org/tech>

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. added 273,000 jobs in February, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor. While the country gained jobs well above expectations for February, economists are predicting an economic slump as a result of growing fears surrounding the spread of coronavirus. The unemployment rate ticked down 0.1% points to 3.5%, while the labor force participation rate held steady at 63.4%. February's job gain comes after an upwardly revised increase of 273,000 jobs in January and 184,000 in December, according to updated figures released Friday. Industries gaining the most jobs included the health care sector (32,000), social services (18,000), restaurants and bars (53,000), and professional and technical services (32,000).

The U.S. Supreme Court has postponed oral arguments for the first time in more than a century in response to the spread of

coronavirus. The Supreme Court was scheduled to hold arguments on six days over a two-week period culminating on April 1, but decided to suspend court proceedings. The majority of the Supreme Court justices are in the age group most susceptible to coronavirus and court proceedings require the justices, lawyers, clerks, and other parties to often be in close proximity to each other. This is only the fourth time the Supreme Court has suspended proceedings, most recently for the outbreak of the Spanish flu in Washington, D.C., in 1918. The court also shortened its calendars in 1793 and 1798 in response to yellow fever outbreaks in the area during those years.

The U.S. solar market saw a 23% increase in installations in 2019, according to a new report by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and Wood Mackenzie Power and Renewables. The solar market installed 13.3 gigawatts (GW) of new capacity in 2019 alone with solar representing nearly 40% of new electricity generating capacity added to the U.S. Officials said the growth came despite tariffs slowing projected growth in 2019. The study also forecasts an annual growth of 47% for 2020 with nearly 20 GW of new installations.

Online retailer Amazon has announced it intends to hire 100,000 new workers across the nation to meet demand in wake the coronavirus outbreak while also limiting what products it will sell. The company said many consumers have turned to the service to meet their needs during the outbreak with retailers having a hard time keeping items like non-perishable food and

hygienic items in stock. Amazon also announced it will suspend the sale of all non-essential products for delivery in the U.S. and the U.K. to free up more room for the supplies in demand by customers, such as household staples and medical supplies.

The U.S. fell to 17th place in the 2020 Economic Freedom Index, a list compiled by conservative-leaning think tank the Heritage Foundation. The U.S. previously ranked 12th of the world's nations on the list in 2019, but this year has been surpassed by countries including Chile, Lithuania, and the Netherlands among others. The index looks at factors including government spending, judicial effectiveness, and business freedom to make the rankings. The biggest contributor to the U.S.'s decline in position was its trade freedom score. The top 10 countries in the list were, in order: Singapore, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Canada, and Estonia.

The U.S. is expected to lose 4.6 million travel-related jobs as the result of the \$809 billion blow the coronavirus is expected to render to the economy. Projects released by the U.S. Travel Association found that 4 million jobs have already been eliminated in the industry as a result of the virus with travel spending expected to drop by \$335 billion in the U.S. or roughly 31%. That is more than six times the economic impact Sept. 11, 2001 had on the travel industry. The lost of 4.6 million jobs in the travel industry is expected to nearly double the U.S. unemployment rate from 3.5% to 6.3%.

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No loan is too large or too small



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



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

See us for your special projects needs.
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STATE BRIEFS

The state of Tennessee is launching 15 remote COVID-19 testing sites in the state's six major metropolitan areas as part of efforts to increase the number of tests conducted on possible coronavirus cases as well as reach out to more areas of the state. The state already had 11 remote assessment sites located in 11 counties across the state. Additionally, the state opened a second call center to deal with questions being directed to the Department of Health about the virus. The initial call center was getting 1,800 calls a day but only had the capacity to answer about half of them.

Tennessee's statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2020 is 3.3%, according to new data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. January is the third consecutive month Tennessee has recorded an unemployment rate of 3.3%. This also represents a 0.1% drop when comparing the latest data to the January 2019 rate. Tennessee employers added 6,500 new jobs across the state between December and January. During that time, Tennessee saw the most significant increase in the education and health services sector with 2,900 new jobs. The administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector grew by 2,800 jobs. The retail trade sector added 2,400 new jobs over the month.

Tennessee is in the top 10 for states with the lowest tax rates in the U.S., according to data recently compiled by financial planning website WalletHub. The state also had the fifth-lowest tax rate when its tax rate was adjusted for annual cost of living. Tennessee also had the lowest vehicle property tax of

any state, the seventh-lowest income tax rate, and the 15th lowest real-estate tax. However, the state had the fifth-highest sales and excise tax of any state in the country. The average Tennessee household pays \$5,290 in state and local taxes, 19% below the national average. Only nine states pay less in state and local taxes.

Tennessee is one of the top states in the nation for doctors, according to recent data compiled by financial planning website WalletHub. Tennessee ranks eighth overall as one of the top states for doctors. Tennessee ranked 12 out of 50 in medical environment and 17 out of 50 in terms of opportunity and competition for medical professionals. The study was based on statistics including average annual wages for physicians, average monthly starting salary, amount of hospitals per capita, the state's insured population, employer-based insurance rates, elderly residents per capita, retention of medical residents, hospital accreditation, state medical board punitiveness, and malpractice liability insurance rate.

Unemployment increased in nearly all of Tennessee's 95 counties in January 2020 according to new data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Meigs County was the only county in the state whose unemployment rate didn't increase in January. Unemployment rates remained below 5% in 59 counties with a rate of greater than 5% but less than 10% in 36 counties. Williamson County had the lowest rate in the state at 2.5%, a 0.4% increase from the previous month. Lincoln County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 7.5%, a 1.4% change since December.

February tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates by \$64.8M

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Stuart McWhorter announced that Tennessee tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates in February.

February revenues totaled just above one billion dollars, which is \$64.8 million more than the state received in February 2019 and \$63 million more than the budgeted estimate. The growth rate for February was 6.79%.

"As expected, revenue growth for the month of February exceeded budget projections," McWhorter said. "Sales tax receipts, reflecting January consumer activity, outpaced budgeted expectations as did all other taxes combined. It should be noted that the administration is closely monitoring current and future economic activity due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We fully expect to realize an impact in the coming months. However, at this time, year-to-date tax revenue growth continues to outpace budgeted estimates which should allow the state to mitigate any future decrease to monthly collections."

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

General fund revenues exceeded the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$32.2 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$30.8 million less than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$42.2 million more than the estimate for February and 7.58% more than February 2019. For seven months, revenues are \$237.7 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months was 6.76%.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$4 million more than the budgeted estimate in February. However, the growth rate compared to February 2019 was negative 0.97%. For seven months, revenues are \$202 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 17.31%.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for February increased by 8.47% compared to February 2019 and were \$4.2 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$92.1 million. For seven months revenues have exceeded estimates by \$34 million.

Motor vehicle registration

revenues were \$2.5 million more than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$10.5 million more than estimates.

Tobacco taxes were \$2 million more than the February budgeted estimate of \$18.2 million. For seven months, they are \$900,000 less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$5.7 million more than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through February, revenues are \$34.5 million more than the estimate.

Business taxes were \$500,000 more than the February estimate. For seven months, revenues are \$7.9 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues for the month were \$400,000 more than the budgeted estimate. On a year-to-date basis income tax revenues are \$4.7 million more than the estimate.

All other tax receipts exceeded estimates by a net of \$1.5 million. Year-to-date revenues for seven months were \$543.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$430.2 million in excess of the budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$113.4 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2019-2020 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Nov. 26, 2018, and adopted by the second session of the 111th General Assembly in April 2019. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2019 session of the General Assembly.

These estimates are available on the state's website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

COVID-19 and Municipal Governments

VIRUS from Page 1

What should we do about staff meetings?

For internal city meetings or staff meetings, limit the number of people in attendance. Provide separation between attendees, if possible, and avoid handshakes. Provide hand sanitizer and wipe down the table and other surfaces after the meeting is over. Consider using technology, such as video conferencing, to conduct the meeting entirely, or to limit the number of people attending the meeting in person. City employees should use their best judgment about holding internal meetings and attending external meetings.

How can I protect our first responders?

Firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers may come into contact with COVID-19 positive persons, or with persons who may have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive patient, in the course of employment.

The risk to first responders is minimized by the use of universal precautions to prevent the transfer of blood or body fluids, and this includes the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes latex exam gloves, N95 or better masks, a full-frontal gown, and face protection to prevent splash or droplet exposure.

The number of first responders responding to the incident should be kept to a minimum. Most transmissions are through respiratory droplets, so first responders who are not needed for patient care or other services should remain at least six feet away from the person. Only one first responder, wearing all of the PPE, should conduct an interview or examination of the patient.

If the patient is mildly ill, the first responder should suggest that the person self-quarantine at home, as the only treatment for COVID-19 is supportive (fever reducers, fluids, rest). If the person is very sick, or insists on going to the hospital, the first responders who will be involved in treating, moving, and transporting the patient should wear full PPE. Once the patient has been transported, or the incident is over, the PPE should be removed carefully, disposed of properly, and all first responders should wash their hands for at least 30 seconds.

While wearing PPE, all tools, equipment, and other items used on the incident should be cleaned (removal of dirt, germs, impurities, etc.) and disinfected (killing of germs on surfaces) with a bleach solution, and the persons cleaning the equipment should then wash their hands for 30 seconds. With the proper use of full PPE preventing the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the contact with the person does not count as an exposure, and the first responders may return to duty.

How can I protect our sanitation and wastewater workers?

The COVID-19 virus has been detected in the feces of some patients diagnosed with COVID-19. The amount of virus released from the body (shed) in stool, how long the virus is shed, and whether the virus in stool is infectious are not known. According to the CDC, the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the feces of an infected person is also unknown, but the risk is expected to be low based on data from previous outbreaks of related coronaviruses.

Encourage sanitation workers and wastewater treatment plant operations to follow routine practices to prevent exposure to wastewater. Provide your workers who handle human waste or sewage with proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including goggles or face shields to protect from splashes of human waste or sewage, liquid



The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes latex exam gloves, N95 or better masks, gowns, and face protection to prevent splash or droplet exposure can help minimize the risk to first responders.

repellant coveralls, waterproof gloves, and rubber boots. Train them on the proper use of the PPE. Provide handwashing facilities on the trucks and in facilities and require handwashing with soap and water immediately after removing PPE.

One of my employees had an on-the-job exposure. What do I do?

If an employee has been exposed, the employee should be sent home, asked to self-quarantine for 14 days, and told to contact his or her primary health care provider for advice.

To prevent cross-infection of other people, it is recommended that exposed or mildly ill persons do not go to a doctor's office unless they call first. The primary health care provider will determine if the employee needs to be tested.

Document the exposure, including all persons the employee had contact with. If the employee was in a city facility or vehicle, first clean (remove dirt, germs, impurities, etc.) while wearing exam gloves and then disinfect (kill germs on surfaces) the surfaces and things the employee came in contact with. A bleach solution of 1/2-cup of bleach to a gallon of water will kill the COVID-19 virus.

Is exposure to the COVID-19 virus covered under workers comp?

Probably not. COVID-19 is a virus, much like the flu and other infectious diseases. To be covered under Workers Comp, there must be an occupational exposure. Even if an employee, such as a first responder, has an occupational exposure, it may not qualify for a Workers Comp claim, as COVID-19 is present in many places.

If you believe that there are unusual circumstances surrounding the exposure, go ahead and complete the Tennessee Employer's First Report of Work Injury forms, and any other required documentation, and talk with your Workers Comp insurance carrier.

If an employee is placed in quarantine, do I have to pay them?

Generally, no. An employer may send employees home at the discretion of the employer. An employee who is sent home can use sick leave, vacation, or other paid leave to continue to receive compensation during the quarantine period.

An employer may elect to continue paying compensation during a quarantine period, but the employer is under no obligation to do so. When considering whether or not to provide paid leave to employees who have no leave time

saved, the employer should consider the costs associated with hiring and training new workers.

Can the mayor order a quarantine?

No. At the state and local level, the authority to order a quarantine, defined as a state of forced isolation where the movements of people are restricted, comes from Tennessee Code Annotated.

Under T.C.A. § 68-1-201 and T.C.A. § 68-1-204, the Commissioner of Health, appointed by the Governor, has the power to declare quarantine whenever she determines the welfare of the public requires it. The Tennessee Commissioner of Health is Lisa Piercey. The Commissioner has the authority to prescribe rules and regulations deemed proper for the prevention of epidemic diseases in the state. In the event of an emergency or disaster that involves the outbreaks of disease that present a danger of an epidemic, the Commissioner shall make appropriate recommendations to the governor for actions under this title and title 58, chapter 2, to allocate all available health care resources in the affected areas for immediate and long-term health care needs of the affected populations.

Under T.C.A. § 68-2-609, the county health officer is empowered to order the quarantine of any place or person if the county health officer finds that such control is necessary to protect the public health from an epidemic.

Any person who willfully disregards or evades quarantine, or violates any rule or regulation made in attempting to prevent the spread of any epidemic disease, commits a Class B misdemeanor (T.C.A. § 68-1-203).

While the mayor cannot order a quarantine, the mayor may recommend that residents practice self-isolation if they feel ill to help reduce or prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Where can I find more information on COVID-19 and local government?

MTAS has a landing page on our website where one can find resources for local governments in Tennessee. The page contains sample policies, an informational video, recommendations, and links to other organizations, such as the Tennessee Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and professional organizations.

Access that page using the link: <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/knowledgebase/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-local-government-tennessee>

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ACCOUNTANT

UNION CITY. The city of Union City has an immediate opening for a governmental accountant. Applicants must have a degree in accounting or 5+ years of experience in governmental accounting. The person employed in this capacity performs the lead role in the accounting division maintaining complex fiscal records of city revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities. This work encompasses a broad scope of duties and independence of action in the solution of governmental accounting. Benefits package provided. Salary based on experience. Qualified applicants may submit their resumes in person at city hall, located at 408 S. Depot Street, or by email to personnel@unioncitytn.gov. Resumes must be received by the close of business on April 1. EOE.

ASSISTANT SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

ASHLAND CITY. The town of Ashland City is accepting applications and resumes for the assistant senior center director position. Applications and the job description can be obtained on the city website at www.ashlandcitytn.gov by clicking "Jobs" on the home screen. Applications will be accepted at Workforce Essentials at 384 South Main Street; Ashland City, TN 37015 until the close of business on April 3. EOE/Drug-Free Workplace.

BUILDING/ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is currently accepting applications for a building/electrical inspector in the building and codes department. Applications must be filled electronically and are available at our city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. The city will accept electronic applications until the position is filled. Salary \$17.89/hr. and tops out at year three \$25.83/hr. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is accepting applications for the position of chief building inspector which coordinates the activities of the building and codes compliance functions, property maintenance and permitting process. The chief building inspector conducts inspections, provides technical and professional advice on building issues, prepares and coordinates reports, and recommends codes and processes for building codes enforcement. Associates or bachelor's degree preferred in construction management or closely related field. Five years of progressively responsible experience with building inspection or construction management of complex residential, commercial and industrial facilities. Certifications in building inspection, mechanical and plumbing preferred or the ability to attain the certifications within one year of date of employment. The annual salary starts at \$58,561, DOQ. Qualified individuals can submit a resume to cbrice@tullahomatan.gov or mail a resume to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388. Additional information is available online at www.tullahomatan.gov and applicants can print and complete the application. A job description is available upon request and the position is open until filled. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

OAK HILL. The city of Oak Hill (Pop 4700) is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. Oak Hill is located just a few miles south of downtown Nashville. The city manager is appointed and reports to a board comprised of commissioners popularly elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The city has a \$2.5M budget with 5 employees and several contracted services. Serving this satellite city is a unique and rewarding opportunity to be part of the greater Nashville community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressive responsible management experience that includes experience in city management, planning, zoning and finance. Position profile is available at www.oakhilltn.us. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the City of Oak Hill, attention Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us). Initial review of applications will occur by the first week of April.

Position opened until filled. For additional information please contact: Jeff Clawson (jeff.clawson@oakhilltn.us) and/or Gary Jaeckel (gary.jaeckel@tennessee.edu)

FINANCE DIRECTOR

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

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is currently seeking applications for a human resource director. The city serves a citizen population of approximately 12,000 and employs approximately 200 full time, part-time, and seasonal employees. The governing body is comprised of a mayor, vice mayor, and six aldermen; the city management team reports to the mayor. The position of human resource director will report directly to the mayor and will be responsible for providing full-scope human resource services to fellow department heads, employees, and elected officials. Typical duties will include: development and administration of various technical phases of the city's personnel program, including policy development and administration; risk management; benefits administration; recruitment, selection, and placement; position classification and pay; employee relations programs, performance management, employee development, and workforce diversity; and providing advice to city management and personnel. The successful candidate will be a self-starter with a change-agent mindset and will be adept at collaboration with individuals on various levels of responsibility. The ideal candidate will have: three or more years of experience in an exempt level role in human resources in a comparably sized organization; local government experience is strongly preferred, but not required; strong change-agent mindset, and strong understanding of state and federal employment laws; a bachelor's degree in human resources, business, public policy, or comparable, from an accredited college or university - or equivalent experience; and strongly prefer one or more of the following certifications: PHR/SPHR, IPMA-CP/SCP. The city provides

a comprehensive benefits package, including contribution toward the employee's portion of premiums for health, dental, and vision insurance; State of TN retirement participation (TCRS); life insurance; paid vacation leave; paid sick leave; paid holidays; and voluntary supplemental benefits packages. pay range is \$59,911 - \$95,702 (reference salary \$77,806) DOE. Visit this link for an application: <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-1234355/City-Of-Portland-Employment-Application>. Email résumé, along with a cover letter and to: hjohnson@cityofportlandtn.gov This position is open until filled. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of parks and recreation director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The director is primarily responsible for planning, directing, organizing, and administering the city's parks programs, including special events and other activities. Coordinates the maintenance and improvements of leisure facilities. Participates in the long-range planning of parks and recreational facilities and guides plan development. Updates boards and commissions on the status of programs and facilities, as appropriate. Supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance. Procures funding for recreation and parks facilities and programs from a variety of sources, including grants, donations and fund-raising activities. Hires employees under contracts with the city and monitors activities for contract compliance; coordinates activities and trains volunteers, staff, officials, instructors, and other personnel associated with recreation and parks programs; seeks public input on parks and recreational facilities, programs, and associated activities. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; three to five years of related experience and a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration or related field. Must have CPRP certification or obtain it within 12 months. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

PERMIT TECHNICIAN

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time permit technician. Must obtain ICC Certification within two years of hire. Duties will include (but are not limited to) handling phone calls, emails, and customer service at the window, scheduling inspections, issuing permits and processing payments, record maintenance, and responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns. Working knowledge of local ordinances, legislation, rules and regulations is desired. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills are a must. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license is required. Priority will be given to applicants with current background in office environments in building or related trades. Background check will be conducted. Hourly wages will be commensurate with experience. Med-

ical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www.pipertontn.com/jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

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

POLICE DISPATCHER

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

POLICE OFFICER

CROSS PLAINS. The city of Cross Plains is currently accepting applications and resumes for position of police chief. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. They must possess an appropriate driver's license valid in the state of Tennessee. Applicants must be P.O.S.T. certified. Applicants must be a citizen of the U.S., at least 21 years of age and meet the physical, psychological, and criminal records and other standards for the assignment established by the Cross Plains Police Department. Chief responsibilities include prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and accidents. Duties also include protecting property, facilities and citizens through the enforcement of laws and ordinances. The position will report directly to the city manager. Starting salary is \$54,000 and includes a generous health and retirement benefit package with equipment and uniform allowance. Please send resume or pick up applications in the City Records office at 7622 Highway 25, East Cross Plains, TN 37049. This position will be open until March 31.

POLICE OFFICER

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton Police Department is accepting applications for full time officers. Information may be found on the city web site at <http://tn-piperton.civicplus.com/Job.aspx>. EOE.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time project manager/civil plans reviewer to assist the director and deputy director of public works and engineering in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

NOLENVILLE. The town of Nolensville (pop. 11,097) is seeking an energetic, proactive, local government professional to be their next town administrator. The town, comprising an area of 9.5 square miles, is located 18 miles southeast of downtown Nashville in high growth Williamson County. The town administrator is appointed by and reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen comprised of a mayor and four aldermen elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The town has a \$10.99M budget with 33 full-time and part-time employees serving the community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressively increasing professional experience with a municipality. Salary range \$100K - \$120K, DOQ. This is an exceptional opportunity to guide the future of a growing community while retaining the small town character, scenic value, and ecological quality of the community. Position profile is available at www.nolensvilletn.gov. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the Nolensville Town Recorder, Montique Luster at mluster@nolensvilletn.gov. Preliminary deadline for applications will occur on April 3. Please direct questions to Montique Luster.

LICENSED WATER PLANT OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION

BLUFF CITY. The city is currently accepting applications for licensed water plant operator. Ability to immediately attend to issues on short notice day or night and work without supervision. Be a self-starter, good work ethics and well organized. Requirements: State of Tennessee Water Treatment 11 License and State of Tennessee Water Distribution 1 License. Computer Skills - Word and Excel. Ability to troubleshoot mechanical, electrical and SCADA System associated with water treatment and distribution. Knowledge of sampling schedules. Good record keeping skills. Knowledge of laboratory procedures, water distribution system practices and procedures, and direct filtration Tonka plant with pressure clarifiers and filters. Part-time - no benefits. Full-time-benefits: health, dental and vision insurance, TCRS retirement plan, paid vacation, personal and sick days. Salary range \$30,000 to \$60,000 based on experience and education. Apply at Bluff City City Hall, 4391 Bluff City Hwy., Bluff City, TN 37618 as soon as possible. Contact Irene Wells, mayor/ city manager at 423-538-7144 or 423-612-0828, bcmayor.citymanagerirenewells@gmail.com





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What government functions — other than schools — are starting to close due to the Coronavirus?

BY ALAN GREENBLATT
Governing Magazine

Governments don't go out of business. When disasters occur, it's government agencies that have to respond. During the coronavirus crisis, health agencies, along with other emergency personnel, are once again on the front lines.

That being said, given policies promoting social distancing — including bans on large gatherings, increasing restrictions on bars and restaurants and, in Hoboken, N.J., a night-time curfew — state and local governments around the country are slowing or shutting down some of their own operations, particularly those that engage the public directly.

The city of Philadelphia shut down all non-essential city services last week. Following a death from COVID-19 on March 15, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam ordered local governments to close to the public throughout the state's southeastern peninsula, including Hampton, Newport News, and Williamsburg.

It's well known that tens of thousands of schools around the country are now shut down. What follows is a list of other services and events that are also on hold, including jury trials, recreation centers, libraries and, in some cases, elections and government offices.

This is not a complete list by any means. It's meant to offer some specific examples of steps governments are taking to promote public safety and well-being. The only thing that appears certain at this juncture is that lists like this are bound to grow.

Government Operations That Have Closed

Eleven states have suspended or postponed their legislative sessions. In addition, the Missouri Senate and Ohio House have postponed their sessions. Other states, including Florida, Kansas, Tennessee, and New York, are expected to pass their budgets this week (March 16 - 20), potentially allowing legislators to adjourn.

Other capitols that are still open, including Alaska and Maine, have been closed to the public. North Carolina's legislature is allowing some staff to work remotely, while the Texas legislature, which is not in session this year, has postponed several hearings.

Local governments remain largely open for business. Through the rest of the month, the District of Columbia government will operate on a modified schedule, with some operations now fully remote.

All government and administrative offices in Clayton County, Ga., are shut for two weeks, beginning March 23. In King County, Wash., which has been one of the communities hardest hit by the virus, numerous in-person services are closed at least until March 27, including property tax payments, licensing, procurement and in-person job applications and permitting.

Cities including Batesville, Ark., Charlottesville, Va., and Greenbelt, Md., have closed their administrative offices to the public.

Courts and Public Safety

On March 14, the Iowa Supreme Court issued an order postponing most jury trials. Criminal trials are postponed until at least April 20 and civil jury trials are postponed until May 4, unless a jury has already been sworn in. Connecticut courts are suspending both criminal and civil cases for 30 days, excepting those already in progress. New trials are similarly suspended in New York state, starting Monday.

All Maryland courts are now closed to the public. With few exceptions, all matters to be heard between March 16 and April 3 are postponed.

All civil and criminal jury trials in Clark County, Nev., are suspended for the next 30 days. Tarrant County, Texas,

announced Friday that there will be no new jury trials until April 20. Courthouses in Broward County, Fla., are closed to the public for at least two weeks, with a few exceptions.

Numerous jails have suspended in-person visits, including Cook County, Ill., Lexington, Ky., Los Angeles and San Mateo County, Calif. Jail visits are also suspended in state prisons in Ohio, North Carolina, and Texas.

Prison and public health officials are concerned about the possibility of outbreaks within closed prison environments. Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez called on New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to grant emergency clemencies to elderly and sick prisoners.

"Policing and protection of our community will not stop, but (in my opinion), law enforcement should stop making low level arrests for violations and misdemeanors, in order to prevent the spread of virus through our jails, courts and stations," Harris County, Texas, Sheriff Ed Gonzalez wrote on Twitter. "Jails are often forgotten, yet in downtown Houston today, we basically operate the equivalent of three cruise ships."

DMVs, Libraries and Public Meetings

For now, most departments and divisions of motor vehicles remain open to the public.

A DMV branch in Denver closed after an employee there tested positive on Thursday. The DMV in Manchester, N.H., reopened Monday after closing over the weekend because a person who tested positive for the coronavirus spent most of last week there. (There was no announcement about whether that person was an employee.)

People boarding airplanes and entering federal buildings will have to have identification that is Real-ID-compliant by Oct. 1. Phil Ting, a member of the California Assembly, suggested last week that the deadline — years in the planning — might have to be pushed back.

"You can't tell people to stay home and then tell them to go somewhere to pick up a license," Ting told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Some major library systems have closed, including those in Columbus, Indianapolis, King County, Louisville, Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco. "Closing public libraries like this in Multnomah County is an extraordinary measure," county library director Vailey Oehlke told *Willamette Week*. "It has never happened in modern times."

Other library systems that remain open have canceled all programs, meetings and events, including those in Chicago and St. Louis.

Many cities and counties have closed their facilities to outside groups. Tucson, Ariz., has brought all public meetings to a halt. West Hollywood, Calif., has canceled all public meetings unless there are essential business items to discuss. Advisory board meetings have been halted in cities including Boulder, Colo., and San Diego. Parks and Recreation

Since being outdoors is safer than congregating inside, most parks around the country remain open. But indoor recreation centers — especially those that serve seniors — are being closed in numerous jurisdictions.

The state of Illinois has ordered that all 399 senior centers be closed due to the threat of illness. "Being able to provide services that help combat social isolation won't do a whole lot for people if they're not well," said Tessa French, a spokeswoman for Senior Services of Central Illinois.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear recommended on Friday that all senior centers in the state close their doors. Senior centers have closed in Brunswick County, N.C., Glendale, Calif., Huntsville and Mobile, Ala., New Hartford, N.Y., and Sudbury, Mass., among other communities.

All parks and recreation activities are closed in Cumming, Ga. The Carbon Valley, Colo., Parks and Recreation District has closed its recreation center and senior center. In Roanoke, Va., public parks are open but restrooms there are shut down.

The Navajo National Division of Natural Resources has closed

Tennessee Local and State Government Closures

To combat the spread of coronavirus and keep both citizens and municipal employees safe, municipalities across Tennessee have postponed or canceled numerous events, including:

- the closure of senior centers, community centers, and in-door aquatic centers
- canceling, rescheduling, or limiting seating at municipal meetings,
- rescheduling or canceling public events like ribbon cuttings, local festivals, Arbor Day giveaways, Easter egg hunts, citizen's police academies, and others,
- closing libraries and canceling library programs,
- postponing or canceling sporting events,
- limiting parks and recreation facility usage or closing facilities, and
- encouraging online or mail-in bill pay to limit foot traffic at city hall and other municipal facilities.

Statewide, visits to the state Capitol, all state prisons, Veteran's Administration nursing homes and hospitals, and have been halted. Public schools have also been closed by order of the governor while all in-person court activity has been suspended temporarily across the state.

State parks across Tennessee remain open free of charge. State officials said they are taking recommended precautions to provide a safe environment for staff and visitors, which can be found

all its parks and recreation areas. County-owned parks are closed in Harford County, Md.

Public pools have closed in Albuquerque and Santa Monica, Calif. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19."

Meal Delivery and Pickup for Students

With schools closed around the country, districts are scrambling to provide meals to students. States have received waivers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide meals at non-school sites.

On Saturday, Philadelphia schools released a list of 30 locations where families can pick up breakfast and lunch. Cleveland's district will provide meals for children 18 and under at 22 sites, providing shuttle service to those sites. Albuquerque has set up 89 sites where students and their parents (if a student is present) can pick up meals at a drive-through line.

Public schools in Dayton, Ohio, will be distributing breakfast and lunch to students at schools around the city for the next three weeks, including during the scheduled spring break. Gwinnett County, Ga., and Norwalk, Conn., will be dropping off meals at school bus stops.

Elections on Hold

On March 15, Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders debated in a Washington studio, with no audience present. The debate was originally scheduled to take place in Phoenix. Both candidates have canceled rallies over the past week.

Georgia announced it would postpone presidential primary voting, scheduled for March 24, to coincide with general primary voting on May 19. A day earlier, Louisiana had announced it was pushing its primary from April 4 to June 20.

Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill has asked the state attorney general for an opinion

allowing the March 31 runoff in a U.S. Senate race to be postponed. Merrill has said he will accept all absentee ballot requests regardless.

On March 13, the top election officials in Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio issued a joint statement affirming that presidential primary voting would take place as scheduled on Tuesday.

"Unlike concerts, sporting events or other mass gatherings where large groups of people travel long distances to congregate in a confined space for an extended period of time, polling locations see people from a nearby community coming into and out of the building for a short duration," they wrote. "Further, guidance from voting machine manufacturers on how best to sanitize machines, guidance from CDC on best practices for hand washing, and guidance from our respective state health officials is being provided to every polling location."

However, Maricopa County, Ariz., which includes Phoenix, announced it was eliminating almost 80 polling places due to lack of cleaning supplies.

The St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners said Friday it was seeking state permission to postpone local elections scheduled to take place on April 7 for three weeks, while hoping to add mail-in balloting.

The coronavirus has already been disruptive to campaigns around the country. It may have a permanent effect when it comes to candidates and sponsors of ballot initiatives who have to collect signatures to qualify for the ballot. In Utah, GOP gubernatorial candidate Jeff Burningham has suspended his signature gathering effort. Dana Balter, a congressional hopeful in New York, has asked Cuomo and state lawmakers to lower the threshold.

"Part of the bread and butter of campaigns is canvassing and door-to-door contact has been virtually shut down," Diana Bray, who has until Tuesday to collect 10,500 signatures to qualify for the U.S. Senate race in Colorado, told the *Denver Post*. "Many people are refusing to hold the pen that others have held to sign petitions. Many ask if they can sign my petition online, which they cannot."

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Sen. Ed Jackson brings West TN values to State Capitol

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

When State Sen. Ed Jackson, R-Jackson, made his New Year's resolutions for 2020, his top goal was "to continue to represent West Tennessee values."

He does this through his work on rural development, judicial reform, and support for veterans.

A Jackson native, he credits his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America as being one of the biggest influences on his life in his formative years. Jackson graduated from Jackson High School before attending Lambuth College and graduating from Memphis State University where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. Jackson also served for seven years in the 30th Armored Division of the Army National Guard.

He began his career with the Southern Supply Company, founded by his grandfather in 1919, and then worked as a salesman for the Tennant Company for approximately 30 years. However, Jackson's retirement from the corporate world didn't mean he was ready to leave the world of business. With his wife, he co-owns three small businesses based in Jackson: Southern Comfort Coaches, Snappy Tomato Pizza, and Marilyn Jackson's Gifts.

First elected to the Senate in 2014, Jackson's District 27 encompasses Crockett, Dyer, Lake, Lauderdale, and Madison counties in West Tennessee. He serves the residents of 18 municipalities: Alamo, Bells, Dyersburg, Friendship, Gadsden, Gates, Halls, Henning, Humboldt, Jackson, Maury City, Medon, Newbern, Ridgely, Ripley, Three Way, Tiptonville, and Trimble.

During his tenure with the legislature, he has held a number of leadership positions in the Senate, including chair of the Calendar Committee and 1st Vice Chair of the Operations Committee. He is also a member of the Health and Welfare Committee, the State and Local Government Committee, and the Joint Government Operations Commerce, Labor, Transportation and Agriculture Subcommittee.

Jackson was appointed by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally as the only state senator on both the Police Officer Standards Training (POST) Commission and the Juvenile Justice Reform Commission.

Jackson and his wife Marilyn have been married for more than 47 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

TT&C: How did your upbringing in Jackson make you who you are today?

EJ: I have lived my whole life in Jackson. I was in the Boy Scouts and was an Eagle Scout, a church member, went to high school there and then to college at Lambuth. I then transferred on a track scholarship to what was then Memphis State and is now the University of Memphis. From there, I went into the military, in the Tennessee Army National Guard for eight years.

TT&C: Who were your biggest influences?

EJ: My parents, of course, but also my scout master. He was a great influence on me and my life. He helped me get my Eagle Scout ranking because I had the potential and desire to do that. I also worked at the Boy Scout Camp at Camp Mack Morris in West Tennessee for three summers after I got my Eagle Scout. I have also had a lot of influence from friends, teachers, and coaches. My high school football coach was a great influence.

TT&C: How would you describe your district to someone who had never been there before?

EJ: My district has five counties of which Madison County is more of a middle-sized county with Jackson being one of the larger towns in the state. The other counties and towns in my district are rural.

There are a lot of fun places to go to. Reelfoot Lake has the beautiful bald eagles that nest and raise their young. They feed off the fish in the lake. The Mississippi River streams across several of the counties. Dyersburg and Dyer County are always fun places to go to with a lot of great folks. They have some of the best mayors in the state.

The Safari Park in Crockett County is a hidden gem in West Tennessee. There are all types of wildlife you can interact with from your car in the park. Lauderdale



State Sen. Ed Jackson, R-Jackson

County has the Alex Haley Museum and Fort Pillow State Park, which are beautiful places to go to. All of my counties and the entire area are great.

TT&C: What made you interested in pursuing a career in business?

EJ: My major in college was business and marketing. I always knew I would go into business of some type. My father was part of the family business my grandfather started in 1919. I went into that business and thought it was probably what I would do the rest of my life.

I worked there for seven years and decided to go to work for another larger international corporation based out of Minnesota, the Tennant Corporation. It was an international company that operated all over the world. It helped me widen my horizons.

I was in sales and sales management. I was happily with that company for 30 years. After I retired, I still had plenty of energy and wanted to do something different. I went to work for a friend for about three years to help him manage his business.

I always enjoyed working, and I'm a people person. I liked meeting and developing relationships with my customers and my coworkers. That's what makes me work. I considered my customers and coworkers friends.

TT&C: How has your experience in the business world helped with your work as a public servant?

EJ: I had a lot of responsibilities working for a large, Fortune 500 corporation. I had to work my way up the ranks. I learned to work with people and how to work with people. When you work in sales, you are a problem solver. You have a person or a company that has a problem and you get them the product they need to solve that problem. I like being able to look back and see that I solved someone's problem.

It's a similar role in state government; you're a problem solver. There are things that need to be fixed or adjusted, and we try our best to do that. There are a lot of different ways to solve problems, so we try to find the best way.

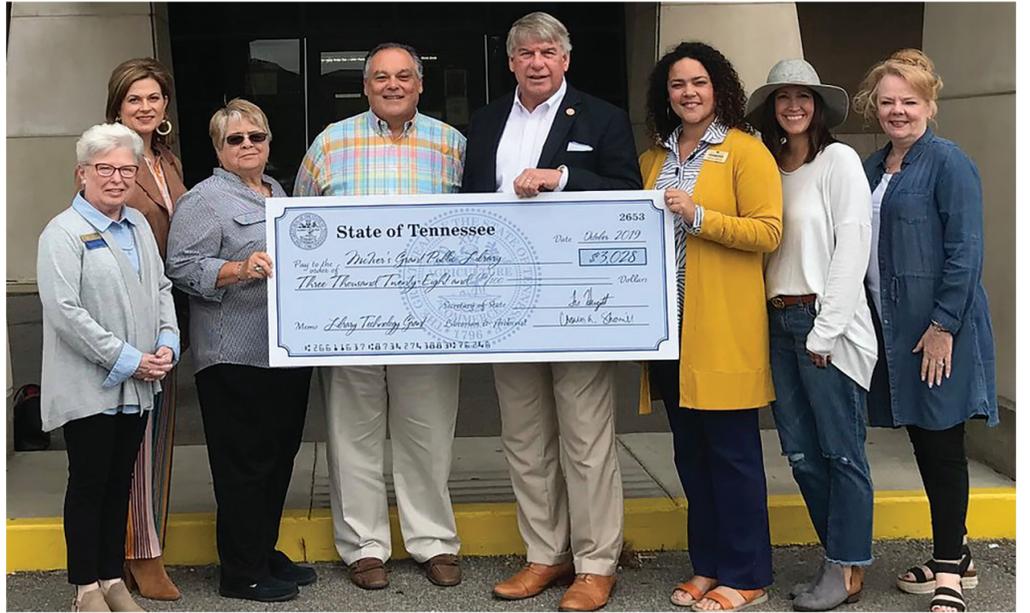
When I was working, I traveled four or five states and now I'm down to five counties. I know those counties very, very well and know a lot of the people there. I have been traveling this area for 30 years, and now I'm still traveling in this area to take care of my district. I know the people, and I know the issues, so it was sort of a natural fit for me. It wasn't hard to transition from the job into politics because I know the area.

TT&C: What first interested you in politics? Was there a particular issue or cause that prompted you to run for office?

EJ: After I retired, I was asked to run for public office. My wife and I agreed to do that. I had always kept up with politics. I always kept up with local, state, national, and international issues. I had always been interested in how government operates and participated in government, but never as an elected official.

Once I got into office, I was put on three Senate committees: the State and Local Committee, the Health and Welfare, and Government Operations. In the State and Local Committee, Sen. [Ken] Yager, [R-Kingston], asked me which one of the subcommittees I would like to be on. I said corrections sounded interesting, and he said: 'Good. You're the chairman.'

I have done that for more than five years, and it has been very rewarding to make reforms on the corrections committee and to reduce the number of people in prison. It's



State Sen. Ed Jackson presents a \$3,000 check to officials, including Dyersburg Mayor John Holden, with the McIver's Grant Public Library in Dyersburg as part of \$6,000 in planned technology upgrades to the library.



Jackson meets with scouting representatives from across the state. Himself a Boy Scout and an Eagle Scout, Jackson said his own scouting experience was one of the most rewarding things he's ever done. He continues to support the Boy Scouts by serving on the board for the West Tennessee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where he is the vice president of marketing.

also important to know that 95% of the people in our state prisons will get out, and it is very important that when they get out they don't want to go back.

TT&C: You have been very involved with the governor's plans for corrections and justice reform, particularly juvenile justice. What are the biggest challenges Tennessee faces in this arena and how is the state working to address them?

EJ: It is very important that those getting out of prison can get a job, keep a job, get back with their family, and contribute as a citizen. One of our biggest challenges is the adult population and how to give them the skills they need so they can get a job when they get out. We want them to transition from what they experience in corrections back into public and private life again.

Probably the biggest challenge, though, is juvenile justice reform. There is not a good option in a lot of cases for juveniles. For some they are in single-parent families and that one parent is not the best option for the child. Foster care is not always the best option, and relatives are not always the best option. It can be a huge challenge to find a place for these kids can go. One of the things we realized when we finished up several months of working on juvenile justice reform was that we needed more data from the judges and the courts on what was going on with these kids and what their options are.

Many of the smaller counties have very few resources and only a few people working there. They don't have the time to collect the data, correct it, and get it out to the state so we can look over it. We have addressed that by putting in people who can help with data in the rural counties and come up with intelligent solutions for these children.

TT&C: What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing rural development in Tennessee and what can we do to meet those challenges?

EJ: Rural development is one of the key things that Gov. Bill Lee wants to work on, and one of the things I want to also. Four of my five counties are rural and two of them are categorized as distressed. There are counties that surround my district that are at-risk. In West Tennessee,

six of the 15 counties are distressed. Healthcare, job growth, infrastructure, and education are the main things we have to address for rural development.

We have to have an educated workforce who can take the jobs when they come, and the jobs are coming. West Tennessee is much more economically healthy in recent years. We need to make sure that people graduate high school and that the TCATs and four-year universities train them to do the jobs that come along. Education is key.

Businesses don't want to locate where there isn't good healthcare. They want a community with hospitals and doctors. We are addressing some of that with telemedicine and rural health clinics. West Tennessee Healthcare is also doing a great job of keeping our hospitals open in rural counties to provide care.

We always need to have safe communities. Public safety and law enforcement are also important. We need to make sure that we don't keep filling up our jails and having to build more and more jails. We need to work on recidivism and reducing our jail population.

TT&C: This year you are sponsoring one of TML's bills, Senate Bill 1158, which looks to increase the share of state sales and use tax revenue given to municipalities back to pre-Great Recession levels. Why is this bill important and why is now the right time for its passage?

EJ: Many years ago, the state created this revenue stream for cities that gave the cities a certain percentage of the sales tax collected by the state. During the Recession, the state reduced the amount it shares with cities to help balance the state budget. Several years have passed since then, and the state is doing very well with collections. The state has collected more than anticipated for several years in a row. However, there are many cities who are struggling, particularly those in rural areas. It is time that those cities get that money back.

TT&C: What is your stance on pre-emption and local control?

EJ: I think the best government is the one that is closest to the people. I personally feel like there are certain things the state needs to do to help cities and counties. We need to be a resource to them to help cities and

counties deal with their own local issues.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the municipal officials in your district? What projects have you worked on with them?

EJ: I try to attend some of the county commission and city council meetings with different towns and cities in my district. It can be hard to do since they conflict with being here at the state, which I hate. But I do visit all my mayors on a regular basis. I also have a good relationship working with all of my city and county officials in the courts and the judicial system.

I think it's important to let them know who I am and that they are comfortable with calling me on my cell phone. I like to react to their needs as quickly as possible when they need help.

TT&C: Is there any particular piece of legislation you have worked on that has stood out or been special to you?

EJ: Every year it seems like something comes along that is important. This year I would say it is a bill I have been working on for two years dealing with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in babies.

These children are born addicted to the same drug and with the same issues their parent has. If we can address that, catch these mothers, and get them help and counseling before the child is born, many times the child fares a lot better. A lot of these children have lifelong issues and problems if they are born addicted to drugs. I think that is why we are seeing some behavioral issues in our schools.

We are also having trouble in foster care because no one wants a child with those kinds of problems. We don't want these to become lifelong problems that transfer into the courts and the prisons. I passed the bill on the Senate floor the other day.

The bill brought together the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, TennCare, and the Department of Children's Services in a working group for several weeks. This is a problem we need to stop on the front end instead of waiting to address it after the child is born.