

## TN Comptroller suspends CMFO continuing education requirements for 2020

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has made the decision to suspend Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements for its Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) and Certified County Finance Officer (CCFO) programs.

This impacts approximately 850 people who serve as finance professionals in Tennessee's cities and counties. Each of these individuals is required to obtain CPE hours each year in order to maintain their certification. CMFOs must receive 24 hours, and CCFOs must have 16 hours per year.

The Comptroller's Office has suspended these requirements for the reporting cycle ending Dec. 31, 2020. The waiver only applies to the reporting year 2020.

The decision was made after the cancellation of numerous

events and educational opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Comptroller's Office still encourages CMFOs and CCFOs to continue their professional growth by attending webinars and other virtual online events.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our lives," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "While it's vital that we maintain our health, it's also important that our public finance professionals are educated and well-prepared. To that end, we will be offering 16 hours of on-line CPE at no cost to any CMFO or CCFO in the fall of 2020."

The Comptroller's Office will provide more information about these webinars as it becomes available.

## Contact tracing brings high-tech approach to tracking COVID-19 cases statewide

BY KATE COIL  
TML Communications Specialist

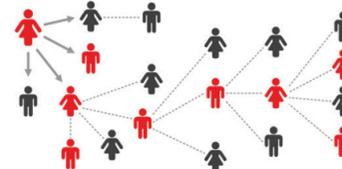
Smart phones have become the latest tool in the battle against COVID-19.

Data from smartphones is helping track who may have been exposed to the virus with the state of Tennessee employing contact tracers to process this data and reach out to those who might be exposed.

Bill Christian, associate director of communications with the Tennessee Department of Health, said that those who test positive for the virus are asked to use calendar apps, call records, credit card receipts, and other resources to track their movements over the previous two weeks.

"Contact tracing is how we identify people who might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 during the time period that they were contagious to others," Christian said. "Public health reaches out and contacts that

### What is contact tracing?



Contact tracing aims to identify and alert people who have come into contact with a person infected with coronavirus.



Smartphones can be used to quickly and automatically determine whether somebody has been in contact with an infected person.

People who test positive for COVID-19 are asked to give data stored in their smart phones - like calendar appointments, digital receipts, and other information - to help track down who they may have been in contact with prior to diagnosis. Contact tracers then alert those individuals so they can get tested as well.

person who was diagnosed with coronavirus to understand their symptoms, things they did when experiencing the illness, and who

they were in contact with, especially close contact during the period of two days before their symptoms  
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## How is Tennessee doing with 2020 U.S. Census count amid COVID - 19?

One month has passed since Census Day and this is a good opportunity to bring city officials up to date on how Tennesseans are responding to the 2020 Census and the current activities and COVID-19 related schedule adjustments.

### Overall Response Rate

Here is where the state stands as of April 29:

- 53.6% of Tennessee households have responded to the 2020 Census
- The state ranks 27th nationally in terms of total response rate to date and trails the U.S. response rate by 1%
- Tennessee bests surrounding states with the exception of Kentucky (17th) which sits at 57.4% of households responding thus far

In 2010, 67.1% of the state's households self-responded to the Census, ranking Tennessee 22nd nationally. Changes to how participation is reported make it difficult to determine if the state is on pace to achieve that rate again. Peer states with similar 2010 response rates have out-paced Tennessee by 4% on average in 2020. The new online response option - which 79% of Tennessee households have used so far - will remain available through Oct. 31, 2020, allowing ample time

for households to self-respond. In our view, the restart of Census operations on June 1 and promotional efforts targeted toward low-response areas are important for the state to reach its 2010 mark.

### Response patterns across the state

After 45 days of responses, some trends are becoming evident. At the State Data Center we created an interactive County Response Rate Explorer dashboard that can be used to review regional response patterns (Metro areas, Development Districts, urban/rural, etc.). Some trends we've observed:

- Rural counties responses are 3.5% lower than urban counties, 51.3% vs. 54.8% respectively.
- Counties with the lowest response rate found are in rural areas of Southwest TN Development District (44.1%), Southeast TN Development District (42.7%) and East TN Development District (47.1%)
- 85% of Tennessee's estimated 1.6 million self-responses so far came on or before April 3 so it will be slow climb to 67%

To explore responses at the neighborhood level, we recommend using an excellent mapping  
See CENSUS on Page 5

## Gallatin water plant employees opt to quarantine together at work

BY KATE COIL

When closures prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic began occurring statewide, employees with the city of Gallatin's water plant made a choice that not everyone would: to quarantine at work rather than at home.

Gallatin Chief Water Plant Operator Bennie Baggett, a 32-year veteran employee, began his quarantine at the plant on March 20. Baggett said his main concern was making sure there was someone who could operate the plant at all times while reducing the risk of employees to potential exposure to COVID-19.

After talking with officials from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and other water plant operators, Baggett initially decided to have volunteers work four days on and take three days off. However, with employees having to overlap shifts, the risk that one employee exposed to the virus could then infect all of the plant's employees had to be taken into consideration.

"Unfortunately, the situation with the virus continued to get worse and worse in Sumner County," he said. "The numbers were increasing every day. I finally made the decision to lock the six of us down for



Six employees with the city of Gallatin's water plant opted to quarantine together at the plant to ensure that service for water customers would continue smoothly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Living out of a rented bus, the employees stayed at the plant for 28 days.

28 days. I talked to everyone about it and got five volunteers."

By April 5, Baggett and five other employees were living at the plant full-time.

Located on the bank of the Cumberland River next to State Route 109, the plant produces ap-

proximately 7.5 million gallons of treated water each day. In addition to customers in Gallatin, the facility also provides water to the town of Westmoreland and the Castalian Springs/Bethpage Utility District. Normally staffed 24/7, the six em-  
See GALLATIN on Page 2

## Quarantine cleaning creates woes for solid waste, recycling

BY KATE COIL

As residents use their time at home to conduct spring cleaning, municipalities across the state of Tennessee have reported limiting both solid waste and recycling programs amid increased volumes of materials and concerns for employee safety.

Surveys conducted by the Tennessee Municipal League of cities statewide found that public works departments were the municipal departments most likely to be short-handed as a result of the pandemic with 19.73% of cities - nearly one-fifth of respondents - reporting they were understaffed in these departments.

A dozen cities also reported they had limited public works services and 13 reported having closed or limited use of a municipal recycling center because of concerns that the virus could continue to live on plastic material.

Kim Schofinski, deputy communications director for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), said there have been noticeable changes to solid waste and recycling as a result of the pandemic.



Solid waste workers have been overwhelmed by the amount of people taking advantage of quarantine time to do spring cleaning. To protect employees, many solid waste departments and companies have cut back on what items they accept, how many routes they run, and how many employees they allow to be on site at a time. Some have expressed concern that convenience center users are not following social distancing guidelines.

"In response to COVID-19, some counties and municipalities have changed their hours of operation for landfills, convenience centers, transfer stations and/or household hazardous waste collection centers to support appropriate social distancing practices for customers and staff," she said. "Tennessee has seen commercial volumes of landfill

waste decrease while household and residential waste has increased. This change is expected to fluctuate as portions of the economy safely reopen. Tennesseans - including those who work in the solid waste industry - are encouraged to follow the CDC's recommendations for proper use and disposal of PPE.  
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## Is your city IT network ready to support remote work? 4 questions to ask

Your organization may be asking questions never asked before: what do we do if our employees need to work remotely?

Some organizations may already have a Disaster Recovery Plan in place that promotes business continuity. However, many do not. The rising impact of coronavirus is forcing organizations to explore and test Business Continuity plans or suffer the consequences of not having one.

The reality is that enabling employees to work from home demands a lot from your technology and organization. But there are a few questions that will help you and your IT partner get this process started.

### What will your employees work on?

Organizations that already issue laptops or other mobile devices as an employee's primary workstation are in good shape to have a leg up already. If that's not the case, then you will need to explore alterna-



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tives.

- **Bring work desktops home.** Moving and setting these up at employees' homes may be a challenge. But it can also simplify other security and access  
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# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BRISTOL

Bristol Tennessee Essential Services, the utility service for the city of Bristol, has been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for its safety. BTES was awarded the APPA Safety Award of Excellence for 2019, winning first place in the category for utilities with 110,000 to 249,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure. BTES beat out more than 335 entrants for the top honor, the most submissions in the category's history. BTES is a municipally-owned electric utility that also provides high-speed Internet, telephone, and cable television services over a fiber optic network, as well as water heating services to more than 33,000 customers in a 280-square-mile service area that includes both the city of Bristol and surrounding areas of Sullivan County.

## CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport's general aviation center, operated by Wilson Air, has been ranked as the top general aviation center in the country by Professional Pilot magazine. The center was chosen based on feedback from nearly 1,000 pilots in a survey conducted by the magazine based on criteria such as line team, customer service representatives, facility, amenities, promptness and efficiency, and value for price. The Wilson Air Center at the airport provides aircraft fueling, airline and freight handling, and aircraft detailing among its services. The Chattanooga center also includes a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified Platinum executive terminal.

## CHATTANOOGA

Developers have announced the biggest housing and commercial project in Chattanooga's East Main Street in decades, developing 30-acres around the former Standard-Coosa-Thatcher textile site into a \$120 million property. The project will include the development of 330 units of both apartment and commercial space as well as single-family detached houses, townhouses, and quad and eight-plex units, according to Collier Construction. The company said they also plan to make roughly 60 of the residents "affordable" for those earning from half to 80% of Chattanooga's median income. Developers have touted the project as the largest new neighborhood "from the river to the ridge." Collier Construction is partnering with the Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise and the Benwood Foundation on the project.

## FAYETTEVILLE

The first phase of Fayetteville's Greenway Project is nearing completion. The first phase will connect downtown Fayetteville to Stone Bridge Park via South Elk Avenue and a walkway. Funding for the first phase of greenway project is largely provided by a Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program grant. Eventually, a second phase of construction will connect this first phase with the Camp Blount Historical Site via a large pedestrian bridge over the Elk River. The city has already received bids for this second phase of the project, most of which came in under budget. Both phases are part of an overall Greenway and Blueway Master Plan for the city.

## FRANKLIN

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore has announced the launch of Find Hope Franklin, an initiative to address mental health and substance abuse issues in the community. The initiative is a byproduct of the Mayor's

Blue Ribbon Task Force, which was formed in 2019 to address mental health and substance use issues in Franklin and Williamson County. One action was the development of a website, [www.FindHopeFranklin.com](http://www.FindHopeFranklin.com), to serve as a resource that breaks through the clutter for those seeking immediate assistance or those wanting to easily understand the options and information available to them. On the website, users will find a link at the very top of the home page to "find help now" for those who are in immediate crisis. This will take them to a variety of 24/7 crisis phone and text lines. The website also has a link to an evaluation tool allowing users to answer a series of questions to determine whether or not they need help. Other resource links include medical centers, community counseling, substance use, psychiatric hospitals, and prescription discounts.

## GALLATIN

The Gallatin City Commission has adopted a proclamation to honor the first responders and health-care workers who have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city has declared the week of May 11-15 as First Responder-Medical Professionals Appreciate Week as a thank you to those who have been protecting the community, state, and nation during the pandemic. The proclamation honors the "brave, courageous and dedicated individuals who are extensively trained and highly specialized within their skill sets to assist the community and provide aid during emergencies and any time of need," as well as honors the way these workers "put themselves in harm's way," and "make incredible, selfless sacrifices."

## GREENEVILLE

The first phase of Greenville's Downtown Redevelopment project is underway with the installation of new gas lines along West Depot Street. Atmos Energy is expected to install new gas lines over a period of 12 to 14 weeks, resulting in downtown detours. Approximately 1,800 new feet of gas main lines will replace an estimated 15 service lines along West Depot Street, upgrading existing lines block by block.

## KNOXVILLE

A new \$14 million mixed-use development is coming to the Old Sevier Neighborhood of Knoxville. The development at the corner of Sevier Avenue and Davenport Road by Dominion Development Group will also include new public infrastructure such as sidewalks, underground electric, lighting, and landscaping. The development itself will include 117 residential units and 3,500 square feet of ground-level retail space. Improvements are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

## LEBANON

The city of Lebanon has received a \$774,972 Multimodal Access Grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The funds will be used to add to the city's sidewalk network to provide vital pedestrian improvements along the east side of Highway 231 North, also known as State Route 10 and North Cumberland Street. The project will also include pedestrian signal improvements that are ADA compliant at signalized intersections. TDOT's Multimodal Access Grant is a state-funded program created to support the transportation needs of transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists through infrastructure projects that address existing gaps along state routes. Multimodal Access Grant projects are state-funded at 95% with a 5% local match.

## MORRISTOWN

The city of Morristown will open its first new public works facility in nearly 60 years. The \$12.1 million facility will be located just south of the Merchants Green development and is expected to be complete by the end of May. City officials have planned a phased relocation of the public works department to the new facility from the current facility on Dice Street. The site presently being used by public works will then allow for the reorganization of the city administration and create a new administrative hub for city operations. The new public works facility will house wastewater and stormwater operations, building and grounds maintenance, horticulture, risk management, and safety coordination for the city.

## SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

The town of Signal Mountain has received a ISO rating of 2/2x, an improvement over the town's previous class 3 rating received in 2015. Within the state of Tennessee, less than 4% of communities have an ISO classification of 2 or higher. The new rating goes into effect on June 1, 2020 and was the result of a survey recently completed by the Insurance Service Officer (ISO) in the community. The survey takes into account everything from fire department equipment to staffing levels, training, the availability and adequacy of water supply, and emergency communications centers.

## SEVIERVILLE

Construction is complete on the third phase of the two-mile Middle Creek Greenway in Sevierville with work soon to begin on the John Sevier Memorial Grove to be located on the most recently completed greenway phase. The grove will consist of tree memorials for those memorialized through the John Sevier Award Program with 55 plantings planned for the first phase of the grove. Presently, the Middle Creek Greenway includes the Greenway Loop around the Sevierville Municipal Complex with a connect across Middle Creek to the Boys and Girls Club then continuing behind the Trula Lawson Center, crossing the road and Middle Creek before connecting to the Veterans Boulevard Greenway. The greenway connects eastern Sevierville with downtown.

## Gallatin water plant employees quarantine at work

### GALLATIN from Page 1

ployees who have chosen to stay on are working round-the-clock to ensure water service continues as normal in these areas.

A tour bus provided by local business All Access Coach Leasing allows the employees to live on-site. The coach provides beds and a seating area for the employees to relax in. There is also a shower in the bus as well as showers in the plant for employees to use.

"It is going really well," Baggett said. "The employees have really adapted and stepped up. We've had zero issues. You learn things about people you didn't know before. Out of the five employees, three of them have worked with me for 15 to 25 years, so we knew each other pretty well. Of the other two, one has been here a couple of years and the other one only a few months."

In addition to chatting online through Facebook and Zoom, employees have also been able to have visits with their families while observing social distancing.

"Our families are good," Baggett said. "They have come out to drop off supplies and kept their distance. We have visited through the fence. A couple of them who are here don't have immediate family that are local, so this isn't much

## Collierville employees hold birthday parade for longtime customer, 'adopted grandpa'



Collierville resident Leland Doan, 90, waves to those passing by in a birthday parade held in his honor outside his home on April 28, 2020. Doan is a beloved longtime customer of the Collierville Finance Department. Members of the finance department organized a surprise drive-by parade at his house as well as delivered a cake and balloons during their lunch hour. Doan has been described by some employees as an "adopted grandpa" to many in the department.

## Gatlinburg parks crews work to keep city beautiful



Work crews with the Gatlinburg Parks and Recreation Department were up with at dawn to arrange flowers and hanging baskets throughout the city, bringing spring color throughout the community.

different."

While employees have chosen to stay in the plant for the duration of natural disasters like tornados and floods before, this is the longest any water plant employee has stayed at the plant. Baggett said none of them expected to ever spend nearly a month at the plant.

"We've laughed a lot about it," he said. "I have been here through the 2010 floods where I stayed three or four days working. I have been through tornados where I worked two or three days straight. During those times, though, you don't really notice how long it's been because you're usually working really hard. During this, it's been normal operations so you have to figure out ways to occupy you're mind. We've walked the bridge in front of the plant I don't know how many times. My biggest problem is I get bored, so I want to eat."

Baggett said none of the employees expected to get much attention for choosing to stay at the plant.

"We kept it really quiet for a while, but once our Chamber of Commerce found out they put it out there," he said. "We didn't really expect people to react the way they did. It's been pretty amazing. We've had several people who brought us food and desserts for us. I think

I've eaten every kind of cupcake known to man. We have a German shepherd dog who stays out here with us and she got a care package worth a couple \$100 bucks."

When the quarantine lifts, Baggett said the employees are looking forward to the simple things.

"I have the luxury of having to go out and collect the bacteria samples from the water," he said. "Me and an employee that works in the lab go out and collect samples daily, so we can leave the facility. The other four have basically been here and not left at all. They've talked about how they want to just get out and drive down the road and see something that's not here at the plant. My biggest thing is that I have to get home and take care of the pool. It's green, and my wife can't get it fixed."

David Kellogg, assistant superintendent of public utilities for the city of Gallatin said the employees deserve to be recognized for what they have done.

"It's outstanding to have employees that take the initiative to do this and have the willingness to do it," Kellogg said. "I don't know if I have a word to describe how much I appreciate what they are doing."

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# WAUFORD

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

# Quarantine cleaning creates woes for solid waste, recycling

CLEANING from Page 1

TDEC's website contains information related to the proper disposal of medical waste."

The city of **Franklin** announced the suspension of its Blue Bin Recycling program since the recycling processor, Marshall County Recycling, halted its services. Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey said recycling could still be dropped off at Williamson County facilities.

The town of **Jonesborough** also suspended recycling collection citing concerns over the safety of handling plastic. Residents were instead encouraged to store recyclables until the town could create a drop-off point at its recycling center.

**Kingsport** announced it would pause its recycling program beginning on May 1 because of the downturn in the market.

"This is due to a national trend that has drastically impacted Kingsport's ability to market the majority of the material collected," said Deputy City Manager Ryan McReynolds. "The largest material the city collects, mixed paper, was being sold for \$88 per ton. Currently, it costs negative \$3.75 per ton, meaning our partner [WestRock Converting Company] has to pay people to take it. With the pause on our recycling program occurring now, it gives our sanitation department time to review other options for the future of the program. It doesn't make sense at this time for us to spend time and money collecting this material, sending it out of our area, and more than likely, having it end up in a landfill anyway."

**Metro Nashville** Public Works also limited operations of convenience centers to Saturdays only. Drop-offs at the centers were limited to recyclable materials and up to three bags of household trash. **Pleasant Hill** Mayor Lisa Patrick announced that the recycling offered at the town hall would be suspended in the community, asking citizens to instead drop-off their recyclables at the Recycling Center itself.

**Knoxville, Milan, and Oak Ridge** also reported limiting or halting brush pick-up services because of the strain on public works.

Throughout the state, many communities hold "spring clean-up days" that encourage residents to tidy up their homes and yards, often allowing the disposal of large items or items usually not collected by public works or solid waste crews. However, the lack of resources to pick up these items compounded by concerns of virus spread have led many cities to either postpone such events or cancel them completely.

The city of **Clinton** postponed its planned April clean-up day, which takes items normally not accepted during weekly household garbage pickup, to May 4. **Brentwood** canceled its spring clean-up day encouraging residents to wait for the Fall Clean-Up typically held



Some cities have had to scale back recycling programs and brush pick up as a result of the virus. Others have canceled community-wide clean-up days usually held in the spring.

between October and November. **Goodlettsville, Oak Ridge** and **Germantown** also postponed community clean-up dates with no future dates set.

**Lebanon** also postponed its two-week clean-up period until the fall. Lebanon's decision was a combination of the fact that public works resources were still being used to clean up from the March 3 tornado outbreak.

Other communities who contract their services to private companies also found their trash and recycling services limited as those companies adopted new collection protocol and made contingency plans.

Waste Connections announced that it would be limiting trash and recycling pick up to "content of carts" only to cities it served nationwide based on recommendations from the CDC, WHO, as well as state and local health officials.

Waste Connections also limited what it accepted at convenience centers open to the public, like the one located in **Oak Ridge**. The facilities only accepted normal household waste and recycling with bulky items and yard waste no longer taken. Company officials reported they were being "overwhelmed" by the amount of waste and number of people showing up to drop off bulky items and were concerned that the number of people at facilities could increase the spread of COVID-19.

Cities contracting with Republic Services, who is in the process of acquiring Tennessee-based Santek Waste Services, also announced changes to trash services as a result of COVID-19.

"Republic will not service any trash outside of the containers as we are trying to limit exposure to our drivers during this time," according to a company statement. "Additionally, in order to best protect and limit the exposure to our employees, the bulky item program pick-up at curbside will be suspended until further notice. These measures are effective in all communities that Republic Services provides trash service."

Numerous landfills operated

both by county solid waste departments and private companies also announced they would be limiting services.

Geoff Trabalka, supervisor of Anderson County Solid Waste Management, said the county's Chestnut Ridge landfill has seen a large increase in volume since the stay-at-home order was issued by Gov. Bill Lee on April 2. The landfill serves county residents and citizens of **Clinton and Norris** as well as some residents of **Oak Ridge, Oliver Springs, and Rocky Top**.

"All of these activities produce a large quantity of added material to the waste stream," Trabalka said. "In the last two weeks, Anderson County has seen an extreme increase in waste being brought to its convenience centers, and to the Chestnut Ridge Landfill, particularly on Saturdays. This has raised the volume of garbage being hauled to 1.5 to 2 times the normal volume. Yard waste and bulk waste items like furniture and appliances are a great portion of that increase."

Bi-County Solid Waste, which operates convenience centers in

Montgomery and Stewart counties, serves cities including **Clarksville, Cumberland City, Dover**, and some residents of **Tennessee Ridge**. The convenience centers reported an "increased volume of materials, scheduling circumstances, and staff shortages" all related to COVID-19.

"Debris that normally comes in over the course of several months is now coming in all at once in large volumes," Bi-County Director Mark Neblett said. "Bi-County will continue providing services however, we need residents to work with us to bring larger items and loads to the main landfill scales. We also request that our convenience center workers be treated with patience as they have been advised to make discretionary decisions based on box space and traffic flow."

The Rutherford County landfill also reported receiving three times the usual volume of material since quarantining began. The landfill serves cities including **Eagleville, La Vergne, and Smyrna** as well as county residents. The amount of waste being dumped combined with the fact that the average age of the

landfill's employees is 63 prompted the decision to limit waste to only one bulk item and no building material.

"At the rate they were doing two weeks ago, if we had not slowed them down, our centers would have closed Saturday and we still would not be able to have them open," said Mac Nolan, Rutherford County's solid waste and landfill director. "The residents are really frustrated with it and I understand that, but at least we have them open."

Located in Brighton, the Tipton County landfill serves residents in **Atoka, Brighton, Burlison, Covington, Garland, Gilt Edge, Mason, and Munford**. Shannon Reed, director of the landfill, said traffic was backed up on the highway leading to the landfill for half a mile on April 12 with residents who had been at home using the time to clean up. Reed said traffic is up at least 40% since the stay-at-home order was issued but the landfill itself is working with limited employees. The recycling program also ground to a halt.

"The reason [recycling has stopped] is it's been said the virus lives on plastic for three days and cardboard for 24 hours," Reed said. "This virus is living on surfaces for a long time, so I can't take the risk of having to shut my entire workforce down. We're just trying to make it."

Williamson County Solid Waste, who also serves citizens of **Brentwood, Fairview, Franklin, Nolensville, Thompson's Station**, and parts of **Spring Hill**, also announced they were limiting customers to dropping off household trash and recycling.

In an effort to comply with social distancing guidance, the various solid waste departments have all asked residents to comply with their social distancing measures at the centers, such as allowing only one individual to unload at a time.

## Contact tracing brings high-tech approach to tracking COVID-19 cases statewide

CONTACT from Page 1 started up until the point of the interview."

Contact tracers then reach out to any individual or business that person might have visited.

"We reach out to the contacts and let them know they may have been exposed to coronavirus and we advise them to be quarantined for 14 days from the time period that they last had contact with that coronavirus patient," Christian said. "It is important to identify people infected with COVID-19, and those at highest risk of becoming ill with COVID-19 (their contacts). By identifying those people and encouraging them to stay home and away from others, we can limit the spread of the virus in our communities."

Christian said any information

received regarding individuals who may have been exposed is handled in a HIPAA compliant manner and all contact tracers have training on HIPAA and privacy requirements.

Many of those working with the state as contract tracers are state employees whose jobs have been idled as a result of the pandemic.

"We estimate about 350 employees, full and part-time at metro, regional and local health departments are doing contact tracing and monitoring," Christian said. "We also recently added about 150 people who have been trained to support those doing contact tracing and monitoring. Volunteers are recruited through various mechanisms. Local and regional health departments are using students and volunteers identified through various outreach efforts. For the

time being, at the state level, we are using only state employees."

While contact tracing is gaining national attention because of the pandemic, Christian said this is not the first time the state has used the method.

"Contact tracing is part of daily work for public health staff prior to COVID-19," he said. "We perform contact tracing for many other diseases: measles, pertussis, and tuberculosis to name a few. Technology is very important in how we are addressing this pandemic. We are dealing with high volumes of data that is updated on a near constant basis – so our technologies and systems are incredibly important in ensuring accurate information and streamlined coordination of efforts."

## 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.

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# PEOPLE



**Julian Bibb** has been unanimously appointed as the chairman of the Franklin Transit Authority. Bibb retired in 2017 after more than 40 years practicing law in Franklin and has served as the head of numerous organizations in the community. Bibb has lived in Franklin since 1974 and served as the city's assistant city attorney after obtaining his law degree in 1977. Bibb received his bachelor's degree from Sewanee: The University of the South and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Since its inception 17 years ago, the Franklin Transit Authority has provided transportation services throughout the city with discounted fares for military personnel, the elderly, and others. The system averages 62,000 riders per year.



Julian Bibb

**David Crockarell** has been selected as the new police chief for the city of Clarksville. Formerly serving as the department's deputy police chief, Mayor Joe Pitts announced that Crockarell, a 25-year veteran of the force, had been selected on the recommendation of retiring Chief Al Ansley. Crockarell will begin his duties on June 1. Born in Germany to a father who served as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, Crockarell joined the Clarksville Police Department in 1995 as a patrolman. He rose through the ranks becoming an investigator, patrol sergeant, tactical unit commander, lieutenant, serving as the department's training director, captain, and finally promoted to operational deputy chief in 2018.



David Crockarell

**Jeff Buchanan** has been selected as the new park manager of Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon. Buchanan



Jeff Buchanan

has been with Tennessee State Parks for 25 years, beginning his career at Bicentennial Mall State Park in Nashville. He has also served previously with the Ranger Program Office, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, and most recently at Long Hunter State Park. Buchanan holds a bachelor's degree in field biology from Austin Peay State University. He is also certified as an emergency medical technician and has certifications from the National Association of State Parks and the Park Management Technical Institute. He has also been a member of the Tennessee State Parks horse mounted patrol, search and rescue team, and special operations team.

**W. Harold Cannon Jr.**, president and co-founder of Cannon & Cannon Inc., has been appointed by Mayor Indya Kincannon as the new director of engineering for the city of Knoxville. Cannon is in the process of transitioning the ownership of his consulting and engineering company, started 24 years ago, to a group of current employees. Born in Nashville, Cannon moved to the Knoxville area in 1974 and graduated from Farragut High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1981. He served as a project manager and vice president for 15 years at Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, and Cannon before founding his own firm with his wife Angie. Cannon has previously held roles in the public sector including serving on the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission under Gov. Bill Haslam.



Harold Cannon

**Stephanie Fox** has been selected as the new director of internal audit for the city of Clarksville. Fox is a five-year employee of the city's internal audit department and has been serving as the department's interim director since February. A native of Kentucky, Fox earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and mathematics at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky. She is a certified public accountant (CPA), certified internal auditor (CIA), and a certified municipal finance officer (CMFO).



Stephanie Fox

**Donna Johnson**, alderwoman with the town of Humboldt, died April 20, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. She was 65. Johnson made history as the first African-American woman elected to the Humboldt Board of Mayor and Aldermen when she was elected in 2013 to represent Ward 5. She was re-elected to the board in 2017. Born and raised in Humboldt, Johnson earned an associate's degree from Dyersburg State Community College. She worked as a dispatcher for the Humboldt Police Department as well as a realtor. Humboldt Mayor Marvin Sikes said that her husband of 33 years, Monte Johnson, has been asked to fill the remainder of her term.



Donna Johnson

**Dale Lane** has been selected as the new police chief for the town of Collierville. Lane has more than 32 years of public safety experience, most recently serving as chief of safety and secu-



Dale Lane

ity for the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA). Lane was one of 26 applicants for the position. He began his law enforcement career in 1987 as a patrol officer with the Millington Police Department before joining the Shelby County Sheriff's Office as a patrolman in 1989. He rose through the ranks at the sheriff's department to that of chief inspector, having served on various capacities with the K-9 Unit, Gang Unit, Street Crime Unit, Drug Interdiction Team, and SWAT Team. Lane was then selected to serve as the director of the county's Office of Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management. Lane is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Memphis Metropolitan Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Associates. He has also served on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board for Southwest Tennessee Community College. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Southwest Tennessee Community College, a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Crichton College, and master's degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas.

**Jay Rainey**, the former chief administrative officer for the city of Bartlett, died May 4, 2020, at the age of 89. Rainey was selected as the chief administrative officer for the city in January 1999 and again in January 2003, serving until his retirement in 2009. He also served the city as an interim alderman from Dec. 13, 2011, to Dec. 31, 2012. The city of Bartlett's banquet hall at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center was also recently named in honor of Rainey and his late wife Jeanette for their service to the community. Born in Illinois, Rainey moved his family to the Memphis area to work for Cook Industries, Inc., eventually rising through the ranks to becoming assistant to the company president as well as serving as president of Terminix, a division of Cook Industries. In 1978, he founded Rainey Commodities, Inc., and served as president and chief executive officer of the company for 26 years. He also served as president of Gulf Coast Grain Industries until 2004.



Jay Rainey

**Randy Reese**, fleet manager for the city of Clarksville, has announced his retirement on May 31. Reese has been the fleet manager for the city since the position was created in 2015. He began his career as a mechanic at the age of 17 and worked in the industry for more than 40 years, including 13 years for the city of Clarksville and for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. In his role as fleet manager, he has been responsible for the maintenance, repair, and management of more than 2,000 pieces of municipal equipment ranging from lawn mowers and chainsaws to public works trucks. Bill Lee, city garage manger for the city, will serve as

## Spring Hill, surrounding counties mourn firefighter

The Spring Hill Fire Department and emergency officials in both Maury and Williamson counties are mourning the loss of one of their own after violent storms ripped through Middle Tennessee on Sunday, May 3.

Spring Hill Firefighter Mitchell Earwood, 35, was killed while taking a day off with his family on their farm in the Bethesda community when the storms suddenly struck.

A 10-year veteran of the Spring Hill Fire Department, Earwood was the historian for the department. Members of the Spring Hill Fire Department were given the day off on May 4 as a result of Earwood's death with firefighters from the neighboring cities of Brentwood, Columbia, Franklin, La Vergne, and Murfreesboro offering to cover the department's coverage region as long as needed.

Spring Hill Fire Chief Terry Hood expressed his personal grief as well as that of his entire department.

"I've known him since he was a little baby," Hood said. "I worked with his daddy and was there when he was born. Mitch was our historian — he loved finding stuff about the Spring Hill Fire Department and started a Facebook page all about the history."

Hood said he wishes to extend his sincere thanks for the outpouring of food and support during the difficult time, especially that provided by the Tennessee Fire Chief Association, Logan Archery, Vanderbilt Lifeflight and all across Middle Tennessee.

Spring Hill wasn't the only place where Earwood served as an emergency responder. He also served as a volunteer firefighter with the Maury County Fire Department since 2009 at Station No. 11 in the Bethel community and with the Williamson County Rescue Squad.

Earwood's father, Jerry Ear-



Mitchell Earwood

wood, is the station district chief for Maury County Fire Department Station No. 11 and his stepmother, Linda, served as a volunteer at the station.

"Please keep this family in your prayers along with Mitchell's close brothers at the Spring Hill Fire Department and Williamson County Rescue Squad," the Maury County Fire Department said in a statement. "We have lost one of the 'good ones' who had us in tears from the jokes or stories he was always telling. We will truly miss you buddy."

The Williamson County Rescue Squad also issued a statement about Earwood's loss.

"Mitchell served the WCRS proudly as a Tech II and committed many hours as a professional volunteer firefighter with both Station 14 and 23," the statement said. "Mitchell was a dear friend and a true public servant giving his all. He will be sadly missed. Our prayers go out to all his family and friends as we stand with our brothers and sisters of the Spring Hill Fire Department."

Earwood is survived by his daughter Lyla, parents, step-parents, two sisters, three step-sisters, three step-brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews in addition to his family of emergency responders.

the interim fleet manager while the search for a new department head is conducted.

**C. Thomas Robinson**, executive director of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation (TAEDC), has been awarded re-certification by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Robinson first achieved the Certified Economic Developer (CEdD) designation in 1993 when he was working with the chamber of commerce for Lake Charles, La. CEdD recertification, required every three years, was awarded to Robinson who met demanding requirements for continuing education and service to the profession. Robinson has served as director of the Tullahoma organization since August 2013 and has 38 years of economic development experience.



C. Thomas Robinson

**Jeremy Shelton** has been officially sworn in as the new fire chief for the Newport Fire Department. Shelton's appointment to the po-

sition was affirmed at the city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting in March and he was officially sworn in on April 20. Shelton will be taking over the position from Chief Randy Ragan, who retired in April. Shelton began working for the Newport Fire Department as a firefighter in July 1998 before moving up to the position of engineering in August 2006. He was then again promoted to fire inspector in March 2008.



Jeremy Shelton

**Troy Whitworth** has been selected as the new police chief for the Sharon Police Department. Whitworth was selected to fill the position after the retirement of previous chief Ricky Cobb last month. Whitworth has more than 25 years experience in law enforcement, and most recently attained the rank of lieutenant.



Troy Whitworth

## Get **funding** to replace old diesel vehicles with cleaner, more cost-effective ones

Two diesel vehicle replacement funding opportunities will be available in the next six months, including funds from the VW Mitigation Trust. **Need Information? We can help.** We've helped fleets in Tennessee secure over \$5 million in grant funding since 2005.

Contact [funding@etcleanfuels.org](mailto:funding@etcleanfuels.org) or 865-974-3625 to learn more.



## STATE BRIEFS

Two Tennessee hospitals have been selected to participate in a national COVID-19 drug trial. Franklin-based Williamson Medical Center and Nashville's Vanderbilt University Medical Center will be among 40 facilities nationwide study to research the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine – a drug once used for malaria treatment – against COVID-19. A recent study by the U.S. Veterans' Administration of the drug showed it had no benefit to COVID-19 patients, but the national study is continuing to see if the drug has any effectiveness in preventing healthcare workers from COVID-19 or diseases like SARS. Presently, the drug is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Results from the tests may not be ready for six to 12 months.

The need for foster families in the state of Tennessee is on the increase, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic increases the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The state presently has around 8,000 children in the foster care system but there are less than 4,000 foster families in the state. Less than half of foster children can be placed with a relative with most having to live in group homes or stay with a foster parent. Tennessee's shortage reflects the national shortage as 25,000 children enter foster care across the U.S. every year, meaning a new child is placed into foster care approximately every two minutes in the U.S.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is announcing the availability of grant dollars to assist cities, schools, community organizations, civic groups, watershed organizations, and

conservation groups with stream clean-up projects and planting projects during the 2020-21 fiscal year. Five grants, at a maximum of \$1,000 each, are available for each of TWRA's four regional Aquatic Habitat Protection projects (a total of \$5,000 per region). The funds will be obligated as grants, so the grantee must have a nonprofit tax number. The application deadline for the program is June 30, 2020. The projects are to be completed, the money spent, and a report submitted by June 30, 2021. The grant money could be used to buy supplies such as rakes, work gloves, and garbage bags. Contact TWRA's Della Sawyers at (615) 781-6577 or by email at [della.sawyers@tn.gov](mailto:della.sawyers@tn.gov) with any questions.

Tennessee's unemployment claims were down the last week in April, though more than 474,000 new claims have been filed in the previous seven weeks. Data released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce reported that only 37,319 claims were filed the week ending in May 2, down from the previous week's amount of 43,792 claims. However, these numbers were both dramatically up from the week ending in March 14 when only 2,702 claims were made. Unemployment claims in the state peaked the week of April 4 with 116,141 new claims made statewide. As for the most recently reported claims, the Northern Middle Tennessee area, which includes Nashville, filed the most new claims during the week of May 2 followed by the Greater Memphis area and East Tennessee. These numbers do not include claims made at the state's mobile job centers.

## State parks to host virtual 5K for honey bee project

Tennesseans doing their part to stay apart – but also eager to keep moving – will be able to participate in a virtual 5K race this month organized by Tennessee State Parks to coincide with World Bee Day on May 20.

A virtual race is a race that can be run or walked from any location. Participants get to run their race at your own pace and time it themselves. Whether the course is a personal treadmill or a neighborhood sidewalk, participants of all skill levels who like to run, walk, or a combination of both, can register for the virtual race to be held May 17-23.

Registration fee is \$20, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Tennessee State Park Honey Project, which helps establish honeybee hives in state parks across the state.

The fee includes a finisher's medal and certificate, both of which will be sent to the participant by mail, and a virtual bib that will be emailed. Contestants may log time at any point during the week of the race. They are encouraged to complete their miles on May 20.

The race lasts a week to allow participants to choose any day or days during the week they would like. They have the entire week to input their time into It's Your Race at [itsyourrace.com](https://itsyourrace.com).

The race can be completed in whatever way is more enjoyable. For example:

- Run with your dog.
- Use a treadmill.
- Run the race in increments, a portion each day.
- Walk part of it. Run part of it.
- Run where you like, but it is recommended staying relatively close to home.
- It's up to you. If you want to run loops in your kitchen, that works.

The purpose of World Bee Day is to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem. Pollinator health is critical to Tennessee's agricultural, environmental and ecological health. The Tennessee State Parks Honey Project is in several state parks to promote pollinator and environmental health in the parks, provide an experiential learning opportunity for visitors, and to produce sweet treats for park guests. Tennessee State Parks sell the honey in state park gift shops and use the honey in state park restaurants.

To register for the virtual 5K race, visit <https://honeyproject-virtual5k.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=13476>. For more information on the Tennessee Honey Project, visit <https://tnstateparks.com/honey-project>

## UT Naifeh Center launches Leadership Development program for non-exempt staff

Beginning in July, the Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership will launch a new class in Knoxville for its Administrative Professional Academy (APA).

This leadership development opportunity is designed for administrative, non-exempt staff and creates opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves, develop and strengthen professional skills and networks, and enhance leadership knowledge and capacity.

This program is open to participants from all sectors, including local governments and non-profit groups and associations. Participants will meet quarterly for a full day of instruction and activities, and will also complete online instruction and project-based learn-

ing outside of the instructor-led sessions. During the 18-month program, participants explore topic areas such as self-awareness, leadership mindset, effective communication, and conflict management.

There is still time to join the upcoming 2020 APA class! Additional information about the program topics, meeting dates and costs can be accessed via <http://www.leadership.tennessee.edu/administrative-professionals-academy-apa/> or by contacting Will Porter at (615) 253-6386 or [william.porter@tennessee.edu](mailto:william.porter@tennessee.edu)



Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership  
INSTITUTE for PUBLIC SERVICE

## Nine TN landmarks added to National Register

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC), the state agency that is designated as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), recently announced the addition of nine properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

The new additions span 1,000 years of Tennessee history and include school buildings, a fire lookout tower, a water tower, houses, an archaeological site, and an update to a historic district.

The sites recently added to the National Register of Historic Places are:

**Crescent School - Greeneville**  
Constructed between 1923 and 1925, the Crescent School served elementary school students in Greeneville until it closed in 1981. Originally the school had seven classrooms, offices, and a large room on the main floor. Four classrooms and a basement space for kitchen and cafeteria were added in 1955, with another three classrooms added in 1961. After the school closed, a Save Crescent School movement led a former student to buy the property in 1999 and adapting the building for office use.

**Englewood Water Tower - Englewood**

The 144-foot Englewood Water Tower is an iconic feature of the community. When the Depression-era Public Works Administration program offered funding to build a public water system for the town, 97% of the community approved. The water tower was erected in 1937, using the most advanced design available, which combined an elliptical bottom with a conical top. The new system not only supplied the community, but it helped in reviving Englewood by bringing in new industry.

**Gladys "MaDear" Bennett House - Memphis**

The Gladys "MaDear" Bennett House was moved to this location in north Memphis circa 1955, the same year Gladys and Harvey Bennett purchased the house. The Bennetts were a family of successful African-American entrepreneurs. Gladys started "Gladys' School of Domestic Arts" in the 1940s and continued to run the school at this location. Her husband Harvey helped the business by bringing in a steam press from his company "Mack's Cleaners and Hatters." Gladys' sister Cora Crawford operated the "Subway Beauty Salon" in



The former Crescent Elementary School in Greeneville is one of nine properties across the state of Tennessee recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. The new additions range from a Native American mound site constructed 1,070 years ago to a fire tower built in 1970.

the house. The house is still owned by the family.

**Hincheyville Historic District - Franklin**

The Hincheyville Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1982 due to its importance as Franklin's first suburb and for the quality and variety of architecture in the district. The subdivision was platted in 1819 as a residential neighborhood adjacent to the city's commercial downtown. With the passage of 38 years since the listing, the city of Franklin was awarded a matching Historic Preservation Fund grant to update the nomination.

**Mound Bottom - Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area**

In 1971 the Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area was listed in the National Register for its statewide importance as a prehistoric Native American site. Managed as part of the Harpeth River State Park, the Mid-Cumberland Mississippian site consists of several earthen mounds, residential footprints, cemetery areas, a petroglyph site and secondary mounds. New research has revealed that Mound Bottom was one of the first mound centers in the Central Basin and that it was a political center of the region.

**Ripley Fire Lookout Tower - Ripley**

The Ripley Fire Lookout Tower is a circa 1970, 80-foot tall steel structure with a cab for observation of the surrounding area. It provided a panoramic view of the surroundings, allowing an operator in the cab to spot any fires. The state once

had 208 fire lookout towers.

**Sitka School - Milan**

The Sitka School was completed in 1942 for African-American students in the Milan area. Just as the Milan Army Ammunition Plant was being built, the African-American community, Gibson County School Board, and Public Works Administration worked to construct the two-room school building for grades 1 through 8. Prior to the Sitka School, African American students were taught at Moore's Chapel Church in Milan. Sitka School operated until 1966.

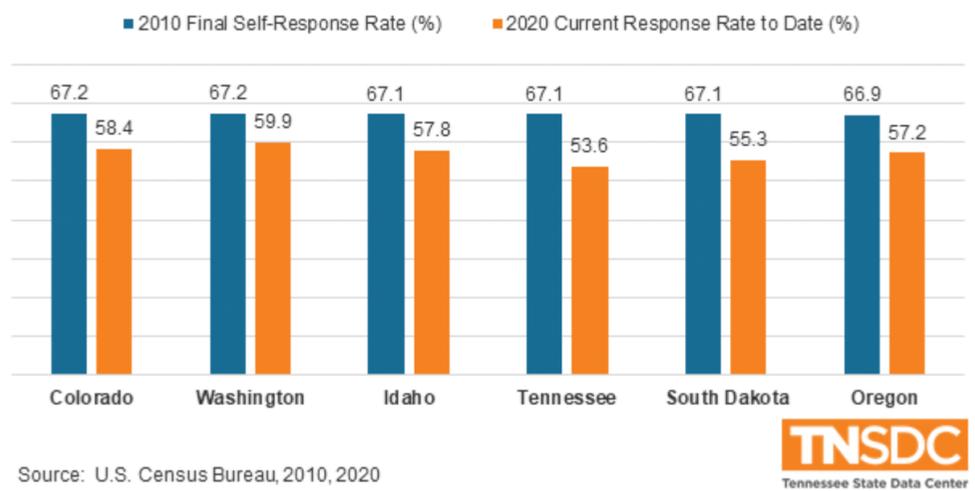
**Stanton School - Stanton**

The Stanton School was constructed in 1948 for African-American students in the rural community of Stanton. First through eighth grades were taught in the four-room school building until 1969, when schools were required to desegregate. The school building is owned and maintained by the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

**Webb Hotel - Warren County**

Built in 1909, the Webb family moved their hotel enterprise to Rock Island, shortly before there was a boom in tourism due to the construction of the Great Falls dam, and resulting lake, in 1915. Conveniently located close to the railroad station, the hotel was a prime location for vacationers getting off the train. In addition to offering rooms, the Webb family served meals to guests. The hotel was sold out of the Webb family in the 1930s and continued to operate as a boarding house and hotel until the mid-20th century.

### 2010 and 2020 Census Participation Rates



Peer states with similar 2010 response rates have out-paced Tennessee by 4% on average in 2020. The new online response option - which 79% of Tennessee households have used so far - will remain available through Oct. 31, 2020

## How is Tennessee doing with 2020 U.S. Census count amid COVID - 19?

**CENSUS from Page 1**

tool from CUNY Center for Urban Research. It excels at highlighting trends in more populous areas such as Memphis and Nashville. Using this site, we see evidence that response rates have flattened below 2010 levels in some of the lower-responding neighborhoods. Bill Greene, with the Census Bureau, provided the attached summary of county and municipal response rates.

**Census Operations**

The key update for this week is that the final 2020 Census reminders are hitting mailboxes this week:

- Between April 27 and May 9, households who haven't completed a Census questionnaire will receive a final postcard reminder.
- This last notice follows paper questionnaires that were mailed to non-responding households be-

tween April 8 - 30.

- "Back of the envelope math" shows 1.6 million of the state's 3 million residences would have received these paper forms.

The Bureau released an adjusted timeline for Census field operations impacted by COVID-19. A June 1 restart is targeted and some key tasks and milestones that will follow include:

- Update Leave (June 13 - July 9) - Questionnaires in Grundy County and Norris will be delivered
- Non Response Follow-up (Aug. 11 - Oct. 31) - Door to door follow-up to non-responding households
- Apportionment Counts - Delivered to the President by April 30, 2021
- Redistricting Counts - Delivered to states by July 31, 2021

**NOTE:** Tennessee's deadline for completing local redistricting is Jan. 1, 2022. Redistricting data is typically delivered by March 31. This four-month delay and the statutory requirements are worth noting.

**Other Resources**

Here are some additional products produced at the Boyd Center in support of the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic shocks:

- Tennessee Economic and Fiscal Indicators - Report highlighting the latest revenue, unemployment and UI claims data are being released as weekly and monthly indicators become available.
- Tennessee COVID-19 Dashboard - Daily updates from the Department of Health are being compiled into an interactive dashboard showing state- and county-level trends.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### CITY MANAGER

**OAK HILL.** The city of Oak Hill (Pop. 4,700) 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](http://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)

### COMMERCIAL PLANS REVIEWER

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a commercial plans reviewer in the codes department. The purpose of this position is to perform intermediate technical work in the review of plans for commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Essential duties and responsibilities include: Performs field inspections of commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, gas piping and electrical codes, and other ordinances. Conducts building and related inspections. Receives and investigates complaints regarding non-compliant construction and inspects existing buildings for hazardous conditions or systems failure. Must have state of Tennessee Certification as a Commercial Plans Reviewer and a valid driver's license. Interested candidates must apply online at [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov) to be considered for this open position. Full job description will be available online. Under the How Do I tab, click on Employment Opportunities. Once the Employment page pulls up, click the apply button and follow the instructions.

### ENGINEERING SPECIALIST

**SPRINGFIELD.** The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an engineering specialist with Springfield Water/WW Department from May 11-June 12, 2020. Essential responsibilities include performing professional and technical engineering work assisting in the design and maintenance of water distribution and treatment systems and wastewater collection and treatment systems. Graduation from a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering or engineering technology (ABET); some practical experience in public water and wastewater systems preferred; or any equivalent combination of education, experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Salary range is \$58,585 - \$80,608/YR. Applications may be submitted on-line at the following website: [www.springfield-tn.org](http://www.springfield-tn.org). City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, Tn 37172. EOE.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR.

**NOLENSVILLE.** 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](mailto:mluster@nolensvilletn.gov). Position is open until filled.

### PERMIT ASSOCIATE I CODES DEPARTMENT

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is accepting applications for a permit associate in the codes department. The purpose of this position is to assist the public and provide technical office support duties related to the processing and issuance of building permits. Essential duties and responsibilities include: reviews plot plans, plats, and permit documents for pertinent information in order to verify accuracy and completeness of information; determines permit, plan, and process requirements for prospective applicants; processes permit applications and plan intake; and determines processing needs for projects. Must have valid driver's license. Bachelor's degree in business or other professional related field. Must have a minimum of three years relevant experience in construction/inspections experience, preferably in an administrative role. Must have certification as a permit technician through a recognized certification organization within one year from date of hire. Knowledge of internal and external public agency permitting requirements. Knowledge of construction plans, construction terminology, construction practices, and basic math. Interested persons MUST apply online at [www.gallatintn.gov](http://www.gallatintn.gov) to be considered for this open position. Under the How Do I tab, click on Employment Opportunities. Once the Employment page pulls up, click the apply button and follow the instructions.

### PLANNING / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**ELIZABETHTON.** The city of Elizabethton is accepting applications for the director of planning and economic development. This position reports to the city manager and supervises the planning and building departments. This position is responsible for ensuring all planning & economic development functions are complete and goals are met by directing activities related to urban planning, zoning, building codes and community and economic development; recruits new retail businesses and revitalizes existing business corridors, manages, administers and coordinates grants obtained by the city and carries out other directions of the city manager. Minimum requirements: master's degree in urban planning, public administration, architecture, or a related field or be AICP certified; and a minimum of five years of progressively responsible planning

experience with at least three of those years being supervisory experience. Salary range: DOQ. Benefits: TCRS Retirement, Medical, Vision and Life Insurance. Apply at [elizabethton.org](http://elizabethton.org) - Job Openings. Applications accepted until the position is filled. 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/city-ofhenryjobapp.pdf>. EOE.

### 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 downloaded from the city website: [www.shelbyvilletn.org](http://www.shelbyvilletn.org). EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical, and drug screen.

### 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 plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Must hold a valid TN driver's license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOQ. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, [www.mtjuliet-tn.gov](http://www.mtjuliet-tn.gov). This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

### LICENSED WATER PLANT OPERATOR/DISTRIBUTION

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## Is your city IT network ready to support remote work? 4 questions to ask

IT from Page 1

- issues. For many organizations, this is the best choice.
- **Implement a remote access solution.** There is a multitude of solutions - ranging from software to allow remote control of an office PC to full-fledged remote access solutions.
  - **Work on personal computers.** While often a simple solution, it can raise significant security concerns and access issues. We'll cover more on both of those below.
  - **Issue spare laptops to take home.** It's unlikely this will work for your entire staff but can be part of a larger solution.
  - **Short term laptop rentals or leases.** This is the last resort, but if you rent from a reputable vendor it can be part of the solution.

### How will they do work?

Employees need access to the organization's data and applications. This means email, documents, files, and software to do the required daily tasks.

Ideally, you already have a cloud-based option like SharePoint, OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Docs. Without a cloud-based option, you'll need to explore other options.

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) can be used by smaller organizations, but a larger staff will likely experience bandwidth issues.

Remote access software like Splashtop, Zoho Assist, and others offer a compelling solution. It does raise a few cybersecurity questions, but with proper measures, this proves to be a strong option.

### How will they communicate?

Phones will need to be redirected or brought home. If you have a VoIP system, this should be a fairly easy task. Keep in mind you may need additional equipment like a power supply when bringing the phone home. However, you could also redirect incoming calls to a mobile phone or you may even have mobile applications employees may download on their smartphones.

You'll also want to ensure a communication and collaboration platform is available. Microsoft Teams is a strong all-in-one solution. Employees may store documents, chat with one another, host video calls, and more in this cloud-based solution.

Zoom and WebEx are also great options to help teams communicate and feel connected through video chats. WebEx even has a guide for employees new to remote working.

If you and your team need tips on communicating well while working from home, LinkedIn has 16 of its Remote Working training sessions free as a response to the Coronavirus crisis.

### What are the security risks?

There are new cybersecurity challenges that come along with working from home. Things to keep in mind:

1. Remote devices, such as home computers, are outside the organization's managed security boundary and don't always have the same protections.
2. Employees working from home computers need to make sure they have applied security updates and are working on supported, modern operating systems.
3. Home computers often lack quality antivirus software. Organizations should be prepared to provide antivirus software to employees if they expect them to use personal devices.
4. Home computers are often shared with others who may not follow safe computing practices.
5. Personal email is subject to phishing attacks and often doesn't have the same protections as enterprise email solutions.
6. A compromised home computer can be just as much of a threat to your data as a system sitting on the network.
7. Employees should be encouraged to make sure home WiFi, routers, and firewalls are running the latest updates.

That's a lot to consider on the security front. That's why it's helpful to have a solution that's thought out and planned for in advance.

### All-in-one Solution

The cloud shines in supporting business continuity. We have a solution many of our clients enjoy that leverages Citrix to provide cloud-hosted desktops. This enables employees to have the same desktop experience anywhere they have an Internet connection. Employees have the same level of secure access to applications, files, and data at home as they do at work.

Since the computer in this case just serves as a terminal, the computing happens inside the organization's security boundary. It dramatically reduces the security risk, improves access, and minimizes confusion.

A cloud-hosted desktop is not the only option for maintaining business continuity. If you'd like a true IT partner to help you understand your options, fill out the form below. We'll then set up an initial meeting to get the conversation started.

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## Saving Main Street:

# Why state and local governments are vital for its survival

BY ALISHA POWELL GILLIS  
*Senior Editor*  
*Route Fifty*

Main Street America is facing its toughest crisis ever as people stay at home to slow the spread of coronavirus. State and local governments need to step up to help businesses stay alive.

The storefront signs read, "Closed." Nobody is walking by on the sidewalks. And profits have plummeted or are nonexistent. This is the new norm for Main Street businesses in the era of Covid-19. Since the first stay-at-home orders went into effect, independent small businesses have borne the brunt of the economic hardship brought on by the pandemic.

The nearly 31 million small businesses in the U.S. are the backbone of the U.S. economy. They make up approximately 44% of economic activity, create almost two-thirds of new jobs and employ almost half of the U.S. workforce, according to the Small Business Administration.

Before Covid-19, small businesses in many places were experiencing a resurgence after decades of economic shifts like globalization, the rise of dominant online marketplaces and the 2008 recession reduced their economic contributions. For example, more women and people of color were starting their own businesses. And new state and local investments were being made in downtown revitalization projects, business improvement districts and resources for

new entrepreneurs.

Now, small businesses face an extraordinarily dismal economic outlook that threaten their survival. Kennedy Smith, a senior researcher for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) described the current situation as "an existential crisis" for Main Streets.

A recent survey from the National Main Street Center found that 3.5 million small businesses are in danger of closing within two months. If disruptions persist, 7.5 million businesses may permanently shutter within five months. Amanda Ballantyne, executive director for the Main Street Alliance, predicted during a Bloomberg Businessweek town hall that a wave of small business bankruptcies is on the horizon that will parallel unemployment numbers.

This would mirror our experiences with natural disasters, which are notoriously hard on small businesses. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that 40-60% of small businesses don't reopen after a disaster.

The significant hurdle for most small businesses is a lack of cash reserves. Although it varies by industry, ILSR estimates that the average small business has only enough money in reserve to stay afloat for 27 days. The Payroll Protection Program (PPP), established under the CARES Act was meant to provide loans to help businesses weather the crisis. But demand, unsurprisingly, outpaced supply, prompting the need for additional federal funding.

Yet, even with an additional \$310 billion recently funneled into the PPP, Sarah Crozier, a spokesperson for the Main Street Alliance, told *Route Fifty* that the available support will remain insufficient. Program design flaws that enabled larger companies to access capital more quickly than mom-and-pop stores, combined with the ambiguity of the loan's forgiveness terms, has fueled frustration and skepticism among the small business community, Crozier said.

Additionally, she said the PPP's loan restrictions make some small business owners hesitant to take on substantial debt when it may not guarantee their survival.

Although mass small business closures would devastate state and local government budgets, already facing major shortfalls, snapping back to "business as usual" is unrealistic. Even as some states begin to relax stay-at-home orders, decreased consumer spending power amid rising unemployment and low consumer confidence almost guarantees continued financial hardship until a vaccine or antiviral medication prove effective.

If small businesses are going to survive, cash alone won't be enough. Intensive, long-term assistance will be necessary to help businesses recover. That's where state and local governments come in.

Many state and local governments took immediate action to help small businesses in the early days of the pandemic. States like Washington and Oregon, as well as many localities, swept in to help

businesses by offering financial assistance, placing moratoriums on evictions and utility shut offs and enhancing eligibility for social safety net programs. Those early, swift measures will likely pay off, as Crozier said businesses in those jurisdictions seem better positioned to weather the current crisis.

State and local governments must continue providing proactive assistance to small businesses and should start shifting their focus to the long-term needs of small businesses, said Patrice Frey, president and CEO of the National Main Street Center. That means finding ways to support local economic development organizations like chambers of commerce, community foundations and Main Street programs that help revitalize downtowns and commercial districts.

Frey said that these organizations are instrumental in connecting small businesses to programs that offer financial aid and services that advocate for payment deferrals or waivers. Additionally, the groups offer a return on investment to the local economy. For example, in Washington state, Frey said that "for every \$1 it invests in a Main Street program, there is a \$13 return to the public coffer" in the form of taxes and fees.

Additionally, state and local governments can level the playing field for small businesses and prevent unfair competition. Smith with ILSR said that stay-at-home orders unintentionally created a loophole that allowed large chains that offer essential retail services like food, beverages and pharmacy products to continue in-store operations for non-essential goods like toys and electronics. In comparison, small businesses selling similar products were forced to close their physical spaces, creating an unfair advantage.

Places like Michigan, Vermont and some localities addressed this issue, but Smith pointed to it as an example of how state and local governments can leverage their positions to fix new and legacy issues exposed by the crisis related to the supply chain, access to capital for people of color and women and social program eligibility requirements.

Main Street isn't just an economic driver. It is a hallmark of American culture. The losses felt by mom-and-pop shops will not only weaken local economies but have the potential to damage the social fabric of the communities they reside in.

As Crozier said, "This is beyond just an economic tragedy. This is beyond a public health tragedy. This is a cultural tragedy."

State and local governments have a vested economic and social interest to keep Main Street up and running. They must act as its strongest ally and protect it from irreversible economic ruin.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**Two thirds of American adults have reported that the price of their prescription drugs has increased since 2017.** A special study conducted by Gallup and West Health to assess public opinion on healthcare in the U.S. found that 35% of U.S. adults felt their prescription costs had increased "a lot" while 31% reported their costs had "increased a little." Another 25% said they had seen no cost change to their prescription costs. The research also found that 23% of Americans said they had at least one instance in the past year when they didn't have enough money to pay for their prescriptions and 13% said they have had a friend or family member die in the past five years because they were unable to pay for medical treatment.

**The U.S. economy shrank by an annualized rate of 4.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020,** according to information recently released by the U.S. Commerce Department. The coronavirus pandemic forced

millions of Americans out of work and thousands of businesses to close their doors. As a result, the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) fell at a yearly rate of nearly 5% since the first quarter of 2019. The first quarter of 2020 is the first quarter of negative GDP growth for the country since the same period in 2014 and the worst quarter of GDP growth since 2009. Since mid-March, more than 26 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits which will likely see the national jobless rate increase from 3.5% in February to above 20% by the end of April.

**The U.S. lost 20.5 million jobs in April amid the coronavirus pandemic, causing the steepest increase in American unemployment and nearly wiping out a full decade of job gains.** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the national unemployment level increased from 4.4% in March to 14.7% in April, the largest ever increase recorded by the bureau. April also shattered records for the largest-one month decline in jobs – originally set in

September 1945 – and the highest level of recorded unemployment – set in November 1982. The amount of jobs lost are almost 2.5 times that of the peak of the Great Recession and closer to the 22.4 million jobs gained in the decade of recovery that followed. A study from the Economic Policy Institute estimated that as many as 12 million more people have not been successful at filing for unemployment benefits because of the huge backlog, and have therefore not been counted in the official tally. The Congressional Budget Office has predicted unemployment could peak at 16% during the first quarter and that average unemployment would remain above the Great Recession high of 10% through 2021. Other economists are predicting even higher numbers more in line with what was seen during the Great Depression. While more than 30 states have already begun to loosen economically restrictive social-distancing rules, economists warn that a solid recovery depends on a drastic increase in testing capacity and an effective treatment or vaccine for COVID-19.

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Community and Rural Development  
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Community Development

# Scott County leaders embark on water bottle filling station project to provide healthier alternative to students

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES  
jones-bridget consulting group

Scott County is situated atop the Cumberland Plateau in the western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The county is bordered by the Cumberland Mountains to the east and the rugged Big South Fork Recreation Area to its west. Scott County community leaders and residents take great pride in their schools, and Scott County economic development and school executives work closely together to ensure that all students are successful.

After a student was disciplined for carrying around and refilling a 2-liter soft drink bottle with water and realizing that the only alternative to sugary soft drinks that were purchased from vending machines was bottled water brought from home, Scott County Chamber and Industrial Development Board (IDB) leaders researched how they could provide a

healthy alternative for their students.

They determined that purchasing water bottle filling stations for each school throughout the county and the Boys and Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateau, as well as purchasing each student a reusable water bottle, was the solution.

In 2017, the Scott County IDB received approval for ThreeStar grant funding for the project with the goal to offer a free alternative to sugary sodas throughout the school day.

This strategy addressed health, economic development and workforce development pillars of the ThreeStar program. TNECD grant funds were initially intended to purchase 9 filling stations and reusable water bottles for all K-12 students.

Scott County IDB project leaders were the first in Tennessee to organize a project of this type and school and community leaders saw the benefit

and wanted to expand the impact. The Scott County Recycling and Litter Center provided funding to purchase every student a reusable water bottle, freeing up ThreeStar grant funding for the purchase of the additional water filling stations.

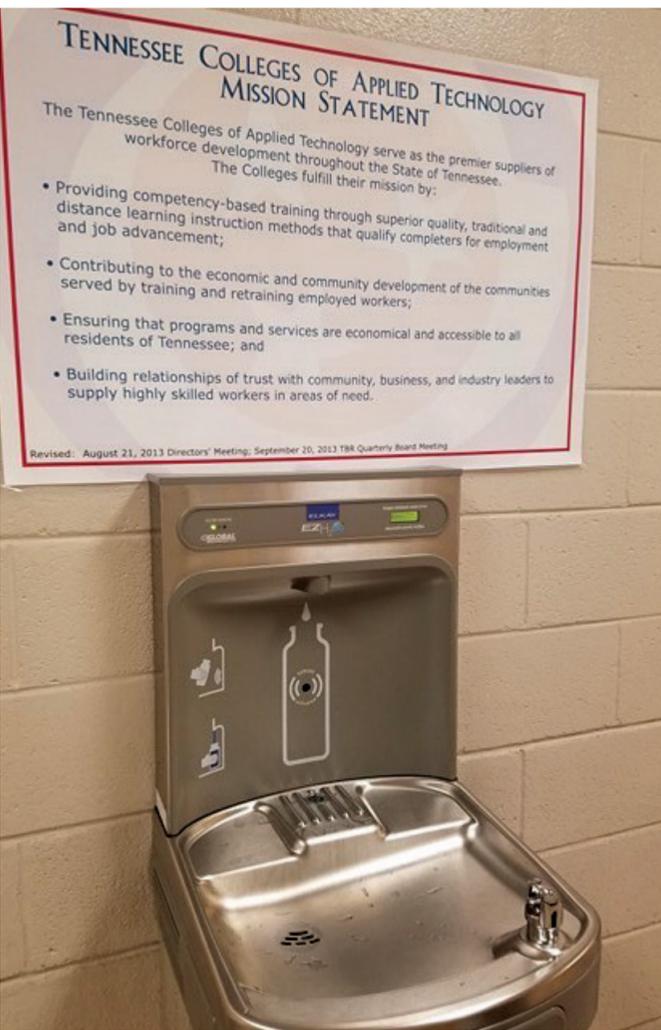
Several community partners including local industries, the county government and higher education providers stepped forward, and the purchase of additional water filling stations was made possible.

Through the ThreeStar grant and other community contributions, Scott County was able to purchase 23 water bottle filling stations to place in every school in the county along with the Boys & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateau, Roane State Community College, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology in Oneida and Huntsville, the Scott County Jail, and four of the county's largest industries.

Since September 2017, the majority of the county's workforce employed in manufacturing has been provided access to free water and at one school alone over 16,000 bottles of water have been filled through the stations.



A Scott County student uses one of the refillable water bottle stations now installed at schools across the entire county. Local leaders found that the water bottle stations were a healthier alternative to sugary drinks found in vending machines and encouraged students to utilize the stations by providing them with their own refillable water bottles.



The water bottle stations are also available at local community colleges, TCATS, the Boys and Girls Club, the county jail, and four of the county's largest industries, setting an example for all residents.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

Water bottle filling stations have become a must-have in public schools, but tight budgets prevent many school systems from being able to install them. The benefits of water filling stations include free and safe water for students whose parents cannot afford to supply them with bottled water on a daily basis, reducing sickness in schools from water fountain use, reducing the number of plastic bottles disposed of in landfills, and decreasing the consumption of sugary drinks.

First year program results include:

School Stations Installed	13
Higher Education Stations Installed	3
Community Facility Stations Installed	2
Industry Stations Installed	5
Student Water Bottles Purchased	4,500
School Students Served	4,200+
Community Facility Users Served	200 + plus daily traffic from justice center
Industry Employees Served	1,200+
Total Community Organizations Involved (schools, higher education centers, local governments, agencies, industries)	25

### PROGRAM FUNDING

TOTAL WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION PROJECT FUNDING	\$46,000
(Includes community and industry contributions, grants, in-kind funding)	
TNECD ThreeStar Grant	\$25,000 (water bottle filling stations)
Scott County Recycle/Litter Center Grant	\$4,000 (water bottles for every student)
Scott County Schools In-Kind Contribution	\$12,000 (installation and maintenance)
Scott County Industries Cash Contributions	\$5,000 (water bottle filling stations)

### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

- The Industrial Board of Scott County
  - Scott County Chamber of Commerce
  - Scott County Mayor's Office
  - Town of Huntsville
  - Town of Oneida
  - Town of Winfield
  - Scott County School System
  - Scott County Recycling/Litter Center
  - Scott County Justice Center
  - Takahata Precision America
  - Great Dane Trailers
  - Tennier Industries
  - Container Technologies Industries
  - JDS Technologies
  - United Cumberland Bank
  - Roane State Community College
  - Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Oneida
  - Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Huntsville
  - Healthier Tennessee
  - Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- For more project information visit the Scott County Chamber of Commerce.

### TNECD THREESTAR PROGRAM

The ThreeStar Program is designed to focus on the Governor's five pillars of Community Development: Jobs & Economic Development, Fiscal Strength & Efficient Government, Public Safety, Education & Workforce Development and Health & Welfare. ThreeStar grants help communities increase the impact of a successful project focused on the five pillars and are supported by the Governor's Rural Task Force and Tennessee Rural Economic Opportunity Act of 2016 and 2017.

For more information visit the TNECD Community and Rural Development.



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