

## From the Desk of the Executive Director



### Prayers and hopes for the future are with the people affected by Hurricane Helene

I considered a number of topics to address in this month's column until the catastrophic flooding occurred throughout East Tennessee. On behalf of the board and staff of our organization, our hearts, prayers and hopes for the future are with the people affected by Hurricane Helene.

Growing up in West Tennessee, I have seen widespread flooding. I grew up with it. I even witnessed the aftermath of 14 inches of rain in one night, as well as the 2010 Nashville Flood. But nothing could come close to what our friends and neighbors throughout the East Tennessee and North Carolina mountain region have experienced, nor the hardships

they will face in the months ahead.

As recovery begins, I am confident America will see the very best of our towns, cities and counties, and the people that call them home. Our first responders and emergency managers will continue to tirelessly serve in the weeks and months ahead. Our elected leaders and their employees will ensure the character and heart of what makes their communities unique and special will be ever present as they rebuild and recover. And as we have seen before, the generosity of Tennesseans will flow to help people and communities they will never meet or visit. We at TML will help keep you informed about recovery and ways you can help.

### Sportswriter Jenkins details life lessons from top athletes



Sportswriter Sally Jenkins addresses TML's 84th Annual Conference in Knoxville.

By KATE COIL

From the gridiron to the balance beam to the tennis court, the way superstar athletes prepare for peak performance can be adapted by others to achieve success.

Sally Jenkins presently writes for *The Washington Post* and previously worked for *Sports Illustration*, winning the Associated Press Sports Columnist of the Year award five times and becoming the first woman inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame.

Her new book, *The Right Call*, explores how the skills these athletes use to stay at the top of their game can be applied to achieve success in work and life. Jenkins discussed these lessons and her experiences in the sports world at TML's 84th Annual Conference in Knoxville.

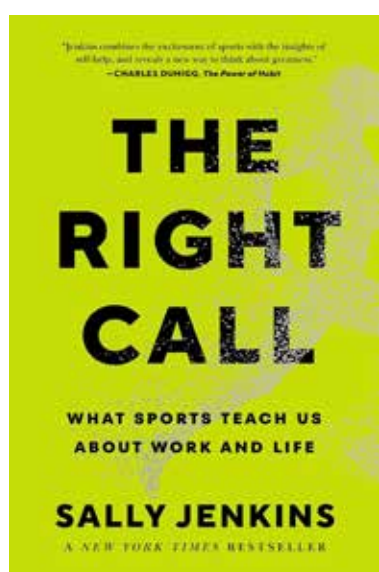
#### DECISION-MAKING

Jenkins said a lot of what athletes do can be related back to working in municipal government.

"Thinking about what you all do for a living, the constituencies

you have to manage, the people you have to answer to, the organizations that you coordinate with, the pressured situations that you can encounter, I wanted to think about what people like Peyton Manning and Pat Summitt have to offer to you," Jenkins said. "When I interviewed this cross-section of people for this book, I really wanted to get at what they had to offer me and you. What lessons can we apply?"

See **JENKINS** on Page 5



## Northeast TN flooding leaves 11 dead, more than 20 missing



Austin Simpson of the Bristol Fire Department, Unicoi County EMA Director Jimmy Erwin, Erwin Police Officer Josh Ollis, and Erwin Police Officer Chad Nelson work as water rises at the Unicoi Hospital. More than 50 people had to be rescued from the hospital's roof.

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

Eleven people are confirmed dead and more than 20 are missing following flooding caused by the landfall of Hurricane Helene in East Tennessee.

Of the 11 deaths, four deaths were confirmed in Unicoi, two in Cocke County, two in Washington County, one in Greene County, one in Johnson County, and one in Knox County. Authorities have also reported some 23 people - down from a height of 153 - unaccounted for or missing people with 337 calls launched to a TBI hotline seeking information on missing people.

The state initially reported 62 missing people in Washington County, four in Johnson County, 47 in Unicoi County, and 40 in other surrounding counties. Authorities believed many of these individuals were safe, but unable to presently identify due to outages.

"Authorities continue their ef-

forts to locate the following number of people," TBI said. "With limited cell service and infrastructure challenges in the impacted areas, authorities believe many of these individuals are safe, but unable to presently identify themselves as such."

Nationwide, 215 deaths have been reported with North Carolina accounting for more than half of storm-related deaths. Helene's swath of destruction brought historic rainfall, flooding, power outages and 140-mile-an-hour winds across the Southeast. This makes Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the U.S. mainland since Hurricane Katrina.

TML President and Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown expressed concern for those Tennessee municipalities affected and encouraged city leaders to show support in the wake of the tragedy.

"So much loss it's inconceivable," Brown said. "Our neighbors will need our help for a long time. I pray for those who are trapped, who are hurt, who have lost loved ones - and that the support they need is available as soon

as possible. I can't imagine what so many are suffering right now."

Mutual aid has been dispatched from municipalities across the state to help communities in Northeast Tennessee, including crews from Columbia, Cookeville, Dayton, Fayetteville, Gallatin, Knoxville, Lawrenceburg, Loretto, Morristown, Mt. Pleasant, Sevierville, Spring Hill, and more. Approximately 15 swiftwater rescue teams from across the state were mobilized, and many communities from across the state held donation drives and delivered much needed supplies to the impacted area.

Impacted counties do not have the capability to receive material donations or volunteers that have not been requested by state or local authorities, so state officials have requested that donations be made to the [East Tennessee Foundation](#). For more information on how to help, visit [Volunteer Tennessee](#). The town of Erwin has also started a [GoFundMe](#). See **FLOODING** on Page 6

## Talkin' Trash: Disposing solid waste a growing, statewide issue

By KATE COIL

With an increasing population generating more trash and more than a dozen of the state's landfills set to close their doors in the next decade, solid waste officials are hoping to energize the conversation about waste disposal in Tennessee.

A panel discussion on how cities can help shape the future of solid waste in Tennessee, titled "Talkin' Trash - Landfills: Running Out of Space," was held at TML's 84th Annual Conference in Knoxville to discuss solid waste solutions.

#### CAPACITY IN CRISIS

Jeremy Hooper, environmental consultant with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Solid Waste Division, said many of the landfills in Middle Tennessee are expected to close within the next decade.

"We've had a lot of discussion about capacity concerns, and what is going to happen when they (landfills) close down," Hooper said. "In order to increase capacity - you have to be able to expand. There have been attempts to obtain expansions permits but have been denied at the local level. Overall, the state of Tennessee has a lot of capacity, but that capacity is dwindling in Middle Tennessee. There are concerns [those landfills] will not be able to expand to address that. The concern then becomes what happens to that waste? If those landfills close down, that waste is still being generated and still has to go somewhere. Then the problem cascades out to East and West Tennessee."

If Middle Tennessee communities send their waste to other parts of the state, Hooper said not only will the fees those communities have to pay to dispose of their waste increase but also the capacity of those other landfills will decrease.



The last Class I landfill in Middle Tennessee, Middle Point Landfill in Rutherford County is expected to close within the next five years. The landfill has been seeking an expansion since 2011 that would allow it to accept more waste, but has been denied. When the landfill closes, many cities in Middle Tennessee will have to rethink where they send their waste.

This puts the state a path of having an increasing amount of waste with nowhere to put it.

Mike Classen, general manager of Middle Point Landfill, said the situation is known in the waste industry as a "disposal capacity crisis." On average, he said it can take four to five years to get a landfill expanded from the engineering and environmental studies needed to approval, which is further complicated by the fact that many residents and communities don't want landfills near them or don't even want to bring up such a controversial topic.

"What happens is as the disposal sites closer to population centers get full, you have to move farther and farther out at greater and greater cost and risk to your citizens," Classen said. "There is difficulty getting landfills expanded and permitted, because of

a regulatory or State Code issue. There are a couple of competing parts of state statute that effectively give local communities veto power to prevent landfills in their jurisdiction or from expanding."

Michael Skipper, executive director of the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), said at present 91% of Middle Tennessee's solid waste is disposed of in Middle Tennessee, but with large landfills like Middle Point set to close without expansion, Middle Tennessee communities may have to search elsewhere for disposal sites.

"In the decade between 2010 and 2020, we added 32,000 new Middle Tennesseans to our population," Skipper said. "Between now and 2045, we will see a pop- See **TRASH** on Page 3



### Save the Dates

Jan. 14, 2025  
12 noon

114th TN General Assembly Convenes

March 3-4, 2025

TML Legislative Conference  
Nashville DoubleTree by Hilton

August 3-5, 2025

TML 85th Annual Conference  
Chattanooga Convention Center

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BROWNSVILLE and SHELBYVILLE

The cities of Brownsville and Shelbyville have each been awarded one of 25 T-Mobile Hometown Grants, receiving \$50,000 each to kickstart local development projects. Brownsville will use their funding to create Downtown Art in The Alley, a collection of outdoor public art murals highlighting the musical and cultural heritage of the area. Shelbyville's funding will be used to renovate an unused town square courtyard into a vibrant space for recreational activities to foster local connections, support small businesses, create a family-friendly environment and enhance community well-being and engagement. To select Hometown Grant recipients, T-Mobile partners with Main Street America to oversee the grant program and assess applications based on their level of detail, community impact, feasibility, and other considerations. Learn more about the [T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program here](#).

## CLARKSVILLE

The city of Clarksville has secured \$8,052,318 the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) from the Safe Streets and Roads For All program. The funds will be used to improve Kraft Street, Riverside Drive, New Providence Boulevard, and Fort Campbell Boulevard with a combined total project cost of \$10,065,398 with the city providing a 20% match. The safety improvements funded through the grant will directly address pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the targeted areas, generated in part, as USDOT noted, by the presence of Fort Campbell and Austin Peay State University. The city has experienced a high number of fatal and serious-injury crashes in these specific areas of the city, caused by high vehicle speeds and lack of safe pedestrian facilities. The project includes intersection improvements, sidewalk installation, traffic signalization, and pedestrian facilities. These counter-measures will increase pedestrian safety and create safer access points. The project area is entirely within an underserved community.

## COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has been certified as a pet-friendly city through the Better Cities For Pets™ program by Mars Petcare. This recognition highlights Columbia's dedication to creating a welcoming environment where pets are not only cherished but also thrive as valued members of the community. The Better Cities For Pets™ certification program, launched in 2019, is part of Mars Petcare's initiative to help cities become more pet-friendly. The city of Columbia worked with the Maury County Animal Services to achieve the certification.

## COLLIERVILLE

The town of Collierville has received two honors from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The town was recognized for the 33rd consecutive year for earning excellence in financial reporting and for the 27th year, earning the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This long-standing achievement demonstrates Collierville's ongoing commitment to transparency and excellence in fiscal responsibility. The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded for the town's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), meeting the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the town's financial story. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, achieved by consistently following GFOA's best practices, reflects the town's dedication to detailed, comprehensive budgeting that enables citizens to understand the finances of their local government.

## KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville has received \$1.7 million to pilot a Safe Routes to School program as part of more than \$1 billion in grants through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The funding, awarded through Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, will incentivize parents to lead bike trains and ex-

pand the existing walking school bus program; test signalized crosswalks near a new Head Start facility and elementary school; and pilot intersection improvements at a high-incident intersection near a school bus stop by improving site lines, pedestrian crossings, and vehicle speeds.

## KNOXVILLE

Knoxville's Finance Department has continued its record-setting streak of recognition by its North American peers with not one but two prestigious awards. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has honored the city's finance department with its 38th annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and its 36th consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Excellence in Financial Reporting certificate is considered "the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting," according to GFOA. Meanwhile, the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award recognizes that the city effectively and openly presents its budget, designing it as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a means of communication.

## MEMPHIS

The city of Memphis has received \$13.1 million as part of more than \$1 billion in grants through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Act for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. Memphis will use the funds to make significant improvements on a high-injury corridor at a six-way intersection, one of the most dangerous in the city. This complex intersection at Lamar Avenue, Kimball Avenue, and Pendleton Street has a confusing array of signals, fading and disjointed pedestrian connectivity, and little guidance on appropriate movements.

## MEMPHIS

Memphis' Tom Lee Park has won two international awards for innovation and sustainability. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) awarded the park with a Professional Award just as the park received a prestigious SITES certification for sustainability. The honors highlight how the park has made Memphis a leader in innovative and sustainable urban design. A recent redesign of the riverfront park – named for an African American river worker who saved 35 people from drowning in 1925 despite being unable to swim – includes sprawling green spaces, unique play areas, and cultural installations as well as reduces water demand, filters stormwater runoff, and improves air quality.

## TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Area Economic Development Council received

## Three cities share in \$48.6M in state clean water loans

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Local Development Authority have approved four loans for water infrastructure totaling \$48.6 million for three municipalities.

The city of Springfield has been awarded two loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. One is for \$37 million, another for \$10 million, both going toward a new wastewater treatment plant. The \$10-million loan comes with \$5 million in principal forgiveness. Each has a 20-year term at 2.49% interest.

The Erwin Utilities Authority received a \$1.35 million loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program. It will address waterline extensions. The loan has a 20-year term at 1.24 percent interest. The Erwin Utilities Authority received \$677,000

## Spring Hill receives bench donation



The city of Spring Hill has accepted the donation of a new bench from Girl Scout Troop 3142. The bench is made from completely recycled plastic and was constructed from bottle caps collected by the Girl Scouts. Once a concrete pad is poured, the bench will be placed in front of Casey's Castle Memorial Butterfly Garden in Evans Park.

## East Ridge Animal Shelter Ribbon Cutting



Officials with the city of East Ridge cut the ribbon on a new, \$2.9 million animal shelter, replacing a previous, aging facility. Construction started on the 4,850-square-foot shelter in December 2023 with the new facility able to accommodate twice as many animals as the previous one. The new kennels provide access to outdoor runs and have self-watering features. Other new amenities include two large play areas, isolation room, exam room, grooming room, laundry room, and food preparation room. The new shelter in East Ridge is the only no-kill shelter in Hamilton County.

the 2024 Excellence in Economic Development Bronze Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The award was bestowed specifically for the organization's work in the Innovation in Economic Development Week category that impacted 25,000 residents. Every year IEDC looks specifically for economic development organizations, government entities, initiatives, and programs that have demonstrated consistent, exemplary performance in the economic development profession, leading the execution of projects that have a significant impact on revitalizing communities, and playing a major role in shaping and improving the practice of economic development.

## Piperton celebrates offices relocation to founder's home



Piperton Mayor Henry Coats, left, receives a state seal from State Rep. Ron Gant, right, to hang in the new Piperton City Administration building as part of an open house event at the historic Piper Home. The residence of Piperton's namesake, Sam Piper, the Piper House was built in 1877 and was purchased by the city – along with 32.3 acres of land – in 2020. The city has renovated the back section of the historic home to house its administration department, preserving the front part of the home as a historic site and developing 20 acres of the surrounding property into a municipal park. The property around the house connects with the city's public works building and the property will allow expansion for a new city hall and other development.

# WAUFORD

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

# Fire Prevention: Stayinformed, stay prepared, and prioritize fire safety

By STEVEN CROSS  
MTAS Fire Management Consultant

Tennessee has a mix of rural areas, forests, and urban centers, which makes us no stranger to all sorts of fire hazards.

Whether it's the wildfires in the mountains of East Tennessee or home fires in neighborhoods anywhere in the state, fire prevention is a critical issue that requires awareness and preparation. Understanding the fundamental causes of fires and adopting preventive measures can help protect homes, communities, and the natural environment.

Home fires, often occurring while we are asleep, pose one of our most significant personal safety risks. In fact, in 2022, 81.4% of fire-related deaths in Tennessee took place in residential fires, resulting in the tragic loss of 71 lives. This stark statistic highlights the urgency of addressing fire risks within homes.

In fulfilling the University of Tennessee's land-grant university research mission, the University of Tennessee Knoxville, its Institute for Public Service's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office collaborated to conduct a scholarly research project to study residential fire mortality in Tennessee.

The study evaluated a ten-year period of fire data from the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System, revealing many expected demographic details, such as age, race, gender, county, fire origin, and cause.

However, one striking finding was that no Tennessean died in a home fire where the home was equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

This is exciting news. This one piece of information can be equated to a medical research scientist finding the cure for a terminal disease that kills close to 100 Tennessee residents or visitors annually.

Our study identified the cure for the problem of fire mortality in

home fires: residential automatic fire sprinkler systems. We continue to allow this condition to kill our residents and visitors year after year.

As a decision-maker or a resident of Tennessee, you are now informed of the cure for residential fire mortality and can make decisions as an informed decision-maker.

Modern fire codes that are adopted include automatic fire sprinkler installation requirements in residential homes. However, Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-120-101(a)(8) prohibits the State Fire Marshal from requiring them.

Local elected officials can create a tremendous legacy by passing local legislation by a 2/3rds majority to add residential fire sprinkler provisions to their locally adopted fire codes.

This legislative action is not a quick fix. It does not stop fire mortality quickly but works over time as our population and rooftops expand across our state.

Even if our home has an automatic fire sprinkler system, we must be prepared for a fire emergency. Educate municipal staff and residents about fire safety prevention and preparation to make your community safer.

## Residential Fire Safety

Residential fires remain one of the leading causes of property damage and loss of life. Electrical malfunctions, cooking mishaps, heating equipment, and smoking cause most home fires in Tennessee. Here's how to safeguard your home:

### Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year (unless equipped with a 10-year battery). Tennessee law requires smoke alarms in rental properties, so landlords should ensure their properties comply.

### Electrical Safety

Avoid overloading electrical

outlets or using damaged extension cords, which are common fire hazards. Hire a professional to inspect your electrical systems regularly, especially in older homes where outdated wiring may increase the fire risk.

### Heating Equipment

Keep combustible materials at least three feet away from space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves. Install carbon monoxide detectors to detect this colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that radiates from faulty heating equipment.

### Cooking Safety

Stay in the kitchen when cooking with oil or high heat. Use a fire extinguisher or cover the flames with a lid if a fire occurs—never use water on a grease fire.

Keep oven mitts, towels, and other combustible materials away from the stovetop.

### Fire Extinguishers

Every home or office should have access to at least one ABC fire extinguisher, especially in the kitchen and near the garage. Ensure everyone in the household or office knows how to use it by following the PASS method: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep.

### Community Involvement

Fire prevention is most effective when communities raise awareness and create safer environments.

In the event of a fire, time is our worst enemy. Having a practiced emergency plan saves time and can save lives. Follow these tips:

1. Create an evacuation plan for your family or colleagues, including multiple exit routes from each room of your home or office and a designated meeting place outside.
2. Once outside, go to your meeting place; never re-enter a burning structure.
3. Ensure everyone knows how to call 911 and can provide important information like the



- address.
4. Practice fire drills at least twice yearly; young children, elderly family members, or transient workers may become disoriented in the smoke.

In conclusion, fire prevention in Tennessee requires cooperation from individuals, families, communities, and government agencies.

By taking proactive steps—cre-

ating a fire safety culture, whether by maintaining fire-safe homes and offices—Tennesseans can reduce the likelihood of fires and protect lives and property. Stay informed, stay prepared, and prioritize fire safety in your daily life.

For assistance, please feel free to reach out to MTAS Fire Management Consultant Steven Cross at 931.981.3593 or [Steven.Cross@tennesse.edu](mailto:Steven.Cross@tennesse.edu).

## Disposing solid waste a growing, statewide issue



From left to right, TDEC Solid Waste Environmental Consultant Jeremy Hooper, Sevier Solid Waste Executive Director Tom Leonard, Greater Nashville Regional Council Executive Director Michael Skipper, Waste Management Government and Community Affairs Manager Andy Reynolds, Middle Point Landfill General Manager Mike Classen, and TDEC Deputy Director of External Affairs John LeCroy participate in a discussion on the future of solid waste in the state at TML's 84th Annual Conference in Knoxville.

### TRASH, from Page 1

ulation increase of about 37% with a 41% projected increase in municipal solid waste. The population accelerating is putting pressure on us, but there are other problems. One is that we are generating, on average, 20% more waste than the average American, roughly an extra pound per person per day in Middle Tennessee."

### DIVERSION TACTICS

Skipper said another problem is that Tennessee is not recycling enough, which could divert some space from landfills. Classen agreed, saying alternate technologies other than landfills need to be considered, such as recycling and composting that diverts high-value material on the front end rather than wasting landfill space.

Classen said Tennessee was recently ranked the third worst state for recycling and that perhaps a shift needs to happen in making recycling less of a partisan issue and more about responsible infrastructure use.

"It's easy to say you want to divert more, but you have to have a place to take the material," he said. "Recycling is also a commodities market. You have to have a market to sell that material to. You must have trucks and drivers willing to transport that material. One of the things state legislators have been responsive to is incentivizing that infrastructure, such as creating grant programs for trucks and recycling containers. Smaller com-

munities are not going to be able to profit from recycling otherwise."

Environmental regulations, legal challenges, and politics have also driven landfills from being smaller and publicly owned into larger, privately-owned facilities. Andy Reynolds, government and community affairs manager for Waste Management, said the negative environmental impacts landfills had prior to the environmental regulations in the 1970s as well as solid waste issues across the state in the 1990s have also created an image issue.

"The waste industry has come a long way in the last 30 years in terms of technology and environmental stewardship, but I think there is a disconnect between public perception between what landfills used to be, what they are currently, and what the future is and needs to be," Reynolds said. "When we go to a solid waste board and ask for an expansion, all the media coverage and the community response is based on what an old facility expansion would have looked like from the 1990s. Communities have a visible dump ingrained in their memory, and you have to overcome the perception of historic facilities no longer in use and practices no longer in play."

Reynolds said the waste industry is seen as a "necessary evil," and that communities often vote to not expand a landfill but then have no alternative in place for what to do with waste.

"We have to do a better job of

educating and communicating this is what waste disposal actually looks like," he said. "We have to look at what has worked in other regions, what hasn't worked, and what maybe worked in another region but why it may not work as well in Tennessee as a whole."

### REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Classen said many communities don't think about how their own decisions around solid waste can affect other cities.

"Waste is a regional problem that requires a regional solution," he said. "If your community thinks 'I can't take care of my own. I have to find somewhere else to put it,' you are putting that waste on another community, and usually paying for that privilege. We must look at this zooming out rather than every community vying for themselves."

On the other hand, Skipper said it can be hard to get one community to accept waste from another.

"It's hard to get a community to accept a solid waste facility when it seems like it's happening out of nowhere," Skipper said. "With any type of development that is controversial, you need to get ahead of it, think about what type of land is suitable for what type of facility, and have local governments come in to make sure the proper policies are in place. There needs to be broader conversation about what facilities we need and what type of land is suitable for these facilities."

## TML, TMBF visit Middle TN cities



TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes and Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund President and CEO Wade Morrell made visits to cities in Middle Tennessee. Pictured above are Haynes, LaVergne Vice Mayor Steve Noe, Morrell, and LaVergne Mayor Jason Cole.



Haynes with Smyrna Interim City Manager and City Attorney Jeff Peach, and Morrell.



Haynes with Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore and Morrell. They also visited city staff members in Nolensville and Murfreesboro.



# PEOPLE

**Allison Baker**, city recorder for the city of Goodlettsville, has been selected as the Municipal Clerk/Recorder of the Year for 2024 by the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders (TAMCAR). Baker has 14 years of experience in public service, beginning with the city of White House in 2010. She moved to Goodlettsville in 2012 and was named city recorder in 2014. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and is currently completing the University of Tennessee's Certified Public Manager program. She has held a certification as a certified municipal clerk/recorder since 2017.



Allison Baker

**John Chambers** has been selected as the chief of police for the city of Chattanooga. Chambers most recently served as the assistant chief of the department. Chambers has been with the Chattanooga Police Department since May 1999 where he has served as a lieutenant, captain, and major. He began his career in law enforcement with the Red Bank Police Department in 1997 as an officer. Chambers holds a bachelor's degree in emergency services management from Bethel University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



John Chambers

**Benji Davis** has been selected as the new gas director for the city of Springfield. He has been in the utility sector since 1996 and worked with Piedmont Natural Gas in Charlotte, N.C. beginning 2001 before moving to Nashville to oversee construction of Piedmont's new offices there. He holds a degree from Western Carolina University and his commitment to excellence and innovative approach to managing gas operations will support the city's ongoing efforts to enhance its utility services.



Benji Davis

**Darrell Duncan** has been appointed vice mayor of Kingsport by his fellow members of the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Elections were held in August for the board in which Paul Montgomery was elected the city's new mayor. Duncan also serves as the District 1 Director on the board of directors of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML), a position he has held since 2021. Duncan has been serving on the Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen since 2020. He also works as a licensed realtor and is retired from Eastman Chemical Company.



Darrell Duncan

**Larry Henderson** has retired after 44 years of service to the city of Gatlinburg. Henderson most recently spent 10 years as public works director for the city, overseeing its building maintenance, mass transit, parking, street, sanitation, and utilities departments. He began his career with the city



Larry Henderson

as a building inspector in 1980, rising through the ranks to work as a building official, contracts and grants administrator, street and sanitation supervisor, and public services manager. Under his leadership, Gatlinburg had welcomed numerous building projects, countless infrastructure improvements, and efforts to modernize the city's equipment and facilities.

**Bennie Jennings** has been selected as chief of police for the Fayetteville Police Department. A native of Fayetteville, Jennings law enforcement career first began with the department 27 years ago. He then worked with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, which he retired from at the end of September. In addition to his work in law enforcement, Jennings was a standout football player at Lincoln County High School before becoming a tight end for the University of North Alabama. He was named to the First All-Conference Team for three years and a Division II All-American his senior year. After graduating from UNA with a marketing degree, he became a free agent with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Bennie Jennings

**Charles "Eddy" Patterson**, former mayor and judge for the city of Hendersonville, died Sept. 1, 2024, at the age of 81. Patterson served 24 years as mayor of Hendersonville from 1984 to 2008, as well as 12 years as Hendersonville's city judge. He also served 10 years as a county commissioner and two years as a county judge. A U.S. Navy veteran, Patterson did carpenter work and started his own construction company.



Eddy Patterson

**Ron Shultis**, former policy and research director for the Beacon Center of Tennessee, has been selected as the new chief of staff for Jackson Mayor Scott Conger. Prior to spending seven years with the Beacon Center, Shultis worked for several years as a corporate immigration paralegal for Zulkie Partners LLC, in Chicago and as a legislative aide for the House Majority Whip of the Georgia General Assembly. Shultis holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and modern languages from Georgia Tech.



Ron Shultis

**Ray Smith**, former mayor of Camden, died Sept. 7, 2024, at the age of 95 at his home in Huntingdon. Smith served as mayor of Camden from 1967 to 1979. A well-known local car dealer, Smith served as president of the Tennessee Automobile Association, chairman of the Huntingdon Bankcorp, chairman of the West Tennessee Public Utility District, and numerous other organizations. He was also actively involved with the University of Tennessee, serving as past chair of the UT Martin Development Committee, a former member of the UT Development Council and received the UT Martin Chancellor's Award for University Service.



Ray Smith

## Happy 75th Anniversary to MTAS!



The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) was established by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1949 specifically to provide technical consulting services to cities and towns in Tennessee. In what would create a unique and effective partnership that would stand the test of time, the Tennessee Municipal League introduced legislation that created this progressive concept of an agency to provide technical advice and assistance to municipalities in Tennessee. The agency continues to thrive 75 years later. City and state leaders, MTAS customers and friends recently gathered in Knoxville to celebrate this momentous milestone. From left to right: TML Executive Director Anthony Haynes, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund President and CEO Wade Morrell, Farragut Mayor and TML Immediate Past President Ron Williams, UT President Randy Boyd, UT Institute of Public Service Vice President Dr. Herb Byrd, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, UT MTAS Executive Director Margaret Norris, Public Entity Partners President and CEO Michael Fann, and Gallatin Mayor and TML President Paige Brown.

**Tracey Thurman** has been selected as the first director of the waste services department for the city of Nashville. The new department will oversee the city's trash and recycling operations. Thurman comes to Nashville from more than a decade as the director of solid waste for Lexington, Ky. Thurman has also served in other government roles including as deputy commissioner for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet; deputy commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Labor; mayor pro tem of Frankfort, Ky.; and as a communications assistant in the Kentucky governor's office. Thurman has also served four terms on the US Conference of Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Association. She holds a bachelor's degree from Belmont University.



Tracey Thurman

**Gary Waldroup** has retired after 46 years of service to the Gatlinburg Police Department, most recently serving as assistant chief. Waldroup began his career in law enforcement with the Sevier County Sheriff's Office in September 1977 before joining the Gatlinburg Police Department as a patrol officer in November 1977. He then rose through the ranks as a sergeant and captain before being selected as assistant chief in 2004. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Walters State Community College and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Gary Waldroup

**Tyler Williams** has been recently selected as the new CMFO and town recorder for the town of Mount Carmel. Williams had been serving as the city recorder for the town of Unicoi beginning in April. Prior to that, he worked as a private banker at First Horizon Bank. Williams has a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman University and a law degree from the University of Tennessee.



Tyler Williams

**Emily Wood** has been selected as the new assistant city administrator for Morristown. Wood has more than 10 years' experience in municipal government, most recently serving as the town administrator for Mount Carmel. Prior to that, she served as a transit planner, city recorder, and certified municipal finance officer (CMFO) for Johnson City. She holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



Emily Wood

## Former TN Gov Dunn dies at 97

Former Tennessee Gov. Winfield Dunn died peacefully at his home with his family by his side on Sept. 28, 2024, at the age of 97. Dunn served as governor of Tennessee from 1971 to 1975. Prior to his election, Dunn had never held public office, and was the first Republican governor the state had elected in 50 years.



Former Gov. Winfield Dunn

Born in Meridian, Miss., on July 1, 1927, Dunn enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II and subsequently served as a reserve lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

After the war, Dunn graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1950 and married his wife, Betty that same year. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee Medical Units, and after earning his D.D.S. Dunn practiced dentistry in Shelby County.

He ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the Tennessee House in 1962 but was elected as the chairman of the Shelby County Republican Party, and attended the first of many Republican National Conventions as a delegate.

During his tenure as Governor, Dunn created a statewide kindergarten program, established public parks, prioritized highway construction, and created the Department of Economic and Community Development.

As the Tennessee Constitution prevented governors from holding a second term at the time, Dunn returned to the private sector in 1975, working for the Hospital Corporation of America and at several Memphis-based healthcare companies.

Dunn also served as chairman of both the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee State Board of Regents in addition to roles with various charities.

Gov. Bill Lee said Dunn's life was marked by profound faith,

a deep love for his family and friends, and unwavering service to the people of Tennessee.

"Gov. Winfield Dunn was, simply put, a genuine statesman," said Gov. Bill Lee. "He was a true servant of the people of Tennessee. He led with principled integrity, a strong faith, and a gracious love for others. Our state is a better place because of his service and leadership. Maria and I join all Tennesseans in honoring Gov. Dunn's life, and we pray for Betty and the Dunn family in the days ahead."

U.S. Rep. David Kustoff also honored Dunn's legacy.

"Roberta and I are saddened to hear about the passing of Gov. Winfield Dunn," Kustoff said. "He was a favorite son of West Tennessee who, through his service, inspired so many people all across the state of Tennessee. We are especially thinking about Betty, his favorite first lady and best girl, whom you rarely saw without him, and whose life exemplified a life well-lived. I was honored to travel, campaign, and work with Gov. Dunn on many occasions, and I always came away understanding that public service done right has the ability to change the lives of so many people."

Dunn is survived by his wife, Betty, and their three children, Chuck, Gayle and Julie.

## Former U.S. Sen., Chinese Ambassador Jim Sasser dies

Jim Sasser, three-term U.S. senator from Tennessee and former ambassador to China, died Sept. 10, 2024, at the age of 87.

Sasser died at his home in Chapel Hill, N.C., days before what would have been his 88th birthday, according to his family.

Born in Memphis, Sasser served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves from 1957 to 1961 while earning both his undergraduate degree and law degree from Vanderbilt University. He was admitted to the Tennessee State Bar in 1961.

Sasser's political work began in his early 20s as regional youth director for the late U.S. Sen. Estes Kefauver's 1960 campaign. He later managed Al Gore Sr.'s unsuccessful 1970 reelection bid in Middle Tennessee, later saying through the experience he was "bitten by the political bug." In 1973, he served as chairman of the Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee.

He then was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1976, serving until 1995. During his senate career, he served as chair of the Senate Budget Committee and was instrumental in



Jim Sasser

reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Sasser was then appointed as U.S. ambassador to China by then-President Bill Clinton, a position he held from 1996 to 1999. After his retirement, he served as a consultant to several international companies including FedEx and APCO. Most recently, he served on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's advisory board of the Honors Burch Field Research Seminar in Domestic and International Affairs and was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, among other roles.



**24/7/365 Commercial Services**

- Property management
- Healthcare facilities
- Hospitality facilities
- Food service facilities
- Education facilities
- Retail facilities

Fire | Water | Mold | Storm Disaster | Biohazard | Cleaning Services

**1-800-SERVPRO**  
servpro.com

Ready for whatever happens.®  
Franchises are independently owned and operated

# Sportswriter Jenkins details life lessons learned from top athletes

## JENKINS, from Page 1

Jenkins said sports stars often make many micro-decisions under pressure. She said Simone Biles decided to withdraw from the Tokyo Olympics due to “the twisties” because it could have impaired her decisions in the air, potentially leading to life-threatening consequences.

“Judgments under duress tend to come in the face of multiple stimulus,” Jenkins said. “A lot of times when you’re making decisions, I bet you have a lot of things coming at you all at once. You are trying to sort through them and prioritize them. Pat Summitt told me once, ‘Everyone who walks in my office is walking in with a problem. They’re not walking in there to tell me I did a great job. They are walking in there with something for me to solve, so you better like solving problems if you want to sit in that chair.’ What I have learned is that the people who end up making critical decisions on a consistent basis, follow several key principles that help them make more sound decision making under pressure.

## CONDITIONING

The brain will rob muscles of the energy to function, and Jenkins said a Cambridge University study showed how champion rowers performed poorly at physical tasks when their brains were engaged in cognitive tests.

“What goes into your brain and your body comes out in your performance,” Jenkins said. “I don’t care if you’re performing on the balance beam or sitting at a conference table, what you put into your body will come out.”

World champion chess players can burn up to 6,000 calories during a match from mental focus alone, the equivalent of running for an hour-and-a-half on a treadmill. Jenkins said scientists fit chess players with FitBits and heart monitors to see their physical reactions during the game.

“You see guys sitting there perfectly still over a chessboard and their heart rate is going at a 130 beats per minute,” she said. “That is part of what pressure does to us. One of the ways to cope with pressure is conditioning. Caitlin Clark shoots 300 shots a day, and about 2,000 shots a week...It is one of the biggest misapprehensions of the people I cover that they are born possessed of some ungodly or freakish gifts. *Scientific American* at one point tried to measure Michael Phelps’ anatomy to see if he had some freakish quirk in his body, but it turned out he’s regularly proportioned for a guy who is six-foot-four. One of the scientists said it can’t be that he works his guts out right?”

Jenkins said Phelps swam five miles daily to win a world-record number of Olympic medals, even



Legendary Lady Vols Coach Pat Summitt cuts down the nets following one of her championship wins. Jenkins noted that Summitt is more remembered for the eight championships she won than the 30 years her team fell short, showing that persistence and resilience against failure puts top performers apart from others.



Peyton Manning prepares to throw during the rainy 2007 Super Bowl in Miami. Despite the Indianapolis Colts' home stadium having a dome, the team spent the year practicing once a week in wet conditions. When a rare rainstorm hit the day of the Super Bowl in Miami - where there wasn't a roofed stadium - the Colts had an advantage over the Chicago Bears, winning the game 29-17.

on holidays and his birthday. As a result, he was in the physical and mental shape he needed to cope with Olympic pressure. When it came time for the most difficult of his races, Jenkins said Phelps’ conditioning allowed him to make last-minute decisions that didn’t compromise his physical performance and helped him win the race.

“Pressure is real; it’s not a state of mind,” Jenkins said. “We tend to think of pressure as a state that is imposed on us or that we impose on ourselves. It’s not. It’s a real physical barrier... When you feel stress, the fight or flight response kicks in. Your body doesn’t know why you’re stressed. Your body is reacting in a very primal way.”

Under pressure, the human body reacts by shunting blood from small to large muscle groups, which can cause the loss of fine motor control and tunnel vision.

Athletes often make themselves purposefully uncomfortable to train their bodies to cope with pressure.

## PRACTICE AND DISCIPLINE

Jenkins said “deliberate practice” is different than conditioning because it is more about making small refinements to weaknesses rather than acclimating the body to pressure.

“Deliberate practice was defined by Erik Erikson, who was trying to answer the question how many hours of practice does it take to become world-class in something,” she said. “That is where you have heard the statistic it takes 10,000 hours of something to be great at something. It’s an interesting statistic, but it’s actually misused. What Erikson was talking about was 10,000 hours of deliberate practice under the eyes of a trainer, coach, or boss correcting minute weaknesses and

unconscious incompetencies. Studies have shown even people who consider themselves experts can be ignorant of their deficiencies in about 20% of areas that are critical to areas of their performance.”

Jenkins said deficiencies can even lead experts to make a series of small mistakes that negatively affect their performance. She said Peyton Manning is an example of how to overcome deficiencies through deliberate practice.

During the first three years of his NFL career, Manning led the NFL in interceptions. He began his deliberate practice by watching tape of every interception he had ever thrown and then tapes of all the throws that could have been an interception but weren’t to see what had happened differently.

Manning and his coaches found that under pressure, his footwork went off and it was costing him accuracy and decision-making ability. He then deliberately began practice drills where his feet were put off balance so he could train his body to respond.

Jenkins said the Colts would practice in wet conditions once a week to prepare for games in adverse weather, leading to the Colts winning the 2007 Super Bowl in rainy Miami. Jenkins said mimicking the conditions in which the performance will take place can mitigate the impact of pressure.

## CULTURE AND CANDOR

Jenkins said athletes known for performing solo are still members of a team of coaches and trainers, and all teams require a positive culture to thrive.

“Culture is a misunderstood word,” she said. “No strategic decision-making, no matter how smart you are, can work in a culture that is dysfunctional for the simple reason that culture is environment. If your environment is full of clutter, junk, or unhappiness, it can sabotage a really big decision. The *Harvard Business Review* reported as much as 50% of the competitive difference between companies in the same industry is attributed to culture.”

If a leader is mistrusted by those below them, the decisions made by that leader will also be mistrusted. She said success often comes from having trust in the lower ranks with disillusionment spreading as quickly as optimism.

“One of the distinctions I noticed in Peyton Manning, Pat Summitt, and other great ones in a room is that they never present a problem without also presenting a solution,” she said. “Pat would run tape of the Lady Vols making mistakes, but then would run a second tape of them doing it right. They always walked out of the room feeling uplifted. It’s incredibly simple, but a powerful distinction. So many leaders present the problem without adding the solution at the end of the sentence.”

## RESILIENCE AND INTENTION

While failure is inevitable, Jenkins said it is an essential part of the formula to success. She said Summitt is often remembered for her eight championships, not the 30 other years she didn’t win.

“The portion of success is really low for these people,” she said. “Winning is not what they do best; responding to losing is what they do best. Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic over the course of their careers have only one 54% of the points they ever played. The only thing that differentiates them – the all-time No. 1’s - from the middle-of-the-pack guys is a 3-4% difference. That difference is the way they respond to losing a point and come back to play the next once. Pat told me one time a lot of people are afraid to succeed, to go all-in, and say that’s all I can do.”

Jenkins said those who keep at it often succeed

“We all face failure daily,” she said. “We have more than failure; we face uncertainty. We face all these novel problems different from the day before, but we show up. We are showing that flexibility these great athletes show. Showing up is a decision in itself. The more explicitly we can spell out these choices, the less likely we will be bowled by events.”

# No loan is too large or too small



The City of Madisonville recently closed a \$700,500 note issued to finance the purchase of a new fire truck. The city has used the TMBF loan programs seven times since 1999. Seated L to R are: City Recorder Sherri McCrary and Mayor Scott Hunt. Standing is Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.



The Town of Tiptonville has used the TMBF loan programs three times since 1998. The most recent was for a \$1,000,000 fixed rate loan through the Clarks-ville Public Building Authority to renovate the Reelfoot Lake Armory Building to use as a community center for the town. A portion of the funds will also be used to renovate the town’s baseball complex. Seated L to R are: City Recorder Fran Hearn and Mayor Cliff Berry. Standing is Justin Hanson, TMBF Marketing Representative.



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

# Northeast TN flooding leaves 11 dead, more than 20 missing

**FLOODING**, from Page 1  
[Me](#) for local residents.

Gov. Bill Lee declared a state of emergency with the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) authorizing Public Assistance emergency protective measures including direct federal assistance at 75 percent federal funding as well as limited to direct federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support for Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Johnson, and Unicoi counties.

Additionally, more than 50 people had to be evacuated from the roof of Unicoi County Hospital in Erwin after flood waters inundated the facility. The Cocke County Jail in Newport along with downtown Newport itself were also evacuated following the failure of the Waterville Dam, also known as Walters Dam. A near breach of the Nolichucky Dam was also feared, but the water crested without issue.

An estimated 6 to 10 inches of rain fell in the region on Friday alone with 2 to 4 inches coming from storms that continued throughout the weekend. A peak of approximately 60,000 power outages were reported as a result of the storm.

TEMA has also confirmed 1,600 structures and homes were impacted by the storm with 120 entirely destroyed and 313 majorly damaged.

The wastewater treatment facilities in Newport, Erwin, Mountain

City, and Hamblen County's Lowland Wastewater Treatment Plant were all impacted as were the water departments in Newport, Mountain City, Erwin, South Elizabethton, Mosheim, Jonesborough, and facilities across Carter, Greene, and Johnson counties.

Many roads and bridges were damaged or left in serious condition from the storms, including a portion of Interstate 40 that was washed out 3.5 miles from the North Carolina border, prompting closure of the interstate. Interstate 26 was also closed in Unicoi County due to flooding. Access was also impossible or limited to both local and major roadways, including Highway 81 in Erwin.

A total of 27 state roadway sections and 14 state bridges were closed while five state bridges were destroyed. The Tennessee Department of Transportation dispatched more than 400 employees, including crews from the West Tennessee area, to East Tennessee to aid in ongoing inspections, repairs, and recovery as waters recede.

Four state parks have also been closed until further notice: Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton, Roan Mountain State Park in Roan Mountain, Rocky Fork State Park in Flag Pond, and David Crockett Birthplace State Park in Limestone.

For more information and resources, visit the [TEMA website](#).



Rescue workers ontop of the Unicoi County Hospital in Erwin where more than 50 people were stranded.



Floodwaters crest in downtown Mountain City near the local utility departments headquarters



A TEMA crew works with the National Guard to prepare a supply drop for areas only accessible via helicopter.



A portion of Interstate 40 is washed away about 3.5 miles from the North Carolina border. The interstate is closed from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park well into the state of North Carolina as a result of flood damage.



Rescue crews from Columbia, Lawrenceburg, Loretto, Mt. Pleasant, and Spring Hill as well as departments in Maury and Lawrence counties prepare to depart to deliver mutual aid.



Above: Downtown Newport following the breaching of the Walters Dam.

Left: East Tennessee residents are rescued via helicopter by the National Guard.



Gallatin Fire Chief Jeff Beaman and Captain Charlie Johnson deliver aid in Carter County.



Crews with the South Elizabethton Utility District work to repair a water pipe damaged in flooding.

## STATE BRIEFS



The National Park Service generated \$2.2 billion and 10.5 million across its [13 properties in Tennessee](#) last year with Tennessee seeing the sixth-highest amount of tax benefit from the National Park Service. Visitors spent some \$1.4 billion in the state and generated more than 20,000 jobs, leading to a total of \$2.2 billion in economic benefit. Visitors spent \$26.4 billion in communities across the U.S. in 2023, according to [additional reporting](#) from the National Park Service. That spending supported more than 415,000 jobs, with the lodging sector seeing the highest direct effect, followed by the restaurant sector.

**Sites in Brownsville and Dickson have been certified through the Select Tennessee Certified Sites program.** The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) announced Brownsville's I-40 Advantage Industrial Park and Dickson's Canterbury Site have both completed the certification process. The sites join 77 other sites certified through the program to date. The Select Tennessee certification process ensures that each certified site meets high quality standards and are primed for development. Qualifications for certification include having at least 20 acres of developable land for industrial operations, documented environmental conditions and geotechnical analysis, existing onsite utilities or a formal plan to extend utilities to the site, and truck-quality road access.

**Tennessee's August unemployment rate ticked up slightly after three months of record-low unemployment.** August recorded a 3.1% rate, up from the rate of 3% posted in May, June, and July. In a year-to-year comparison, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.3% to 3.1%. Between July

## State August revenues \$1.3M over estimates

Tennessee revenues were very near budgeted estimates for the first month of the state's fiscal year.

August revenues were \$1.548 billion, which is \$1.3 million more than the monthly estimate and \$36.3 million more than August 2023. The total growth rate for the month was 2.40%.

"August revenues performed as expected and were in line with forecasted estimates for the month," Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Jim Bryson said. "Sales tax receipts, reflecting sales tax activity from the month of July, indicates resilient consumer activity while corporate taxes were lower as a result of recent legislation reducing franchise tax liability. All other taxes were greater than the budgeted estimates for the month.

"We are cautiously optimistic at the start of the new fiscal year, and we will continue to carefully monitor economic activity and consumer demand to ensure we meet our monthly budgeted estimates."

On an accrual basis, August is the first month in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were \$6.5 million less than the August estimate, while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$7.8 million more than the estimates. Individual tax performance

and August 2024, total nonfarm employment across the state decreased by 1,400 jobs. The largest decrease was in the mining, logging, and construction sector, followed by the trade, transportation, and utilities sector and the leisure and hospitality sector. Despite the increase in the unemployment rate over the last month, Tennessee's rate is still well below the national rate of 4.2%. The U.S. rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.3% in July.

**The U.S. Department of Education recognized six Tennessee schools as 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools.** Awardees included the Brentwood's Jordan Elementary School, Clarksville's Spanish Immersion at Barksdale Elementary, Hendersonville's Merrol Hyde Magnet School, Kingsport's Miller Perry Elementary, Nashville's Early College High School, and Oak Ridge's Glenwood Elementary School. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools from across the country on an annual basis. To learn more about the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, click [here](#).

**The Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System wrapped up the 2024 fiscal year with a 10.06% investment return, well exceeding the plan's 6.75% assumed rate of return.** The annual earnings represent over \$6.2 billion in new investment income added to the portfolio in a single year. The TCRS portfolio value stood at \$69.4 billion, as of June 30, 2024. TCRS paid \$3.28 billion in benefits in FY24 to 161,993 retirees across the state, 92% of whom remain in Tennessee. The retirement benefits paid by TCRS have an economic impact in all 95 counties. Last year, Tennessee was ranked the No. 1 lowest total unfunded pension liabilities per capita in a 2023 report by the Center for State Fiscal Reform, part of the American Legislative Exchange Council.

against monthly budgeted estimates:

- Sales Taxes: Above estimate by 0.27% or \$3.3 million.
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Below estimate by 32.54% or -\$19.3 million.
- Fuel Taxes: Above estimate by 1.95% or \$2.1 million.
- All other Taxes: Above estimate by 9.60% or \$15.2 million.

Individual tax performance compared to this same time last year:

- Sales Taxes: Up 3.19% or \$37.8 million.
- Corporate Taxes (Franchise & Excise): Down 22.67% or -\$11.8 million.
- Fuel Taxes: Up 1.38% or \$1.5 million.
- All other Taxes: Up 5.33% or \$8.8 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2024-2025 are based upon the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation from Nov. 29, 2023, and adopted by the second session of the 113th General Assembly in April 2024.

Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2024 session of the General Assembly. All monthly estimates are available on the state's website at [here](#).

## Five cities awarded share in \$2.6M in Recreational Trails Program grants

Five municipalities will share in more than \$2.6 million in grants from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

The RTP program provides federal funding to match local government investments for land acquisition for trails, non-routine trail maintenance, trail construction, trail rehabilitation, and trail head support facilities.

**Crossville** received \$392,000 to improvements to Meadow Park Lake, Soldier's Beach Trail, the North Trail, and a new trail. **Hendersonville** received \$392,000 to develop a pump track, a paved track with hills and berms for cycling, will be installed with ADA sidewalk and ADA parking. **Jackson** received \$392,000

for a phased boardwalk replacement project at Cypress Grove Nature Park. **Jonesborough** received \$392,000 to develop a trail with two pedestrian bridges that will connect Mill Spring Park to Stage Road Park. The bridges will provide access over Little Limestone Creek. **Oliver Springs** will receive \$60,400 for improvements to Arrowhead Park.

Other awardees include \$196,975 for the Foster Falls Stewardship Initiative in Marion County, \$392,000 for trail development by the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority, and \$392,000 to Grainger County for the development of an ADA compliant trail.

For more information about the RTP program and how to apply, [visit this link](#).

## Secretary of State's office encourages participation in Honor Vote program

On a clear, peaceful, September morning 23 years ago, our world and our lives as we knew them changed forever in only moments.

Terrorists struck our country at home on American soil, claiming 2,977 innocent lives in New York City, Washington DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Rising from the ashes of burnt and collapsed buildings and the immense grief that still feels all too familiar to many, Americans united and rallied around victims, their families, and our military members.

Reflecting on some of the darkest days in our history is a reminder every year that we must never forget the overwhelming sense of pride we felt in our service members. Once again, they answered the call, protecting us from evil and defending our nation's founding principles.

These courageous patriots — including 28,000 Tennesseans — went overseas, putting themselves in harm's way, thousands of miles from their homes and their loved ones during the War on Terror. We will always be grateful for their selfless service, and this fall, we have two opportunities to continue expressing our gratitude by honoring them.

The first is for registered voters to cast a ballot during early voting



## TENNESSEE HONOR VOTE PROGRAM

Dedicate your vote to those who are serving or have served in the U.S. Military.



Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

or on Election Day. Before heading to polling locations to participate in the Nov. 5 State and Federal Election, voters should also sign up for the Secretary of State's Honor Vote program. Honor Vote provides an opportunity to dedicate a vote in honor of those who have fought and continue fighting for our rights — including our right to vote.

Registered Tennessee voters can sign up for Honor Vote through our [website](#), and they will receive an official button to wear to polling locations when casting a ballot. When Tennesseans vote, they can dedicate their vote in honor of a service member or veteran of their choice.

Participants are also encouraged to share their vote dedication on individual social media platforms using #GoVoteTN. This small gesture can have a big impact on a service member or veteran in your life.

There is no more patriotic way to thank those who have sacrificed so much to preserve our freedoms

and rights than exercising your right to vote.

Before you vote, remember to sign up for the Secretary of State's Honor Vote program — a great way to ensure we never forget those who served in the aftermath of September 11 and during our 248 years in existence as the greatest nation our world has ever seen.

## State housing report shows progress, challenges

With continued rising home prices and an emerging trend of fewer closings in some areas of the state during the second quarter of the year, Tennessee's housing market presents mixed signals heading into the fall, according to the latest statewide report from Middle Tennessee State University.

"The housing market across Tennessee presents a complex and evolving landscape marked by regional disparities and mixed signals, said Murat Arik, director of the MTSU Business and Economic Research Center in the Jones College of Business and author of its statewide report for the second quarter of 2024.

"While the state exhibits stronger house price growth than the national average — with a 5.6% annual increase — dynamics vary significantly among its metropolitan areas."

As an example, Arik cited rising inventory levels across key Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or MSAs, such as Nashville and Memphis, "suggesting a cooling in some markets," while Knoxville sees strong growth in both closings and available inventory.

Mortgage delinquency rates are climbing statewide and nationally, although foreclosure rates remain stable, "indicating financial strains that have yet to translate into significant foreclosures," Arik noted.

Other report highlights include:

- Permits mixed: There was a quarterly decline in single-family permits across all regions of

the state, with single-family permits decreasing by 3% statewide; but single-family permits showed year-over-year growth across all regions, with a 1.4% increase statewide.

- Multifamily permits saw a significant quarterly increase of 25.6% statewide but was down 12.7% annually to indicate "a more challenging picture" in that sector.
- Strong price growth: Several MSAs exhibit robust home price increases, the report shows, with the Jackson MSA (5.5% quarterly and 12.7% annually) and Kingsport-Bristol (6% quarterly and 13.4% annually) showing the highest growth rates. The Johnson City (5.2% quarterly and 9.7% annually) and Clarksville (2.3% quarterly and 9.4% annually) also

demonstrate significant gains.

Overall, Arik noted that Tennessee's housing market "shows a mix of growth, stability, and caution.

The state's housing outlook is cautious optimism, grounded in a diverse and dynamic market."

BERC's report is funded by Tennessee Housing Development Agency, or THDA. The quarterly report offers an overview of the state's economy as it relates to the housing market and includes data on employment, housing construction, rental vacancy rates, real estate transactions and mortgages, home sales and prices, delinquencies and foreclosures.

For the full report and highlights, [click here](#).

2nd QUARTER 2024



TENNESSEE DASHBOARD 2ND QUARTER 2024 (percent change over the year)			
Weekly Unemployment Claims	▲ +21.56	Total Home Permits*	▼ -3.98
Total Nonfarm Employment*	▲ +0.46	Mortgage Tax Collections	▲ +6.88
Unemployment Rate (percentage points)*	▼ -0.23	Real Estate Transfer Tax Collections	▲ +12.03
Homeowner Vacancy Rate (percentage points)	▲ +0.40	Home Prices*	▲ +5.60
Rental Vacancy Rate (percentage points)	▼ -0.60	Mortgages Past Due (percentage points)	▲ +0.59
Single-Family Home Permits*	▲ +1.38	Foreclosure Rate (percentage points)	◻ +0.00

\*seasonally adjusted

▲ positive outcome for economy ▼ negative outcome for economy



### Tennessee Municipal League 2023-2024 Officers and Directors

#### PRESIDENT

**Paige Brown**  
Mayor, Gallatin  
**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
**Julian McTizic**  
Mayor, Bolivar  
**Kevin Brooks**  
Mayor, Cleveland

**DIRECTORS**  
**Gary Chesney**  
City Mayor, Morristown (District 2)  
**Stefanie Dalton**  
Vice Mayor, Red Bank (District 3)  
**Johnny Dodd**  
Councilman, Jackson  
**Darrell Duncan**  
Vice Mayor, Kingsport (District 1)  
**Roland Dykes**  
Mayor, Newport  
**Tim Ellis**  
City Manager, Goodlettsville  
**Bethany Huffman**  
Alderwoman, Millington (District 8)  
**Tim Kelly**  
Mayor, Chattanooga  
**Indya Kincannon**  
Mayor, Knoxville  
**Keith Morrison**  
City Administrator, Algood (District 4)  
**Freddie O'Connell**  
Mayor, Metro Nashville  
**Jessica Salamina**  
Vice Mayor, Nolensville (District 6)  
**Joe Pitts**  
Mayor, Clarksville  
**Blake Walley**  
City Manager, Savannah (District 7)  
**Ann Schneider Williams**  
Mayor, Springfield (District 5)  
**Ron Williams**  
Mayor, Farragut  
**Paul Young**  
Mayor, Memphis

**AFFILIATE DIRECTOR**  
**Kay Senter**, City Council, Morristown (TMBF)  
**David Smoak**, City Manager, Farragut (TCMA)

**TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**  
TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports  
TN Building Officials Assn.  
TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police  
TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders  
TN Government Finance Officers Assn.  
TN Fire Chiefs Assn.  
TN Fire Safety Inspectors  
TN Assn. of Floodplain Management  
TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.  
TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.  
TN Municipal Judges Conference  
TN Chapter, American Public Works  
TN Recreation and Parks Assn.  
TN Chapter, American Planning  
TN Personnel Management Assn.  
TN Assn. of Public Purchasing  
TN Section, Institute of Transport  
TN Public Transportation Assoc.  
Assoc. Independent & Municipal Schools  
TN Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council  
TN Urban Forestry Council  
TN Stormwater Assn

**TML SPONSORS**  
**FEATURE LEVEL**  
GovDeals  
SERVPRO  
Rackley Roofing  
**DIAMOND LEVEL**  
PATH  
Voya Financial Advisors  
**PLATINUM LEVEL**  
Keep TN Beautiful  
RSA Advisors  
TN Electric Cooperative Association  
Verizon  
**GOLD LEVEL**  
Asa Engineering  
AT&T  
C-Spire  
First Horizon Bank  
J.R. Wauford & Co.  
Strongside Solutions  
**SILVER LEVEL**  
Alexander Thompson Arnold  
AARP  
Apptegy  
Bank of New York Mellon, Co.  
BCA Environmental Consultants  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative  
CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen) LLP  
Collier Engineering  
Cunningham Recreation  
Davenport & Associates  
Energy Systems Group  
Environmental Products Group  
Fortiline Waterworks  
Holiday Designs  
Local Government Corp.  
Mark III Employee Benefits  
Mattern & Craig, Inc.  
OpenGov  
Pavement Restorations, Inc.  
Performance Services  
Recreational Concepts  
Rehrig Pacific  
Sherill Morgan  
Siemens  
Simmons Wealth Management  
Southeast Cement Promotion Assoc  
Tennessee Development District Assoc  
The Jefferson Health Plan  
Thompson & Litton  
Trane Commercial Systems  
TriGreen Equipment  
Veregy  
Waste Connections of TN  
Waste Management  
**BRONZE LEVEL**  
A2H, Inc.  
Deckard Technologies  
Employee Benefit Specialists  
Flock Safety  
Gallagher Benefits Service  
Smith Seckman Reid  
TLM Associates, Inc.

**TML SPONSORED PROGRAMS**  
Public Entity Partners  
Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund  
**TML PARTNERED PROGRAMS**  
American Fidelity  
Everywhere.care  
GovCard  
Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc.  
Reach Alert  
TN Drug Card  
VC3

**TML STAFF**  
Anthony Haynes, Executive Director  
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director  
Mark Barrett, Sr. Director Corporate Support & Member Services  
Kate Coil, Asst. Communications Director & Asst. Editor, *Tennessee Town & City*  
Jackie Gupton, Executive Assistant  
Carole Graves, Sr. Communications Director  
Sylvia Harris, Sr. Conference Planning Director  
John Holloway, Government Relations Director  
Debbie Kluth, Director Corporate Sponsorships & Conference Expo

## State Opioid Abatement Council opens second round of community grants

Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) released its second Announcement of Funding for Community Grants.

This offering will add \$20 million dollars for approved opioid remediation activities to the tens of millions of dollars that are already flowing to provide services across the state.

The funding available through this grant application process comes from hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds from lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies negotiated by the Tennessee Attorney General's Office.

According to legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly, these proceeds are first split with 15% going to the state and 15% going to county governments and 70% going to the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund.

The dollars in the trust fund are split again with 35% going directly to the counties for approved opioid abatement activ-

ities and 65% going to the Opioid Abatement Council for community grant applications.

This last, largest percentage is made available through a competitive grant application process.

The Announcement of Funding outlines the process for application including criteria for constructing grant applications, designing programs, building partnerships, and reporting outcomes.

Proposers must design programs that impact opioid use disorder their communities using methods contained in the [approved remediation list](#) including: Primary Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery Support, Education/Training, or Research/Evaluation of Abatement Strategy Efficacy.

This second funding opportunity follows more than \$78 million in community grants awarded by the council earlier this year. Most contracts for those grants are in place, and initial funds have been issued to pay for services.

The council has also made two rounds of payments from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund to county gov-

ernments in 2023 and 2024 totaling \$62 million to fund their approved remediation activities.

"Tennessee's Opioid Abatement Council continues to deliver much needed help for people across our great state," said Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti. "The additional \$20 million for Community Grants means more support for Tennessee families and communities struggling with the opioid epidemic. My office worked hard to endow our Opioid Abatement Fund by holding corporations accountable for their role in the opioid crisis, and it is gratifying to see the money put to good use."

Applicants interested in submitting proposals to the Opioid Abatement Council can do so through the council's website at [TN.gov/oac](https://www.tn.gov/oac). Council staff worked with the Department of Finance and Administration's Strategic Technology Solutions to customize a web-based portal for application, evaluation, and tracking. The portal will be open for groups to submit proposals Nov. 12 through Dec. 13, 2024.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**Food insecurity and hunger rose again in the U.S.,** according to [a new study](#) from the USDA. Hunger reached its highest point in a decade in 2023 with 18 million households or 13.5% of Americans struggling with some type of food insecurity. That is 1 million more households struggling with food insecurity in 2023 than did in 2021. Hunger has been on the rise since the end of pandemic-era programs designed to tackle food insecurity in 2021. A report released in May by Feeding America found there is a [\\$33.1 billion shortfall](#) in money needed to meet basic food needs for Americans, with rising food costs, the lack of increases to the federal child tax credit and federal food aid, as well as stricter

requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) all contributing.

**Breast cancer diagnoses are becoming more frequent in younger women, potentially because of advancements in cancer treatment and detection.** The American Cancer Society said breast cancer mortality has gone down 44% since the late 1980s, a decrease of roughly 1% every year since 2021. However, the amount of young women diagnosed as increased 1.4% each year since 2021. The report also found that Asian and Pacific Islander women have reported the largest increase in diagnoses of any racial or ethnic group. Researchers believe the rise in younger breast cancer patients may also be tied to a rise in younger patients being diagnosed

with colorectal cancer. Researchers encourage expansion of early screening and treatment access to continue decreasing the breast cancer mortality rate.

**Job growth in the U.S. accelerated past predictions in September with employers adding 254,000 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.** Economists had only predicted a 140,000 job gain rate in September. Unemployment also dropped to 4.1% from 4.2% in August. The largest job gains were reported in the education and health services sector followed by leisure and hospitality and government. Economists said the report gives the Federal Reserve much more flexibility in decisions on interest rates ahead of their October meeting.



Tampa Bay awaits! Join city leaders from across the country for NLC's 100th anniversary City Summit, Nov. 13-16 in Tampa Bay, Florida! For a century, the National League of Cities has been supporting local leaders in building thriving cities, towns and villages. Secure your spot at City Summit to ensure you are a part of NLC's centennial celebration. Learn more and register now at [citysummit.nlc.org](https://citysummit.nlc.org).





## Retirement is a journey

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

### Competitive Retirement Plan Services for Tennessee's Towns & Cities

Contact Ed Stewart at 615-627-5936 or [ed.stewart@voya.com](mailto:ed.stewart@voya.com)

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



**Oct. 18-19: Crossville**  
[Crossville Oktoberfest](#)  
Featuring German dinners and entertainment from a German polka band, this festival is rated one of the most authentic Oktoberfest in the area.

**Oct. 19: Bean Station**  
[27th Annual Harvest Festival](#)  
This annual fall festival includes arts, crafts, bounce houses, food, live music, and a pickleball tournament.

**Oct. 19: Brownsville**  
[Hatchie Fall Fest](#)  
Family-friendly event featuring live music, arts and crafts, children's activities, games and contest all on Brownsville's historic Court Square

**Oct. 19: Humboldt**  
[Main Street Humboldt Fall Festival](#)  
This fun-filled day is free for attendees and includes food vendors, activities for the kids, music, artisans, crafts booths, merchandise vendors, and more.

**Oct. 19: Portland**  
[Portland Fall Festival](#)  
Come enjoy food and craft vendors, live music, a pumpkin patch, farmers, hayrides, games for kids and more including a costume contest.

**Oct. 19: Oliver Springs**  
[October Sky Festival](#)  
More than 100 vendors will congregate at Arrowhead Park with a classic car show on Main Street, the restored Oliver Springs Museum, and Heritage at the Depot.

**Oct. 19: Munford**  
[40th Annual Celebrate Munford](#)  
The festival is a day-long event that is held in the downtown area of Munford and features vending areas for local artists to sell and show off their works.

**Oct. 25-26: Bolivar**  
[Bolivar Barbecue Blowout & Music Festival](#)  
Held in beautiful downtown Bolivar, this is a Memphis Barbecue Network-sanctioned event.

**Oct. 26: Goodlettsville**  
[GOODfest in the Park](#)  
The event with new name and new branding combines the GOODFest and Fall Market with Halloween in the Park held at Moss-Wright Park.

**Oct. 26: Morristown**  
[Mountain Makins Festival](#)  
Mountain Makins is an Appalachian Folk Life Festival celebrating the unique culture of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

**Oct. 26: Tellico Plains**  
[Cherohala Skyway Festival](#)  
Celebrate the 28th Anniversary of the Cherohala Skyway and our mountain heritage with the Charles Hall Museum and Heritage Center.

**Nov. 2: Townsend**  
[Grains and Grits Festival](#)  
A festival of southern spirits and gourmet grub, come experience craft spirits and gourmet food, while discovering some of the region's legendary distillers and blenders, taking place in the Peaceful Side of the Smokies.



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



# Gallatin's Brown discusses growth, collaboration as new TML president

By KATE COIL  
TT&C Assistant Editor

Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown was recently elected as the President of the Tennessee Municipal League for 2024-5.

Presently serving in her third term as mayor of her hometown, Mayor Brown was first elected to the post in 2014. During her tenure, Gallatin was named the "Nicest Place in America" by Readers' Digest and has become one of the fastest growing cities in the state.

Mayor Brown herself was named Mayor of the Year Award by TML in 2021, was selected for the Mayors' Institute on City Design in 2019, and is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management (IOM).

A graduate of Florida State University, Mayor Brown worked as a news reporter and anchor in Florida before returning Tennessee to work as a writer, producer, and talent for both corporate, non-profit, and independent media clients, including on shows with The Nashville Network (TNN) and as executive producer for Nashville's NewsChannel 5. She also served as executive director for the Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce between 2006 and 2014.

She has served on numerous non-profit and public sector boards and committees, including her Regional Transit Authority (RTA) board, the Middle Tennessee Mayors Caucus, Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), Tennessee Local Government Planning Advisory Committee, Nashville Area Transportation Policy Board (MPO), the Tennessee Local Development Authority, and the Sumner County Prevention Coalition.

Additionally, she has served as an advocate for oncology research in local, state, and national settings.

**TT&C: You worked for several years as a writer, producer, and talent in news and media. What prompted you to switch gears to local government?**

**Mayor Paige Brown:** My goal was never government, but my path led me there. I loved my TV career years, but I was at a point where I did not love the changes in the industry, I wanted to be closer to home and I needed a change – so I looked for opportunities and took the first one that opened the door, which ultimately brought me to this role.

**TT&C: What lessons from your time in the media and your time as executive director of the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce have you taken into your role as mayor?**

**PB:** My media/journalism career has helped me be a better communicator. I also think there is value in being able to hear and relay "both sides of the story." I'm still old school in believing that is a journalist's job. As for the chamber leadership role, I really gained an understanding of small businesses and their value to the community. I understand the challenges they have, and I have high regard for the essence and texture that they create in a community when they are successful. Combined with my government experience I think I have a good grasp of what elements create healthy community dynamics and those which destroy them.



Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown during a TML Board meeting pictured with fellow board members Farragut Mayor Ron Williams and Newport Mayor Trey Dykes.

**TT&C: What do you think are the toughest issues facing municipal leaders in Tennessee today and why?**

**PB:** Our greatest opportunity is also our biggest challenge: Growth! As so many are choosing to relocate to Tennessee, our cities and towns either are, or will soon, experience the positives and negatives associated with that influx of people. We are dealing with infrastructure needs, changing cultures, and varying expectations of those citizens.

Many bring opportunity, but many are also here simply for the quality of life. I'm particularly perplexed by the large number of people relocating here who aren't participating in our workforce — either retired or working remotely — and the impacts that has. We all seem to be dealing with some combination of different challenges, whether it's workforce, utility infrastructure, solid waste or roads. Of course, those problems are solved with funding, so the overarching goal will continue to be keeping Tennessee attractive while meeting the demands of our rapidly growing population.

**TT&C: Gallatin is in an area of the state seeing rapid growth in population and development. Why is it important that municipalities work together to address this growth while each maintaining their own unique character and priorities?**

**PB:** I think it important for municipalities, counties, and the state to work together so that we all understand various perspectives and create solutions together. Our cities and towns thrive most when those around them do too. In Gallatin, we are currently working on a project that will deliver water from our system to neighbors who have needed a more robust source for decades.

This will help those communities sustain and grow, strengthen their economies, and in theory, will relieve some of the burden on Gallatin. This is very beneficial, too, for the county's revenue. Mutual respect and working together is vital for healthy municipalities and for the preservation of the character by which they are identified.

**TT&C: Why do you think membership in TML is beneficial for city officials?**

**PB:** I've told the story often that I resisted engagement with TML for several years, as I just perceived

it as one more meeting to attend. However, I've been so impressed with the organization and the difference it makes for municipalities. TML provides a valuable stream of information for us and works to make sure that our state leaders understand our needs and challenges.

In my years, we've navigated through a lot of legislation that would have seriously hindered municipalities and worked hard



Brown delivers Gallatin's annual State of the City address.



From left to right, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown, and State Sen. and Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile during a get out the vote in Gallatin.

to find paths to benefit them. The educational opportunities are tremendously beneficial and relevant, too.

And finally, I'd say getting to know so many people in government across our state is one of the best benefits. What we learn from each other and the experiences we've each had — is perhaps the most meaningful to a lot of us.

**TT&C: What are you most looking forward to about serving as TML's president in the next year?**

**PB:** I think we all serve in whatever role we are in with the goal of making a difference. I hope that my strengths can help TML's staff and membership have even better services and results for the cities and towns we all serve. I have great respect and admiration for the staff and leadership of TML.

I look forward to working with them and members across the state so that our cities and towns, and the state of Tennessee, can prosper and thrive, and that the citizens therein would choose no other place in which they'd want to live.



TML Past President and Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, left, presents Brown, right, with the TML Mayor of the Year Award in 2021.

**COVERAGES DESIGNED TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY**

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

**PE PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS**

www.PEPartners.org 800.624.9698