

Welcome to Chattanooga!

We are honored to host you for the 81st Annual Tennessee Municipal League Conference and Expo.

Your participation signifies a dedication to improving the lives of Tennesseans across our great state. As municipal leaders, we take an oath to ethically serve our residents to the best of our abilities. The collaborations available to us through TML can help to fulfill a promise to improve quality of life and place in our respective cities, and throughout every grand division of Tennessee.

During your stay, please enjoy Chattanooga's thriving downtown, vibrant neighborhoods, and breathtaking mountainous vistas of lush, ridgeline landscapes abutting the Tennessee River. You'll find craft breweries and indie restaurants, public art around every corner, and locally-owned retail shops selling local-made goods. The stunning natural beauty of this area earned Chattanooga its "Scenic City" moniker; it continues to attract visitors and new residents.



Tim Kelly
Chattanooga Mayor

I love this community and am proud to call it home. By the time you leave, I'm confident you will understand why. Enjoy your stay with us here in Chattanooga, and don't hesitate to contact me or my Office if we can ever be a resource to you in your good works. Be sure to come back and see us soon! Stay safe and hopeful!

New Sweetwater Fitness Court connects exercise, mobile app



The city of Sweetwater will soon be home to the first Fitness Court built through the National Fitness Campaign in Tennessee. The court works with a smart phone app to give users individual workouts and exercises.

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

The city of Sweetwater will soon be home to Tennessee's first outdoor recreation court with a mobile app component.

Part of a new initiative launched by the National Fitness Campaign, the Fitness Court is an open-air wellness center that allows users to leverage their own body weight to get a complete workout using guidance from a companion app on their smart phones. The Fitness Court App offers a "coach-in-your-pocket" style platform that guides users based factors like age and fitness level.

Sweetwater was one of dozens of select recipients from around the country to receive a \$30,000 grant from the National Fitness Campaign to support the program with additional financing coming from the Sweetwater Hospital Association and other local sponsors. The land being used was financed through a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) grant. The total cost of the project is around \$130,000.

"I'm proud of our staff for researching this project and applying for the grant funding," said Sweetwater Parks and Recreation Commissioner Lamar Hughes. "The Mayor and Board immediately approved this project, and I think our citizens know that the city will continue to put funds into improving the quality of life in Sweetwater."

Jessica Morgan, Sweetwater city recorder, said the Fitness Court model was a perfect fit for the city.

"We had been applying for grants to install outdoor fitness equipment along our trail system, and we had been turned down for that grant several years in a row," Morgan said. "At that point, I started researching other opportunities and came around the National Fitness Campaign. We wanted to do something outdoors that is free to the public that student groups and athletic teams could use. The fitness court doesn't require a ton of maintenance, and we don't have to have

someone out there constantly to monitor it. It also has a super-quick build timeline. We are looking at a three-month total from getting the grant to construction."

The exercise features at the court can be used a variety of ways by patrons of all abilities.

"The National Fitness Campaign has done research to see what types of things are the most beneficial to the most people on different fitness levels and of all ages," Morgan said. "There are features as simple as a pad for jumping with or without a jump rope. There are step aerobics and features for chin-ups and pull-ups. There are several pads for stretches and lunges."

Support from the Fitness Court app means that users can tailor a workout to their own specific needs without the requirement of an on-site trainer.

"The world kind of lives on our phones right now," Morgan said. "The app means that anyone on any fitness level can use this. They can do challenges on the app and compete with other users. They can also learn new schools and use different muscles without having to have a coach sitting right there with them training them how to do it. The app also helps with keeping maintenance cost low but also means you don't need staff there."

Available to users age 13 and older, the court offers citizens another way to get outdoors at the city's recreation complex.

"The location is right in the middle of our recreation complex," she said. "There are tracks and trails, football field, soccer field, swimming pool, and basketball court. The people in our community who are looking for fitness options are already there. Also, parents who are there for their kids' football or soccer practice can use the fitness court."

Morgan said the project has received both great support from city leadership and a great amount of positive feedback from the community.

See SWEETWATER on Page 7

TML Conference mobile app available

Download our free 81st TML Annual Conference & Expo app to enjoy the full conference experience. This easy to use digital guide contains a detailed agenda with workshops, maps, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and the ability to compete for prizes in our new Event Games.

To get started, download the free Socio app from the Apple app store or Google Play store. Once loaded onto your phone you will open the app and create your log in. You must provide a name and email address to join, and you may also build a profile with additional information to be seen by other conference attendees within the app. Once you're registered, the app will now be on a search page ready for you to find our event. Now, tap the search bar, and then tap the "Have a Code?" button at the bottom of the screen. A pop-up will appear asking for an Access Code. Enter TML81 and tap SUBMIT. Now you're in and ready to use our conference app!

How to Use It. Once your app has successfully downloaded to your phone, the conference schedule, workshop information, vendor contact information, plus much more are accessible through easy, navigable functions on the home page.

Event Game. TML's new

Event Game creates Challenges throughout conference that can earn you points for a chance to win prizes. Challenges may be as simple as checking in at registration, attending a workshop, or interacting with an exhibitor for a specific task. With each challenge you will be provided a code to put into the app to earn the points. There will be separate Sunday and Monday award winners with up to \$100 in Visa gift cards available for first place finishers. It's not just getting the points but also getting there first! The first person to reach the top point value for each day will be the first place winner with those following behind them earning 2nd and 3rd place prizes.

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



receptions.

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

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

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

Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund approaches major milestone

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) is approaching a major milestone of \$5 billion in total lending. Since inception, TMBF has loaned more than \$4.86 billion and has now closed more than 1,600 loans.

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

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

TMBF was created for the sole purpose of saving cities and towns money. To date, the TMBF programs have saved cities and counties more than \$710 million in interest costs alone. "We are better positioned than ever before to achieve the mission that the TMBF board has laid out," added Morrell.

In recent years, the TMBF has made a few changes in an effort to better serve Tennessee communi-



Wade Morrell
TMBF President/CEO

ties. TMBF offers both a fixed-rate, and a variable-rate loan option with a draw feature where a borrower only pays interest on the amount drawn as projects are completed. TMBF has also added several new banks into their program bring the total number of banks providing internal competition on their loans to nearly 20 banks.

"We could not have done this without all the hard work of our dedicated board members and our extraordinary staff," Morrell commented. "They work hard every day to make sure that we are providing you the best service and the loan options you want at the best

price. We have added a number of new banks over the last year and a half in an effort to get our borrowers the lowest cost of funds that we can find."

TMBF feels that a valuable part of its job is maintaining great relationships with all municipal officials. This is a practice we have strived to create for more than 30 years.

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

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

"We offer many features and advantages that can save you money. We believe strongly in maintaining your local control. All we ask is that you give us a chance to provide you with options so you can choose what you feel is best for your own community. We were created by you, for you. Our board of directors is composed of municipal officials, and we are always here for you."

Finance Department plans webinars on Coronavirus Local Recovery Fund

The TN Department of Finance and Administration has scheduled a series of webinars to provide local governments with in-depth training on the State of Tennessee's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. This training program will consist of a ten-week webinar series which will provide in-depth training on record-keeping, reporting, and compliance with federal guidelines in accordance with the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The webinars will take place weekly on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. (CST) from Sept. 15 through Nov. 17, 2021.

Topics to include:

- 9/15/21 Local Recovery Fund & Your Responsibility
- 9/22/21 Treasury Reporting Requirements
- 9/29/21 Eligibility: Water & Sewer Infrastructure with TDEC
- 10/6/21 Eligibility: Broadband Infrastructure with ECD
- 10/13/21 Eligibility: Revenue Loss
- 11/10/21 Eligibility: Premium Pay
- 10/20/21 Eligibility: Public Health Response
- 10/27/21 Eligibility: Economic Response
- 11/2/21 Eligibility: Equity-Based Services
- 11/17/21 Spend Plan Development

To register for the training program, please follow the link below. Once you have completed and submitted the registration form, you will receive an email from no-reply@zoom.us which will contain a link that can be used to join all webinars in the series. Registration link: https://hornellp.zoom.us/j/9VNW_ILNtG7WLT5epqI-HEZ2G65g

For questions or need assistance registering, please contact TNARPA.support@hornellp.com.



NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRISTOL

USAntibiotics will invest \$16 million to establish new manufacturing and research development operations in Bristol, creating 63 new jobs. USAntibiotics is a pharmaceutical production company that manufactures, tests, packages and distributes prescription antibiotics. The new facility will be located at 201 Industrial Drive. The 360,000-square-foot facility was acquired by Jackson Healthcare with plans to re-open the former pharmaceutical manufacturing site. The Department of Homeland Security has identified USAntibiotics as critical infrastructure since it is the only manufacturing facility in the U.S. that is authorized to produce Amoxicillin and Amoxicillin Clavulanate, commonly known as Amoxil and Augmentin. These are two of the most widely prescribed antibiotics in the U.S. and this investment will greatly bolster the U.S.' capabilities to produce its own essential antibiotics.

CLARKSVILLE

The city of Clarksville has opened its new North Clarksville City Services Center at 111 Cunningham Lane. The center will provide citizens with a full range of services from the gas and water and finance and revenue departments, including allowing them to pay bills, obtain business licenses, and inquire about property taxes. There will be both walk-in and drive-thru services for gas and water customers with an additional 24-hour drive-up bill payment kiosk for use outside of normal business hours. Finance and revenue services provided by the new center include property tax payments, business licenses, short-term rental applications and payments, parking ticket payments, food truck licenses, peddlers permits, tax relief voucher applications, and more.

CLARKSVILLE

The city of Clarksville is one of three cities to win the Mayors Innovation Design Cohort, a national partnership between the American Institute of Architects and the Mayors Innovation Project to help build zero carbon, resilient, healthy, and equitable cities. Clarksville leadership will have the opportunity to address the climate crisis while creating equitable, inclusive public spaces. Clarksville won for the city's Frost Morn site located just outside downtown Clarksville. The

former meatpacking facility was re-purposed by the city into a state-of-the-art plan for the facility to provide amenities to the surrounding low-income community. The facility will be a community space for small businesses, food trucks, and non-profits to host events, gatherings, and utilize space for their needs.

FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has won a Silver Telly Award for General Virtual Events and Experiences at the 42nd Annual Telly Awards for the city's 2020 Virtual Christmas Tree Lighting. The Telly Awards honors excellence in video and television featuring leaders from video platforms, television, streaming networks, and production companies. Instead of hosting a traditional in-person tree-lighting ceremony during the pandemic, the city of Franklin chose to bring the ceremony into the homes of residents across the site. The program featured the local singing group the Shindellas and the choir from Freedom Intermediate School. Communications Manager Milissa Reiersen wrote a script and serving as producer. With the assistance of sponsors Middle Tennessee Electric and Williamson Medical Center, the city worked with Think Squared Media to shoot and edit the program which was streamed live on the City's social channels and aired on Franklin TV.

GREENEVILLE

The town of Greeneville has broken ground on a new fire station expected to be complete by summer 2022. The new \$3.66 million facility will replace the existing Fire Station No. 2 and will be located on an undeveloped plot of land on Carson Street. The current Fire Station No. 2 was built in the 1950s and has reached the end of its operational life. The new fire station will have three drive-thru equipment bays to help reduce maintenance and increase safety. Each bay will be about 9,000 square feet with space for a future expansion to add on an emergency operations center. The station will also have living quarters and an office area. The station will house a frontline engine, reserve engine, and fully equipped HazMat response unit.

KNOXVILLE

IGT Technologies Inc. (IGT) officials announced that the company will invest \$3.9 million to expand its operations in Knoxville, creating 200 new jobs. IGT is a business process management and software development company. Its Knoxville facility will oversee and assist with the operations for IGT's North American customers by working with the latest technologies in chat, email, analytics and robotics process automation. This project will comprise an inbound call center and a technology development center, catering to the growing demand of travel, retail, eCommerce and hi-tech companies. It also plans to set up a Customer Experience Incubation Lab to support startups. Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Gurugram, India, IGT has more than 14,000 employees who are

Etowah cuts ribbon on new swimming facility



Officials with the city of Etowah and members of the Choate family were on hand to cut the ribbon on the city's new Frank and Maggie Choate Family Community Swimming Facility. The highly-anticipated community pool was financed by Frank and Maggie Choate, whose family can trace their roots to the area since before the city of Etowah was incorporated. The memorial gift was matched with a grant from the Tennessee Department of Recreation and city funds.

Collegedale breaks ground on Little Debbie Park



Officials with the city of Collegedale and McKee Foods recently broke ground on the city's new Little Debbie Park, a partnership project between the municipality and the snack cake manufacturer. The company purchased the 10-acre parcel of land for use by the city as a park space. Plans for the new park include a playground as well as an open green space for use as a picnic sport and for pick-up sports games. Construction on the park is estimated to take about a year.

customer experience and technology specialists providing services to more than 80 marquee customers worldwide. Having a presence in the U.S. for over 15 years, IGT's global footprint consists of 20 delivery centers across 10 countries. These delivery centers provide 24/7 support in multiple languages and allow each customer to choose a global sourcing delivery that is best suited to its specific business needs.

NASHVILLE

The Metro Nashville Police Department has launched the first series of data dashboards on its website aimed to keep the public informed and provide a better understanding of crime issues, victim and suspect demographics, and actions taken by officers. Features on the Police Data Dashboard include a mapping of crime incidents including gunshot injuries, vehicle stops, and crashes; victim and suspect demographics; vehicle stop outcomes; police interactions; police use of force; employee demographics; officer attrition; and community engagement activities. Data and mapping can be summarized at the county level, by zip code, police precinct, or council district. The dashboards are updated daily.

Johnson City opens splash pad



The city of Johnson City recently opened a state-of-the-art splash pad at Carver Park. Featuring 24 standing and ground features, the splash pad is the newest amenity offered by the park that has served as an anchor for the inner-city for more than 60 years. The 3,800-square-foot splash pad is the first recirculating splash pad system in the city, helping conserve water and cut down on operating costs while still providing water pressure needed for several features. The splash pad was financed through a \$200,000 Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant matched with \$400,000 from the city.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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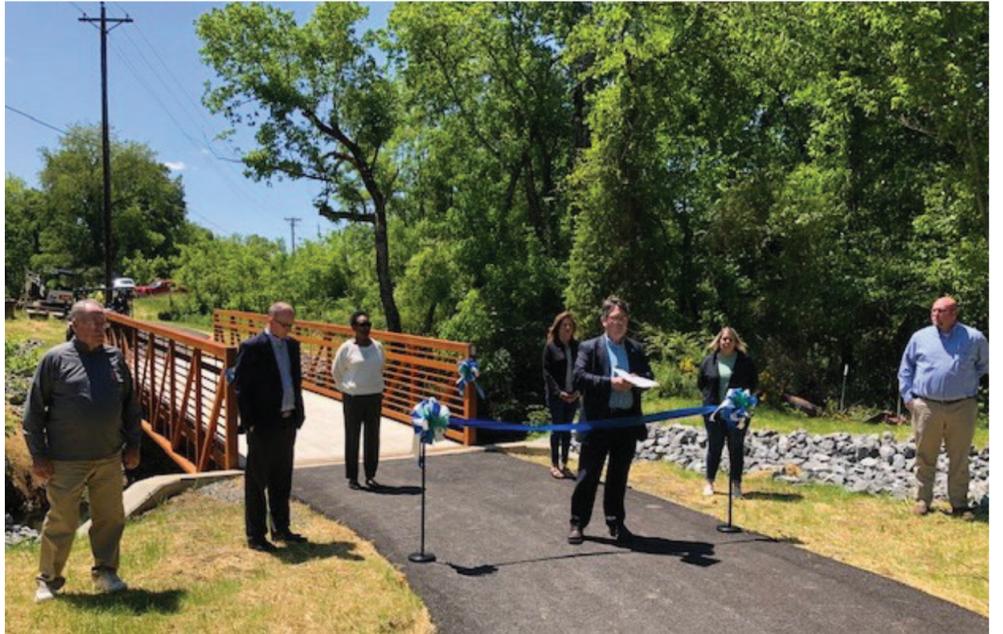
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TML Congratulates 2021 Achievement Award Winners

Cities honored at the TML Annual Awards Breakfast
Sept. 21 • 8:00 a.m. • Chattanooga Convention Center

Excellence in Community Planning and Development: Fayetteville



Officials with the city of Fayetteville cut the ribbon on the new greenway extension into the city's Stone Bridge Park. The project will eventually connect downtown Fayetteville with the Huntsville Highway shopping district via the park.

Despite the challenges of the past year, leaders with the city of Fayetteville have been hard at work on community-based initiatives designed both to protect an important piece of the area's historic past as well as focus on projects that will spur future development and growth within the community.

In recognition of the city's efforts to improve recreational opportunities, preserve a site of historic importance to all Tennesseans, and work to revitalize downtown Fayetteville through a new branding initiative, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Fayetteville with an award for Excellence in Community Planning and Development.

In 2015, the city was awarded a Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the construction of the first phase of a blueway/greenway master plan dubbed the Fayetteville Square to Park Connector. While initially delayed by the pandemic, city officials gathered in May 2020 to cut the ribbon on this first phase of the long-awaited project, which upgraded sidewalks and crosswalks to come into ADA compliance as well as connecting Fayetteville's courthouse square with Stone Bridge Park along Norris Creek.

Construction on the second

phase of the project will provide a pedestrian bridge over the Elk River that will connect the first phase with the Huntsville Highway shopping district. The city was also recently awarded a \$447,699 Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the funding of the third phase of the project, which includes a riverwalk around the perimeter of the Camp Blount Historic Site.

The Camp Blount Historic Site itself is another important project being undertaken by the city. Named after Gov. William Blount, the site in Fayetteville served as a mustering ground for volunteer troops who came to serve under then Gen. Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812. The site is one of the few War of 1812 sites in the state, and soldiers who volunteered to serve at the site earned Tennessee the nickname of "the Volunteer State." The soldiers themselves were known as the "Tennessee Volunteers" during the subsequent conflict, the first recorded use of the term. Notable figures including David Crockett, Sam Houston, and a host of future governors and state representatives were among this group.

To preserve this site of historical importance to all Tennesseans, the city of Fayetteville has com-

pleted the first phase of a 39-acre development aimed at highlighting the area. City officials helped unveil a statue honoring the Tennessee Volunteers on the site. New signage and markers have been placed at the site as well with the second phase of the project calling for a new paved entrance, parking area to accommodate visitors and buses, restrooms, a visitor's center, pavilion, and a trail to the statue plaza.

Much of the funding for the Camp Blount Historic Site projects have come through grants including a \$50,000 Rural Development grant, a \$40,000 Tennessee Wars Commission grant, and \$500,000 donated from former Gov. Bill Haslam.

Additionally, city officials have been hard at work on a new branding initiative since January 2020, implementing the project throughout the year with positive reviews and momentum, despite the ongoing pandemic.

The initiative focuses on local Fayetteville traditions including the city's famous slawburgers, area distillery tourism, and Fayetteville's links to Tennessee heritage and history.

Together, these initiatives have positioned Fayetteville for much future success while maintaining that which makes the city unique.



Members of the Johnson City Communications and Marketing Department join cemetery owner Timothy McKinney, left, to decorate the grave of city founder Henry Johnson during Decoration Day celebrations at the cemetery.

Johnson City: Excellence in Communications

Effective communication has always been an important part of effective leadership, and the city of Johnson City demonstrates how marketing, public relations, and keeping the community informed are essential and integral parts of a connected, thriving city.

In recognition of the city's top-notch communication and efforts in a new branding campaign, to spread awareness and knowledge amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and initiatives surrounding the city's sesquicentennial, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Johnson City with an award for Excellence in Communications.

The Johnson City Community Relations Department transitioned into the new Communications and Marketing Department in 2018. The city's communications and marketing team has grown from Director Keisha Shoun and digital communications manager J.T. McSpadden to include public information specialist Ann Marie French, information technology communications specialist and city webmaster Wendy Graham, and special events manager Andy Heusier, as well as part-time employee Jarrett McGill, who works on video production. While each member of the team has their own unique set of skills and talents, all wear many hats to ensure quality and efficiency.

Initially with a staff of just two people, the department found itself tackling the first ever branding process for the city amid coordinating media and employee relations on a day-to-day basis, serving in various capacities to aid the Johnson City Board of Commissioners, and representing the city on numerous community boards and commissions. Beginning as a desire for a new city logo, the branding process lasted two years and involved extensive research, a final report, and a new sense of the city's identity and direction.

In its third year of brand implementation, the city has adopted stationery, signage, digital profiles, websites, clothing, vehicles, and even trash bins that include the branding logo, colors, fonts, and design elements. The branding initiative also unites the city, downtown authority, and CVB under one distinctive brand that provides cohesion and instant recognition. The brand implementation even earned top honors from the national City-County Marketing Association (3CMA) and has garnered interest from other communities across the nation.

In 2019, the city also celebrated its 150-year history with nearly 60 events ranging from the opening of a 1969 time capsule, a birthday party for the city's founder, and various contests. The marketing staff developed 150 variations of the city's logo and marketing pieces to help promote these events as well as developed commemorative merchandise, coordinating the commission-appointed citizen Sesquicentennial Commission and its legacy projects, and opening a Sesquicentennial Headquarters featuring historic memorabilia.

The entire project took nearly a year-and-a-half to complete.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, communications became vital for many communities as a way to reach out and stay connected amid social distancing and stay-at-home orders. The Johnson City communications and marketing staff developed the "Mask Up, JC" campaign in conjunction with Visit Johnson City and recently won the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association's award for best PR campaign. The campaign involved coasters for bars and restaurant, signage, banners, and even a photo contest that involved the community and created excitement about the campaign.

The city took advantage of custom masks that were produced by a Tennessee-based company for just \$2.50 each, creating seven different branded versions. Shortly after distribution began, masks were spotted at grocery stores, gas stations, and anywhere else that remained open during the pandemic.

At the height of the pandemic, the department produced a video for "Gimme 6 Feet," a parody of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Gimme Three Steps" to encourage mask wearing and social distancing. The phrase "Gimme 6 Feet" was later incorporated into other signs, slogans, and displays tailored to encourage proper health and safety protocols at various places throughout the city. It later became a comic book-inspired video to introduce Senior Center participants to new COVID-safe practices at the newly reopened facility.

Excellence in Historic Preservation: Franklin

As communities across the nation confront issues related to racial inequality and injustice, the city of Franklin is working to find a way forward by ensuring that all aspects of the city's history are told and that all members of the community are represented.

In recognition of the city of Franklin's efforts to bring together community members to ensure the history of the city and its citizens are told in full, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Franklin with an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

In the aftermath of the Charlottesville, Va. tragedy, Franklin leaders initiated discussions about Franklin's history and more specifically, the Confederate statue on Franklin's square. The monument was erected in 1899 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, which resulted in 10,000 casualties within the town of roughly 900 people. However, many community leaders felt the statue was only telling one part of the Battle of Franklin's story.

Three local pastors, the city battlefield historian, City Administrator Eric Stuckey, and Mayor Ken Moore presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen the concept of the Fuller Story Initiative, a project that would include the stories of the African-American experience before, during and after the Battle of Franklin in addition to the story already being told on the square.

While the Board of Mayor and Aldermen initially approved the project, the city was met with concern from citizens wanting to



Franklin citizens and project organizers gather to unveil the markers erected as part of the city's Fuller Story initiative, which aims to present all sides of the city's Civil War-era history downtown.

learn more about the project as well as visibly racist backlash from those who objected to more context being added to the Franklin Square. Despite pushback and legal threats, city officials chose to move ahead and soon found more members of the community coming forward with support for the project.

Beginning in 2019, the city unveiled five markers near the Confederate monument at the square that detail the African-American experience in Franklin during the time period, including stories of how slaves were once bought and sold on the old courthouse square, the Battle of Franklin, the service of the U.S. Colored Troops, the 1867 race riot that occurred in the city,

and how Reconstruction impacted Franklin.

A statue honoring the roughly 180,000 black men who served in the U.S. Army and Navy as part of the U.S. Colored Troops – including 300 from Williamson County – will also be erected in downtown Franklin. The statue is one of few in the nation that honors the sacrifice of men, born slaves, who fought not only for their own freedom but to defend the U.S. and the freedom of others. The statue is the result of work by the city with the Battle of Franklin Trust and the Equity and Justice Coalition.

Additionally, the city has renamed two streets after prominent African-Americans from the com-

munity. One was named for civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while a second was named for Allen Nelson Crutcher Williams, who rose from slavery to open the first African-American-owned business in downtown Franklin in 1863 and contributed significantly to the development of the city's Natchez Street neighborhood.

The story of how Franklin is reconciling with its past and finding a way to move forward through honoring all parts of its history has received national and international media attention and also inspired other community groups to do the same. In June of this year, the African-American Heritage Society dedicated a marker at Pinkerton Park to honor Union Army General Gordon Granger, the leader of the Union troops who were once stationed in and around Fort Granger at Pinkerton Park. Two years later, Granger would be instrumental in the creation of the Juneteenth holiday.

The work of the Fuller Story Initiative led to Franklin winning the All-American City Award by the National Civic League as a showcase of how citizens from all walks of life can come together with government and community leaders to deal with the uncomfortable truths of the past and find a way forward as a community.

TML Congratulates 2021 Achievement Award Winners

Excellence in Green Leadership: Chattanooga

Not content to rest on its laurels following the completion of the city's first community solar installation and national recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy, the city of Chattanooga has continued to set the bar for green initiatives through ongoing energy-usage reduction projects, a new electric microgrid, and efforts to make city vehicles more energy efficient.

In recognition of the city's ongoing efforts to find green solutions and alternatives while still providing safe and critical city infrastructure and services, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Chattanooga with an award for Excellence in Green Leadership.

Chattanooga has been building on its green infrastructure since the establishment of the city's first community solar installation in 2011. The city received first Bronze and then Gold "SolSMART" status from the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative in 2018.

The city also exceeded a goal set to reduce its energy-use intensity (EUI) by 2025. The city's initial goal was to reduce its EUI by 20% before 2025 in approximately 2 million square feet of building space and 200 municipally-owned and operated facilities. The city managed to reach 30% reduction in EUI in 2018, earning Chattanooga recognition from the U.S. Department of Energy as a Better Buildings Challenge "Achiever." After hitting its reduction goal seven years early, Chattanooga continued to move forward on EUI reduction, and the Department of Energy verified that the city had achieved 40% in EUI for the 2020 calendar year.

Chattanooga was able to exceed its EUI reduction goals through the implementation of building automation systems (BAS) in more than 30 primary, high-occupancy buildings, establishing regular building operation schedules and temperature setpoints and setbacks, as well as numerous energy efficiency projects at the city's regional wastewater treatment facility.

While many buildings experienced reduced occupancy due to COVID-19 precautionary mea-



The new microgrid project at the city of Chattanooga's safety complex on Amincola Highway will ensure that there are multiple energy backups for the city and Hamilton County emergency services during severe weather events. In addition to solar panels, the facility will have both a natural gas and a diesel back-up generators to ensure operations can continue as normal no matter the situation.

ures, these reductions were accounted for in the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager platform used to benchmark energy use. Additionally, the city recently completed a major LED lighting retrofit project to more than 60 buildings, which contributed to significant savings.

The reduction in EUI has also equated to an increase in savings for the city. Chattanooga has saved close to \$9.3 million total in annual electric utility expenditures. Likewise, the city is consuming approximately 20 gigawatt hours of electricity less than in 2012, the equivalent of which could power more than 1,300 average Tennessee homes.

In April 2021, the city executed a contract to begin construction on a new electric microgrid at the city's public safety complex on Amincola Highway, which houses the administrative offices for both the Chattanooga Police and Fire Departments and the Hamilton County-operated 911 Communications Services. Working in partnership with EPB, the microgrid will provide increased resilience to key critical infrastructure and operations at the safety department in the wake of increasingly intense weather events.

The rooftop mounted solar microgrid will include 1,100 kilowatts

of battery storage, a microgrid controller, an existing 100-kilowatt natural gas generator, and a new 175-kilowatt diesel generator for additional backup in the most extreme outage scenarios. The \$1.8 million project will also include the construction of covered employee parking with mounted solar panels and the ability to accommodate electric vehicle charging stations.

The city has also made efforts to green its vehicle fleet. The Chattanooga Police Department has recently put 20 non-plug-in hybrid police cruisers into service, and expects to expand on these efforts. The city was awarded a \$950,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) from the Volkswagen (VW) Diesel Mitigation Fund, which the city has matched with an additional \$300,000.

The funds will help replace seven medium and heavy-duty diesel vehicles with four propane, two CNG, and one all-electric vehicles allowing the city to begin exploring alternate fuel and all-electric in this class size. The project will also begin the process of reducing critical greenhouse gas emissions, and provide the necessary knowledge to expand these efforts to the remainder of the city's fleet.



Pictured above are Elizabethton employees during a series of upgrades and renovations to the city's downtown. The renovations resulted in a complete overhaul of local infrastructure and contributed to the opening of new businesses in the area as well as attracting a series of new community events that have again made downtown a focal point for the local area.

Excellence in Governance: Elizabethton

Renovations to the city's downtown; upgrades to city infrastructure, emergency and public works equipment; and expansions and improvements to municipal parks and recreation facilities are among the numerous accomplishments the city of Elizabethton has achieved through cooperation of elected officials, city administration, and city employees.

In recognition of the hard work by city officials to set goals and accomplish outcomes for better city services and infrastructure, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Elizabethton with an award for Excellence in Governance.

The combination of a forward-thinking mayor and council, a professional city manager, and hard work from an excellent city staff have helped Elizabethton achieve a wide variety of goals in recent years, many of which are set during the city's annual strategic planning retreat.

The strategic planning goals combined with a nearly unmatched commitment to successfully writing and utilizing grant funds has allowed the city to complete numerous projects for the betterment of the community.

One such initiative is revitalization of downtown Elizabethton, which has been anchored by a complete and transformative infrastructure overhaul.

This renovation has led to numerous new business investments and an array of community events such as car shows, community concerts, and others that are bringing both local residents and visitors into the downtown area. Downtown Elizabethton has again become a focal point for community building.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, city officials worked hard to ensure that the city could continue to meet the needs of the community. City officials successfully navigated the turbulence in the bond market in March 2020 to sell \$4.25 million in bonds to fund city and school projects.

Additionally, the city began implementing an electronic agenda management software package for council meetings, increasing the efficiency of preparation, editing, production, and distribution of each agenda.

A new automated utility bill payment phone system has cut down incoming calls by 40 per day, allowing staff to instead focus on

other customers service needs. The city is also presently deploying a comprehensive software package to manage building permits and code enforcement matters, including online access for customers.

The city has made numerous investments in parks and recreation projects, including \$1.8 million in renovations to the city's Appalachian League Baseball Park, pedestrian crossing improvements to the Tweetie Trail financed through a \$500,000 multimodal grant, \$78,000 in renovations to the historic Bonnie Kate Theatre in downtown Elizabethton, and a \$90,000 investment in new playground equipment at Kiwanis Park.

For emergency services, the city has financed a \$2.5 million renovation and expansion of the Elizabethton Police Department, a \$200,000 investment to replace and integrate police records management software with Carter County, a \$41,800 Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant financing the purchase of police car and body cameras, and the purchase of a \$500,000 fire department pumper truck, financed partially through a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities grant. Elizabethton has also invested in local infrastructure such as a \$500,000 CDBG grant to replace aging water lines and a \$500,000 housing rehabilitation grant from the TDHA HOME program.

Several new projects are also currently underway for the overall improvement of the community. The city's electric department is presently working on a \$4 million comprehensive electric metering upgrade with Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

The city also received a \$797,242 grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program and \$500,000 from the TDEC Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant for rehabilitation and renovations to the city's historic Covered Bridge Park. Another \$140,000 Safe Routes to School grant will finance improvements to student and pedestrian access.

Each of these accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work of the mayor, city council, and city administrative team who work together to accomplish difficult and innovative goals for Elizabethton. By communicating well and working to ensure all parts of the whole are moving in the same direction, officials with the city of Elizabethton have been able to make a sizeable impact on their community.

Excellence in Finance: Rocky Top

Facing considerable challenges concerning municipal audits and city finances, the city of Rocky Top's staff decided the best way to tackle these issues was head-on and with hard work and determination.

In recognition of the concerted efforts made by city officials to improve its financial standing and address past issues with audits, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Rocky Top with an award for Excellence in Finance.

In the past five years, officials with the city of Rocky Top have taken their municipal audits from repeat findings showing "a lack of financial oversight" to an audit with no findings in 2020. Additionally, the city filed both its fiscal year 2019 and 2020 audits on time with the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, a marked improvement from previous years in which the office reported audits were filed an average of 123 days late. The Comptroller's Office also reported that Rocky Top has reduced the time it takes to submit its annual budget from 109 days down to only 27 days.

City officials worked hard to bring Rocky Top's bookkeeping practices up to par, correcting accounting inconsistencies and issues. For the first time, the city of Rocky



Staff at Rocky Top City Hall have worked hard to ensure not only that the city has its financial house in order but also that the city continues to improve and develop its finances in a positive way. This work has resulted in an increase in cash-on-hand and a reduction of debt.

Top is also pursuing the Government Finance Officer Association's prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award, an honor that only about 30 cities and counties in Tennessee receive.

The city of Rocky Top is also in compliance with the state's CMFO Act, with one current CMFO

employed by the city and another CMFO in training.

Beyond municipal audits, the city of Rocky Top has also reduced its debt and since 2017 has seen its cash-on-hand position improve from 15% to 28% of annual revenues. City staff have worked hard and diligently to improve the city's financial situation in all areas.

Excellence in Fire Services: Hohenwald

The Hohenwald Fire Department has made considerable efforts to improve its quality of service through encouraging continued professional development, acquiring new facilities for training, and bringing in outside partners to work with the department.

In recognition of the efforts made by the Hohenwald Fire Department to provide service above and beyond expectation for their community, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Hohenwald with an award for Excellence in Fire Services.

A 30-member almost entirely volunteer all-hazards fire department, the Hohenwald Fire Department is led by Fire Chief Steve Vineyard and Volunteer Assistant Chief Daryl Newport. The department is alerted and responds to every fire, rescue, and hazardous materials

emergency incident in the city of Hohenwald as well as all life-threatening emergency medical incidents throughout Lewis County.

Chief Vineyard wanted to ensure Hohenwald firefighters earn international accredited professional credentials and world-class training to serve their community. This initiative began in 2016 when Chiefs Vineyard and Newport began collaborating with the Tennessee State Fire and Codes Academy as well as the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Standards and Education to outline specific goals they planned to accomplish for the department.

Members participated in many hours of both hands-on and academic training. In addition, the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy and the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Standards and Education provided hands-on practical

skills and written testing to evaluate their knowledge and skills against national consensus standards. The department also acquired a residential structure in Hohenwald to use for live-fire training.

As a result, the department has seen numerous improvements to its organization and quality of service. Almost every member of the department has an internally-accredited certificate in hazardous materials awareness, hazardous materials operations, and firefighter level I. Several members have also received firefighter level II certifications and many are working toward earning credentials in special operations technical rescue disciplines like rope rescue technician.

These trainings have had a notable impact on the ability of the department to serve both Hohenwald and provide assistance to other sur-



Members of the Hohenwald Fire Department outside of the house the department acquired for fire training. The department has made its mission to ensure the best level of professional development for staff with nearly every member accredited above requirements for a department of its size.

rounding departments. Continued personnel development has become a part of the department's organiza-

tional culture with many Hohenwald firefighters certified to the some of the highest standards possible.

TML Congratulates 2021 Achievement Award Winners



The Mt. Pleasant Fire Department implemented a new strategic plan to improve the organization and better determine needs and focus for the department. In addition to members of the fire department itself, the planning process involved input from citizens and assistance from other city staffers to provide insight and guidance.

Excellence in Strategic Planning: Mt. Pleasant

When the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department decided to implement a new strategic plan to improve service and relations with their community, the department brought in officials from all levels of both the department and the city staff to make sure that everyone in Mt. Pleasant was working together to achieve the same improvement goals.

In recognition of efforts by city officials all working together to ensure that the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department provides the best customer service and satisfaction possible, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Mt. Pleasant with an award for Excellence in Strategic Planning.

Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief Phillip Grooms and his 16-member department decided that the best way for their department to move forward was to formally develop a strategic plan that would detail both internal expectations as well as the external needs of customers.

The planning process would be customer driven and focused, and the Mt. Pleasant Police Department turned to the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service to help develop a plan that would best drive the direction of the department.

In addition to bringing in MTAS, Grooms recruited municipal officials from outside the fire department to help with the strategic planning process. The city manag-

er, codes director, finance director, human resources department as well as the fire department's leadership team and several department members were brought together to make up the new strategic planning team.

Both internal and external customer service and satisfaction surveys were deployed, and the collected data was presented at a three-day strategic planning workshop. During this workshop, the team identified the department's perceived challenges, values, vision, core problems, and support services. The team also identified potential issues or gaps in service and set goals that would serve as a roadmap for future decision making.

The result was a new vision statement for the department as well as to focus efforts on additional education and achievement for the department. As a result of this process, department members have earned college degrees, achieved national certification standards at or above their rank and responsibility, and led to the merging of some positions into a unified department that will improve efficiency and customer service.

By bringing together both leadership from within and outside the fire department, the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department utilized its strategic planning process as a tool to further public safety and improve service to the community.

Excellence in Parks and Recreation: Paris

As part of efforts to ensure citizens have plenty of opportunities for health, recreation, and quality of life, the city of Paris has worked diligently to improve parks and recreation offerings while simultaneously boosting community health and providing economic development.

In recognition of the concerted efforts city officials have made to increase parks and recreation amenities to both encourage positive healthcare outcomes and bring in new visitors to their community, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Paris with an award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation.

In the past five years, the city of Paris has intensified their efforts to improve local park facilities, by adding new amenities to better serve not only Paris residents but regional residents and tourists who come to the community. As part of that goal, the city has spent in excess of \$2 million in municipal funds and earned \$1.27 million in grants to accomplish capital improvements and better services. The improvements financed from these funds then generated \$80,000 in support from area businesses and organizations to continue the positive momentum in the parks department for a total of \$3.35 million in investment in five years.

One of the biggest projects undertaken by the city is at Paris' famed Eiffel Tower Park, which has become a popular photo op destination and brings visitors from all over the country and even international tourists to the city. Beginning in 2016, the city began working on a new master plan to further develop this unique community asset.

Over the years, the park has been developed with a walking track, Olympic-sized outdoor pool, 18-hole disc golf course, trout pond, tennis courts, playgrounds, and restrooms. City officials decided to build on these successful developments by adding the Triple Tower Plunge to the city's outdoor pool at the park, a 30-foot tall, three-tunnel slide as well as a new diving board and improvements to the parks deck area and changing rooms. Using the city's Eiffel Tower as a backdrop, the city took a Tourism Enhancement Grant to construct handicap accessible sidewalks, update electrical services to boost events held at the park, and add signage at the park

to direct visitors to local food and lodging.

A new highlight of Eiffel Tower Park is the new Eiffel Tower Splash Pad, which contains 12,000-square-feet of play area, two pavilions, a concession building, restrooms, and play area zones for families, teens, youth, and toddlers. All this includes aquatic play equipment consisting of spray cannons, ground sprays, an Eiffel Tower slide, and a featured 40-foot tidal tank. Two water safe wheel chairs are available for those with a need for them. This portion of the park is free to the public three days per week with a nominal charge the remaining four days. Constructed in part with an LPRF Grant, the facility is the largest non-amusement splash pad in the state.

The improvements to Eiffel Tower Park were a deciding factor in why the city was chosen as the Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy Place. The Blue Cross Blue Shield grant provided a \$650,000 state-of-the-art outdoor recreational and fitness space for the city.

Dating back to the 1950s, the city's Ogburn Park is a small pocket park that serves several neighborhoods. The city worked to rebuild the park's aging basketball courts from scratch as well as add LED lighting to the courts, ADA-compliant sidewalks around the court, and new plants and sod. New lighting has also been added to the skate park at Ogburn Park. As a result of these renovations, usage of the park has increased.

Established in the 1970s, the city's McNeil Park has also received numerous improvements and renovations including a resurfaced parking lot, ADA-compliant restrooms, new lighting, two new baseball fields, two adult softball fields, and one girls' softball field.

Excellence in Police Services: Cleveland



Officers and staff of the Cleveland Police Department with the city's mobile police command unit. Community outreach and involvement have become a hallmark of the department with officers working to promote relationships with citizens through attendance and outreach at public events and the city's youth police academy.

By involving the community in policing efforts, seeking new and varied training opportunities, and building a culture of wellness within the department, the Cleveland Police Department (CPD) has worked to provide the best service possible to the city's residents.

In recognition of the efforts made by the CPD to continue officer education, promote relationships between the department and citizens, and improve both physical and mental health for officers, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present the city of Cleveland with an award for Excellence in Police Services.

Cleveland Police Chief Mark Gibson has focused on creating a culture of professionalism through creative police recruitment strategies, continuous training and encouraging a high degree of integrity to serve the citizens of Cleveland. To improve its relationship with Cleveland's citizens, the department established a Community Relations Unit whose goal is to increase interaction with the community through events and creative methods of communication.

The Cleveland Police Department has amassed more than 35,000 followers on social media, using social platforms to improve communications, reach more residents, and build a strong foundation for community relations. The department also hosts an average of 46 community events a year.

One of the most popular events is the Youth Police Academy, which has been held 13 times over the years to introduce students to policing. The department has also become involved in special events and fundraising in the community such as No Shave November, the Empty Stocking Fund Pledge drive, and numerous fundraisers for officers and community members.

To gather diverse opinions on a variety of law enforcement topics, the department formed a Professional Standards and Ethics Committee who provides guidance on all matters affecting professional standards for law enforcement. Additionally, the Chief's Advisory Board is comprised of officers from

each division who serve as a liaison for their respective team.

CPD has also created a culture of continuing education by creating a training program that provides classes year around. As a result, more than 1,500 hours of specialized training is offered not only to Cleveland officers but also outside agencies who want to participate. These training hours are offered in addition to the minimum 40-hours of required training by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

In the past year, Cleveland officers have completed over 220 specialized classes, focusing on investigations, de-escalation, mental health, crime scene management, and realistic scenario training.

All officers are required to complete core training classes to be eligible for a promotion. The caliber of training offered to the officers further advance them in their progression plan of professional career development.

Building a culture of wellness – both physical and mental – has also been a major goal of the CPD. A fitness program was developed requiring a physical fitness test with successful completion annually. To assist the officer in preparing for the assessment, designated officers serve as fitness instructors and will provide nutrition plans and job-related cardiovascular exercises. A holistic wellness approach to address officer mental health provides Cleveland police officers with annual suicide prevention and PTSD classes, along with centralized mental health resources, the Employee Assistance Program and a rotational Chaplain Unit.

The Cleveland Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2009 and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation (TLEA) since 2012. Only 4% of law enforcement agencies nationwide are CALEA accredited and in 2018, the CPD received the Gold Standard of Excellence, the highest award within CALEA. As a result, the CPD is within the top 1% of CALEA-accredited agencies.



The new Eiffel Tower Splash Pad is one of several improvements the city of Paris has made to its iconic Eiffel Tower Park as part of overall parks and recreation improvements made in the past five years.

The city also recently received a \$25,000 grant from the Randy Boyd Foundation's Dog Park Dash program along with donations of time and funds from the local Lowe's

to make improvements to the A.P. Bark Park at Atkins Porter Park. The renovations included irrigation, sun shades, benches, sidewalks, a dog wash, and two misters for pets.

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Utilizing the amenities offered by the water and lakefront around the community has been a priority for city leaders in Kingston. The city's Ladd Park runs along the Clinch River and the city has recently joined the Tennessee Riverline program, which aims to create a blueway along the Tennessee River from Knoxville to Kentucky.

Small City Progress: Kingston

In spite of the unprecedented challenge of the past year, the city of Kingston continued to move forward with numerous projects for the betterment of the citizens and community at large, including numerous enhancements to the city's riverfront, historic downtown, and housing infrastructure.

In recognition of the hard work by city officials and employees to improve parks and recreation offerings, boost its historic downtown, and develop local assets like its unique riverfront geography, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Kingston with an award for Excellence in Small City Progress.

The city initiated numerous new parks and recreation projects along the riverside and lakeshore. A new amphitheater at the historic Fort Southwest Point at the confluence of the Tennessee and Clinch rivers has been constructed. The 1,000-seat amphitheater is now a prime location for concerts, weddings, plays, and community events.

Near the amphitheater is the newly opened Fort Paws Dog Park, located along the lakefront and adjacent to the city's walking trail. The new dog park features fire hydrants, dog water fountains, shade trees, benches, room to run, safety features to protect off-leash dogs, and even a special coating in the parking lot to protect the paws of four-legged friends. The park was financed jointly through community donations and a Boyd Foundation Dog Park Dash grant.

The city has also opened a new pavilion and two sets of restrooms along a lakefront walking trail and the allocation of some \$100,000 to improvements to Ladd Park, the lakefront park that also runs along the Clinch River. Kingston was also one of only 12 communities nationwide who earned a BUILD planning grant. The \$250,000 grant will help the city to review and plan for further enhancements to its riverfront corridor, complementing the many improvements the city has already executed.

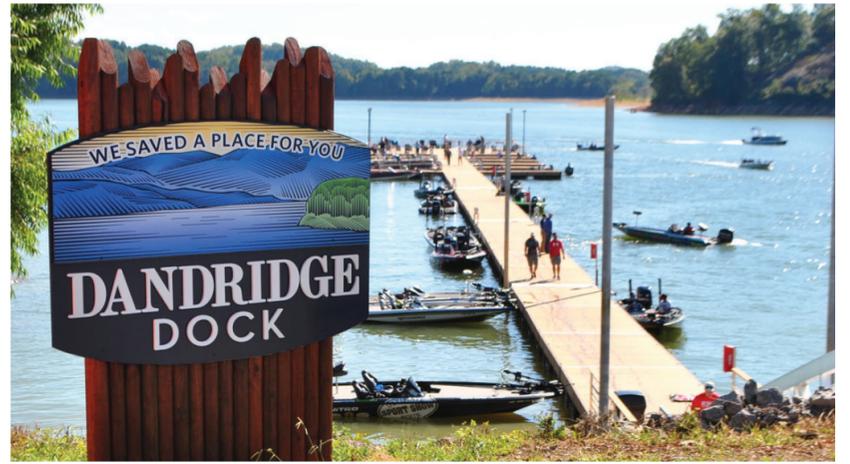
Alongside Roane County, Kingston was also named one of the inaugural Tennessee Riverline communities, part of a joint effort by the University of Tennessee and TVA

toward the creation of a 652-mile multi-modal trail and blueway system along the Tennessee River stretching from Knoxville into Kentucky.

The city again teamed up with Roane County to make significant improvements to historic downtown Kingston, including new sidewalks, decorative lighting, and construction of much needed parking that will facilitate more visitors and business in the area.

The Kingston Fire Department also recently became one of only 32 fire departments in the state to achieve an ISO rating of 2, which will no doubt have a positive impact on both businesses and residents of the community. Municipal officials have also been working with private developers to expand the city's housing stock with plans that could bring more than 400 new homes to the area.

Small Town Progress: Dandridge



The Dandridge Dock has become an invaluable resource for the local community and visitors, providing recreational access to Douglas Lake from Dandridge Municipal Park. The dock is part of the town's waterfront masterplan to approve access to the area's natural assets.

Officials with the town of Dandridge have been hard at work balancing the challenges of preserving the town's historic past with providing infrastructure improvements necessary for the town to grow, all while bettering Dandridge's financial health.

In recognition of the efforts made by municipal officials to increase the city's financial security while still providing improved and expanded infrastructure needed to position the town for the future, the Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to present Dandridge with an award for Excellence in Small Town Progress.

Working together, Dandridge Mayor George Gantte, Town Administrator Matt Rudder, and leadership from the Dandridge Board of Mayor and Aldermen spearheaded numerous projects aimed at shoring up the city's infrastructure. The city has spent more

than \$1 million upgrading water lines and building a water tank near Exit 417, which will spur further economic development in the area.

The town has also completed three major downtown infrastructure projects: replacing old gas pipelines downtown, replacing wooden power poles with black metal power poles, and repaving the downtown area. Additionally, the town also purchased 0.3 acres of land to create a new parking area for its downtown.

Park improvements have been another project undertaken by town officials. Dandridge recently purchased an additional 0.84 acres to expand the recreational opportunities at the Field of Dreams. A recent grant from the Tennessee Department of Health also financed the purchase of workout and cardio equipment for the Field of Dreams Activity Center. The town also financed the construction of a new bathroom facility near the Dandridge Dock.

Several new pieces of equipment have also been purchased to aid public works and emergency services personnel with the town. Dandridge utilized a Jefferson Health Care Foundation Fund Grant to purchase two sets of extrication equipment, a fire engine, rapid response vehicle, and command vehicle for the Dandridge Volunteer Fire Department. Three administrative vehicles and four patrol vehicles were also purchased for the Dandridge Police Department. A backhoe, knuckle boom, ton truck with snowplow and dump bed, salt spreader, and zero turn mower were purchased for the Dandridge Public Works Department while two vehicles were also purchased for the Dandridge Water Management Facility.

All of this has been done while working to improve the town's financial situation. Dandridge's property tax rates have decreased significantly over the past three years. Meanwhile, in two years the town has increased its net position by more than \$1.1 million and its fund balance by more than \$776,000. The town has also decreased its debt by more than \$1.2 million in the past three years.

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The Town of Cumberland Gap has used TMBF programs six times mostly for note issues. The last issue was a \$288,000 Sewer System Refunding bond in May. The Town was able to lower the rate of interest and shorten the term of an existing USDA bond issue. Seated left to right: Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli and City Recorder Linda Moyers. Standing: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.



The Town of Jonesborough first used the TMBF loan program in late 2020 in the amount of \$1 million issued for various public works projects. Earlier this year, they closed a loan for \$164,695 to finance some recreational projects. Seated left to right: Town Administrator Glenn Rosenoff and Jonesborough Mayor Chuck Vest. Standing: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Waleed Albakry has been selected as the new planning and community development director for the city of Shelbyville. A native of Alexandria, Egypt, Albakry has lived in Canada since 2004. He comes to Shelbyville from working as a senior planner for the city of Kingston, Ontario. Before that, he was employed as a senior planner by the city of Grand Prairie, Alberta; as a community planner for the city of Brandon, Manitoba; and as a planner with Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. He has also served as a research assistant with both the University of Manitoba and the University of Alberta, as well as a planning intern with the city of Winnipeg. Albakry holds a bachelor's degree in German from Ain Shams University in Egypt, a master's in the humanities from the University of Alberta, and a master's in city planning from the University of Manitoba.



Waleed Albakry

Richard "Red" Barnes, police chief of Newbern, died on Sept. 2, 2021, of COVID-19 related issues. Barnes had been with the Newbern Police Department for more than 40 years. A graduate of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy, Barnes also served as the senior pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Newbern.



Richard Barnes

Brooxie Carlton has been appointed as assistant commissioner of Community and Rural Development by Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TCECD) Commissioner Bob Rolfe. Carlton has been with TCECD for more than 13 years and has most recently served as the deputy assistant commissioner of Rural Development since 2015. During that role, she oversaw federal grant funding from the Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, and CDBG program. Born and raised in Dyersburg, Carlton graduated from Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama and holds a master's degree in human, organizational, and community development from Vanderbilt University.



Brooxie Carlton

Walter Brown has been promoted to major of administration for the Bristol Tennessee Police Department, overseeing training, communications, community policing, and other support services. Before his promotion, Brown served as captain of support services. A veteran of the U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard, Brown began his law enforcement career as a corrections officer for the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. He joined BTPD in 1998 as a public safety officer and served as sergeant of patrol for nearly a decade before moving into the role of administrative police lieutenant. He was then prompted to captain of support services in 2018. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Purdue University Global and a master's of public administration from Liberty University.



Walter Brown

Martin Granum has been chosen as the new city manager for the city of Red Bank. Granum comes to Red Bank from Washington County, Ore., where he served as manager of



Martin Granum

facilities and parks for the county. Granum is also a 20-year Air Force veteran. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Air Force Academy and a master's of public administration from Troy State University. He also served as a supervisor for Multnomah County, Ore., and as a member of the Hillsboro, Ore., School Board.

Terry L. Johnson has been promoted to major of operations for the Bristol Tennessee Police Department, overseeing criminal investigations and the department's patrol division. Prior to his promotion, Johnson served as the captain of the department's Criminal Investigation Division (CID). A native of Bristol, Johnson originally joined the Bristol Fire Department in 1994 and was cross-trained in fire suppression and law enforcement under the Public Safety Officer Program. He moved to the police department in 1996. While overseeing CID, he also served as a special operations commander in charge of the Explosive Ordnance Unit, SWAT Team, and negotiations. He holds an associate's degree in police science from Virginia Highlands Community College, a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Tusculum University, and a master's of business administration from King University.



Terry Johnson

William Lambert has been promoted to fire lieutenant and fire inspector/safety coordinator with the Springfield Fire Department. Lambert was hired as a part-time firefighter with the department in 2003 and was promoted to full-time in 2009. He is also a state certified firefighter I and state certified fire inspector through the state fire marshal's office and has numerous other certifications through the NFPA National Pro-board, TEMA, Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads, Tennessee Department of Health, and American Heart Association. Lambert holds an associate's degree in fire science from Volunteer State Community College.



William Lambert

James Lewellen, town administrator for the city of Collierville, will retire after more than 26 years of service. Lewellen will retire by Jan. 1, 2022, though said he may stay until the city completes its 2022 budget process. Lewellen joined the town staff in 1995 and has served under three mayors. Before coming to the city of Collierville, Lewellen worked in Germantown as the city's chief planner in the department of development from 1989 until he was promoted to Germantown's assistant city administrator in 1993. Prior to that, Lewellen served as director of planning and development for Southaven, Miss. He holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in public policy and public administration from Mississippi State University.



James Lewellen

Michelle Pence has been selected as the new human resources manager for the town of Farragut. Before coming to Farragut, Pence worked in human resources for a flooring manufacturing company and also for Fairfield Glade. A native of northwest Indiana, Pence attended Purdue University.



Michelle Pence

Tammy Watts Rochester has been selected as the new town administrator for the town of Pittman Center. Watts has been serving as

the town's interim city administrator since June as well as the town's chief financial officer. She has been with the city since 2017, serving in numerous roles including as court clerk, CMFO, administrative assistant, town recorder, and working as a building official. Watts is a Pittman Center native and the daughter of a third-generation farmer.



Tammy Watts Rochester

Saul Solomon has been selected as the finance director for Metro Nashville on an interim basis by Mayor John Cooper. Solomon most recently served as interim executive director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA). He has 35 years of experience including serving as law director for Metro Nashville and as an assistant public defender. He spent 18 years in the private sector, serving in various leadership roles at Bridgestone Americas. Solomon is a member of the Nashville law firm Klein Solomon Mills, PLLC, and also teaches at Vanderbilt Law School and the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management. He holds a law degree from the University of North Carolina Law School and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.



Saul Solomon

C. Seth Sumner, Athens city manager, has been awarded the Community First Award for Public Services by Cleveland State Community College. The award was given due to his many efforts and project during the pandemic as well as his consistent voice for community residents. He spearheaded a 60-day informational video campaign that reported state and local health data, provided updates from the governor's office, and explained how the governor's orders impacted local services. This caused the development of his campaign called "Friendly City Forward". Sumner will be honored at the Community First Awards Gala hosted by Cleveland State Community College in September at the Barn at Faith Farms in Athens.



C. Seth Sumner

David Townsend has been promoted to major with the Collierville Police Department, the first to serve at that rank with the town's police department. Townsend began his career in law enforcement in 1987 as a seasonal fishing, gaming, and boating enforcement officer at the Beech River Watershed Development Authority. He then worked as a patrol officer and deputy sheriff at the Henderson County Sheriff's Department until 1995 when he was hired as a patrol officer with the Collierville Police Department. He was promoted to traffic officer in 1996 and then to lieutenant in 1999, having worked within a variety of different divisions within the department. He studied criminal justice, business administration, and police administration at the University of Memphis.



David Townsend

Cpl. Daniel Wallace with the Brownsville Police Department died suddenly while on duty on Aug. 25, 2021, from heart complications at the age of 29. Wallace served as the Brownsville Police Department's evidence technician and accreditation manager. He had been serving as



Daniel Wallace

STATE BRIEFS



Seven state parks have been honored by the state of Tennessee as part of the 2021 Tennessee State Parks Awards of Excellence. Cummins Falls State Park near Cookeville was designated Park of the Year. Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park between Benton and Etowah was awarded for customer engagement. Pickett CCC Memorial State Park in Jamestown was awarded for excellence in facilities management. Warriors' Path State Park in Kingsport was awarded for innovations. Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville was lauded for interpretation. Pickwick Landing State Park near Michie in was awarded for sustainability, and Johnsonville State Historic Park in New Johnsonville was awarded for resource management.

Tennessee Comptroller Jason Mumpower is pleased to announce that his Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has been honored as one of the nation's leading research and program evaluation teams. OREA is one of two offices in the U.S. that has received the Excellence in Research Methods Award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society (NLPES). The award recognizes

OREA's evaluation of the Tennessee Promise program by Lauren Spires and Kristina Podesta. This is the first time that OREA has been recognized with this prestigious honor. NLPES has also awarded the Office of Research and Education Accountability with a 2021 Certificate of Impact for its evaluation of Corporal Punishment in Tennessee. This work was also done by Lauren Spires and was honored for its "significant impact on public policy."

As the corporate exodus from California continues, Tennessee is the second most popular state for these companies to relocate. Tennessee only trails Texas in the top choice for headquarters that are moving out of California, according to a study following the 272 companies that left California since 2018. The Greater Nashville area is where most former California companies chose to relocate in Tennessee with many companies settling in locations like Franklin, La Verge, and White House. The study found that many of these companies are seeking areas with lower tax rates, less regulation, lower labor costs, lower utility and energy costs, and lower cost of living and housing for employees.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



U.S. manufacturing activity unexpectedly increased in August even as factory employment dropped to a nine-month low. A survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) found that problems securing raw materials, rising COVID infection rates, and a labor shortage leading to a backlog of positions in the manufacturing sector have impacted the U.S. manufacturing sector. ISM said the national factory index increased from 59.5 in July to 59.9 in August. Manufacturing accounts for 11.9% of the U.S. economy.

5.4% in July with nonfarm payrolls increasing by 235,000 jobs after surging by more than 1 million in July, according to the U.S. Labor Department. Economists are lowering their expectations for the third quarter as a result of the Delta variant, relentless shortages of raw materials, and worker shortages.

Job growth in the U.S. slowed more than expected in August with a softening demand for service and worker shortages as a result of COVID-19. The unemployment rate fell from 5.2% from

U.S. home prices surged 18.6% in June, the most prices have jumped in three decades. This marks the third straight month of record-breaking price increases created by pandemic transplants and a housing shortage. The national pricing index is up 41.3% from the previous peak in July 2006 while the 20-city composite topped its high point by the same month in 29.9%. The 10-city composite rose by 24.1% from June 2006.

Comptroller offering free Public Records, Open Meetings training

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office of Open Records Counsel (OORC) is conducting three, 2-hour virtual training seminars in the month of October for government employees, elected officials, media, and anyone who is interested in learning more about Tennessee's public records and open meetings laws.

Open Records Counsel Lee Pope will lead each class through a variety of topics including public records laws and procedures, open meetings requirements, and exceptions to the Tennessee Public Records Act.

These sessions qualify for Certified Municipal Finance Officer and Utility Commissioner training credits.

Training dates and times:

- Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021 • 1 pm - 3 pm (CDT)
- Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021 • 1 pm - 3 pm (CDT)
- Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021 • 1 pm - 3 pm (CDT)

Please RSVP by sending an email to open.records@cot.tn.gov

New Sweetwater Fitness Court connects exercise, mobile app

SWEETWATER from Page 1

"People are more health conscious now, and I think the pandemic has been a part of that," she said. "This is something we would never really have to shut down. It's outdoors and something people can socially distance on if they need to. This is really being well-received. The street department did the site prep, parks and recreation is doing the monitoring of the site, and my department has done the financial and grant part of it. Numerous people have stepped up to the plate for

this project."

National Fitness Campaign developed the trademarked seven-station system in 2012 hoping to inspire municipalities to transform public spaces into community fitness hubs. There are currently 150 active Fitness Court locations across the country, and the Campaign will reach a total of 250 cities and schools by the end of 2021.

For more information on the Fitness Court model, visit <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/>.

Brownsville Police Department for five years. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

Kara Zahn has been selected as the new public affairs coordinator for the city of Spring Hill. Before coming to Spring Hill, Zahn served for five years with the city of Clarksville as an event planning specialist and event planning supervisor. Before that, she spent more than six years as an event planner and organizer in the Clarksville area. She

also served for nearly two years as the head coach of the Austin Peay State University dance team. Zahn holds a bachelor's degree in public relations in marketing from Austin Peay State University.



Kara Zahn



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR

CLINTON. The city of Clinton is seeking to hire a new finance director. The position performs, plans, and manages the activities and operations of the finance department, including financial planning, disbursement of and accounting for municipal funds, billing and collection (property tax, court, etc.), licensing, payroll, budgeting, auditing, grant administration and preparation of the monthly, quarterly, and annual reports. This position performs hands-on work and manages over a broad range of administrative and support-related functions. Works under administrative direction of the city manager. Bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university in accounting, public finance, or related field. 10+ years professional, management-level experience in finance or related field, including extensive experience in municipal finance. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and/or Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) strongly preferred. CMFO or the ability to obtain within first year of employment required. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Annual salary \$79,306 - 99,132

CITY MANAGER

JOHNSON CITY. Johnson City, with a population of approximately 65,000 and a metro population of over 128,000, seeks a confident and dynamic city manager. Applicants should possess a high level of emotional intelligence, advanced interpersonal skills, and a proactive, transparent, collaborative, and "no surprises" management style. Johnson City covers 43-square miles and is the eighth-largest city in Tennessee. Nestled in the foothills of the scenic Appalachian Mountains in Washington County, this thriving urban community has consistently ranked as one of the nation's best and most popular small metro areas boasting an affordable cost of living, no state income tax, and outstanding schools, parks, sports, and fitness facilities. The city is accessible from I-26 and I-81 and is a short drive to access commercial air service at the Tri-Cities Airport. The City of Johnson City operates under a Commission-Manager form of government with a mayor and four city commissioners. The city manager is appointed by the vote of 2/3rds of the city commission, to be selected based on executive and administrative merit. The city manager is the chief executive and administrative officer of the organization and oversees government operations within the guidelines of the city charter; implements policies established by the city commission by enforcing all adopted resolutions and ordinances; and is generally responsible for the day-to-day management of all municipal departments. A master's degree in public administration, or related field, from an accredited college or university augmented by course work in municipal planning, civil engineering, public finance, community development, personnel/lab relations, or other related fields is required. The city seeks candidates with a minimum of 10 years of professional experience as a city or county manager or 10 years of increasingly responsible related municipal experience in a full-service city of similar or larger size and complexity to Johnson City. ICMA-CM and advanced executive leadership training/credentials are strongly desired. Please apply online at <http://bit.ly/SGROpenRecruitments> For more information on this position contact: Doug Thomas, Senior Vice President, SGR, Douglas.Thomas@GovernmentResource.com, 863-860-9314

CITY MANAGER

LAKESITE. The city of Lakesite is seeking applicants for the position of city manager who works under the general direction of the Commission. The city manager oversees city operations with an approximately \$1,044,695 general fund budget and two full-time and three part-time employees. Lakesite is a welcoming community of 1,845 people in Hamilton County. It is situated near a beautiful lake and a vibrant small town. Conveniently within 15 miles of downtown Chattanooga, it is located near a large retail center, quality health care facilities, higher education institutions, fine dining, and a metropolitan airport. Most city services are provided by contract. The current city manager has served the city for almost 30 years. The minimum requirement for this opportunity is a bachelor's degree, with a preferred focus in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field. A minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience as a city manager or manager of a public agency or department with related duties is required. Salary range is \$50,000-\$80,000 and commensurate with education, experience, and marketplace conditions. The city offers a comprehensive benefits package. Interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter and professional references to: City of Lakesite; Attn: Jodi LaCroix; 9201 Rocky Point Road; Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379; or submit by email to jplacroi@lakesiteitn.gov. All information should be submitted by Friday, September 24, 2021. Please direct questions to Honna Rogers, MTAS Management Consultant, at honna.rogers@tennessee.edu. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE / TN Drug Free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

SOUTH FULTON. The city of South Fulton is seeking applications for the position of city manager who works under the general direction of the commission. The city manager oversees city operations with an approximately \$1.3 million general fund budget and 27 full-time employees in administrations, police, fire, and public works. South Fulton (2,193 pop) is a welcoming and growing community located in West Tennessee and borders Fulton, Kentucky. Also, an hour away from Reelfoot Lake. Minimum requirement is a high school diploma or higher, if a bachelor's degree preferred focus in public administration, management, business administration or closely related field. A minimum of five years of municipal leadership experience a department head or higher. Salary range will depend on qualifications. The city offers a comprehensive benefit includes Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS Hybrid) and 401K. Interested applicants may apply by mailing your resume, cover letter, and professional references to City of South Fulton % City Recorder at 700 Milton Counce Drive, South Fulton, TN 38257. Resumes need to be in City Recorder's office by Oct. 29, by 3 p.m. Applications are subject to public disclosure. EOE/Tn Drug Free Workplace.

DEPUTY TOWN ENGINEER

COLLIERVILLE. This is complex and professional engineering work involving land development projects, capital improvement projects, water, sewer, street, drainage, and public works projects and programs and ensures technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria. This position directly reports to the town engineer and works under his general guidance and direction. The incumbent may also perform the duties of the division director in the absence of the town engineer. Requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or closely related field; previous experience and/or training that includes civil engineering, environmental/utility engineering, computerized mapping, drafting, project management, research, and data analysis is preferred; and five years of previous professional civil engineering experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be registered as a Professional Engineer (PE) in the state of Tennessee or possess the ability to obtain license within six months of employment and maintain license throughout employment. Salary DOQ with excellent benefits package. To apply, submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, or obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol, TN, with a budget of \$70 million, is seeking a well-rounded professional with proven leadership skills to serve as the director of finance. This position is responsible for planning, directing and supervising the city's financial management, including financial planning and reporting, account practices, revenue collections, cash management and internal controls. Position reports to the city manager. Full understanding of accounting principles, GAAP, GASB, and financial management systems (including Excel) with strong interpersonal, organizational, supervisory, and decision-making skills required. Must be a team player who can work well with other city departments, the city manager, outside agencies and the public. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or public administration, or a related field; supplemented by five or more years of progressively responsible work experience in Finance, with demonstrated administrative and management skills; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. CPA, Master's degree, CMFO, and/or CPFO preferred. The successful candidate can expect a competitive benefits package with an annual salary range of \$68,522 to \$106,210. Salary offered will be dependent on qualifications. To read more about the City of Bristol, TN, the position and to apply, candidates must complete an online application and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking to hire a new finance director under the general supervision of the city administrator and assistant city administrator. This employee plans and directs the disbursement and accounting of revenues and expenditures for the city. Work involves supervision of the budget, purchasing, accounting, general revenue collections, and payroll operations. This employee must exercise considerable independent judgment and initiative in planning and directing the fiscal control system. Work is performed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, established municipal finance procedures, local ordinances and state and federal statutes governing the responsibilities of local government accountants. Work is evaluated through conferences, reports, and by an independent audit of financial records. Bachelor's degree in accounting, public finance or a closely related field; 10+ years of professional finance experience, including 4-6 years of extensive, progressively responsible experience in municipal finance for a similarly sized agency; Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and/or Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) preferred. CMFO designation strongly preferred, or the ability to obtain within 1 year. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and Women are encouraged to apply.

FIREFIGHTER-AEMT/ PARAMEDIC

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has 23 immediate openings for the following positions: 11 firefighter-AEMT, and 12 firefighter paramedics. Collierville Fire & Rescue currently has five stations located in Town, and we are looking to expand and better provide for our citizens. Working in the fire service, no two days will ever be the same. We provide amazing benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, Town provided life and long-term disability insurance, paid time off, pension, and more. Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED; Firefighter I Certificate (Firefighter II preferred but not required); Advanced EMT License or Paramedic License; Valid Driver's License; Maintain permanent residence east of the Mississippi River no greater than 30 miles from the Town's corporate limits; If a veteran, must possess an "Honorable" discharge from any military service; Must not have been convicted of a felony; Must not have been convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor within 36 months of hire; Must be at least 21 years of age. If this sounds like the perfect job for you, please visit www.colliervilletn.gov and download our Fire Department application, or visit Town Hall and submit a physical application in the Human Resources Department. EOE.

GENERAL FIELD TECHNICIAN

CHAPEL HILL. The general field technician is responsible for performing maintenance tasks of an unskilled to skilled nature. Duties are wide ranging, widely inclusive support services to town divisions/departments under the supervision of the town administrator or their designee. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. CDL highly desired but not required. The employee may operate light duty vehicle up to 2 1/2 ton truck, tractors, riding, push, or pull mowers, weed-eater, chain saws, rakes, shovels, etc. The employee may operate backhoes, bulldozers, and other types of heavy equipment. Work is generally performed outdoors; some tasks will be performed regardless of weather conditions. The employee may be working at any location

within the town's corporate boundaries or where there are town utilities. Example Job Functions (May include, but not limited to): cuts grass and maintains landscaping, utilizing common and necessary equipment; removes debris from street rights-of-way and other town property; loads and unloads dirt, gravel, trash, garbage, and other debris; may be asked to do a number of tasks regarding town utility servicing including but not limited to install, repair or locate water lines; install, read or locate water meters; handle work orders, lay sewer lines, clean out sewers, install or repair street signs, etc. Works as part of construction crew in road repair, gravel spreading, or ditch digging. Cleans, maintains and services equipment and tools. Must perform heavy manual labor for extended periods under some unfavorable climatic conditions, frequently lifting objects over 25lbs. Compensation DOQ; competitive benefits package. Contact Amanda Harrington to apply: cityofch@united.net.

GIS COORDINATOR

SPRINGFIELD. The City of Springfield is accepting applications for one (1) GIS Coordinator with Springfield Engineering Department from Sept 6-Oct 6. Essential responsibilities include performing difficult technical work in the development, coordination and maintenance of the city's Geographic Information System (GIS). Bachelor's degree with major course work in geographic information systems, geography, planning, landscape architecture, civil engineering, computer science or a closely related field; supplemented by two years previous experience and/or training with geographic information systems; or a combination of education and experience equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Applications may be submitted on-line at the following website: www.springfieldtn.gov. Salary: (\$53,144-\$73,081/YR.) EOE. City Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, TN 37172

HR GENERALIST

COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia is accepting applications for HR generalist. This position will provide professional advice, strategic direction, and work in the areas of employee relations, employment services/recruitment and benefits. This position requires a broad knowledge of all human resources functional areas to serve as a consultant for all departments. This includes working closely with supervisors, management and other staff on complex human resources issues including disciplinary action, appeals, employee relations, investigations, complaints, grievances and recruitment processes. Incumbents in this classification may be required to conduct business in off-site locations and are responsible for transportation to off-site locations. Associate's degree (A.A.) or equivalent from two year college or technical school; or one year to two years HR related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must obtain SHRM certification within 6 months of employment. A bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management and SHRM certification. Experience in a municipal or government setting. Apply at columbiatn.com.

MAIN STREET MANAGER

COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia is searching for a confident leader who is organized, innovative and capable of functioning independently to fill a new position as Main Street Manager. This position will work with the Tourism and Marketing Director to create, manage and implement programs, events and projects in collaboration with the Main Street Committee to strengthen economic impact in downtown Columbia while also fostering historic preservation. The Main Street Manager will deliver sustainable growth by marketing Columbia's unique characteristics through effective advertising, retail promotional activity and special events and utilize historic preservation and business development as an integral foundation for downtown economic development. The Main Street Manager will be housed in our newly renovated Visit Columbia Welcome Center where they will present a positive image for the Main Street commercial district to encourage consumers and investors while overseeing the daily operations of the Welcome Center. The ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree in marketing, economic development, or related field and two or more years related experience. Requires a working knowledge of specialized marketing and/or tourism practices and Main Street experience. A combination of education and experience in one or more of the following: nonprofit corporations, retail, public relations, tourism, fundraising, historic preservation, urban geography, architecture, or a related field. Ability to work flexible hours, including some weekends and evenings. Main Street experience is a plus. Must be entrepreneurial, energetic, imaginative, well organized and capable of functioning effectively in an independent environment. Supervisory skills are preferred. Apply at www.columbiatn.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR

COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a museum director working in the Morton Museum. The Museum Director will be responsible for the development, execution, and management of the policies, programs and initiatives of the Morton Museum of Collierville History. This position serves as the public face of the Morton Museum and assures that the Museum's mission is carried out with the highest professional standards and in a manner that meets a wide range of audience needs and expectations. Great benefits including medical, dental, and vision insurance, town provided life and long-term disability insurance, paid time off, pension, and more. Minimum requirements for this position are: bachelor's degree with major course work in History, Art History, Museum or American Studies, or a closely related field; supplemented by two years responsible experience in a professional museum setting; Must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license; first-aid and C.P.R. certification required within six months of employment. Experience in grant writing, educational program planning, docent training, public speaking, public relations and marketing, and donor development and fundraising preferred but not required. Incumbent may be required to work late hours, weekends, and holidays, as necessary. To apply, please visit www.colliervilletn.gov and download our application, or you can also visit Town Hall and submit a physical application in the Human Resources Department. EOE.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland TN

(pop. approximately approx. 50,000), a fast-growing city near Chattanooga, seeks an experienced Planning Director to coordinate its overall land use and development programs for both current and long-range planning activities. Home to a mid-sized university, strong industrial footprint, substantial residential and commercial development pressure, and redevelopment opportunities. Duties include reviews and coordination of small area plans, site plans, subdivisions, rezoning requests; preparing and presenting reports to the City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and other community groups; assisting in ordinance and policy creation and amendments; and issuing commercial and residential permits. Graduation from an accredited university with 6 years community planning, or comparable work, and possession of AICP certification is required. Masters' degree preferred. Salary DOE plus strong benefits and retirement package. Submit resume and cover letter to Kim Miller (Human Resources) at kimmiller@clevelandtn.gov. Position will be open until filled. First review of applications will begin on Oct. 15. EOE.

PLANNING DIRECTOR

NOLANSVILLE. The Town of Nolensville is seeking to hire a full-time Planning Director. This position directs short- and long-range Town Planning and community development services. The position also directs implementation and enforcement of zoning ordinances, land use plans, and subdivision design and construction regulations. The required knowledge, skill, and abilities to satisfactorily perform job duties are normally acquired through attainment of a bachelor's degree from a four-year College or University in Urban Planning, Civil Engineering or related field, plus eight to ten years of related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. AICP certification is required. Normal working hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Please refer to the attached job description for complete requirements of the position. Compensation and benefits include: health, dental, vision and life insurance; defined benefit plan; paid time off including vacation, sick and holiday; salary commensurate with experience. All candidates MUST submit a completed application to the Town of Nolensville in order to be considered for an open position. Qualified applicants should submit a completed application to the Town of Nolensville, Attn: Misti Duenez, 7218 Nolensville Road, Nolensville, TN 37135 or email to mduenez@nolensvilletn.gov.

POLICE CHIEF

UNION CITY. is accepting applications for Police Chief now through the close of business on Sept. 24, 2021. Applications will not be accepted after Sept. 24, 2021. Testing and interviews will be conducted Oct. 27-28, 2021 in Union City. Details will be sent to applicants selected to interview. Minimum requirements include: bachelor's degree from accredited college or university preferably with major in criminal justice, police science or related field and certification of training for police administration or ability to obtain in the first year required. At least 10 years of progressive law enforcement experience with at least 5 years of experience in police administration and/or experience as a commanding officer i.e., Lieutenant, Captain. Must pass extensive background check. Must possess Tennessee P.O.S.T. certification or be eligible for transition as described in Tennessee P.O.S.T. rules. Must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license or obtain within 30 days of hire. All interested applicants should apply here: www.unioncitytn.gov.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MANAGER

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol, TN., is accepting applications for transportation planning manager. Under the direction of the Director of Development Services, the purpose of this position is to perform professional administrative work over the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and to develop and implement comprehensive transportation plans. Master's degree in transportation planning or related field with 5+ years' experience or equivalent combo education, training and experience. Competitive benefits/salary package offered. To read more about the City of Bristol, TN, the position, and to apply, candidates must complete an online application and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>. EOE

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT MANAGER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a candidate for the following position. Full-time Transportation Project Manager to assist Director of Public Works/City Engineer and Deputy Director of Public Works & Engineering in a variety of functions related to transportation infrastructure for the City of Mt. Juliet, including but not limited to managing transportation capital improvement projects, traffic engineering, transportation planning, construction plan review, transportation design, maintenance, grant writing, and the publication of manuals, specifications, etc. Excellent benefits and TCRS pension. Salary \$27.46 - \$39.06. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. Open until filled. The City of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

UTILITY DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is accepting applications and resumes for a full-time, exempt utility director. He or she will perform administrative and managerial work in the planning, organizing, and directing of overall operations amongst the water and wastewater treatment plants; and, the water distribution, and sewer collection. This employee must possess the ability to make prudent and independent decisions as they apply to daily activities. The incumbent in this position will supervise assigned employees; coordinate activities between departments, and maintain records and budgets for various projects. The utility director provides substantive and highly complex staff assistance to the city administrator and operates under his or her direct supervision. The employee will perform other related and/or non-specific work as required, some of which will be mechanical. Must possess a bachelor's degree in engineering; Must possess Professional Engineer (P.E.) licensure from the state of Tennessee; Must possess a valid driver's license; 10 years' experience in water or wastewater system maintenance or construction, hydraulic engineering, or

civil engineering of which some experience having been in an increasingly responsible administrative or supervisory capacity. The city of Spring Hill offers an extensive and generous employee benefit package, which includes a 100% Employer paid Medical coverage option for the entire family, optional vision insurance, employer paid dental insurance for the employee with the option to purchase family coverage, Flexible Spending Account, Employer paid Life, AD&D and LTD Insurance, as well as voluntary life and STD, TCRS Pension. Submit applications/resumes online at: www.springhilltn.org/jobs.aspx Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org No phone calls please. EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION OPERATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The Wastewater Collection Operator is responsible for the supervision and direction of the operation and maintenance sewer collection systems. The employee also engages in general labor activities related to the utility. Instructions to the employee are general, but established policies, procedures and regulations provide guidance. The employee must occasionally use independent judgment when performing tasks. This employee is under the direct supervision of the Utilities Superintendent or their designee. Must possess a valid Tennessee Wastewater Collection License and 2 years of work experience as a Licensed Collections Operator. Must be available for rotated on-call work. Work is generally performed outdoors and some tasks will be performed regardless of weather conditions. Essential job functions include: operating, maintaining and repairing the facilities of the wastewater collection system and pump stations using a variety of hand and power tools; performs work in accordance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations and within mandated and appropriate safety standards; maintains rights of way, buildings and properties used for the supply, collection and conveyance of water and wastewater. Knowledge of all state, federal and local standards and regulations regarding the distribution and collection systems, including know of chemical analysis and laboratory tests as evidenced by possession of a valid Tennessee Wastewater Collection Operators' License. Compensation DOQ. Contact Town Administrator Amanda Harrington at Cityofch@united.net to apply.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator is responsible for the supervision and direction of the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility. This employee may be asked to perform some functions of a utility worker. The employee will operate a wastewater treatment facility requiring the use of mechanical tools, laboratory and testing equipment, and specialized pumps, etc. This employee is under the direct supervision of the Utilities Superintendent or their designee. At least 3 years' experience in the operation of wastewater treatment facilities; must possess a valid Biological/Natural Systems Treatment Plant Operator License or greater; ability to respond to emergencies within two hours of notification, outside normal working hours, including weekends, holidays and during inclement weather to correct conditions that affect the safe and efficient operation of the water and wastewater systems. Assures that the operations of the wastewater treatment facility comply with local, state, federal occupational health and safety, and wastewater regulations; conducts bacteriological and chemical tests required by state and federal regulations; maintains/administers proper chemical dosages to treat, disinfect, deodorize, and clarify wastewater. Responsible for the accurate completion of a variety of reports as required by local, state, and federal regulations; Maintains inventory control, departmental purchasing approvals and various other records and reports incidental to the operation of the wastewater treatment facility. May assist with maintenance on water/sewer lines or pumps and other equipment as needed. Knowledge of chemical analysis and laboratory tests needed and required for wastewater treatment and the use of modern laboratory equipment to perform these tests and analysis; Knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures of operating wastewater treatment plants and facilities. Compensation DOQ. Interested candidates should contact Amanda Harrington, Town Administrator, via email at Cityofch@united.net.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The Water Treatment Plant Operator is responsible for the supervision and direction of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant. This employee may perform the some functions of a utility worker. Instructions to the employee are general, but established policies, procedures and regulations provide guidance. The employee must occasionally use independent judgment when performing tasks. This employee is under the direct supervision of the Utilities Superintendent or their designee. Must possess Tennessee Grade III Water Treatment or above and have at least 3 years' experience in the operation of water treatment facilities. Ability to respond to emergencies within two hours of notification of rotating on-call system. Work may be performed outdoors regardless of the weather. Inspects the water plant to ensure the proper operation, maintenance, repair of equipment; checks/ reviews plant log records, gauges, meters, computer data tabulations, lab reports and other plant measuring and testing devices to see that all equipment, including laboratory equipment, is functioning and properly used; establishes, directs, and supervises the procedures for the operation of centrifugal pumps, control panels, chlorinators, electric motors, meters, and other plant equipment; supervises adjustments and repairs of chlorinators and chemical feeders, pumps and all other equipment to obtain optimum results. Assures that operations and procedures of the water plant comply with federal and state occupational health and safety regulations and compliance with state/federal water quality regulations. May assist with maintenance on water/sewer lines or pumps and other equipment. Knowledge of chemical analysis and laboratory tests needed and required for water treatment and the use of modern laboratory equipment to perform these tests and analysis. Knowledge of the principles, practices and procedures of operating water treatment plants and facilities. Ability to conduct and supervise chemical, physical and bacteriological analysis. Compensation DOQ. To apply contact Amanda Harrington, at Cityofch@united.net

Tennessee Municipal League
2020-2021 Officers and Directors

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Bo Perkinson (2017) Vice Mayor, Athens

John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg

Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston

Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon

Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor

Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris

Tommy Pedigo (2009) Councilman, Morristown

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Tracy Baker, Sevierville (TCMA)

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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.

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TN Recreation and Parks Assn.

TN Chapter, American Planning

TN Personnel Management Assn.

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New economic development chief pledges to ramp up national outreach

Alejandra Castillo last month took the helm of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, which has seen its budget swell with over \$4 billion in pandemic-era grant funding.

BY BILL LUCIA
Route Fifty

Alejandra Castillo, the new administrator of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, says communities should expect to see ramped-up engagement and outreach from the agency as it works to manage billions of dollars in grant funding Congress made available under pandemic relief legislation.

"The DNA of EDA has not changed. What has changed and will continue to change is how we engage across the country to make sure that we engage new partners, new stakeholders, as well as communities that have been disenfranchised," Castillo told *Route Fifty* in an interview last week. "What you're going to see is much more intentionality in making sure that we're reaching the urban, the suburban, the rural areas," she added.

Castillo was sworn into the job less than a month ago, on Aug. 13. She said that so far, she's met with university presidents and, the National Governors Association and travelled to West Virginia's coal country. The agency, meanwhile, she said has held about 10 online seminars to provide information to stakeholders on its programs in recent weeks, with over 20,000 participants tuning in.

Big Funding Boost
It's a pivotal moment for EDA, which describes itself as the only federal agency focused exclusively on economic development. In recent years, the agency has also taken on more of a role in disaster recovery. EDA's fiscal 2020 budget was around \$330 million. But the American Rescue Plan Act sent \$3 billion its way and the earlier CARES Act \$1.5 billion.

That money is bound for communities across the country to support economic development initiatives and the recovery from the pandemic. Last month, EDA unveiled a suite of six new grant programs that will be used to distribute the ARPA dollars.

An application deadline for one of the programs, the \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge, is coming up on Oct. 19. That initiative will award 20 to 30 regional coalitions grants of \$25 million to \$75 million, and possibly up to \$100 million, to develop "industry clusters."

"That's a call to action, in terms of partnerships and regional collaboration," said Castillo.

"We're hoping that we're going to get some really incredible ideas."

The other new grant programs will focus on areas like job skills training, assisting

communities hit by declines in the coal industry, and helping places that rely on travel, tourism and outdoor recreation rebound from the economic blow of the coronavirus.

Many state and local governments are already handling an unprecedented influx of federal cash that came their way from the \$350 billion ARPA program providing direct aid to states and localities. In contrast to that giant program, the EDA money may seem modest. But set against federal funding from pre-pandemic times it is anything but.

For instance, regular appropriations for Community Development Block Grants, a flexible program favored by local leaders, have been in the ballpark of \$3.3 billion in recent years. Back around 2015-16, dozens of cities vied for a mere \$40 million in federal money as part of the Transportation Department's Smart City Challenge.

For the shrewd state or locality, the EDA dollars are an added funding stream that can be tapped to support economic development efforts and pandemic recovery, and possibly beefed up further by pairing the money with philanthropic or private sector investments.

'Saw What Disinvestment Looked Like'

It's in this context Castillo is taking the helm of EDA, which is housed within the Commerce Department. This is not her first go-round in the federal government. During the Clinton years, she served as a policy analyst for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Then-president Barack Obama appointed her in 2014 as national director of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency—she was the first Hispanic woman to lead the agency.

Castillo also worked for the Commerce Department back in the 2008 time frame, on international trade issues. Just before taking her new EDA post, she was CEO of the nonprofit YWCA USA, one of the nation's largest groups focused on empowering women.

During her time with the Minority Business Development Agency, Castillo worked with EDA. She said she was eager to get the top job at the agency after Biden was elected.

"I love communities," Castillo said. "The more you travel our country, the more you realize the diversity." Not just in terms of population, race or ethnicity, she added, "But diversity of what makes communities run and tick and how that economic fabric, how strong it is and sometimes how very fragile it is."

Castillo described witnessing that fragility growing up in New York City in the 1970s, a rough era for the city. "I saw what disinvestment looked like. When the dollars are not flowing into communities,

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES includes Six Funding Opportunities:

- Build Back Better Regional Challenge (\$1 billion)
- Good Jobs Challenge (\$500 million)
- Economic Adjustment Assistance Challenge (\$500 million)
- Indigenous Communities Challenge (\$100 million)
- Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grants (\$750 million)
- Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks Grants (\$90 million)

the infrastructure starts to decay. The opportunities for jobs are not there."

"All of that has really left a very big impression," she added.

Castillo's parents immigrated from the Dominican Republic. Her father, who passed away when she was 13, ran a bodega in the Bronx and her mother an Avon cosmetic products business.

Their work left an impression also. "Watching my parents as small business owners, what happens to small business owners when the community around you is going through really hard times. The challenges that small business owners have," she said. "They are leaders themselves. And how do they keep lifting up communities?" Asked about what she sees as the ingredients for a successful economic development program, Castillo said that having a range of stakeholders involved in planning is key.

She points out, for instance, how women and people of color have been affected disproportionately by the economic fallout from Covid-19, or how discussions about bringing an industry to a region are flawed without having people at the table who can speak to workforce development needs. "You need to bring in diverse voices," she said.

Castillo also suggested that programs like those that her agency works on have generally been short changed over the years. She noted that when economic development spending in the U.S. is compared to the amounts other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries spend, "we're at the bottom of the list."

"I think EDA has an incredible opportunity, but I also take it as an incredible challenge. How do I lift up the agency so that we can have a much more sustainable existence and not be underfunded," she added, after referring to the agency's unusual budget boost. "I really hope that this moment in time is not episodic, that it's not just a one-off."



Sept. 24-25: Townsend

Fall Train Days

The Little River Railroad and Lumber Company Museum in Townsend is hosting the annual Fall Train Days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please join us for this free, family-friendly event that includes an outdoor model railroad display, craft vendors, and other activities. For more information, visit <https://littleriverrailroad.org/>

Sept. 25: Morristown

Morristown Craft Beer Festival

Come to the Morristown farmers market pavilion and Downtown Green for an extensive variety of craft beers, food, live music, a corn hole tournament, a kid's zone, fun activities, and games. A 30-minute tasting tour will also give participants a chance to skip the lines and learn more about the brews on tap. Visit <https://morristowncraftbeerfestival.com/> for more information.

Oct. 1: Clinton

Fall Heritage Days

The Museum of Appalachia hosts a celebration of old-time harvest days. Guests will enjoy a hayride, traditional music, a tractor exhibition, and old-time demonstrations such as blacksmithing, sorghum and apple butter making, sawmilling, and leatherworking. Learn more at <http://www.museumofappalachia.org/>.

Oct. 2-3: Centerville

National Banana Pudding Festival

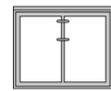
Come for the amazing banana puddings, watch the live national cookoff on Saturday morning, enjoy live music all day, and eat your fill of southern cuisine at the food trucks. Nearly 100 craft vendors to browse, games for the kids, and lots to see and do. For more info, visit <https://www.bananapuddingfest.org/>

Oct. 3: Nashville

2021 Tennessee Honey Festival

First Horizon Park will host the third annual Tennessee Honey Festival. The event is a public awareness campaign to save our local pollinators and honey bees. Local beekeepers are given a free space to sell and display their honey. The main mission of the festival is to educate and connect the community with everything bees and honey. Learn more at <https://tennessee-honeyfestival.com/>.

COMING UP



Nov. 1-3, 2021

2021 TCAPWA & SWANA Annual Conference

Memphis

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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CFP
Financial Advisor

2021 TML Conference lineup features dynamic speakers, workshops

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1 - 5 pm
Registration

1 - 2 pm
Workshop 1 MR 9 - 10
Best Practices: City Alternative Energy Projects
Speaker: Warren Nevad,
MTAS Management Consultant

With a goal to reduce petroleum dependence and greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time save cities money, many municipalities in Tennessee have installed the infrastructure necessary to make alternative fuel vehicles a viable transportation option. This workshop will highlight some of the best practices with alternative transportation fuel projects that TN cities have completed.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr.

Workshop 2 MR 18 - 19
Utility Board Training (Module B)
Speaker: Brad Harris,
MTAS Finance Consultant

State law mandates that all utility board members, which may include city council members, attend 12 hours of utilities training within 12 months of their initial election or appointment. Module B is a 4-hour session. You must attend all 4 sessions to get credit for the training. These workshops will teach participants the basic precepts of internal controls, budgeting, capital improvement planning, debt and financial statements. The classes will help prepare board members with the tools needed to lead and make critical decisions in managing utilities.

Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)

2:15 - 3:15 pm
Workshop 3 MR 9 - 10
Overview of Municipal Budget Manual
Speaker: Kay Stegall,
MTAS Finance Consultant

Two new laws initiated by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury were enacted this past legislative session that alter the budgeting process for local governments. And as a result of the new process, the Comptroller's Division of Local Government Finance has updated two manuals to accommodate these changes in law. This session will give a detailed overview of the Comptroller's Municipal Budget Manual as it relates to the annual budget process for Tennessee's local governments.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr.

Workshop 4 MR 18 - 19
Utility Board Training (Module B continued)
Speaker: Brad Harris,
MTAS Finance Consultant
Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)

3:30 - 4:30 pm
Workshop 5 MR 9 - 10
Overview of Municipal Debt Guidelines
Speaker: Kay Stegall,
MTAS Finance Consultant

This session will give a detailed overview of the Comptroller's guidelines on Municipal Debt. The workshop will cover uniform procedures for the issuance of notes by Tennessee municipalities and other local governments and provide some best practices for the issuance of debt.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr.

Workshop 6 MR 18 - 19
Utility Board Training (Module B continued)
Speaker: Brad Harris,
MTAS Finance Consultant
Utility: 1 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)

5:30 - 6:30 pm North Rotunda
Meet & Greet Reception

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

6:30 am
Golf Outing
Bear Trace at Harrison Bay

9 am - 5 pm Registration
9:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open

10:30 - 11:30 am
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 7 MR 9-10
Overview: Civil vs Criminal Court
Speaker: Rex Barton,
MTAS Police Management Consultant

What's the difference between civil court and criminal court? Why are there so many different courts and what do they do? We'll take an entertaining look at how the various courts work and how they impact your city. You'll leave understanding the role that different courts play in making our communities safer and ensuring fairness for folks who are victims of criminal offenses or civil injuries.

Utility: 1 hr

Workshop 8 MR 18 - 19
Utility Board Training (Module B continued)
Speaker: Kay Stegall,
MTAS Finance Consultant
Utility: 4 hr (must attend all 4 sessions)

Workshop 9 MR 4-5
Ransomware / Cybersecurity
Speakers:
• Penny Austin, Deputy Director, TN Comptroller
• John Hey, Director of Operations, VC3



Penny Austin



John Hey

Municipal leaders in Tennessee know that local governments continue to be the biggest target for cybercriminals who wish to steal money, change or destroy information, or even hold your data for ransom. Expert panelists will speak about the threat of cybercriminals to local governments and what cities can do to protect themselves.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr

11:30 am - 1:30 pm Hall B
Lunch

11:45 a.m - 1:45 pm Hall C - D
J.R. Wauford & Co. Ice Cream

1:15 - 2:15 pm Hall C - D
TML Affiliate Roundtables

Do you have burning questions you need answered about fire, parks and recreation, or public works? Come to the exhibit hall where TML Affiliate Organizations will be set up to respond.

1. TN Fire Chiefs: Mutual Aid Program
2. TACP: Use of Force and Law Enforcement Reform Policy
3. TREEDC: Solar Generators for Municipal Emergency Operations
4. TCAPWA: Infrastructure and Public Utility Best Practices
5. TN Building Codes: Codes Adoption and Inspector Certification Requirements

2:30 - 3:15 pm
District Meetings

- District 1** MR 7
Todd Smith, City Administrator, Greenville
- District 2** MR 8
Randy Childs, Councilmember, Kingston
- District 3** MR 16
Katie Lamb, Mayor, Collegedale
- District 4** MR 2
Hoyt Jones, Alderman, Sparta
- District 5** MR 17
Mike Callis, Mayor, Portand
- District 6** MR 18
Blake Lay, Mayor, Lawrenceburg
- District 7** MR 9 - 10
Mike French, Alderman, Somerville
- District 8** MR 19
Terry Jones, Mayor, Millington

3:30 - 5:00 pm
Opening General Session Hall E - F
Presiding: TML President
Mike Werner, Gatlinburg Mayor
Welcome: Tim Kelly, Chattanooga Mayor

From Conflict to Conversation
Speaker: Matt Lehrman

Must disagreement be disagreeable?

Amidst unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, there's never been a more necessary time for community leaders to learn how to tackle complex and sensitive issues in ways that make people feel heard, respected, and empowered. Inspiring and wholly actionable, Matt Lehrman animates the principle that where people work together courageously, their potential is unlimited.



Matt Lehrman

6 - 8 pm
Host City Reception
Tennessee Aquarium

CARTA will pickup and drop off attendees at the convention center. Bus pickup to begin at 5:15 pm. The last drop-off from the aquarium to the convention center is 8:15 pm. Masks required on the buses and at the aquarium.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7 - 8 am
Continental Breakfast Hall B

8 am - 3 pm Registration
8:30 am - 3 pm Exhibit Hall Open

8 am - 8:45 am
Annual Business Meeting MR 13-14 - 15
Presiding: TML President Mike Werner,
Gatlinburg Mayor
• Executive Director's Report
• Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Report
• Public Entity Partners Report
• Nominations Committee Report
• Installation of 2021-22 Officers

9 - 10 am
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 10 MR 4 - 5
Planning for Tomorrow's Ready Workforce
Panelists:

- Bo Drake, Chattanooga State Community College
- Blake Freeman, Future Readies Institute, Hamilton County
- Jermaine Freeman, Economic Development, Chattanooga

With unemployment at record lows and post-secondary graduation rates still not where they need to be, how do we develop the workforce that business and industries need to drive economic development for the state? Hamilton County is working on a solution through apprenticeships at their community colleges and work based-learning programs in their high schools. A panel of education and economic and development experts will discuss the issue.

Utility: 1 hr

Workshop 11 MR 7 - 8
Trends in Retail & The New Retail Alliance
Speakers:

- Angie Carrier, MTAS Management Consultant
- Lacy Beasley, Retail Strategies

How has retail changed throughout the pandemic and how does that affect your city? Tennessee cities are the economic engine of our state. For many communities, sales tax is the predominant revenue stream to provide services to the citizens of Tennessee. This session will discuss changes in this area as well as introduce MTAS' new Tennessee Retail Alliance. The Alliance will provide a vehicle to assist communities in promoting economic development through retail recruitment, to increase jobs and increase their sales tax revenue. Come learn about this program and how it can benefit your municipality.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr / Utility: 1 hr

Workshop 12 MR 16 - 17
Let's Talk!

Moderator: Matt Lehrman

Panelists:

- Paige Brown, Gallatin Mayor
- Kim Foster, Paris City Manager
- David Smoak, Farragut City Manager
- Julian McTizic, Bolivar Mayor

How are you moving your community from Conflict to Conversation? What challenges are you facing and what do you specifically hope to achieve? Keynote presenter Matt Lehrman facilitates a candid and helpful follow-up discussion that invites attendees to seek practical insight and advice from a diverse panel of Tennessee municipal leaders. Come prepared to "wear your heart on your sleeve" about how to engage more people and gather agreement around whatever you hope to accomplish in your community.

Utility: 1 hr

10:15 - 11:45 am
General Session Hall E - F

America Recovery Plan Funding

Panelists:

- Jason Mumpower, TN Comptroller
- Butch Eley, Commissioner, Dept. of Finance and Administration
- Eugene Neubert, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Finance and Administration



Jason Mumpower



Butch Eley

The U.S. Treasury is expected to issue its final guidance in September on allowable expenses for funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. A panel of experts will discuss the final rules concerning allowable expenditure eligibility, accounting, reporting requirements, and other issues. There will be ample time for questions and answers.

CMFO: Financial 1.5 hr. / Utility: 1.5 hr.

11:45 - 1:30 pm Lunch Hall B

1:30 - 2 pm Hall C - D
Vendor Door Prizes

1:30 - 3 pm Hall C - D
J.R. Wauford Ice Cream

2:45 - 3:45 pm
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 13 MR 7 - 8
Decision-Making:
A Risk Management Case Study (Part 1)

Speakers:

- Michael G. Fann, ARM-P, MBA, President/CEO, P.E. Partners
- Steve Isbell, Police Chief, Dyersburg Police Department

The critical discipline of public entity risk management impacts every element of municipal operations. Certainly, law enforcement presents critical challenges for any elected or appointed public official with responsibility in that area. This session will examine the basis for liability and other risk exposures for your municipality. Then these elements will be applied to a case study of a critical event that occurred in Dyersburg impacting municipal liability, potential property loss, and employee safety and wellness. The importance of how a city prepares for, and then responds to, a critical event will be analyzed within the context of making reasonable, responsible and defensible decisions.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.

Workshop 14 MR 4 - 5
Local Government ARP Funds:
Water/Wastewater, and Broadband

This workshop will take a deeper dive into the ARP Act, including what type of investments are considered eligible projects as it relates to improved infrastructure for broadband, water and wastewater projects. The state has also launched an education, training and support program for local governments. This workshop will cover what type of training is being offered through the Local Government Technical Assistance Program, including record-keeping, reporting and compliance with federal guidelines.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.

Workshop 15 MR 16 - 17
Burnout & Employee Engagement
Speaker: John Grubbs, MTAS HR Consultant

Feeling "burned out" is a common phrase today. We often envision highly paid executives, medical professionals, and overburdened front-liners when that phrase comes up. However, any one of us who serves the public can be burdened by this occupational phenomenon. In a recent survey conducted by the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, 33% of all local government respondents showed symptoms of job burnout. Join us to discuss the impact of 'emotional labor' on employee engagement and retention.

Utility: 1 hr.

4 - 5 pm
Workshop 16 MR 7 - 8
Decision-Making: A Risk Management Case Study (Part 2)
Speakers:
• Michael G. Fann, ARM-P, MBA, President/CEO, P.E. Partners
• Steve Isbell, Police Chief, Dyersburg Police Department
CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.

Workshop 17 MR 4 - 5
Maximizing Your Stimulus Dollars through Utility and Operational Savings
Speaker: Matthew Callahan, ESC Co-Chair

In this session, both public and private sector experts will share details about the CARES Act and the American Jobs Act. Led by the Tennessee Chapter of the Energy Services Coalition (ESC), this session will cover how to leverage future utility and operational savings to stretch those funds further. The Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of and providing education on the widespread use of Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting.

CMFO: Financial 1 hr. / Utility: 1 hr.

6:30 - 11 pm Hall H - I - J
PEP Rally

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8 - 10 am Hall E-F-G
Annual Awards Breakfast
• TML Achievement Awards
• Murphy Snoderly Award
• TCMA City Manager of the Year
• Bob Kirk Leadership Award
• TML Mayor of the Year

Save the Dates
TML Annual Conference
August 14 - 16, 2022
Gatlinburg Convention Center