

Public Hearings set regarding inspection of public records

The Office of Open Records Counsel (OORC) has been asked by the Tennessee General Assembly to review issues surrounding the inspection of public records, and is currently seeking input from government entities, as well as Tennessee citizens.

Legislation was introduced in the 2015 session of the 109th General Assembly that would permit charges for inspecting public records. While a records custodian is permitted to charge for copies of public records, inspecting records is generally free.

The OORC will prepare a report with recommendations on this issue to the General Assembly by Jan. 15, 2016.

To help gather input, the OORC has prepared a brief online survey. The responses from the survey will help in the preparation of the final report. Representatives of government entities can submit a survey by clicking here. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OORCGovEnt>

Additionally, the OORC will hold three public hearings, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Open Government, to gather additional feedback on

five specific questions related to these issues. Tennessee citizens, government entities, and advocacy group representatives are invited to participate by sending written comments to comments.open.records@cot.tn.gov and by attending one of the public hearings.

- Tuesday, Sept. 15 (4-6 pm) Knoxville, TN
12 Oaks Executive Park
5401 Kingston Pike
Building 2, Suite 350
- Wednesday, Sept. 16 (10 am - 12) Nashville, TN
James K. Polk State Office Building, 505 Deaderick Street, 16th Floor, Video Conference Center
- Thursday, Sept. 17, (3-5 pm) Jackson, TN
Lowell Thomas State Office Building, 225 Martin Luther King Drive, Tower B, Conference Room 1

Additional information and guidelines regarding the public hearings can be found on the OORC website, <https://www.comptroller.tn.gov/openrecords/pdf/20150812PublicHearingsRegardingReviewOfPublicRecords.pdf>

Interactive map shows some 400 unfunded state highway projects



The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee has posted a new, interactive web page showing nearly 400 unfunded state road/highway projects. The web page is part of the coalition's ongoing education initiative to highlight transportation infrastructure funding problems.

The unfunded projects come to nearly \$8 billion, says Susie Alcorn, executive director of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance.

The map shows unfunded state projects in nearly every one of Tennessee's 95 counties. Alcorn and other coalition members have been traveling the state talking to local mayors, county road superintendents and economic development officials about the need to reform the current funding mechanism for the state's roads and bridges. Gov. Bill Haslam has also launched a

transportation listening tour, and state Sen. Jim Tracy has announced his own hearings for this fall.

"We can no longer keep up with the maintenance needs of our state roads and bridges, much less build new projects," Alcorn said. "Failure to address this issue means unsafe roads and bridges and lost economic development opportunities for our state and residents."

The link to the web page is <http://www.tcoftn.org/unfunded-projects.html>.

The online slideshow provides a comprehensive look at 379 state projects by county, including estimated costs for each. The data also includes information from the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) on local funding issues for county and municipal projects.

Significant Supreme Court cases impact locals

BY LISA SORONEN
State and Local Legal Center

That same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and the Affordable Care Act remains intact will forever outshine every other decision from this Supreme Court term. But local governments will ignore the rest of this term at their peril.

The Court issued many decisions affecting local governments—most of which had unfavorable outcomes. From upsetting sign codes to allowing disparate treatment claims under the Fair Housing Act this is a term for local governments to remember too.

Below is a summary of the top seven cases.

Content-based sign codes unconstitutional

In *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* the Court held unanimously that Gilbert's Sign Code, which treated various categories of signs differently based on the information they convey, violates the First Amendment.

Gilbert's Sign Code treated temporary directional signs less favorably (in terms of size, location, duration, etc.) than political signs and ideological signs.

Content-based laws are only constitutional if they pass strict scrutiny—that is, if they are narrowly tailored to serve a compelling government interest.

While the SLLC argued in its amicus brief that Gilbert's sign cat-

egories are based on function, the Court concluded they are based on content.

Gilbert's sign code failed strict scrutiny because its two asserted compelling interests—preserving aesthetic and traffic safety—were "hopelessly underinclusive." Temporary directional signs are "no greater an eyesore" and pose no greater threat to public safety than ideological or political signs.

Many, if not most communities, like Gilbert, regulate some categories of signs in a way the Supreme Court has defined as content-based. Communities will need to change these ordinances.

Hotel registry searches need subpoenas

In *City of Los Angeles v. Patel* the Court held 5-4 that a Los Angeles ordinance requiring hotel and motel operators to make their guest registries available for police inspection without at least a subpoena violates the Fourth Amendment.

The purpose of hotel registry ordinances is to deter crime—drug dealing, prostitution, and human trafficking—on the theory that criminals will not commit crimes in hotels if they have to provide identifying information.

According to the Court, searches permitted by the city's ordinance are done to ensure compliance with recordkeeping requirements. While such administrative searches do not require warrants, they do require

Education, regional cooperation key findings in West Tenn Economic Development Study

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

West Tennessee officials are hopeful for the region's economic future and looking to foster more regional cooperation following the results of an economic study of the area.

The study identified the area's weaknesses, such as higher education attainment and unemployment, but also strengths like emerging careers in STEM fields and health care. The study served as an economic analysis of the 21 counties that comprise the West Tennessee region and was financed through a \$50,000 grant given by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and conducted by Idaho-based Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. (EMSI).

West Tennessee has an average of 56,000 unemployed people per month. Over the past 10 years, West Tennessee's unemployment rate has been higher than East Tennessee, Middle Tennessee and the national average. Out of the 10 counties with the highest unemployment rates in the state, six are located in West Tennessee. Mike Smith, executive director of the Southwest Human Resources Agency, said many of these numbers matched up to the expectations of West Tennessee officials.

"The only thing that really jumped out at me is that if you look at all the unemployed people in West Tennessee per month — it's



Participants from across West TN annually convene on the University of Memphis – Lambuth campus in Jackson to discuss STEM education and the workforce landscape. A recent economic development study of West TN found emerging careers in STEM fields as one of the key strengths of the region. However, education attainment levels and unemployment continue to be a challenge. The percentage of the adult population with a high school diploma or less is 48 percent, higher than the national average by 4 percentage points. Additionally, West Tennessee produces less high school, associates and bachelor's degree graduates than both Middle and East Tennessee.

about 56,000," he said. "I think that's a real negative that can be turned into a positive. There are already that many people who have been trained and who need work somewhere. If we have employers that are looking for people who know how to work and have that work ethic, there is a number right there that can be used to promote West Tennessee. Available workforce is one of the first things employers



Cities use smart phone apps to enhance public services

BY KATE COIL

While many applications designed by third parties are available to help find ways around traffic congestion or promote tourism, many cities are finding that launching smart phone apps of their own can help bring city services into the modern era.

The Pew Research Center found that 90 percent of Americans own a cell phone and more than half are using a smart phone to stay connected. As a result, many cities are realizing the importance of updating their website so it functions in mobile settings.

Municipalities across the country have also worked to develop smart phone apps to help with a wide variety of city services, such as sending out alerts for emergencies or city meetings, allowing residents to communicate directly with officials, pro-

moting local business, and mapping subway, bus or bike routes. Other apps allow citizens to use their phone to pay for everything from taxes to garbage pickup fees to parking in municipal lots.

The city of Sevierville worked with developer PublicStuff to create the My Sevierville app. Bob Stahlke, public information officer for the city, said the decision to create the app was the result of a citizen survey the city administers every year.

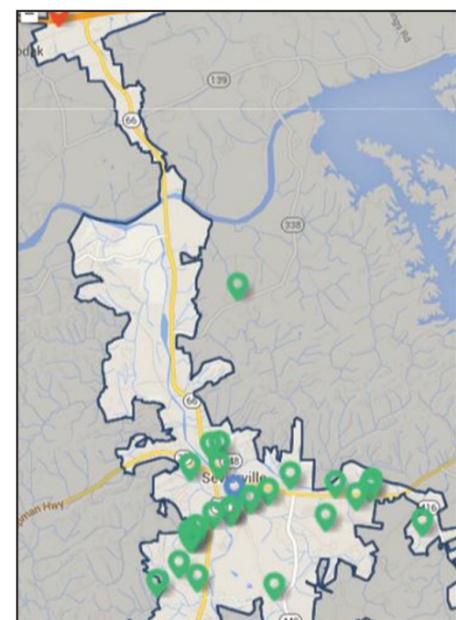
"One of the areas where we scored lower than we wanted to was in public information, specifically getting information to our citizens," he said. "Since then, we have made efforts to improve that and one of the ways we thought it would be better to interact with the citizens was through the app called Public Stuff."

The app allows residents to report issues and then see them fixed in real time. Residents can report that a pothole needs to be a fixed, inform city officials of a city code violation, stay on top of site plans and zoning issues, and request police or fire services all from their smart phones. Issues are marked on the city's map as submitted, received, in progress or completed to let citizens know the city is working on the issue.

"Public Stuff is another way for citizens and city staff to communicate by smart phone, tablet or even on their desktop computer," Stahlke said. "It's basically a work order type app. Citizens, whether from their computer desktop or their phone, can report to the city about a problem they have. What took the most time in working with the PublicStuff developers was



Home page of the MySevierville application



The app allows residents to report issues and officials to keep track of requested repairs.

meeting with all our departments and put in very basic terms what their department would be responsible for when a citizen requested it."

Stahlke said the city staff worked together with developers to determine what services should be included in the app.

"We wanted to be sure that we

In prior cases the Court held *See COURT on Page 3*

See APP on Page 7

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga has been ranked as one of the top 15 metro areas seeing the most improvement in air quality. The Scenic City ranks 12th on the list. The number of good air quality days here improved 50 percent between 2010 and 2014. Sixty-six percent of days had good air quality in 2014. The list is based on the biggest gains in the percentage of good days for air quality. It comes from data compiled by the SelfStorage.com Moving Blog. St. Louis, Mo., ranked first on the list. One other Tennessee city, Memphis, ranked seventh.

COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has received a \$959,050 transportation grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation for a streetscaping project to improve the West 7th Street Corridor. The city will provide a 20 percent match to fund the \$1.156 million project. The city has hired firm Ragan-Smith to help with the design of the streetscape project. Officials will be conducting an environmental review of the area, producing designs and establishing a timeline for final engineering. City officials are hoping to break ground on the project in Summer 2017.

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Police Department's K-9 Units have received bulletproof vests in memory of a Metro Nashville Police K-9 killed by a bank robber. Nonprofit Vested Interest in K-9s, Inc., awarded K-9s Thor and Jager with ballistic vests to be worn on duty in memory of MNPDK-9 Aron, who was killed in 1998 while distracting a robber at a Regions Bank from his partner and handler, Metro Officer Terry Burnett. Aron's death inspired the creation of Aron's Law.

GALLATIN

Servpro Industries, Inc. announced they will be expanding their current operations in Gallatin, investing \$738,000 and creating 204 new jobs. The Gallatin-based franchise company is expanding into currently unused space at their corporate headquarters, which underwent an expansion in 2014 and boasts nearly 200,000 square feet and an additional 150 offices. In utilizing this space, Servpro Industries, Inc. will train franchisees and develop and distribute supplies. Servpro specializes in emergency cleanup and restoration of fire and water damaged homes and businesses, among other services. SERVPRO launched as a family business in 1967 and moved its headquarters to Gallatin in 1988 in order to reach more of the U.S. market. In 2005, the company moved into a new 140,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, which provided more room for expansion. The Gallatin corporate headquarters employs more than 400 people and there are more than 1,650 franchises operating nationwide.

JOHNSON CITY

The Gray Fossil Site near Johnson City has produced another animal completely new to science, an ancient type of small pond turtle

dubbed *Sternotherus palaeodorus*. The name derives from the name of a living genus, *Sternotherus*, but is represented by the name *palaeodorus*. This species name combines the Greek palaios, meaning "old," and the Latin odorus, which means "stinky." Because of this, the turtle has been nicknamed "Old Stinky." Specimens of "Old Stinky" are now on exhibit at the museum. Dr. Blaine Schubert, associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at East Tennessee State University and director of the ETSU and General Shale Natural History Museum, recently completed a paper about two new species of the oldest fossil musk turtles known, one of which was discovered at the Gray Fossil Site. The paper was completed with Jason Bourque, a paleontologist and preparator at the Florida Museum of Natural History who is particularly well-known for his research on turtles. The paper was published earlier this year in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology and describes two new species of musk turtles, one from Gray and the other from Florida. The ETSU and General Shale Natural History Museum and Gray Fossil Site showcases the 5-million-year-old Gray Fossil Site and its ecosystem. Visitors are invited to observe live excavations from May through October.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville dedicated Everly Brothers Park at the corner of Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard on Aug. 7. Mayor Madeline Rogero, Councilman Duan Grieve other members of city council, members of the Bearden Council and representatives of the Legacy Parks Foundation celebrated the establishment of the new park, which was approved in July to honor Phil and Don Everly, who lived in Knoxville in the early 1950s and attended West High School. The duo went on to become internationally famous as rock and roll pioneers with their harmonies on hit songs like "Bye Bye Love" inspiring the Beatles and many other musicians. The East Tennessee Community Design Center has created a concept plan for the park, and Bearden Council is leading efforts to raise funds to complete the landscaping and features, including benches, bicycle racks, an artistic centerpiece and memorial plaques.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville's Finance Department has been recognized with a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The city has received the award for the past 28 years and qualified for this year's honor due to its transparency and full disclosure in its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Finance Director Jim York credits the expertise and dedication of his staff for the unbroken series of GFOA awards.

MT. JULIET

DE-STA-CO officials have an-

nounced the opening of a new facility in Mt. Juliet to better serve North American and global customers. The new facility will integrate product offerings and improve the company's supply chain and will create more than 200 new jobs in the area. DE-STA-CO specializes in the innovation, design and manufacture of clamping and robotic tooling solutions for workholding and automation needs. The project will result in the creation of 245 new jobs in Wilson County. DE-STA-CO is a global workholding and automation company that provides productivity solutions to the manufacturing industry through the design and manufacture of cost-reducing, flexible products. The company has international operations in Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

MT. JULIET

Construction is now underway for a \$1 million FedEx facility in Mt. Juliet. A beam signing was held in July for the new 310,000-square-foot automated facility for FedEx ground transportation. The new location will move around 200,000 packages per day and employ around 330 new employees. The beam signing ceremony was held in lieu of a groundbreaking that was postponed due to bad weather earlier this year.

NASHVILLE

More Davidson County residents will help build Nashville's publicly funded projects after voters approved a local-hire amendment. Charter Amendment 3, pushed by labor unions and others, requires that at least 40 percent of work hours be performed by Davidson County workers on Metro-financed construction projects that cost \$100,000 or more. Companies also are required to make sure 10 percent of the Davidson County work hours are granted to low-income individuals. Voters ratified Amendment 3, with 58 percent supporting the referendum and 42 percent opposing. Meanwhile, voters struck down Amendments 1 and 2, which would have extended term limits for the Metro Council as well as shrunk the size of the council.

NASHVILLE

Nashville is leading the country in hotel sector job growth, according to a new report recently published by Headlight Data and based on statistics compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. While other cities hired more workers, the Metro Davidson area had the highest net percentage change from 2013 to 2014 with local hotel employment grew 6.7 percent. The Nashville area added 605 hotel workers between 2013 and 2014 for a total of 9,649 employees in the hotel industry. Officials are hoping the industry growth will continue, especially as more hotels open and events like the NHL All-Star Game bring more tourists to the area. The Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation has listed workforce development as its top priority as part of its new five-year strategic plan.



Photo by Jim Beller, *The Rogersville Review*

The town of Rogersville recently honored a native son with city limit signs proclaiming, "Hometown of Charlie Chase." Chase's career started in 1965 at WRGS, where he worked as a 13-year-old disc jockey. He took his experience and his talents to Nashville where, for many years, he co-hosted with Lorianne Crook the popular "Crook and Chase" TV and radio shows. Although he has achieved multitudes of success on the national stage, inducted into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame, as well as the Country Radio Hall of Fame, he has never forgotten his roots. Pictured left to right: Rogersville Alderman Bill Henderson, Wilma Winstead, Mayor Jim Seals, Alderman Eloise Edwards, Chase, Debbie Beal (WRGS Radio), City Recorder Bill Lyons, and Philip Beal (WRGS Radio).



Left to right, State Rep. Shelia Butt, R-Columbia, and State Sen. Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, congratulate Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey and Vice Mayor Christa Martin on receiving a nearly \$1 million grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to help fund a streetscape improvement project on West 7th Street. The city of Columbia will provided a 20 percent match to the \$959,050 transportation grant to finance the \$1.156 million project.



Kathryn Baldwin, Amy Fitzgerald, and Marc DeRose strike a pose at the statues of Robert Oppenheimer and General Leslie Groves in Los Alamos, N.M.. A delegation from the city of Oak Ridge recently traveled to Los Alamos to participate in a meeting with the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Energy and officials from the communities of Los Alamos and Hanford, Wash. regarding the newly designated Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The three-day event focused on preserving the history of the Manhattan Project and the important scientific and technological advancements of the era. The group previously met in Oak Ridge in March to discuss the efforts to establish parks in all three communities.

MEMBER FOCUSSED



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PEOPLE

Shari Brown, director of community development for the city of Bristol, resigned her position after eight years with the city. Brown's last day was Aug. 14 and no replacement has yet been announced by city officials. In addition to her duties with the city, Brown became the head of the city's department of economic and community development in 2014 after the redevelopment of city departments. During her tenure with the city, Brown won the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association's Best Planning Tool for Small Cities award in 2011 and their Outstanding Implementation Award in 2013.



Shari Brown

Laurence Dennis has been selected as the new police chief for the city of Coopertown. A current resident of Coopertown, Dennis previously served as the city's police chief from April 2003 until November 2004 and worked as a Tennessee State University Police Officer before accepting the position of chief in August. Dennis also worked in law enforcement in Florida. Former Coopertown Police Chief Shane Sullivan announced his resignation in April and officially left office in June.

Metro Nashville Police Department Commander **Michele Donegan** has been appointed to succeed Duane Phillips as director of Nashville's Emergency Communications Center. Donegan will take the position effective Sept. 16 and oversee the center's 185 staff members, according to Mayor Karl Dean. She is a 28-year police department veteran and presently commands operations as the Hermitage Precinct. During her tenure with MNPD, Donegan has served as a patrol officer, a sex crimes detective, vice detective, patrol supervisors, head of recruitment, field supervising captain and commander of the Domestic Violence Unit. Donegan will start at the ECC on Sept. 1 in order to provide a transition period with Phillips before he retires. The Metro Nashville Emergency Communications Center was created in July, 2002 to consolidate 911 services for police, fire and medical calls.



Michele Donegan

Mark A. Foulks has been named the new chief of the Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department and is expected to start his new position on Aug. 24. Murfreesboro Fire Chief Cumbey Gains announced his retirement in April. Foulks will be coming to Murfreesboro from Greeneville where he served for nine years as chief of the Greeneville Fire Department. Prior to his appointment as chief in Greeneville, he served as the assistant chief of the Knoxville Fire Department from 1990 to 2006. Foulks began his firefighting career in Knoxville in 1990. District. Foulks serves on the Tennessee Emergency Medical Service Educators Association Board. He has maintained his paramedic license since 1995.



Mike Foulks

State Senate Chief Clerk **Russell Humphrey** has been elected to the executive committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Humphrey has served as chief clerk since 1999 and also serves as president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. Before becoming chief clerk, he served as chief of staff for the Tennessee State Senate and as legal counsel and executive assistant for policy and research in the office of Lt. Governor John S. Wilder. Humphrey earned a bachelor's degree in economics and his juris doctorate from the University of Memphis.

Gov. Bill Haslam recently confirmed the appointment of **Mayor Stan Joyner** to the Volunteer Tennessee Commission, where he will serve as an At-large Member. The Volunteer Tennessee Commission is a twenty-five member bipartisan citizen board appointed by Governor Haslam to oversee AmeriCorps and to advance volunteerism and citizen service to assist communities in the Volunteer State. In the thorough, aggressive search for candidates, Mayor Joyner's individual characteristics and professional qualifications were noted as exceptional among the number of nominees who expressed interest. From the State Capitol, Gov. Bill Haslam thanked Mayor Joyner for his interest in state government and for his willingness to serve his fellow citizens of Tennessee in this way. Mayor Joyner's appointment to this commission runs through December 31, 2016.



Russell Humphrey

Mike Morrow, the deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, announced his retirement after more than 40 years of experience with state government. Morrow has served as deputy commissioner since 2006, when he was appointed by former Gov. Phil Bredesen. Morrow earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 1974 and started his career as a state auditor in 1975. He served in administrative accounting positions and as fiscal director for the Department of Employment Security before moving to the state's Finance and Administration Department. He served as fiscal director and assistant commissioner of the division of administration before being appointed deputy commissioner.



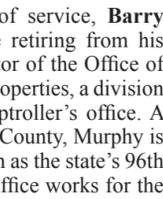
Stan Joyner

After 41 years of service, **Barry Murphy** will be retiring from his position as director of the Office of State Assessed Properties, a division of the state comptroller's office. A native of Carroll County, Murphy is informally known as the state's 96th Assessor as his office works for the state to calculate how much utility companies owe to city and county governments in local property taxes in each of the state's 95 counties. Murphy began work in the state in 1974 and has since served under nine elected PSC commissioners and three state comptrollers: the late Bill Snodgrass, John Morgan and current Comptroller Justin Wilson.



Mike Morrow

Anne Wallace, a project manager with the city of Knoxville's Office or Redevelopment, will be stepping into the position of deputy director for the office after current deputy director, Dawn Michelle Foster, was promoted to the position of director. Wallace has a master's degree in landscape architecture from Auburn University and is an AICP certified planner. She worked as a planner for the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission before coming to the City in 2008.



Barry Murphy

Local governments must provide reasons for why they are denying a cell tower application so that courts can determine whether the denial was supported by substantial evidence. Council meeting minutes are sufficient. But, because wireless providers have only 30 days after a denial to sue, minutes must be issued at the same time as the denial.



Anne Wallace

Following this decision, local governments should not issue any written denial of a wireless siting application until they (1) set forth the reasons for the denial in that written decision, or (2) make available to the wireless provider the final council meeting minutes or transcript of the meeting.

Justice Wade announces September retirement

Supreme Court Justice Gary R. Wade, who has served the Tennessee judiciary for 28 years as a judge, justice, and chief justice, has announced he will retire in September.

Justice Wade was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Phil Bredesen in 2006. Wade was elected by his fellow justices to serve a two-year term as chief justice in September 2012. Justice Wade was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in 1987, where he also served as presiding judge from 1998 until 2006.

"I would like to thank the people of Tennessee who have allowed me to serve since 1975," Wade said.

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice William "Mickey" Barker, who served on the Court with Justice Wade, said his warmth of personality and leadership skills will be sorely missed.

"My friend and former colleague Gary Wade is one of the finest judges Tennessee has ever produced. His wealth of practical life experiences, together with his keen understanding of the law has made him invaluable in reaching decisions that affect the lives of individuals in our state," Justice Barker said.

Judge Herschel P. Franks, a member of the judiciary for 42 years, said he regrets that his dear friend is retiring when he is at the top of his game.

"Justice Wade has served with distinction and honor," Judge Franks said. "His replacement has big shoes to fill, as Justice Wade, through his long career on our appellate courts, has improved the

image of our courts through his dedication and exemplary service to the state of Tennessee."

Wade's career was focused in public service. He was elected Mayor of Sevierville, where he served from 1977 from 1987 and was the city attorney for Pigeon Forge from 1973 to 1987. Justice Wade attended the University of Tennessee, and received a bachelor of science in 1970. He later received his J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1973.

Retired Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Joe G. Riley, who attended UT College of Law at the same time as Justice Wade, said that he is as good a friend as he is a judge.

"His heart has always been in the right place," Judge Riley said. "His generosity in helping others is unmatched."

Justice Wade served as president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference from 1995 from 1996 and is the founder of the Tennessee Judicial Conference Foundation, a charitable organization that offers need-based scholarships to students at each of the state's six law schools.

Justice Wade's numerous honors include the Tennessee Bar Association Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award (2014); Appellate Judge of the Year, Southeastern Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (2004); Judicial Excellence Award, Knoxville Bar Association (2004); East Tennessee Regional Leader-



ship Award (2006); and the United States Department of Interior Citizens Award for Exceptional Service (2007). He also has served on dozens of community and legal organization boards and commissions and was instrumental in the formation of the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, of which he was a co-founder and past president.

Justice Wade was re-elected to the Supreme Court last year in a retention election that drew an unusual amount of interest.

"I was honored to serve as chief justice during the partisan challenge to the judiciary last year," he said. "I am especially grateful to the bench and bar, practically all of whom joined in defense of the principle of a constitutionally based balance of powers among the three branches of government."

Justice Wade's retirement will be effective Sept. 8.

Zachary wins House race in Knoxville

Jason Zachary, won a special Republican primary in House District 14 and is poised to become Knoxville's newest state representative. No Democrat sought the office.

Zachary, 38, a small business owner, defeated Knox County school board member Karen Carson 2,397 to 1,742. Only 10 percent of voters turned out for the special election.

With the deadline for write-in candidate certification past, Zachary

automatically will be elected Sept. 29 in a special general election that coincides with the regular Knoxville city election. He will succeed Ryan Haynes, who stepped down May 27, a few weeks after becoming chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party.

Zachary describes himself as a new generation of a conservative leader. He was backed in the campaign by Americans for Prosperity.



Jason Zachary

Significant Supreme Court cases impact locals

COURT from Page 1

that disparate-impact claims are possible under Title VII (prohibiting race, etc. discrimination in employment) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act relying on the statutes' "otherwise adversely affect" language. The FHA uses similar language—"otherwise make unavailable"—in prohibiting race, etc. discrimination in housing.

This decision more or less continues the status quo for local governments. Nine federal circuit courts of appeals had previously reached the same conclusion. But, Justice Kennedy's majority opinion contains a number of limits on when and how disparate impact housing claims may be brought.

Reasons for cell tower denials must be in writing

In *T-Mobile South v. City of Roswell* the Court held 6-3 that the Telecommunications Act (TCA) requires local governments to provide reasons when denying an application to build a cell phone tower.

The reasons do not have to be stated in the denial letter but must be articulated "with sufficient clarity in some other written record issued essentially contemporaneously with the denial," which can include council meeting minutes.

The TCA requires that a local government's decision denying a cell tower construction permit be "in writing and supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record."

Local governments must provide reasons for why they are denying a cell tower application so that courts can determine whether the denial was supported by substantial evidence. Council meeting minutes are sufficient. But, because wireless providers have only 30 days after a denial to sue, minutes must be issued at the same time as the denial.

Following this decision, local governments should not issue any written denial of a wireless siting application until they (1) set forth the reasons for the denial in that written decision, or (2) make available to the wireless provider the final council meeting minutes or transcript of the meeting.

No dog sniffs after traffic stops

In a 6-3 decision in *Rodriguez v. United States* the Court held that a dog sniff conducted after a completed traffic stop violates the Fourth Amendment.

In *Illinois v. Caballes* the Court upheld a suspicionless dog search conducted during a lawful traffic stop stating that a seizure for a traffic stop "become[s] unlawful if it is prolonged beyond the time reasonably required to complete th[e] mission" of issuing a ticket for the violation. Officers may lengthen stops to make sure vehicles

are operating safely or for an officer's safety. A dog sniff, however, is aimed at discovering illegal drugs not at officer or highway safety.

In dissent, Justice Alito suggests savvy police officers can skirt the Court's ruling by learning "the prescribed sequence of events even if they cannot fathom the reason for that requirement."

Standard for pretrial detainee excessive force claims

In *Kingsley v. Hendrickson* the Court held 5-4 that to prove an excessive force claim a pretrial detainee must show that the officer's force was objectively unreasonable, rejecting the subjectively unreasonable standard that is more deferential to law enforcement.

Pretrial detainee Michael Kingsley claimed officers used excessive force in transferring him between jail cells after Kingsley refused to remove a piece of paper covering a light fixture.

The objective standard applies to excessive force claims brought by pretrial detainees because in a previous case involving prison conditions affecting pretrial detainees, the Court used the objective standard to evaluate a prison's practice of double bunking. And the objective standard applies to those who, like Kingsley, have been accused but not convicted of a crime, but who unlike Kingsley are free on bail.

A standard more deferential to law enforcement applies to post-conviction detainees, who are housed



with pretrial detainees, making this ruling difficult for jails to comply with. Following this decision it will be easier for pretrial detainees to bring successful excessive force claims against corrections officers.

Tax on internet purchases

In *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* Justice Kennedy wrote a concurring opinion stating that the "legal system should find an appropriate case for this Court to reexamine Quill."

In 1992 in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota* the Court held that states cannot require retailers with no in-state physical presence to collect use tax. To improve tax collection, Colorado began requiring remote sellers to inform Colorado purchasers annually of their purchases and send the same information to the Colorado Department of Revenue. The Direct Marketing Association sued Colorado in federal court claiming that the notice and reporting requirements are unconstitutional under Quill.

The question the Court decided was whether this case could be heard in federal court (as opposed to state court). The Court held yes unanimously. This case is significant for local governments because the Court's most influential Justice expressed skepticism about whether Quill should remain the law of the land.

These Supreme Court rulings will require most local governments to make some changes to keep in compliance with the laws.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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STATE BRIEFS

Legislature website wins award

For the second time, the Tennessee General Assembly's website has won the Online Democracy Award during the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Legislative Summit recently held in Seattle. The award is presented annually to a legislature, legislative chamber or caucus whose website makes democracy user-friendly in an outstanding way. Winners are chosen by a committee of legislative staffers who evaluate each site's design, content and technological integration. Tennessee has previously won this award in 2009. The state's 2015 entry to the contest was selected based on its "simple yet stimulating" interface, which allows the public to access the workings of the legislature. Judges praised the site for making them feel "invited in," calling it "warm and welcoming"—essential qualities when engaging citizens. The website was also praised for having an appealing and consistent design, allowing direct access to legislators and the legislative calendar, offering straightforward search capabilities with multiple options, providing fresh content while still making past information easy to access, easy to understand bill summaries, fully integrated audio and video as well as a mobile-friendly version of the site. Judges were also interested in the "My Bills" feature, which allows users to track bills they want to follow throughout the legislative session.

Thousands qualify for Tennessee Promise scholarships

More than 22,500 students completed the volunteer work they needed to remain eligible for the Tennessee Promise scholarship program, presenting the clearest picture yet of its ultimate reach. That's about 71 per-

cent of the 31,500 students who were still eligible for the program in April and about 40 percent of the original applicant pool. The thousands of students who did not log eight hours of community service by the Aug. 1 deadline are no longer eligible for the scholarship, which offers high school graduates a full-tuition scholarship at the state's community and technical colleges. Service was the most time-consuming hurdle students had to clear before getting to college in the fall, and officials across the state launched a statewide campaign urging them to finish. Only one in four eligible students had submitted eight hours a month before the deadline.

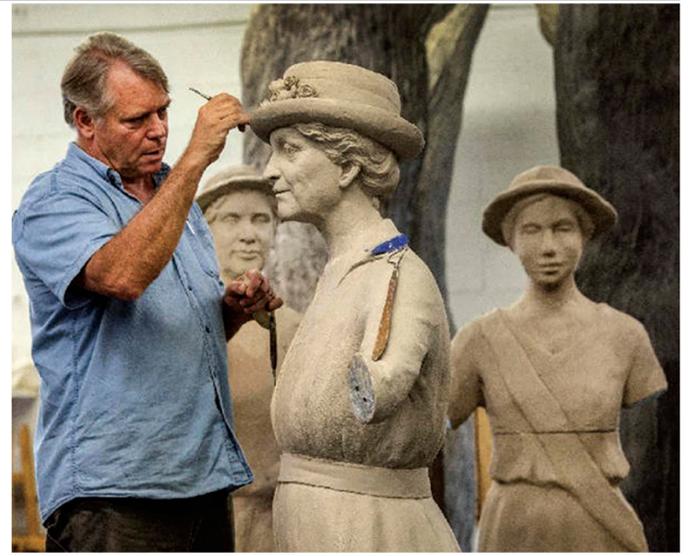
TBI sting nabs sex traffickers

Less than a month after a new law went into effect to help identify, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking in Tennessee, special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) joined with partner agencies in West Tennessee to identify and arrest individuals who prey on children. More than a dozen people were arrested by the TBI on Aug. 1 as part of a sex trafficking sting in West Tennessee, one of the first undertaken under new authority given to TBI. Gov. Bill Haslam signed a law in May that gave TBI original jurisdiction over all human trafficking investigations, and the legislature approved funding for four special agents to investigate human trafficking cases and train law enforcement statewide. The multi-day sting in Jackson in July was conducted through a partnership with those assigned to TBI's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Jackson Police Department, and Madison County Sheriff's Office. As a result of the investigation, several

arrests were made and several young women were identified as human trafficking victims. The TBI is duplicating similar efforts, being called "Operation Someone Like Me," in other parts of the state as the agency works to better equip law enforcement departments to investigate human trafficking and help victims.

Law officers trained in handling people with mental disabilities

The Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) recently conducted its second training session for law enforcement. More than a dozen special agents with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) attended the training designed to assist investigators and officers when they come into contact with people with disabilities. In Tennessee, as many as 132,000 people may have an intellectual disability, that number accounts for more than 2 percent of the state's residents. The department's interaction with the TBI often comes through the bureau's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). The MFCU is frequently involved in investigations of incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation of persons supported by DIDD-contracted providers. Several members of the MFCU participated in the training session. "Part of our job to protect and serve is knowing more about the people we might encounter during the course of our work," said TBI Director Mark Gwyn. "I'm grateful to our partners at DIDD for offering this valuable training to help us better understand the nuances of working with individuals who live with intellectual or developmental disabilities." Subsequent training sessions are planned with the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police. A previous session reached more than 60 law enforcement agencies across the state through the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Officers' Association.



The sculpture being molded by Alan LeQuire depicts five Tennessee women who played critical roles in the passing of the 19th Amendment.

Sculpture to celebrate Tennessee women's role in 19th Amendment

A new sculpture planned for the state Capitol complex will celebrate Tennessee women's role in passing the 19th Amendment.

On Aug. 18, 1920, — 95 years ago — Tennessee became the 36th and final state needed to ratify the amendment that gave women the vote.

The sculpture being molded by Alan LeQuire depicts five women who played critical roles in that struggle. Anne Dallas Dudley and Frankie Pierce were from Nashville, Sue Shelton White was from Jackson, Abby Crawford Milton was from Chattanooga, and Carrie Chapman Catt was a national leader who came to Tennessee to rally support for ratification.

The sculpture will also feature a relief at its base with three more contemporary female political trailblazers, showing what the work of the earlier suffrage leaders made possible. Jane Eskind was the first woman to win a statewide election in Tennessee. Beth Harwell is the first woman to be speaker of the House. Lois DeBerry was the longest-serving member of the state House of Representatives, the second African American woman to serve in the General Assembly and first woman to be speaker pro tempore of the House.

The Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument organization commissioned the work and is raising the \$900,000 to complete it.

July revenues up \$54.4 million than budgeted

Tennessee revenue collections recorded positive growth in July. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced a net positive growth of 8.5 percent over July collections of one year ago. Overall July revenues were \$1 billion, which is \$54.4 million more than the state budgeted.

"Year-end collections recorded strong growth, but were significantly impacted by two one-time corporate tax payments," Martin said. "Franchise and excise taxes were also strong, but we must remember that some of the collections are based on estimates and final collections may be less than recorded, resulting in the discounting of future payments."

July marks the 12th consecutive month, on an accrual year basis, in which sales tax collections have experienced positive growth. July sales tax collections represent consumer spending that took place in the month of June.

On an accrual basis, July is the 12th month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$50.2 million, and the four other funds were over collected by \$4.2 million.

Sales tax collections were \$23.6 million more than the estimate for July. The July growth rate was 7 percent. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$209 million. The year-to-date growth rate for 12 months was positive 6.18 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$10 million above the budgeted estimate of \$70.5 million. The growth rate for July was positive 17.6 percent. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$299.3 million and the year-to-date growth rate was positive 18.8 percent. Factoring out the one-time tax payments, the year-over-year recurring growth

rate is approximately 10.7 percent.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$300,000 below the estimate for July. For 12 months collections are \$10.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$5.5 million above the July budgeted estimate. For 12 months collections are \$7.3 million more than the budgeted estimate, and the year-to-date growth rate was up 16.4 percent.

Gross Receipts Tax collections were \$1.4 million above the budgeted estimate of \$15.8 million. For 12 months collections are \$1.7 million below the budgeted estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 8.1 percent.

Business tax collections were \$3.2 million more than the July estimate. Year-to-date collections for twelve months are \$1.6 million above the budgeted estimate. For 12 months the year-to-date growth rate is 15.9 percent.

Tobacco tax collections were \$1 million above the budgeted estimate of \$24.5 million. For 12 months revenues are under collected by \$5 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel tax collections for July were over collected by \$5.0 million. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$21.5 million, and the growth rate is positive 2.5 percent. Motor vehicle registration tax collections were \$2.4 million more than what was budgeted and the July growth rate was 21.2 percent.

All other taxes for July were over collected by a net of \$2.6 million. Year-to-date collections for 12 months were \$605.7 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$552.7 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$53 million.

Two grant writing workshops offered in Nashville, Sept & Nov

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Research and Planning Division will be partnering with Grant Writing USA to offer two grant writing workshops in Nashville.

The first workshop will be on Sept. 14-15 and will cover how to write grant proposals and how to locate and track grant opportunities. Beginning and experienced government and nonprofit personnel are welcome to attend. Tuition is \$445 and includes all materials.

The second workshop will be from Nov. 12-13 and will focus on grant management. The workshop will review key concepts associated with accepting and managing grant awards including reporting and record keeping, audit require-

ments, and program evaluation. The program has been revamped for 2015 to include review of the OMB Super Circular. This training is recommended for grant recipient organizations across all disciplines and tuition is \$595, which includes all materials.

Attend both classes and receive \$100 off your combined tuition. Checks, cards, and purchase orders are welcome. Multi-enrollment discounts are also available.

For more information contact either Janet Darling with Grant Writing USA at (888)-290-6237 or janet@grantwritingusa.com or Sally Haar with the Department of Economic and Community Development at (615)-253-3563 or sally.haar@tn.gov.

Solid Waste grant applications due Oct. 1

Three different solid waste grant opportunities are now available and completed applications are due on Oct. 1.

- **The Recycling Equipment Grants** program enables local governments and non-profit recycling organizations working with local governments to purchase key pieces of recycling equipment.
- **The Waste Reduction Grants** program enables local governments and non-profit recycling organizations working with local governments to purchase key pieces of recycling equipment and facilities.
- **Used Oil Grants** provides technical and financial assistance in establishing used oil collection and

disposal sites.

Each grant has guidance documents giving important details about eligibility and requirements for Fiscal Year 2016. A local match of 10-50 percent will be required based on an economic formula.

Each grant application is reviewed by a team of raters who evaluate the merits of your recycling program based on the info contained in the submitted narrative.

Applicants are reminded to follow the format provided in the grant application; answering item numbers one through . Give concise and complete information. It is important that each section of the narrative be read carefully and answered thor-

oughly. Counties and municipalities should verify section three of the regional Annual Progress Report (APR) to confirm that equipment being requested is included in the regional plan. If it is not included, an amendment to the APR must be submitted adding the equipment along with an explanation of need prior to the grant application submittal.

All applications must be received, on or before the deadline of **Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4:30 p.m.** Applications received after that will be returned without action.

For more information, please call Loretta Harrington, (615) 532-0086 or go to <http://tn.gov/environment/article/sw-solid-waste-grants>

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



The job market's winning streak continued in July as the economy added 215,000 positions, providing more evidence of an economy that is slowly but steadily returning to normal. The Labor Department reported that hiring was strongest in the retail and health care sectors, while the mining industry continued to shed jobs. The unemployment rate remained unchanged from the previous month at 5.3 percent. The solid yet unremarkable report indicated that the recovery is chugging along. Hiring came in just shy of analysts' expectations, and there was little in the details of the data to be concerned about: Wages nudged up in July, and workers logged more hours. The labor force expanded slightly, and teenage unemployment dropped. The jobs report provides a critical piece of information for the Federal Reserve as it considers whether the economy can withstand an increase in its benchmark interest rate. The nation's central bank generally raises its target rate when it is trying to rein in an overheating economy and lowers it when it wants to stimulate activity. In the wake of the financial crisis, the Fed slashed its target rate to zero, a dramatic move intended to spur consumer demand and business investment. But seven years later, the central bank's target rate is still at

zero. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said she expects the rate will rise before the year is over. In its most recent policy statement, the central bank said it will move once it is "reasonably confident" that inflation is moving toward its goal of 2 percent and it sees "some" further improvement in the labor market. Many on Wall Street have analyzed those remarks as implying that the Fed could act as soon as September, when it holds its next meeting. But others believe the central bank will wait until December – or even until 2016 – to be sure that the recovery is on track.

Heroin use in the United States is rising among most age groups and income levels, according to a recent report from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Usage has risen fastest, more than doubling, for young adults. The reasons behind the rise are complicated, said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. But one thing is clear: There's a connection to opioid prescription painkiller addiction. "The chemical is essentially the same," he said. "So, when heroin is five times cheaper and much more widely available, it becomes something that's driving this trend of rapid increase in heroin use." It may be a case of unintended consequences. Prescription painkillers

became harder to obtain after limits were imposed because of addiction concerns. According to the CDC report, 45 percent of those who have used heroin had been dependent on prescription painkillers. Another finding: people without health coverage are more likely to use heroin. There's also been a national uptick in heroin overdose deaths, more than 8,000 in 2013. Frieden said quality and potency varies on the street, and overdose-reverse medications aren't always readily available in emergency rooms, although he said that needs to change. He underscored the need to keep opioid painkillers as medical treatment options despite the heroin connection, with pros and cons weighed carefully. "If someone has excruciating pain from a surgical procedure, or a car crash, or a severe, terminal pain from cancer, you absolutely want to provide all palliation," he said. "For chronic non-cancer pain, you really have to look at the risks and the benefits." Recommendations for stemming the tide of heroin abuse include increased access to treatment, including medication-assisted treatments; recognition of the link between past prescription painkiller dependence and future heroin use; and pain treatment plans for chronic sufferers that include options beyond medications.

COMING UP

October 13-14 TNECD 62nd Annual Governor's Conference

Renaissance Hotel, Nashville. Register now for the 62nd Annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development. For more information or to register for the conference, please visit govcon.tnecd.com.

October 21-23 TCMA Fall Conference

DoubleTree Hotel, Chattanooga. A wide range of topics timely to the needs of TCMA members will be covered over 2 1/2 days, beginning at 9 a.m. on Oct. 21, and ending by 12 noon on Oct. 23. To reserve a room at the DoubleTree, call the hotel at 423-756-5150 and indicate the group name - TN City Managers Association. Or go online to www.chattanooga.doubletree.com. Rooms are also available at the Hampton Inn & Suites. Call 423-693-0500, or go to www.chattanoogadowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com

October 22 - 23 TGFOA Annual Conference

Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro. The primary professional and educational gathering of government finance officials in the state. Among the topics to be presented: uniform guidance OMB; legislative update; social media; GASB update; economic outlook; and TN Comptroller's office uniform chart of accounts project update. Early registration through Oct. 2. Go to: <http://tngfoa.wildapricot.org>

November 4-7, NLC Congress of Cities

Music City Center, Nashville. Join Mayor Karl Dean and city officials from all over the country for four days of networking, learning, thought-leadership, and of course some fun with friends and colleagues, old and new. To register: <https://registration.exprientevent.com/showncl152/>

December 14-15 TREEDC 2nd Annual International Conference

Tenn Tech University, Cookeville. To register: https://epay.tntech.edu/C20205_ustores/web

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To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

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The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



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CITY ATTORNEY

MURFREESBORO. The city of Murfreesboro is currently accepting applications for a city attorney to perform its functions lawfully and with minimal risk, including handling all litigation and administrative proceedings in which the city, its officials or employees are parties, providing legal counsel to the mayor/city council, the city's boards and commissions, the city manager and department heads and employees regarding a variety of legal issues, drafting contracts, ordinances and other official acts of the city, issuing opinions on bonds, loans and grant assurances and overseeing the city's safety and self-insurance functions. This position is also responsible for providing general legal counsel services to the city's K-6 school system and its utility systems. This position works under administrative supervision, developing and implementing programs within organizational policies and reports major activities to executive level administrators through conferences and reports. Requires a law degree and ten years of professional legal experience including some litigation experience and supervisory experience. Must be licensed to practice law in the state of Tennessee. Salary is: \$114,733 - \$167,969 annually. To apply for this position and see the full job description, go to www.murfreesboro.tn.gov

CITY MANAGER

MOUNT PLEASANT. The city of Mount Pleasant is seeking a city management professional to be their next city manager. Salary range is \$70,000 to \$100,000 DOQ. The city, comprising an area of 11 square miles, is located approximately fifty miles south-southwest of downtown Nashville. The city manager is appointed by and reports to a board of commissioners comprised of five commissioners popularly elected at-large to staggered, four year terms of office. The city has a \$13.3M budget with a work force of 90 full- and part-time employees. Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree in public administration, business administration, engineering, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a Master's Degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 5 years of progressively increasing professional experience. Position profile is available at www.mountpleasant.tn.gov. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Jeff Broughton. Initial review of applications will occur September 11, 2015. Please direct questions to Jeff Broughton at jeff.broughton@tennessee.edu.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol, Tenn., is currently accepting applications for director of Community Development. Salary range is \$61,825 - \$95,175 DOQ, plus excellent benefits. Position answers to the City Manager. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Responsible for all community development functions including planning, zoning, CDBG and other grant programs, code enforcement, GIS, and all departmental operations such as budgeting, policy development and goals development. Demonstrated success working with citizens, boards, businesses, etc. At least 6 years' experience in community development, 2 of which must be in a supervisory role. Master's degree in related field required. Go here to view the Position Profile: [http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/994D-233D57C243D785257E9E00471426/\\$FILE/Bristol+Director+of+Community+Development+profile+2015.pdf](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/994D-233D57C243D785257E9E00471426/$FILE/Bristol+Director+of+Community+Development+profile+2015.pdf) Send confidential resume and application to City of Bristol Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37620. Phone: (423) 989-5501. Or email resume to: resume@bristoltn.org. Position open until filled. See website to download application and review a summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF

GREENEVILLE. Town of Greeneville is seeking applications for fire chief. Position reports to the town administrator. Full-service emergency response department providing fire suppression, emergency medical, hazardous materials mitigation, and rescue. Non-emergency services include training/education, inspections, investigations, special events, etc. ISO rating of 3, four stations, 42 employees, \$2.3M budget. Bachelor's degree required; master's preferred. Minimum five years management level experience. Must be a skilled leader and an outcome-focused manager with excellent interpersonal skills, a strong customer service orientation, and have unimpeachable integrity. Must have or obtain a Tennessee Fire Officer II certification. Hiring process includes an assessment center. Salary DOQ. To see the full Position Profile go to: <http://www.greenevilletn.gov/Default.asp?PN=Employment&L=2&DivisionID=13581&DepartmentID=17300&LMID=719536&ToggleSideNav>ShowAll>. Send (prefer email) resume by Aug. 31, 2015 to: Patsy Fuller, Director of Human Resources, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. Phone: (423) 787-6189, Fax: (423) 639-0093 e-mail: pfuller@greenevilletn.gov

HR MANAGER

WINCHESTER. The city of Winchester is seeking applications for file the position of Human Resources Manager. Under the general supervision of the City Administrator, the Human Resource Manager is

to provide responsive customer service to city of Winchester employees and internal departments while managing all employment and benefit related activities. In addition, the HR Manager will coordinate all training activities, including conducting needs assessment, planning and implementing in-hours training. The Human Resource Manager will have knowledge of city, state and federal policies, programs and practices related to HR Management. The position requires a Bachelor's degree in human resource management, business administration or equivalent with five years of HR experience. Salary: \$45,000 annually. Application Deadline: Aug. 31, 2015 Resumes should be submitted to: Beth Rhoton, city administrator, City of Winchester, 7 South High Street, Winchester TN 37398 or via e-mail to bethrhoton@winchester-tn.com.

IS ADVISOR I / GIS COORDINATOR

GALLATIN. The City of Gallatin IT Department is seeking applications for the position of IS Advisor I-GIS Coordinator. Duties: Serve as project lead for special GIS projects, database design and development, does related work as required. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of IT. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in information sciences, geographic information systems, engineering or a related field. Requirements: Four years of increasingly responsible geographic information systems experience. This is a 40 hour per week day time position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$22.93 + excellent benefits. To see the full description and to apply, go to www.gallatinonthemove.com. EOE.

MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALIST

UT-MTAS. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has an opening for a Training Specialist II position. This position is based in Knoxville. The municipal court specialist provides training, continuing education, and technical assistance to municipal court clerks and other appointed and elected officials, developing lesson plans and delivering training in a classroom setting. The position concentrates on one-on-one and regional field-based training; it provides onsite instruction and training in the operational processes of municipal courts and also includes researching and drafting informational documents on municipal issues. The position works with the training team by producing and facilitating classes as requested in addition to providing technical assistance to MTAS consultants to support their work with cities. Applicants should have a practical knowledge and understanding of the problems faced by city officials, particularly municipal court staff. The position performs other special work or duties as assigned by the training program manager, assistant director, or the executive director. This position requires a master's degree in public administration, criminal justice, or a closely related field. A law degree is preferred. It also requires at least five years employment in court administration, local law enforcement or a law department preferably with at least three years as a court administrator, state or city attorney, city prosecutor, or senior administrative police officer. Prefer training experience. The position requires a broad base of knowledge of municipal court operations and state and federal regulations impacting municipal courts. It requires someone with the ability to communicate effectively with both experienced and knowledgeable city officials and with city officials who may be new to municipal operations. This position requires extensive travel to municipalities across the state to deliver on-site consultation and training. Applicants are encouraged to review all job requirements prior to applying at <http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/?id=4>. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants should apply electronically to https://ut.taleo.net/careersection/ut_knoxville/jobdetail.ftl?job=15000000OB and submit a cover letter and resume. Position is open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

PLANNER

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for a city planner. This entry-level position involves performing responsible, complex professional work in a variety of current and long-range planning studies. Requires a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture or a closely related field from an accredited college or university with major course work in urban planning and two years' experience in a municipal planning office; or a master's degree in Urban Planning and one year of experience in municipal planning; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Experience with Microsoft Office, Photoshop, and AICP Certification preferred. Requires a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Salary Range is \$35,578.00 - \$44,220.00 (DOQ) annually, with full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, Monday through Friday, 8-5. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

PLANNING DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for planning director. Springfield is an historic, economically and racially diverse community

located just 30 minutes north of downtown Nashville. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, one of the largest agricultural producing counties in the state of Tennessee. Individual will plan, organize and direct the activities of the Community Development & Planning Department under a Council/Manager form of government. The Community Development & Planning Department administers all planning functions and activities, economic development projects, residential, commercial and industrial development and codes administration. Bachelor's degree in planning, public administration or other related field required - master's degree in planning and AICP certification preferred. A minimum of five years of supervisory, administrative or consultative experience in municipal or regional planning, community development or related field required. Salary range \$ 57,970 - \$79,144 (DOQ). Applications must be received by Aug. 31, at the following address: Human Resources Department, City of Springfield, P. O. Box 788, Springfield, Tennessee, 37172. The city of Springfield is an AA/EOE employer.

PLANS EXAMINER I- ZONING

FRANKLIN. Under limited supervision, is responsible for technical work in the review of construction plans and enforcement of building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, flood plain, zoning, and/or fire and life safety codes and City ordinances as assigned. This position will be assigned to the Zoning section and review duties will focus on the zoning aspects of residential permit applications and also to ensure that planning conditions and Zoning Ordinance regulations are followed through on non-residential projects. The disciplines most applicable to this position will be zoning, flood plain, building, and City ordinances. The required knowledge, skill, and abilities to satisfactorily perform job duties are normally acquired through attainment of a bachelor's degree from four-year college or university; or four to five years building inspection related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have experience as a Building Inspector III. SALARY: \$21.29/HR For a complete job description or to apply on-line go to: www.franklintn.gov/jobs. Deadline to apply: Open Until Filled EOE/Drug-free Workplace

PROGRAM MANAGER III

UT - LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
The Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC), an agency of the Institute for Public Service for the University of Tennessee, is seeking a person for the IPS Program Manager III position. The position is located in Oak Ridge, TN. The successful applicant will provide leadership to numerous programs at LEIC. To apply, the applicant must have a master's degree in criminal justice, public administration, education, forensic science, or a related field impacting law enforcement training and a minimum of six years of supervisory experience in a sworn law enforcement capacity, with senior level responsibility preferred. The applicant must have experience in managing or conducting needs assessments, evaluations, surveys, and long range strategic planning. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to seek funding resources, and grow new work for an organization. The successful applicant must be able to provide marketing/training presentations and networking skills that contribute to the success of the agency. Experience with successful grant management is required. The applicant must be able to work in training situations involving human cadavers and human remains. High levels of written and oral communication skills are necessary including knowledge of industry standard and university software. Applicant must be able to travel as required and maintain a valid driver's license and automobile insurance. You must apply electronically to the link below and attach a resume and cover letter detailing how the applicant's credentials meet the requirement for the position. <https://ut.taleo.net/careersection/jobdetail.ftl?job=15000000UW&lang=en#VbY-0QvMmrcA.mailto> Closing Date: 9-1-15 or until filled The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

COVINGTON. The city of Covington is currently seeking a Director of Public Works. This position is responsible for organizing, directing, and coordinating the activities of the Public Works Department including refuse collection, street maintenance, fleet, parks & grounds maintenance, and water/sewer/stormwater/gas operations. Applicants will possess a bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration, or related field or any equivalent combination of related education and experience to perform the functions of the job. Applicants must also possess a minimum of eight years administrative/supervisory experience in coordinating and directing the operations of a municipal public works department, including at least six years with utilities. Complete knowledge of financial principles, budget preparation, and execution, capital improvement planning, general ledgers and spreadsheets, and enterprise fund administration. Salary DOE. Excellent benefits. Vehicle provided. Deadline for application is 9/8/15. Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified persons should submit a resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history, and four professional references to: Tiny Barton, Director of Personnel, City of Covington, 200 West Washington Ave. Covington, TN 38019.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR.

THE TOWN OF SPRING CITY Is conducting a candidate search for a Public Works Director. Applicants must complete the town of Spring City application form and provide a current resume. Applications and a full job description are available for download at www.townofspringcitytn.com. The Public Works Director is responsible for streets, parks, sanitation, water/wastewater line maintenance, and overall supervision of the departments therein, and is performed by planning, organizing and directing the overall activities of the various departments and is under general supervision of the city manager. Duties include, but are not limited to, executing a variety of construction and maintenance tasks. Successful candidates should possess professional maturity, creativity, objectivity, good judgment, and excellent decision and problem-solving skills, as well as, excellent interpersonal skills. Minimum qualifications for public works director include a high school degree or equivalent, and a valid TN driver's license. Must have considerable experience in construction, maintenance, equipment operation, or related fields. Must have supervisory or management experience and complete a basic supervisory course, if offered. The official application and resume must be provided in a sealed envelope to City Hall NO LATER than Sept. 2, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Application may be mailed or hand delivered to Town of Spring City, 229 Front Street; PO Box 369, Spring City, TN 37381. Prospective candidates will be notified if selected for an interview. No phone calls please. The town of Spring City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants will be considered regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

STAFF ENGINEER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications from qualified individuals for a staff engineer in the Development and Engineering Services Department. Qualified applicants will possess a bachelor's degree in Engineering with two years related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience in project design, CAD drafting and general construction surveying is required. Experience in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook is required, with a working knowledge of Bentley Microstation V8i, Geopak V8i and StormCAD software desired. EIT or PE certification is preferred but not required. Major activities include: provide design and construction staking surveys for storm sewer and street improvement projects; collect data and prepare studies for sizing stormwater drainage pipe; design and prepare plans, specifications and cost estimates for city projects; perform inspections to ensure conformance to construction plans and specifications; collect soil and concrete samples for testing by laboratories; participate in plans review process for various public works related facilities; research deed information, prepare technical descriptions of easement and right of way boundaries for legal documents, assist with obtaining easements and properties for public use; investigate field problems affecting property owners, contractor and public works maintenance operations; coordinate Engineering division activities with other city departments and outside agencies; prepare engineering studies and reports; prepare soil erosion and sediment control plans; other duties as assigned by the city engineer. Submit a resume to the City of Cleveland Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364, in person to the Municipal Building Annex, 160 2nd Street NE, or by email to jdavis@clevelandtn.gov. The city of Cleveland is EOE.

STORMWATER MANAGER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of Stormwater Manager. This position is responsible for developing and maintaining the City's MS4 stormwater program. Under general supervision the employee is responsible for developing and managing the City's MS4 stormwater program. An employee in this class performs difficult professional work developing, administering, and implementing federal, state, and local stormwater requirements including developing and administering stormwater management plans, and developing and managing a public education and outreach program. Applications should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street or emailed to Human Resources at dthomas@cityofwhitehouse.com. Compensation Range: \$18.78 to \$22.88 per hour (\$39,062.40 to \$47,590.40 annually) DOE Application Deadline: Open Until Filled. EOE.

STREETS & ROADS SUPERVISOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of Streets and Roads Supervisor. An employee in this position is responsible for supervision of public works streets and right of way maintenance and construction and is also responsible for the supervision of garbage and brush removal and supervises Public Work and Sanitation staff. Performs other related work as required. Please visit our website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com for the full job description and to obtain an application. Applications should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street or emailed to Human Resources at dthomas@cityofwhitehouse.com. Salary Range: \$18.78 to \$22.88 per hour DOE Application Deadline: Open Until Filled. EOE.

TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. local time in the Board Room at The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Sept. 4 - 5: Cookeville Fall Funfest

Courthouse Town Square. Live music, arts and craft vendors, food and fun. Festival opens 5pm on Friday and 10am on Saturday. Music begins at 6 pm on Friday, and 4 pm on Saturday. For more information, go to <http://fallfunfest.com>

Sept. 6: Knoxville Boomsday Festival

Volunteer Landing and Neyland Drive. Great food, games and live entertainment. Largest Labor Day fireworks show in the nation. Free admission. Hours: 1pm-10pm

Sept. 7: Harrogate Annual Labor Day Celebration

Harrogate City Park Celebration begins at 3 p.m. and will feature kids' games, live music, food, crafts and business fair with a fireworks display scheduled for 9 p.m. For more information, call Harrogate City Hall at 423-869-0211.

Sept 12: Centerville Annual Grinder's Switch Music and Arts Festival on the Historic Centerville Town Square.

www.hickmancounty.com

Sept. 19: Pittman Center Pittman Center Heritage Day

Held from 9am-4pm. features heritage-type crafts, food, music, clogging, genealogy, children's activities, dog show, and auction.

Sep. 26: Huntingdon One Way Music & Arts Festival

Huntingdon's Court House Square in conjunction with Huntingdon Heritage Day. Free community event held 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Experience an array of musical performances on the Carroll Bank & Trust Bandstand, along with children's performances at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic stage, storytelling, arts, food vendors, and activities for the entire family. Entertainment includes performances by Iron Horse Bluegrass, Jackson Nance, Brandon Lay, and headliner is Paula Bridges and the Bandstand Review. For more information contact The Dixie at 731-986-2100 or visit www.dixiepac.net

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MUSIC CITY

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Education, regional cooperation key findings in West TN Economic development Study

WEST from Page 1
look for.”

Many people interviewed for the study expressed a “low motivation” within the workforce and that the workforce is “unfamiliar” with what jobs are available. The study also found unemployment prevails in places where jobs are “outdated” and there is a lack of economic diversity.

“Other parts of Tennessee, and the United States in general, have adapted to new economic realities, but West Tennessee is still struggling to compensate for jobs lost during the recession,” the report stated. “When traditionally blue-collar industries such as agriculture, transportation and manufacturing are removed from the comparison, West Tennessee lags its peer regions by even more. By way of comparison, Middle Tennessee’s economy experienced a notable structural shift over the past 10 years. Though it lost jobs in agriculture, and manufacturing it saw outstanding growth in fields such as finance, real estate, and professional, scientific and technical services. The difference between West and Middle Tennessee is drastic on these metrics, as Middle Tennessee grew at double the rate of West Tennessee in these categories between 2004 and 2014.”

Education is one of the challenges the region faces.

In West Tennessee, the percentage of the adult population with a high school diploma or less is 48 percent, higher than the national average by 4 percentage points. Additionally, West Tennessee produces less high school, associates and bachelor’s degree graduates than both Middle and East Tennessee.

Joe Barker, executive director of the Southwest Tennessee Development District, said workforce development remains a challenge, but programs like Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise will help.

“Our area’s biggest challenge is the readiness of our workforce,” Barker said. “We lag behind other areas of the state in the number of our adults with post-secondary education attainment. That’s a challenge as we want to attract the jobs that pay the wages and benefits our people deserve.”

Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist agreed that education has to be the top priority for the region as a whole.

“Manufacturers are looking for an educated workforce, and we are working on that right now with our junior colleges,” Gist said. “Tennessee Promise will help us some. We have established our first four-year public institution of higher learning in Jackson, which is the University of Memphis at Lambuth. They are partnering with our local public school system and our technology center is becoming more active in training our workforce.”

Changes in industry are another reality the region has to face. West Tennessee’s three largest industry

groups are government, retail trade, and health care and social assistance, which together make up 34 percent of the total jobs in the region. However, many of these positions are low-skill or low-wage jobs.

In the next decade, the biggest job losses are expected to occur within the utilities industry (18 percent job loss), agriculture industry (10 percent job loss), and manufacturing industry (5 percent job loss). The largest gain predicted in the next decade is a 29 percent job increase in the administrative, support, waste management and remediation services industries, while the health care and social assistance industries are expected to see jobs increase by 18 percent. Additionally, finance and insurance as well as “other” industries are predicted to see 21 percent growth.

“With jobs, you have to consider if they are outdated in today’s market or if we are going to be able to compete as we go forward,” Smith said. “We have to be looking at trends, what the in-demand jobs are and try to develop things to fit those.”

While the region is currently behind other areas of the state in terms of STEM employment, West Tennessee is expected to eventually overtake East Tennessee in STEM jobs over the next decade, which Smith called a “pleasant surprise” for the region.

Above all, the report stressed the need for regional cooperation, an idea West Tennessee officials are excited about. Gist said the seeds of regional cooperation are already being planted.

“I think in West Tennessee we understand that we have to be aggressive from a regional standpoint, not just protecting our own turf inside of a city or inside of a county,” he said. “We are addressing economic development on a regional basis now, which we weren’t doing a few years ago. There is already better cooperation between our cities and counties in West Tennessee. If you get all of our mayors and leaders together, it’s a pretty formidable group of people.”

Gist said about 60 percent of the manufacturing employees who work in Jackson do not live in the city or in Madison County, but from neighboring communities. As a result, unemployment rates are lower than average not only in Madison County but in its surrounding communities. Much like outlying areas are benefiting from industry in Jackson, Gist said Jackson stands to benefit from job growth in other West Tennessee communities.

“Jackson is poised to benefit from any industry brought into West Tennessee, whether that is in Brownsville, Savannah or Selmer,” he said. “Jackson is a hub in West Tennessee, and Jackson will benefit from jobs created in other centers. We have a medical center, a commercial center and a retail center. If



In response to key findings from the study, officials say the area must invest in itself, prepare the workforce for emerging and in-demand industries, and play up its assets, like the transportation hub of Memphis, the emerging energy industry and the mega-site in Haywood County.

those cities and counties can acquire additional jobs, we will benefit. But other cities will benefit, too. We are going to see the proceeds of people going back to work all across Tennessee.”

Smith said economic development is everyone’s responsibility and communities must learn to invest in themselves.

“From a city or county standpoint, this study reinforces the need to invest in themselves, not wait on something to come but be ready,” he said. “We are going to see opportunities in the future, but it is going to be up to the local governments to invest in themselves and have something to sell. We have to have industrial park space, buildings and everyone engaged in promoting the local area.”

The area must also play up its assets, like the transportation hub of Memphis, the emerging energy industry and the mega-site in Haywood County, Smith said.

Barker also touted the Haywood County site and said communities need to prepare their workforce for emerging and in-demand industries. To accomplish this, cooperation is needed.

“Those days where we used to sit back and see where our individual city or county is are gone,” Barker said. “We will rise or fall as a region, and I think that’s our challenge. We come together and look at these statistics – not only as we are as cities and counties but as a region – and we have to realize we are only as strong as our weakest link. We ought to be looking at developing strategic plans based on our assets, because we have a number of assets we can capitalize on. We need to take full advantage of those assets. For us to really create the jobs we need, we need to come together as a region and look at where our strengths are and where we can compete. We, as a region, need to work together to complete those

“Other parts of Tennessee, and the United States in general, have adapted to new economic realities, but West Tennessee is still struggling to compensate for jobs lost during the recession.

By way of comparison, Middle Tennessee’s economy experienced a notable structural shift over the past 10 years. Though it lost jobs in agriculture and manufacturing, it saw outstanding growth in fields such as finance, real estate, and professional, scientific and technical services. Middle Tennessee grew at double the rate of West Tennessee in these categories between 2004 and 2014.”

– findings from 2015 Economic Analysis of West Tennessee for the SWHRA



A worker trims shrubs around a field of solar energy panels. West Tennessee is expected to overtake East Tennessee in the number of STEM careers available in the coming decade. One of the STEM sectors projected to experience the most growth is alternative energy including careers in solar, wind and hydroelectric power.

goals.”

Ultimately, West Tennessee officials are looking forward to what the future will bring, Barker said.

“This is an area of the state that knows it has to work together, and that we’ve got to collectively formu-

late our strategies to work together,” he said. “This is something we can build on, and hopefully will make a great difference in the future of West Tennessee. We have a lot of bright people here who are willing to work; We are excited about our future.”

Cities use smart phone apps to enhance public services

APPS from Page 1

progress and when it is completed. Stahle said this option is an advantage for city staff as well.

“It helps keep us all accountable, because we are all human beings and everyone from time to time can overlook something,” Stahle said. “With the PublicStuff program, you can set up reminders to ensure you stay aware of a request. If you set the program properly, you can’t ignore it. We can sit there and look at all the requests and how we’ve responded. With every request, there are several features that help us keep track of our progress.”

While Stahle said city staff tries to complete tasks well before the set amount of time is finished, he said the app also has a “change log feature” that helps city staff keep track of when a project is expected to be complete, which Stahle said has been helpful for internal communications.

“Each service request has a default amount of time to complete it,” he said. “Sometimes, through no fault of any staff member, you can’t complete something in the time limit you normally allot. If someone has to go in there to change a date, we make staff give a comment as to why they changed the date. All of that is logged, which is great because it keeps the staff up-to-date, the supervisors up-to-date and the person who requested it up-to-date.”

Stahle said most of the citizens he has talked to about the app have praised the city’s ability to quickly

process their requests. Citizens can also help serve as the eyes and ears of the city, informing city crews of potholes, malfunctioning traffic lights and other issues that the city might not have found until they became bigger issues.

“Having the citizens help us identify issues early on can save us money in the long run,” he said. “It’s a win-win. It helps us get things done, and sometimes we can save the time and money by doing something because citizens let us know of a problem we are not aware of.”

Since the app was launched, Stahle said citizen surveys have showed much more confidence in the city’s ability to communicate. He said he hopes app helps strengthen and grow the lines of communications between city officials and local residents.

Other cities around the state have also employed mobile applications. The city of Knoxville is keeping residents up-to-date the progress of its Cumberland Avenue Corridor project though a new app called Cumberland Connect. The project will be expanding Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway eastward to 17th Street, and is expected to be completed in August 2017.

The Cumberland Connect app was created by Vaughn & Melton – the engineering firm overseeing the construction project – and is designed to keep residents informed of road conditions, traffic routes and special offers from local merchants. The App is available for Android, Apple,

Blackberry, Windows and Kindle devices.

“We are doing everything we can to keep people informed and engaged as this project continues,” said Anne Wallace, project manager with the Knoxville Office of Redevelopment. “This app is an easy way to share updates and keep people connected to the merchants in the area.”

The city of Belle Meade uses an app developed by iCity that highlights local attractions, keeps a calendar of city events, information on parks and recreation and allows users to access city services or contact city maintenance. The city of Memphis is one of several municipalities that uses SeeClickFix for its Memphis 311, a GPS-based app that allows residents to report potholes, road damage and other maintenance issues whenever they see them.

To promote economic development, the city of Clarksville and Montgomery County’s Industrial Development Boards have partnered together for the Clarksville Economic Development app created by Populace, Inc. This app provides businesses looking into the Clarksville area with information about workforce education, training, utilities and what incentive packages are available on the municipal, county and state levels. Potential businesses can also research what real estate is available for commercial purposes in the Clarksville area.

In 2011, the Chattanooga City Council also utilized the WeBudget-



Crews work to install lines on Cumberland Avenue near the intersection of Volunteer Avenue in Knoxville as part of the Cumberland Avenue Project. To keep residents and businesses up-to-date with ongoing construction, Knoxville is using multi-media platforms including the Cumberland Connect website and Cumberland Connect mobile app.

Chatt app to allow residents to easily follow along with and chime in on the city’s budgeting process. Residents used the app to vote on which projects they felt were the most important for the city, allowing elected officials to get a better understanding of the public’s wants and needs.

Outside of Tennessee, municipalities have found a wide use for smart phone apps ranging from helping residents find open parking spaces in busy downtowns to knowing when the next bus is expected to arrive at nearby stops to getting

the latest health scores for favorite restaurants. The city of Chicago provides residents with apps that can show them how their building is zoned and to get updates on what legislation the city is passing. New York City has an app that gives residents estimates on when their next subway train will arrive and San Francisco has apps allows residents to report crime, find building and planning information or find out what activities are happening in local parks all with the push of a button.

Tourism Commissioner Triplett brings 20 plus years of sports marketing to new role

BY LINDA BRYANT

Kevin Triplett, a veteran public relations and sports marketing expert in the car racing industry, was appointed to Gov. Bill Haslam's cabinet as the Commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development in March 2015. The East Tennessee native says he doesn't miss the excitement and glamour of racing culture because Tennessee tourism is equally as exciting and challenging to him.

"I have seldom met people more passionate about what they do than people in the Tennessee tourism industry," Triplett said. "It's truly a pleasure to interact with people who love their job, and it's an honor to tell the world about Tennessee. It's an honor to promote a state that's so beautiful and so rich in history and music."

Triplett grew up in the coal fields of Clintwood, Va., which is just north of Bristol, Tenn. After graduating from East Tennessee State University, he landed a job in sports reporting at the Herald Courier, a regional daily newspaper that covers the Tri-Cities area of Tennessee and Virginia. The reporting job opened up a career in the racing industry. The Tri-Cities region is home to the Bristol Motor Speedway, the fourth largest sports venue in the United States and the ninth largest in the world.

From 1992 until 1994, Triplett represented General Motors Parts (GM Goodwrench and AC Delco) in NASCAR, specifically Richard Childress Racing and Ken Schrader Racing and their drivers. One of those drivers was the legendary Dale Earnhardt.

Most recently, Triplett was vice president of public affairs for Bristol Motor Speedway. Prior to joining BMS in 2005, he worked in various roles for NASCAR, ultimately serving as managing director of business operations. In this high-profile position, he guided the operation and administration of NASCAR's Sprint Cup Series, Nationwide Series, and Camping World Truck Series. He has twice been named one of NASCAR's "25 Most Influential" by The Charlotte Observer.

Triplett has served on the boards of a number of community organizations including Birthplace of Country Music, Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Bristol Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rotary Club of Bristol, ETSU at Bristol Advisory Council, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Also a farmer, Triplett is a member of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. He and his wife Jill, have two children, Lucas and Sarah Grace.

TT&C: Can you tell us about your early background?

KT: My dad was a public educator. He started out as a history teacher and guidance counselor and worked his way up to assistant school superintendent. When he retired he was school superintendent of our county. My mom worked as a bookkeeper in the school system. Where I grew up you were a coal miner or a farmer or you owned a small business. If you didn't do those things, you taught the kids of the coal miners, farmers and small business owners. Everything was very real growing up in that part of Appalachia. It taught me that your word and your handshake should be a contract. It was a great place to grow up. I've been very blessed.

TT&C: What is one of the most important things you learned from growing up in Appalachia?

KT: My dad taught me early on that if you make a mistake, you need to own up to it. You look worse trying to get out of it than if you just say, "I made a mistake." Then you can figure out how to fix it and try not to do it again. After my dad passed away a lot of people approached me with stories about him. The one thing that resonated throughout their stories was that when my dad told you something, you could take it to the bank. All you have is your word. You can't take anything else with you. I also grew up in a church where I was taught to be a servant. I was taught to care about my home and my country.

TT&C: You worked for many years with Bristol Motor Speedway and NASCAR. Can you talk about some of your responsibilities in those jobs? How did they prepare you to be Commissioner of Tourism Development?

KT: The early part of my career in communications taught me a lot about working with people, building

a coalition and empowering them to do things by providing information. People can help make decisions if they know the score. Working with Dale Earnhardt, NASCAR and Bristol Motor Speedway really gave me critical experience on the tourism side. I was with NASCAR during its explosive years when the sport was growing so fast you almost couldn't hang on. Tracks and seats were being added to our venues and record TV deals were being signed. We had three races west of the Mississippi when I started in 1994. Then we added Fort Worth, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. It was just crazy growth.

Bristol Motor Speedway is one of the largest destinations in Tennessee. We worked with people in all 50 states and in about 19 countries. Working there gave me experience with working with global visitors, and that's a focus for us at the tourism department. Attracting visitors from all over the world is a priority.

When we entered new markets we had to tell a story that promoted who we were and what we did. We had to tell the people why they should be interested in coming to the races in



Kevin Triplett
Tennessee Tourist Commissioner



Photo courtesy NASCAR

Dale Earnhardt shakes hands with Kevin Triplett following his win on May 22, 1993, in the Winston All-Star race.

the first place. Fast forward to today, and you'll see the same use of storytelling. We're trying to tell a story to convince people that they can have a really great vacation in Tennessee.

TT&C: You recently held a press conference at Ryman Auditorium with Gov. Bill Haslam and announced some impressive growth numbers for Tennessee tourism. Can you share highlights and name a few of your top priorities moving forward?

KT: We have a lot of good news. Tourism's direct domestic and international travel expenditures reached \$17.7 billion in 2014. That's a 6.3 percent increase over the previous year and an all-time high for the state. Tourism-generated jobs reached 152,900, an increase of almost 3 percent. State and local sales tax revenue for the industry topped \$1.5 billion, up 7 percent from the year before. This is the ninth consecutive year tourism topped \$1 billion. International travel increased 8.4 percent, reaching \$576.5 million in economic impact.

We are consistently in the Top 10 tourism states in the country in terms of traffic, and we're in the Top 15 when it comes to travel expenditures. We want to be at the table for the Top 10, and we firmly believe we can get there. We crossed an important benchmark last year when we reached 101.3 million visitors for the first time in the state's history. But we never rest. Now it's our priority to get to 110 million visitors.

We're very proud of our progress. All 95 counties in Tennessee had more than \$1 million in direct travel expenditures in 2014. Nineteen counties saw more than \$100 million, and three counties — Davidson, Shelby and Sevier — had more than \$1 billion in economic impact. Knox and Hamilton Counties round out the Top 5 with nearly \$1 billion in economic impact.

We want tourism in all 95 counties to thrive and to consistently have \$1 million in economic impact from tourism. For some places that means leveraging their natural resources and attributes and expanding into tourism niches such as agro-tourism or heritage tourism. We will work with every county and find out what's unique to them. We are action-oriented about this and work on it every single day. Gov. Haslam has asked us to set goals and wants us to be able to measure them.

We have five pillars that we try

to promote in Tennessee tourism — music, history, scenic beauty, experiences and family. We feel like those five pillars tell the story of Tennessee. In every promotion and initiative we take on, we try to touch at least three of those five pillars. Our goal is to hit all five.

TT&C: How does Tennessee tourism stack up compared to other industries in the state?

KT: Tourism is the second largest industry in Tennessee. This is very important because we're not an income tax-based state; we're a sales tax-based state. Getting people to come to Tennessee, and inspiring them to enjoy themselves, is a critical component of this job. What we do is not rocket science, but it is impactful. If more people choose Tennessee for their vacation and getaway time, it benefits the state as a whole.

Tennessee is a huge state — about 450 highway miles from one end to the other. It's extremely diverse, and there are things all along the way that other states would love to have. We want to continue to highlight the diversity of the state — everything from the iconic small town diners to bluegrass jams on the porches of Bristol to the soybean fields of Martin and the blues bands of Beale Street.

We are getting noticed more and more. Trip Advisor just named Tennessee the No. 1 state for barbeque, and that's a third-party non-solicited deal. Tennessee's customer satisfaction score for tourism is an impressive 8.5 out of 10. That score is greater than those of the average U.S. destination. We were also named one of the top five states to visit between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

TT&C: How committed is the current administration to growing tourism statewide, county by county?

KT: When Gov. Haslam came into office four years ago, one of the first things he did was take a stand on how important tourism is for the state. He doubled down on the effort. He created the Tennessee Tourism Commission, which consists of about 30 people in the industry from all around the state. We meet with the commission three or four times a year. It's a very intelligent group of people from some of the best destinations and places in Tennessee. They're a tremendous resource of knowledge for us. We try to take all that know-how and work with the

individual Tennessee counties and the downtown management organizations. We decide on a direction that benefits the most people in the state.

The legislature has doubled our advertising budget over the last couple years. We're north of \$8 million, and two years ago we were just north of \$4 million. We're still not in the ballpark compared to a lot of other states, but we're doing very well. We're thankful for that. We need to show that tourism is a great investment for Tennessee, and we need to be able to come back and show how much it's increased our revenue. We think we're going to be able to do just that. A few weeks ago we commissioned a return on investments study. It will be completed in December.

TT&C: There are many towns and cities all over the state in great need of economic development. What are you doing to help them improve their tourism efforts?

KT: Here's just one example: I spent two hours this morning going through the bottom 10 counties in economic impact and trying to figure out what we can do to help them raise their numbers. I ask as many questions as I can. How can we bring more tourism to these counties? What assets do they have? What museums? What's special about their history? Do they have an interesting Civil War or music history?

We have three grand divisions of Tennessee and inside these grand divisions we have nine regions. We have Northeast Tennessee, the Upper Mountains, the Great Smoky Mountains, Middle Tennessee, West Tennessee, the Delta and the Mississippi. The diversity is incredible. If you look at all of our regions you'll find incredibly rich histories. The music that rolls out of all these areas is known worldwide. We're just scratching the surface when it comes to taking advantage of what we have here in the state.

We've spent a lot of time over the last two years rolling out the "Welcome to the Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee" brand. That campaign is now front and center at all 14 Tennessee Welcome Centers. There are new branded signs prominently placed for more than 12 million annual visitors to see. We're penetrating social media with the "Welcome to the Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee" campaign. People are responding to the #madeintn hashtag. We're encouraging visitors to tag their photos and

videos of their Tennessee experiences on all social channels.

The music that threads throughout Tennessee is an important piece of the tourism story for every city, town and county. There are seven genres of music that were either born in Tennessee or call Tennessee their home. Music is such a universal language whether it's blues, bluegrass, country, rockabilly, rock or Southern gospel. We have this universal language that stretches across the entire state. It's the thread in our quilt. It's the cornerstone, and we'll continue to make it a part of our tourism efforts.

A month ago we were looking at how many festivals we had in Tennessee, and we counted 800. I haven't yet found a festival that doesn't have some element of music attached to it. We have big music events such as Bonnaroo, the CMA Festival, and Rhythm and Roots in Memphis. But smaller towns and cities are also abounding with them. For example, we have the Tennessee Soybean Festival in Martin, and it's really a growing event. This year they've booked Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and other named bands.

Music is so much a part of what we do in Tennessee. I have to keep saying it because it's something that can't be overemphasized. We'll keep integrating it into our marketing and outreach efforts.

TT&C: Can you give a couple of examples of smaller towns that are doing a good job with tourism?

KT: Lynchburg is a perfect example of great small town tourism. It's the home of Jack Daniels, and they have visitors from 170 countries every year. They have an invitational barbecue festival that attracts 25,000 visitors and teams from eight different countries. A team from

Denmark entered the contest last year. It's pretty remarkable.

Brownsville in West Tennessee has preserved the one room schoolhouse where Anna Mae Bullock, better known as Tina Turner, went to school. It's an unbelievable place, and Tina has even bought into the idea. She's so excited about the refurbished school. She's even sent costumes from her concerts.

TT&C: Can you name a couple of key challenges?

KT: One of our challenges is finding ways to reach out to more global visitors, and we are making progress on this front. We certainly think this is a growth area for us. Also, we want visitors to stay longer once they are here.

TT&C: In October your department and the Tennessee Hospitality Association will co-sponsor the Governor's Conference on Hospitality and Tourism in Nashville. What's the significance of this event?

KT: It gives a chance for our partners from all over the state to work together for two or three days. We bring in speakers, host workshops, and share ideas and best practices so we can keep getting better and better. It's a great networking opportunity. If you are in the tourism and hospitality industry in Tennessee you will gain something from the conference.

TT&C: What are some things you'd like people to be aware of about Tennessee tourism?

KT: There's so much creativity going on across the state. Every county, every community has something real and authentic about it. We didn't even use actors in our broadcast commercials last year; we featured real people doing real things. There are incredible assets off the beaten track in Tennessee. There are hidden gems outside the big cities, and we don't want them to stay hidden. We have a rural marketing program called "Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways" that features three statewide and 16 regional trails and byways. These trails were designed so you can get in your car and just go. They originate or run through the bigger destinations such as Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga. They are designed to make it very easy for you to take a day trip or to spend a few night in a state park or bed and breakfast along your route.