



Municipal elections held in 11 communities

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialists

Nearly a dozen municipalities across Tennessee held summer elections, including eight elections held on Aug. 1.

While most candidates won their races outright, 10 races in Metro-Nashville will have run-off elections scheduled for September, including mayoral, at-large council, and several council district seats.

COWAN

Cowan held a municipal election on Aug. 1, electing two candidates to the city council. Incumbents William Anderson Jr. and Mark Ledbetter defeated challenger Brenda Kay Johnson.

DECHERD

Voters went to the polls in Decherd on Aug. 1, electing newcomer Michael Gillespie as mayor over incumbent Robin Smith and challenger Justin Stubblefield.

In the alderman race, new-

comer Richard Gulley and Jimmy Wayne Sanders defeated incumbent Roy F. Partin and fellow challengers Mark A. Bassett and Mary Nell Hess.

ESTILL SPRINGS

Estill Springs held a municipal election on Aug. 1 with incumbent Mayor David Kelley holding onto his seat over challenger James McCord.

Incumbent aldermen Earl Davis and Bobby Taylor will also keep their seats in Estill Springs, fending off challengers Jack Burke and Scott Eslick.

GREENEVILLE

A municipal election was held in Greeneville on Aug. 1.

Incumbent Buddy Hawk and newcomer Cal Doty took the two open aldermen seats for Greeneville's Ward 1, defeating incumbent Keith W. Paxton. John F. Honeycutt ran unopposed and was elected to the water commission.

See **ELECTIONS** on Page 4

Mayors unite across state to promote civic engagement

Tennesseans once led the way on civic engagement, but today Volunteer State citizens vote far less regularly than most Americans.

Voter turnout in Tennessee consistently ranks near the bottom of the nation. The state was ranked 50 out of 50 for voter turnout in 2014 and 49 out of 50 in 2016.

When it comes to many local elections, turnout is particularly low.

Less than 25 percent of eligible voters participated in recent local elections in the state's four largest cities with Memphis seeing only a 21.9 percent turnout in 2015, Nashville a 17.3 percent turnout in 2018, Chattanooga a 14.1 percent turnout in 2017, and Knoxville a mere 2.6 percent in 2015.

To combat this trend and share best practices for increasing civic engagement, several mayors across the state are joining ThinkTennessee to launch the Tennessee Mayors Growing Civic Engagement project.

Participating mayors will identify specific actions they can take to increase civic engagement, from deepening engagement with local youth by creating Mayor's Youth Councils to convening community members to discuss the importance of civic participation.

Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder, one of the youngest city mayors in the state, said this engagement is vital to raising voter turnout.

"Our community will succeed with an increase of interest and participation in the political and governmental processes, and I am proud to join with fellow mayors across the state who share a vision for increased civic participation," Molder said. "I am particularly interested in the engagement of our youth – an investment in the future leaders is an investment in the long-term vitality of our community. That's what this effort aims to do."

Over the course of the project, Shanna Singh Hughey, ThinkTennessee president, said her organization will provide mayors with

individual guidance and facilitate a community of practice to help tackle common challenges and scale solutions.

"When it comes to increasing civic engagement at the local level, mayors know best," she said. "We're thrilled to help mayors from all parts of the state and both sides of the political aisle come together to help move Tennessee forward."

At the end of the year, ThinkTennessee will share a summary report highlighting lessons learned and success stories from participating communities so that others might replicate what they achieved.

The Tennessee cohort is the first of its kind in the nation. Current participants represent the geographic and political diversity of the state and include the following:

- Franklin Mayor Ken Moore,
- Kingsport Mayor Pat Shull (2019-) and former Mayor John Clark (2015-2019),
- Nashville Mayor David Briley,
- Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke,
- Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder,
- Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland,
- Chester County Mayor Barry Hutcherson,
- Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris,
- Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, and
- Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson

For more information about the project, including how to become a participating mayor, please visit www.thinktennessee.org.



A year after online sales tax ruling, are states reaping more revenues?

BY LIZ FARMER
Governing Magazine

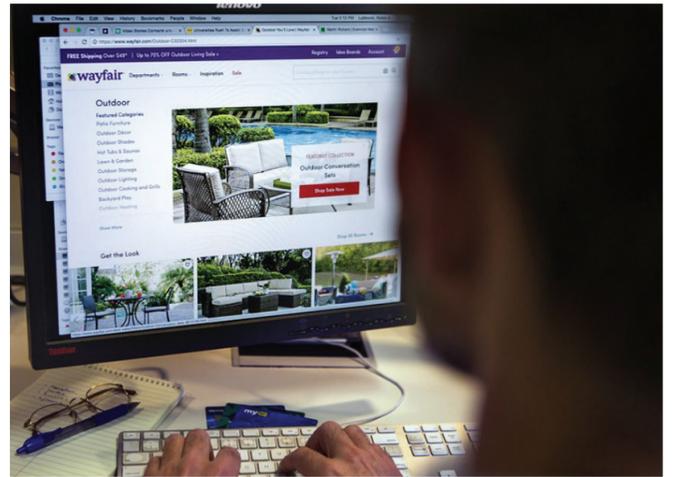
One year after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a decades-old ban on states collecting sales taxes from online sellers, nearly every state has instituted a tax.

The swift and relatively painless transition has been a strong rebuke to the argument that requiring online sellers to remit sales taxes to 40-some states would be too cumbersome for states and sellers.

"It's absolutely amazing that just one year in, we've seen that kind of widespread geographic coverage," said Charles Maniace, vice president of regulatory analysis for the consulting firm Sovos.

As of this month, the District of Columbia and 42 of the 45 states with a sales tax have enacted laws or regulations requiring remote sellers to remit a sales tax. The remaining three states – Florida, Kansas, and Missouri – have already proposed bills, "and it is only a matter of time before they are enacted," said the Urban Institute's Lucy Dadayan.

The action comes in response to the court's ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, issued one year ago



Almost every state has enacted laws to tax online purchases and require remote sellers to remit a sales tax.

today, calling the old precedent "flawed" and a "tax shelter for businesses." The 5-4 decision did away with the notion that governments can only collect sales taxes on purchases made from retailers with a physical presence in their state. In doing so, the court overturned two previous rulings that predated the world of e-commerce.

In addition to enacting laws for direct sellers, 32 states and Wash-

ington, D.C., have passed laws or regulations requiring marketplace facilitators to collect sales taxes on behalf of their sellers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Marketplace facilitators are online brokers, such as Amazon or eBay, that sell a third party's goods and services. More states are expected to take similar action in the coming year.

See **SALES TAX** on Page 9

Memphis brings together public, private partners to tackle blight through the courts

BY KATE COIL

To deal with the ongoing issues of blight in the community, the city of Memphis has partnered with Shelby County, the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and several non-profits and community-based organizations for a multi-faceted approach to blight removal through the court system.

Both the city of Memphis and Shelby County support an environmental court made possible through the Tennessee General Assembly in 1991 and able to prosecute properties found to be in violation of the state's Neighborhood Preservation of 2007.

Those working with the Memphis and Shelby County Environmental Court and as part of the greater blight removal initiative in the city addressed the Tennessee Municipal League during a panel presentation at the annual conference in Memphis.

Steve Barlow is a partner in the Memphis-based firm Brewer & Barlow PLC and a staff attorney for the city of Memphis who previously served as the president and director of the nonprofit Memphis' Neighborhood Preservation, Inc. Barlow splits his time between handling public nuisance litigation in the Memphis-Shelby County Environmental Court and the nonprofit to deal with the community's blight issues.

"Neighborhood Preservation was born to be a policy organization and to create policy informed by action," Barlow said. "The organization does some neighborhood revitalization programs and a lot of policy work at the local and state level. We have worked a lot with the city of Memphis, the county,



A blighted home in Memphis is demolished to make room for new development. The city works with Shelby County and a joint environmental court to use legal avenues that encourage property owners to either bring their property up to code or demolish it for new development. Rather than bid out demolition projects, the city instead sets its own price for demolition and uses a list of rotating contractors until they find one willing to tear down any structures for that set price.

and the state legislature to face the challenges in our community. The policy issues we focus on include tax foreclosure, code enforcement, property maintenance, and also what we call land banking. The state law now authorizes the formation of land banks across the state. When you form these land banks you get a little bit of a special ability to bring together and address them in a sort-of quasi-governmental way."

Barlow said much of the blight issues the city faces began with the foreclosure crisis created by the subprime mortgage crisis around the time the Great Recession began.

"Here in Memphis, we have a lot of bank-owned properties," he said. "One of the challenges we face is that, as a result of the foreclosure crisis, we have a lot of properties that were once home-owner-occupied that have since become rental properties. The banks that foreclosed on these homes sold them – often in bulk – to an investor who is often out-of-town and even out-of-country landlord."

The city and surrounding areas soon realized that legal actions were often their only recourse with these landlords.

"We've had a very intentional, focused, coordinated effort to deal

See **BLIGHT** on Page 3

Tennessee tourism outpaces nation with \$22B in travel spending, 119M visitors

Tennessee saw 119 million domestic visitors in 2018, up 5.1 percent from 113 million the previous year and hit a record-high \$22 billion in domestic and international travel spending.

Gov. Bill Lee and Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Mark Ezell made the announcement at the Ford Theater at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville.

"From our thriving cities to our beautiful rural landscapes and everything in between, Tennessee has solidified its place as a leader



in tourism across the country," Lee said. "Our booming tourism sector is outpacing the nation in every category. World-class food, music, and adventure are just a few things folks find when they come to Tennessee, and thankfully, folks are visiting this remarkable place

more than ever."

Tennessee's growth is outpacing the nation in all areas of travel; including tax revenue, expenditures, payroll and employment.

"Tennessee's diverse cities and small towns offer quality tourism

See **TOURISM** on Page 5

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Construction of a new, paved greenway trail in Maryland Farms, connecting Powell Park to the Maryland Farms YMCA property, is set to begin this month and be completed by the end of the year. A contract for \$918,833 was approved by the city commission in July. The greenway is currently about 175 to 200 feet wide. Once the trail is completed, citizens will be able to bike or walk from the far west end of Maryland Farms to the east side of Maryland Farms where the Hill Center is located.

CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA) will replace its diesel buses with all-electric buses thanks to a \$2.2 million federal grant. Chattanooga was the only transit system of Tennessee and one of only 38 in the nation to share in the \$84.9 million in grants awarded through the Federal Transit Administration through the Low or No-Emission (Low-No) program. Eligible projects include the purchase or lease of buses powered by modern, efficient technologies which include hydrogen fuel cells, battery electric engines, and related infrastructure investments such as charging stations. For more information about the Low-No Bus Program Project, visit www.transit.dot.gov.

CHATTANOOGA

ATN Hoelzel LP will expand its operations in Chattanooga, investing \$6 million in an expansion and relocation of the company's North American headquarters and creating 100 new jobs in the next five years. The automotive supplier plans to relocate its current facility to an existing 55,000-square-foot facility in Chattanooga. The company will retrofit the existing space to include 15,000 square feet of office space as well as other upgrades at the facility. The new operations will function as the company's North American headquarters and manufacturing facility. ATN, a subsidiary of German-based ATN Hoelzel GmbH, is a leading supplier and system integrator of the automotive industry with its main focus in fully automated and robot guided gluing equipment. The company's customers include premium automotive OEMs that fully rely on ATN's services, equipment and turnkey solutions.

FAYETTEVILLE

The city has broken ground on the first phase of Fayetteville's long-anticipated greenway project. City leaders and citizens gathered at the end of South Elk Avenue to break ground on the project, which was first planned in 2008 but was shelved due to the recession. A master plan for the project was created in 2014 that outlined the first three phases of the project that also incorporated an accompanying blueway to the greenway. The first phase of the project will connect the square with Stone Bridge Park and is expected to be completed within six months. The goal of the project overall is to connect all of the city's parks, including the second phase of a pedestrian bridge over the Elk River and connecting Phase I to the Camp Blount Historical Site and Huntsville Highway shopping district. The third phase will include a riverwalk from the pedestrian bridge encircling Camp Blount.

FRANKLIN

Red Collar Pet Foods will invest \$3.65 million and create 30 jobs

in the next five years as part of an expansion to its headquarters operations in Franklin. The company presently employs 50 people at its Franklin location, and company officials said the expansion will help the company keep up with growing demand. Red Collar is a leading manufacturer of mainstream and premium private label dog food, dog treats, cat food and cat treats for national retail customers. The company produces dry dog and cat food, including mainstream, premium, meat-first and grain-free varieties. Red Collar's Franklin facility supports six other locations across the U.S.

KINGSPORT

Renovations have begun to a former bank building that will eventually become the new Kingsport City Hall. Renovations to the former Regions Bank building on Broad Street include replacing three elevators, the installation of an emergency generator, new furnishings, running fiber-optic cable, improving the city's archive filing system, and other improvements. The city purchased the 60-room building with its 72-space parking lot last year for \$2.82 million to address overcrowding at the current city hall facility, which also houses some functions of the city's justice center. The city will initially renovate the third through sixth floor of the building for its use while the bank retains use of the first two floors until it can move into its own new facility. The city will then begin a second phase of the project to renovate the first two floors. The project will mean that the main offices of city hall, the city's engineering and other departments will be consolidated into one building and then reuse or sell those former city properties.

LEWISBURG

CBC Group will invest \$3 million and create 60 jobs as part of an expansion to its existing facility in Lewisburg. The company plans to build a 60,000-square-foot addition to its current facility on 1013 Veterans Drive in Lewisburg. Since 1948, the family-owned company has distributed church supplies and inspirational products under an assortment of brand names. Its customer base includes religious institutions, Christian retail stores, as well as secular gift shops. Headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., CBC Group currently employs approximately 80 at its distribution and manufacturing campus in Lewisburg. Once the expansion is completed, CBC Group's Lewisburg facility will span more than 200,000 square feet. The company anticipates starting construction in July 2019 and expects to complete the expansion in January 2020.

MANCHESTER

The Manchester Soccer Complex will receive a \$672,000 upgrade that will include the construction of restrooms and installation of new lighting. The city will only pay \$336,000 toward the project with the rest coming from a Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) grant, which will also cover the renovation to a playground on the soccer complex site. The soccer complex is part of a 25-acre park along the Little Duck River and also features greenway access and a community garden.

MEMPHIS

FedEx Corp. officials will invest an additional \$450 million to the \$1.1 billion Memphis Hub modernization project announced in March 2018. The total investment will now exceed \$1.5 billion in the next six years, facilitating the construction of a new sort facility, installation of state-of-the-art systems and construction of a new bulk truckload building to support changing e-commerce needs. The Hub modernization efforts will be complete by 2025 with significant job creation in addition to the 11,000 employees who already work there.

MT. PLEASANT

Automotive supplier Athena-SCE will invest more than \$3 million and create 36 jobs as part of an expansion to its facility in Mt. Pleasant. The company plans to build a

Three Way breaks ground on new city hall



The city of Three Way held a ground breaking ceremony on Aug. 3 for the new city hall building. Officials and dignitaries ready to shovel dirt are (from left) Greer Lashlee of Lashlee-Rich, construction manager on the project, Alderman Danny Wade, former Alderman L.A. "Hoot" Gibson, former Mayor Jimmy Hill, Mayor Larry Sanders, Alderman Mary Ann Tremblay and state Sen. Ed Jackson.

Politicians, dignitaries, guests and residents of Three Way turned out for a ceremony on Aug. 3, to break ground on the new city hall building.

The new Three Way Municipal Complex will be constructed next to Pine Hill Park.

Among those in attendance included Three Way Mayor Larry Sanders, along with Aldermen Danny Wade and Mary Ann Tremblay, former mayor Jimmy Hill, former alderman L.A. "Hoot" Gibson, state Sen. Ed Jackson Jr., Ed Jackson, III, field representative for Congressman David Kustoff, Madison County Fire Chief Eric Turner, Greer Lashlee of Lashlee-Rich, city of Three Way staff and other guests.

5,800-square-foot addition to its existing 32,500-square-foot-facility and plans for new operations to be complete by the end of the year. With its parent company headquartered in Italy, Athena-SCE produces gaskets and other sealing devices for automotive and industrial applications.

NASHVILLE

The Metro Nashville and Davidson County Assessor's Office has received the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration (CEAA) from the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO), a national and international organization which is made up of approximately 8,000 members in the assessment profession and seeks to maintain the highest standards of professionalism in property valuation. The Metro Nashville and Davidson County Office is the only county assessor's office in the state to earn the certification, which lasts for a period of six years. The recognition comes after Assessor Vivian Wilhoite was named Outstanding New Member by the Tennessee Association of Assessing Officers in January 2019. The office will be presented with its Certificate of Excellence Award at the IAAO's 85th Annual Conference in Ontario, Canada in September 2019.

TOWNSEND

The Townsend community of Fawn Hollow has joined 25 other communities across the state to earn the Firewise USA recognition for its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of the area to wildfire. The program began in Tennessee in 2002. The community received a commemorative plaque and street signs at the Townsend Fire Station No. 4. For more information about the Firewise USA program visit www.BurnSafeTN.org.

TULLAHOMA

EnableComp will invest nearly \$1 million and create 200 jobs over the next five years at a new facility in Tullahoma. The Franklin-based company is a full-service processor of complex medical claims, serving more than 800 healthcare providers across 39 states. The company's Tullahoma operation will process medical insurance claims from submissions to appeals. EnableComp will locate its operations at 1400 Cedar Lane in Tullahoma. The new facility is expected to open sometime in September. EnableComp, founded in 2000, currently has approximately 240 employees at its headquarters in Franklin. The company processes 180,000 claims annually and uses clinical expertise, data driven analytics, managed care and proprietary technology to achieve optimal results for its clients.

Plans for the new municipal building began in November 2005, when city leaders voted to purchase the 15-acre site. The property was selected due to its central location and its proximity to the park.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project have been completed, which included the construction of the city's maintenance building, and the development of the Pine Hill Park.

Planning for a city hall building has been in the works basically since 1998, when citizens voted to incorporate Three Way. City meetings have been conducted in the local fire station since 1998, but the

new building will allow the city to finally have its own space, including an office for the mayor.

In May 2018, the city board met with architect Vaughn Associates and construction manager, Lashlee-Rich, to develop and approve plans for the new municipal complex.

Construction is expected to get fully underway in the fall and finish sometime in spring 2020.

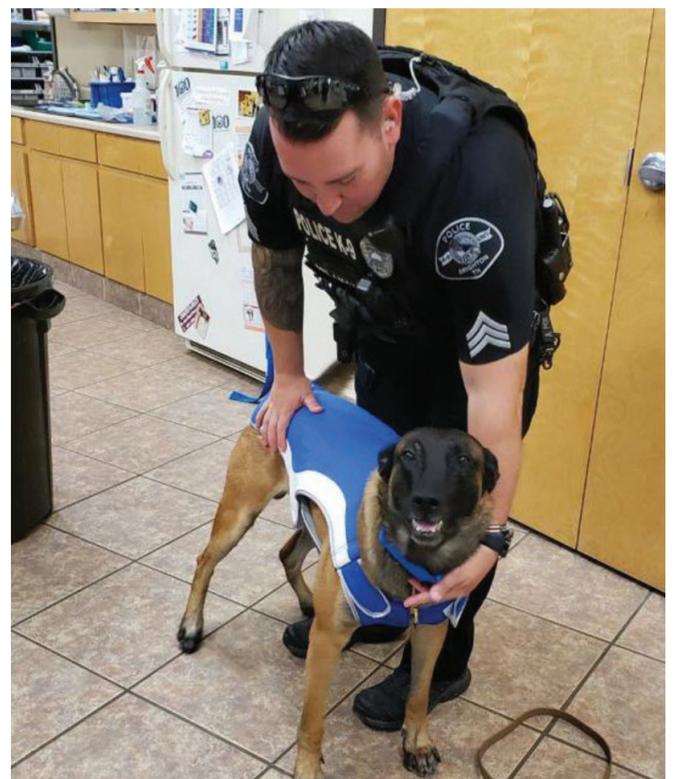
Funding for the new city hall was procured through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund with the assistance of market representative Tommy Green, along with funds in the city's general fund.

Memphis cleanup aims to recycle tires into park trails



With the help of Memphis City Beautiful and volunteers from Hope Church, Tennessee State Parks' Tires to Trails Program was able to help clean up another 1,500 illegally dumped scrap tires in Memphis. So far the program has collected more than 15,000 tires and is almost halfway to its goal of 36,000, all of which will be recycled and used in a new trail at T.O. Fuller State Park. The cleanup was the second held at the park after one that brought 450 volunteers out during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend. A third cleanup is also planned. The tires will be recycled by Patriot Recycling in Bristol, Tn., into pavement-like surfacing for an approximately three-mile trail for pedestrians and cyclists within the park.

Animal hospital donates cooling kits to K-9 units



Brighton Police Officer Blaine Max is pictured with K-9 Zorro wearing a cooling collar. The Munford Animal Hospital donated cooling collars and vests to each K-9 Unit in Tipton County including to the Atoka, Brighton, Covington, and Munford Police Departments. Plans have also been made to expand the program to help departments that also work on task forces with Tipton County departments including the Memphis Police Department and Oakland Police Department. The collars help dogs stay cool when out in the elements, which is particularly helpful for working dogs like K-9s who often have to spend hours outside without prior notice.

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Franklin holds “Kitty Hall” to encourage shelter adoption

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Franklin’s City Hall was transformed into a “Kitty Hall” to help connect cats from the Williamson County Animal Shelter with potential adopters.

Sponsored by Mars Petcare, the Downtown Franklin Association, Ruby Sunshine, Landmark Booksellers, and Heart and Hands, the event transformed the city’s conference room into a “cat café,” hosting a meet-and-greet between available cats and families, a kitty election, and fundraising events.

Food served at the event was all feline-themed including “meowmosas,” catfish and grits, “cattuchinos,” and “bananas foster kittens.” The event was held in July, which is typically the biggest intake month for cats at the shelter.

As a result of the event, 22 cats – 18 kittens and four adults – were adopted.

“We are absolutely over the moon of the response to Kitty Hall at the city of Franklin,” the Williamson County Animal Shelter posted on its Facebook page after the event. “In four hours, four adult cats – including our longest-term cat Casey – and 18 kittens found their forever home. The kitties had an absolute blast, and there were piles of smiles all day long.”

The event offered two kitten adoptions for \$10 or one adult cat for the same price. Visitors could also contribute financially to support the shelter through a mock election held with the cats.

Visitors could “vote” for their favorite “catidate” for “meower” or “aldercat” with their dollars. All proceeds benefited the Williamson Animal Center.

“This is an election year and we are having fun with the cat puns and kitty election at Kitty Hall,” said Mayor Ken Moore. “All proceeds we made from the event

will go to support the Williamson Animal Center, a very worthwhile place in our community.”

Ondrea Johnson, director at Williamson County Animal Center, said the event is a unique way to promote adoption.

“We have so many adoptable cats and kittens in our community, and this event is a fun way to bring awareness to the need for adoption,” she said. “The city of Franklin is such a great partner, and we appreciate their hosting Kitty Hall.”

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), an average of 3.2 million cats enter animal shelters across the country every year. Some 860,000 of those cats will end up being euthanized.

About one-third of Americans own a cat and nearly a third of those cats were adopted from animal shelters.



Franklin City Manager Eric Stuckey, left, and Mayor Ken Moore with a kitten during the Kitty Hall adoption event held at Franklin City Hall. The event gave residents a chance to get to know animals available for adoption from the local animal shelter.

Memphis tackles the city’s blight through the court system

BLIGHT from Page 1

with the large scale of vacant and abandoned property in our community,” he said. “We are encouraged that we have had some success, though we are certainly not there. We do believe that with taking a legal, coordinated approach that includes city and county officials – regardless of administration or who gets alleged. We think that coordinated effort is the secret to this challenge.”

Most of those legal challenges wind up in the court of Shelby County Environmental Court Judge Patrick Dandridge. Before being elected as judge, Dandridge served as director of the city of Memphis’ code operations and as a city attorney who handled condemnation cases and advised the code department before coming to the bench. He filed the first 135 lawsuits under the city’s Neighborhood Preservation Act.

Dandridge said that one of his first responsibilities was finding a way to ensure that blight issues were being handled in a timely manner by the city.

“You can’t fix the system if there is no system,” he said. “One of the things we looked at was how codes enforcement was operating in Memphis and in Shelby County. We found there was really no system. Things were different all over the place. It was difficult to get a grasp of what was really going on. There was no one keeping track of response time or even if there had been a response. What we have now is a service request system.”

Dandridge said the process of prosecuting blight issues begins when a local citizen calls into 311 to report an issue ranging from junk in yards to dilapidated structures to cars parked on the grass.

“The call is then given a service request number that you can track,” he said. “The service request goes to whichever department is responsible for enforcing that violation. The service request is put into a queue for the individual inspector who then writes it up.”

The case is helped along by students in a legal clinic at the University of Memphis Cecil H. Humphrey’s School of Law. Britany Williams, code enforcement prosecutor for the city of Memphis, advised code enforcement and public works and supervised in the University of Memphis’ Neighborhood Preservation Law Clinic. Williams also serves as a member of the city’s Blight Eliminating Steering Committee.

Williams said one of the first complicated legal issues that usually arises with a blighted property is tracking down the owner.

“There are title issues, issues with receivership, and even heir property that can take you into family law and contract law,” she said. “One of the major tools that we use for blight remediation is the Neighborhood Preservation Act. This is a state statute that only applies to certain communities or you can set a land bank. The jurisdiction is under chancery court, circuit court, and environmental courts.”

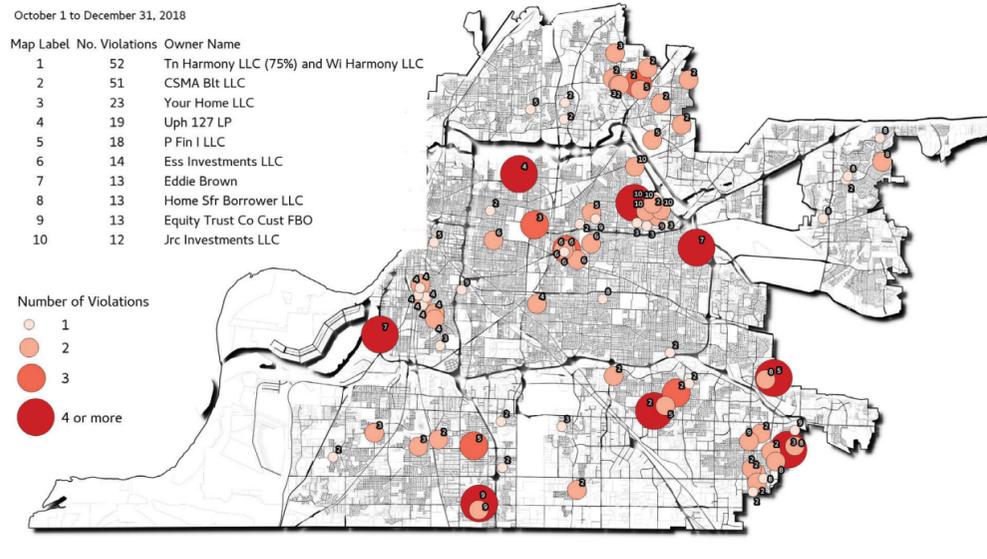
Williams said the cases only appear before the court if there is no attempt made to remedy reported issues.

“Our cases come only when there has been non-compliance with code enforcement efforts,” she said. “Once we step in and

Top Property Code Violators

October 1 to December 31, 2018

Map Label	No. Violations	Owner Name
1	52	Tn Harmony LLC (75%) and WI Harmony LLC
2	51	CSMA Blt LLC
3	23	Your Home LLC
4	19	Uph 127 LP
5	18	P Fin I LLC
6	14	Ess Investments LLC
7	13	Eddie Brown
8	13	Home Sfr Borrower LLC
9	13	Equity Trust Co Cust FBO
10	12	Jrc Investments LLC



As part of its blight removal efforts, the city of Memphis recently published this map showing the companies and individuals most responsible for blight issues in the community. One of the challenges to blight issues in the city stem from the foreclosure crisis when homes were sold off by banks to investors who don’t live in Memphis or in some cases even the U.S. Tracking down these owners and holding them accountable is one of the ways the city’s multi-faceted approach gets results.



Students at the University of Memphis’ Cecil H. Humphrey’s School of Law can participate in a specialized law clinic aimed at helping with the city’s blight issues. These students gain legal experience by helping prosecute blight violations with an “address by address” basis that allows them to focus on the individual needs of each property and find unique legal solutions to each issue.

receive a referral from the area inspector, a lawsuit is filed. After that, we send out our own inspectors who handle only Neighborhood Preservation Act cases.”

Williams said lawsuits are filed against the property itself rather than the owner or occupant. A plan is then drawn up to help get the property into compliance and inspectors present regular status reports on whether or not this plan is being filed. All of this is reported through the court system.

Danny Schaffzin, director of experimental learning and assistant professor of law at the University of Memphis, said taking an “address by address” approach to the problem with the legal clinic has shown success.

“There isn’t a single one of these properties that can be solved by one institution or one agency doing all the work,” Schaffzin said. “There needs to be collaboration because of the legal nature of the problem. It’s not as easy as getting someone to fix a property or tear it down. When you scratch the surface, you often find that the

property is owned by someone who died 50 years ago or a company that is nowhere near Memphis or Tennessee or the United States or that doesn’t even exist anymore.”

As a result, Schaffzin said it can be a challenge to hold the owner of the property responsible for its condition.

“Often times, it involves creative solutions and legal problem solvers,” Schaffzin said. “These properties often acquire individualized attention and have to be dealt with on a micro level in terms of these issues but also on a macro level in terms of bringing together various teams from different groups to create new strategies and evolving them, to see what is working or not working.”

Dandridge said the fact that he has worked with both the city and county helps him to employ knowledge of the laws and issues for both when ruling on blight cases.

“There are some zoning issues that are part of the city and the county code,” he said. “I have been the neutralizing person bringing everyone together. Sometimes,

I introduce city and county officials in court because their issues overlap so much. I also know the difference between city and county codes and boundaries. We also have in this court injunctive relief and contempt powers.”

The unique powers of the court are one of the ways Dandridge said the joint environmental court is able to put more teeth into blight regulations and enforcement.

“This is a special and unique court,” he said. “When you are in violation and you don’t come in for proceedings, I can have contempt violations ordered. That can include jail time in addition to fines.”

Schaffzin said having one court to handle all of the blight issues has made a real difference. “We have noticed the importance of having a devoted court, one court, where all these issues come,” he said. “There is one court that is the source of all the jurisprudence in this area. By having one court instead of the cases going to different places, it has been a game changer.”

Williams said the law clinic,

municipal officials, and nonprofits like Neighborhood Preservation, Inc., also frequently work with small or locally-based developers on how to get properties into shape as well as try to get the local neighborhood and community involved in the process.

“You can get a total rehabilitation of the property,” she said. “Sometimes there is demolition, which we often have the city do with costs paid for by the owner. Then there is receivership where a third party comes in and abates the property. This only happens when the owner is unable to abate the nuisance of the property. The receiver can rehab the property and then ask the court to auction the property to earn back their fees.”

Dandridge said the city has a system where they budget \$25 million a year to demolish dangerous properties. The city sets the price for the demolition and rotates through a list of available contractors until they find one willing to demolish the structure for the city’s set price.

Overall, Barlow said that blighted properties do not have a one-size-fits-all solution.

“I think it is important to think about what kind of a challenge property blight is,” he said. “There is a school of thought about how you approach different kinds of challenges. A technical challenge is the type of challenge where you can call up an expert, they can fix it, you write them a check, and it’s done. A lot of us wish there was a technical answer to blight, but there is no such thing. Blight is an adaptive challenge, which means we have to bring people together in ways we’ve never done before and talk about the problem in ways we’ve never done before.”

Schaffzin said the unique partnership formed in Memphis is solving blight issues by bringing together various groups that have the same interest in improving the community.

“Here you have a problem that everyone agrees is a problem,” he said. “These are problems in not just how they look but in terms of the damage they cause to our neighborhoods, our citizens, and our bottom lines when it comes to property taxes and extended resources. We found that involving partners who we don’t always partner together really works. We found that supporting code enforcement at a local level, a property-to-property level was really working.”

While bringing various stakeholders together has helped tackle blight issues in the greater Memphis area, Schaffzin said there are still some challenges the city faces when it comes to blight enforcement.

“However, money and resources was always a challenge,” he said. “Our partnership with the city is just that: a partnership. In general, my clinic does not represent municipalities, but here this is a way that works to benefit the community. Our newspapers write positive stories about the blight issues and the challenges we have overcome. It has been a win all around for our city and our law school.”

To learn more about how Memphis has tackled its blight problem, visit the Memphis Blight Steering Committee’s website at memphisfightsblight.com.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Steve Boshers, a city councilman representing Columbia's Ward 2, died unexpectedly on Aug. 1. He was 54. Boshers was first elected to the city council in 2016. Boshers was also a territory sales manager at O'Reilly Automotive and served as the senior pastor of the Wrigley Church of God of Prophecy. In addition to his public service to the city of Columbia, he spent nearly a decade as a constable for Maury County and served as a reserve deputy for the Maury County Sheriff's Department. He was also a board member of the Maury County Chamber and Economic Alliance as well as president of the county's Cal Ripken Baseball League.



Steve Boshers

Randy Ellis has been selected as the new director of the Hariman Visitors' Center known as the Trailhead and will oversee local tourism. He will also help coordinate special events for the city as well as help manage the new city history museum being located to the Trailhead Visitors' Center from the city's Temperance Hall. Ellis currently serves as a Roane County Commissioner representing a portion of the city, a seat he was first elected to in 2010, and has served as the county commission's vice chairman for six years. He is the county commission chair of the Roane County Chamber and Alliance, a store manager to Reno's Sporting Good, and co-owns a tanning salon with his wife.



Randy Ellis

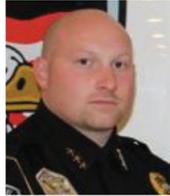
Caryl Giles will retire as the water treatment plant superintendent in Spring Hill after a 40-year career in water treatment. Giles was the first ever water treatment plant manager for Spring Hill when she was hired 17 years ago and paved the way for women in water treatment and production. Giles began her career



Caryl Giles

in 1979 as a certified operator for the city of Franklin before being hired as a certified operator for the Harpeth Valley Utilities District in 1990. She came to Spring Hill in 2002 and used her vast experience to help guide the city through the construction of the Spring Hill Water Treatment Plant in 2003. Giles is a member of the Duck River Agency Technical Advisory Committee, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD), and was a past chair of the KY-TN AWWA's Honors and Awards Committee.

Kenneth C. Griffin Jr. has been promoted to assistant chief of the Decherd Police Department. Griffin is a nine-year veteran of law enforcement and previously served as a master sergeant with the department. The assistant chief position is new to the Decherd Police Department, which runs both its police and fire department under a public safety umbrella. Griffin is the son of Ken C. Griffin, Sr., who also serves in law enforcement at the Arnold Engineering Development Complex. Father and son made history by being the first father-son duo to attend the same East Tennessee Regional Law Enforcement Academy at Walters State Community College.



Kenneth Griffin

Phil Henderson has been selected as the new acting chief of the Tullahoma Police Department, taking over the position from Jason Ferrell who had served as acting chief since January. Ferrell did not apply to retain his position as acting chief. Henderson has been with the Tullahoma Police Department for 32 years, serving 16 years as a patrol sergeant and two as a lieutenant in the support services division.



Phil Henderson

Kristen Rice has been selected as the new transportation and traffic engineer for the city of Lebanon. Rice has more than 11 years of project management experience in transportation and traffic en-

gineering. She comes to Lebanon from the Stanstell Electric Company in Nashville and before that was a traffic engineer for Metro Nashville Public Works. She has also held positions with T-Square Engineering, RPM Transportation Consulting, and Wilbur Smith Associates. She holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and is a registered professional engineer.



Kristen Rice

Chuck Williams has been selected as the new assistant chief of the Decherd Fire Department. The position of assistant chief was recently created for the department, which along with the Decherd Police Department falls under the city's public safety umbrella. Williams has served as a firefighter for 19 years and began his career with the Decherd Fire Department in March 2000.



Chuck Williams

Cyndi Wright, longtime administrative assistant for the Franklin Fire Department, will retire after 15 years of service with the city. Wright joined the city as a secretary with the police department in 2004 and was quickly promoted to serve as administrative assistant for the fire department the following year. For several years, she was the only full-time administrative assistant in the department and often worked behind the scenes answering phones, handling payroll, scheduling, and helping coordinate events ranging from graduation ceremonies to retirement parties to awards celebrations. Before coming to the city of Franklin, Wright worked for a decade as a dispatcher and in administration at a sheriff's department in Ohio. She also supported her husband during his 20 years of military service before beginning his own career with the city of Franklin as a building inspector.



Cyndi Wright

Roane State tech building renamed for Sen. Yager

One of the first buildings constructed on Roane State Community College's Roane County campus has been renamed in honor of a lifelong public servant who is now a state senator.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has approved the community college's request to rename the 41-year-old Technology Building the Ken Yager Building.

"Sen. Yager has been an advocate for Roane State students for many years, as Roane County Executive, as a Roane State faculty member and dean, and now as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly," Roane State President Chris Whaley said. "He has diligently worked with local and state leaders to ensure that the needs for our students are supported."

"I am truly honored that President Whaley and the Board of Regents have named the Technology



Sen. Ken Yager

Building for me," Sen. Yager said. "Roane State Community College provides life-changing opportunities for our citizens throughout the region. I am proud to have been associated with the college and happy to be in a position to help."

As a state lawmaker, Yager advocated for more than \$16 million in state funding, including recent improvements, for Roane State's Henry/Stafford East Tennessee Agricultural Exposition Center.

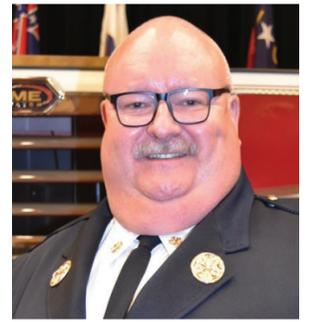
Tenn. Fire Chiefs elect new president, honor members

The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association elected a new president at the 91st Annual Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs/51st Annual Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association Joint Conference.

Pigeon Forge Fire Chief Tony Watson was selected to lead the organization, taking over from outgoing president and Brentwood Fire and Rescue Chief Brian Goss.

Several awards were also presented, including a posthumous award given to Sparta Fire Captain Barry Brady who died of colon cancer earlier this year. Brady's family received a Distinguished Service Award in his name in honor of his 25 years of service.

Distinguished Service Awards were also presented to former



Chief Tony Watson

Tennessee Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance Julie Mix McPeak, Brentwood Assistant Fire Chief David Windrow, and Rutherford County Public Safety Director Kevin Lauer.

David Manning dead at 69

David Manning, who served as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and as Metro Nashville finance director, died earlier this month. He was 69.

Manning joined state government in 1974 as a budget analyst. He became deputy treasurer and ultimately finance commissioner under Gov. Ned Ray McWhorter, during which time he was in part responsible for setting up TennCare, the state's Medicaid program.

In 1999, Manning was hired as the finance director for Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell. Prior to joining Metro he was with Columbia



David Manning

Health Care. Since leaving Metro, Manning has served as receiver for Guam's solid waste management system.

No loan is too large or too small



Martin recently closed a \$1,350,000 capital outlay note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) issued to finance various public works projects. Martin has used TMBF's various loan programs 30 times since 1987 and has borrowed more than \$25 million during that time. Pictured are Kelly Wilson, city clerk; Mayor Randy Brundige; and Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative.



McKenzie recently closed a \$2.7 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance energy saving improvements throughout the city. McKenzie has used TMBF's various loan programs since 1987. Pictured are Jennifer Waldrup, city recorder; Mayor Jill Holland; and Tommy Green, TMBF marketing representative.

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STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee has been named the state with the top climate for business by *Business Facilities' magazine's 15th Annual Rankings report*. As a result, Tennessee will be a top contender for the magazine's annual State of the Year Award. Tennessee was also ranked third on the magazine's workforce training leaders list, fourth on its automotive manufacturing strength and import activity lists, and ninth on its export activity list. The magazine also ranked states on economic growth potential, cyber security growth potential, top manufacturing employment, top percentage of workforce in manufacturing, installed solar power capacity, amount of electricity generated by solar power, installed wind power capacity, amount of wind power-generated electricity, lowest industrial electricity rates, best business tax climate, unmanned aerial systems, tech job employment leadership, tech job growth, capital investment, biotechnology, aerospace leadership, opportunity zones, and semiconductors.

Tennessee's unemployment rate increased in every county across the state in June after months of record-low rates. While 61 of the state's 95 counties still have rates below 5 percent, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) reported that 34 counties saw their unemployment rates at 5 percent or more. The lowest percentage is 3 percent held by both Williamson and Davidson counties while Hancock County reported the highest unemployment rate for June at 7.7 percent. State officials said seasonal employment rates may be why unemployment is on the rise.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) new Sustainable Spirits program will help local distilleries, breweries and win-

eries reduce their environmental impact. Administered by TDEC's Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices (OPSP), the program will reduce operational costs and environmental impacts for wineries and wine growers, breweries, and distilleries as well as serve as a gateway to sustainability education through popular brands. The new voluntary program improve operational sustainability by promoting best practices, providing technical assistance, and developing relationships. Participating companies will receive a special designation from the state and access to information and programs to help continue their sustainable practices. A pilot program has begun for the initiative, and any businesses that wish to participate in the program can apply at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/op-sp-policy-and-sustainable-practices/business-and-private-sector/tennessee-sustainable-spirits/tennessee-sustainable-spirits-application.html>.

A new study by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) has identified the lowest and highest-paying jobs in the state. Management occupations reported the highest annual median wage for the state with an annual salary of \$82,502 followed by computer and mathematical operations at second at \$71,082 per year and architecture and engineering jobs at third with \$69,705 per year as a median wage. The lowest paid occupations were in food prep with an annual median wage of \$19,496. Personal care and service jobs were at the second lowest at \$21,426 and buildings and grounds cleaning or maintenance jobs came in third lowest with an annual salary of \$23,589. The report found that the average state hourly wage is \$16.78 and the average yearly salary in the state was \$34,902.

Tennessee tourism outpaces nation with \$22B in travel spending, 119M visitors

TOURISM from Page 1 products and remarkable brands that drive visitation," Ezell said. "We would not have these numbers if it weren't for renovations, capital investments and passion shown by tourism partners across the state. The record-breaking millions who come here discover the music, history and culture, family experiences and scenic beauty that make Tennessee 'The Soundtrack of America.'"

Travelers in Tennessee spend an estimated \$60 million per day. Tourism generated more than \$50 million in new state and local tax dollars in 2018, approximately \$25 million of which supports public education.

Highlights of the report include:

- \$22.02 billion travel expenditures, a 6 percent increase (Source: U.S. Travel Association).
- Growth rate was 20 percent more than the national average of 4.9 percent.
- Travelers in Tennessee spend an estimated \$60 million per day.
- 119.37 million domestic visitors, up 5.1 percent from 113 million in 2018, the highest growth in the past six years.
- 81.3 percent of visitors were leisure travelers, an increase of 5.5 percent
- Daily spending per person - \$128 (Source: D.K. Shifflet & Associates).
- Tourism generated 189,757 jobs for Tennesseans, a 2.9 percent growth year over year.
- Travel in Tennessee generated \$1.81 billion in state and local tax revenue (Source: U.S. Travel Association).
- Travel generated tax revenue results in \$712 in annual state and local tax savings for the average Tennessee household (Source: U.S. Travel Association, U.S. Census Bureau).



One of the new tourism initiatives Tennessee rolled out this past year was adding scenic viewers with speciality lenses that allow red-green colorblind visitors to see the natural color and beauty of the state. A video campaign showing colorblind participants seeing the state's fall foliage in true form for the first time went viral and generated more than \$2.5 million worth of free media coverage for the state. The viewers are located in a dozen of the most popular overlook areas of the state, including along the Mississippi River, at Ruby Falls and Lookout Mountain, Big South Fork, and in the Great Smoky Mountains.

- Travel and tourism is the state's second largest industry by employment (Source: U.S. Travel Association).
- International spending growth is seven times the national average.
- There was a 5.4 percent tourism growth in Tennessee versus the 0.8 percent U.S. average.
- All of the state's 95 counties saw an increase in domestic travel spending.
- Each county saw more than \$1 million in direct travel expenditures in the economic impact of tourism (Source: U.S. Travel Association).

In response to Gov. Lee's first executive order to better serve rural Tennessee, the Tennessee De-

partment of Tourist Development received state budget funding to create the Office of Rural Tourism and Outreach, led by Assistant Commissioner Melanie Beauchamp. The new office will provide outreach and resources specifically to help at-risk and distressed counties.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development works with the Tennessee Tourism Committee, local convention and visitors' bureaus, chambers of commerce, city and county leaders, tourism attractions and the hospitality industry in all 95 counties to help bring travelers to the state.

To view the full report, visit https://industry.tnvacation.com/sites/industry/files/component/pod/EI_2019_Share.pdf

Municipal elections held in 11 communities across state

ELECTIONS from Page 1

HUNTLAND

Ballots were cast on Aug. 1 for the municipal election in Huntland. Incumbents Danny Benson, Ann Gardner, and Ken Pendleton all retained their alderman seats in the three-seat race.

LUTTRELL

Voters in Luttrell went to the polls on June 6.

Newcomer Jerry Lawson was elected mayor, beating out incumbent mayor Johnny Merritt and challengers Dennis Nicley and Elizabeth C. York.

Challenger Kyle Muncey and incumbents Jody G. Smith and Lloyd Railey took the three open council positions, defeating Barry Corum, Caleb Dyer, and Dona H. Hall.

MILLEDGEVILLE

The town of Milledgeville held a municipal election on May 25. Incumbents Kevin Essary, Brenda Essary, and Tony McMurry all retained their seats on the board of mayor and alderman as there were no challengers for the three open seats.

NASHVILLE

Voters in Metro Nashville went

to the polls on Aug. 1 to elect a vice mayor, and several open city council seats.

Nashville will have a run-off race for its mayoral seat between incumbent David Briley and challenger John Cooper after neither garnered enough votes to win the seat out right.

Cooper slightly led the race with a little more than 35 percent of the vote while Briley garnered a little more than 25 percent of the vote. A run-off between the two candidates has been scheduled for Sept. 12.

Briley and Cooper did manage to defeat eight other candidates for the seat: Jody Ball, Julia Marguerite Clark-Johnson, State Rep. John Ray Clemmons, Bernie Cox, Jimmy Lawrence, Jon Sewell, Nolan O. Starnes, and Carol M. Swain.

The city will also have a run-off for four of its five open at-large council positions. Only incumbent candidate Bob Mendes garnered the 10 percent of the vote necessary to acquire a seat out of a field of 15 candidates.

The top eight candidates will go on to participate in the Sept. 12 run-off. They include five incumbent candidates - Sharon Hurt, Sheri Weiner, Burkley Allen, Fabian Bedne, and Steve Glover - as

well as three challengers - Zulfat Suara, Howard Jones, and Gary Moore.

There will also be run-offs for eight of the 35 district council seats up for grabs. Incumbent DeCosta Hastings will face off against Kyzonte Toombs for the District 2 seat. Newcomer Emily Benedict will face off against fellow challenger Clint Camp for the District 7 seat.

Newcomer Russ Bradford will face fellow challenger Andrew Dixon for the District 13 seat; newcomer Ginny Welsh will face off with former councilman Tony Tenpenny for District 16.

Incumbent Ed Kindall will be challenged by newcomer Brandon Taylor for the District 21 seat. Incumbent Mina Johnson will face off against Thom Druffell for the District 23 seat.

Incumbent Jeremy Elrod will run against newcomer Courtney Johnson for the District 26 seat. Newcomer Sandra Sepulveda will challenge former State Rep. Sherry Jones for the District 30 seat.

Incumbent Jim Shulman garnered 80 percent of the vote and retained his vice mayor seat over challenger Robert Sawyers Sr.

Of the 27 district seats that will not get to a run-off in September,

16 were taken by incumbents while 11 were taken by newcomers to the seat.

Winning candidates included newcomer Jonathan B. Hall in District 1; newcomer Jennifer Gamble in District 2; incumbent Robert Swope in District 4; newcomer Sean Parker in District 5; incumbent Nancy VanReece in District 8; newcomer Tonya Hancock in District 9; newcomer Zach Young in District 10; newcomer Erin Evins in District 12; newcomer Tom Cash in District 18; incumbent Mary Carolyn Roberts in District 20; newcomer Gloria Hausser in District 22; incumbent Tanaka Vercher in District 28; incumbent Delishia Porterfield in District 29; newcomer Joy Styles in District 32; incumbent Antoinette Lee in District 33; incumbent Angie E. Henderson in District 34; and incumbent Dave Rosenberg in District 35.

District 6 incumbent Brett A. Withers, District 11 incumbent Larry Hagar, District 14 incumbent Kevin Rhoten, District 15 incumbent Jeff Syracuse; District 17 incumbent Colby Sledge; District 19 incumbent Freddie O'Connell; District 24 incumbent Kathleen Murphy; District 25 incumbent Russ Pulley; District 27 newcomer Robert Nash; and District 31

newcomer John Rutherford all ran unopposed for their seats.

SWEETWATER

Voters in the town of Sweetwater cast their ballots on June 13.

Incumbents Sam Moser and B.G. "Buster" West were joined by newcomer Marlene Prater on the city commission, defeating incumbent Edward Lee as well as challengers Richard Bettis, Travis Paul, Alan Richeson, Cotton Upton, Patrick Upton, and Pam Weston for the three available seats.

TULLAHOMA

Tullahoma held a municipal election on Aug. 1 for two open alderman seats.

Newcomers Rupa Shukla Blackwell and Daniel Berry took the two open seats, defeating incumbent Jackie A. Duncan and challenger Stephen B. Landers.

WINCHESTER

The city of Winchester held an election on Aug. 1 with Mayor Terry Harrell retaining his seat in an unopposed race.

Incumbent Cile Alexander and newcomer Steve Cagley defeated challenger Mike Foster for the two open seats on the Winchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen.



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

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

Contact funding@etcleanfuels.org or **865-974-3625** to learn more.



100 years later, what does suffrage mean to women in government?

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

The American Women's Suffrage Movement is generally considered to have gotten its start during two days in July 1848, when a group of women and abolitionist Frederick Douglass convened to hold the Seneca Falls Convention, a discussion of the social, civil, and religious rights and condition of women in America.

It was 30 years later in 1878 that the first amendment was introduced to Congress that would allow women the right to vote, but the proposed amendment would not be passed by the U.S. House of Representatives until May 21, 1919, and the U.S. Senate on June 4, 1919, more than 40 years after the bill was first introduced.

However, the proposed 19th Amendment had one more step to becoming law of the land: it had to be ratified by at least 36 of the then-48 states.

Tennessee proved to be the "perfect 36th" state, passing women's suffrage on Aug. 18, 1920. It would be 16 days later – Aug. 26, 1920 – that the 19th Amendment became federal law.

While the final showdown for women's right to vote happened in Nashville, the fight for women's suffrage touched every corner of the Volunteer State.

Memphis was home to suffragettes like journalist Ida B. Wells Barnett and Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, who served as the first president of the Tennessee Suffrage Association. Elizabeth Meriwether founded the state's first women's suffrage group in Memphis in the 1870s.

Born in Henderson, Sue Shelton White became famous after she was jailed in Washington, D.C., at a suffrage rally. The Jackson-based lawyer was instrumental in getting the amendment passed in Tennessee.

Clarksville's Lulu Bringham Epperson bought the Hotel Montgomery and used it as a meeting place for the local suffrage group. Pulaski's Lena Springs became the first woman ever nominated to serve as vice president of the U.S. in 1924.

Nashville's Anne Dallas Dudley was president of the Women's Suffrage League when the vote came to Tennessee and used the city's Hermitage Hotel as her headquarters for the campaign, which brought national figures like Carrie Chapman Catt to the state.

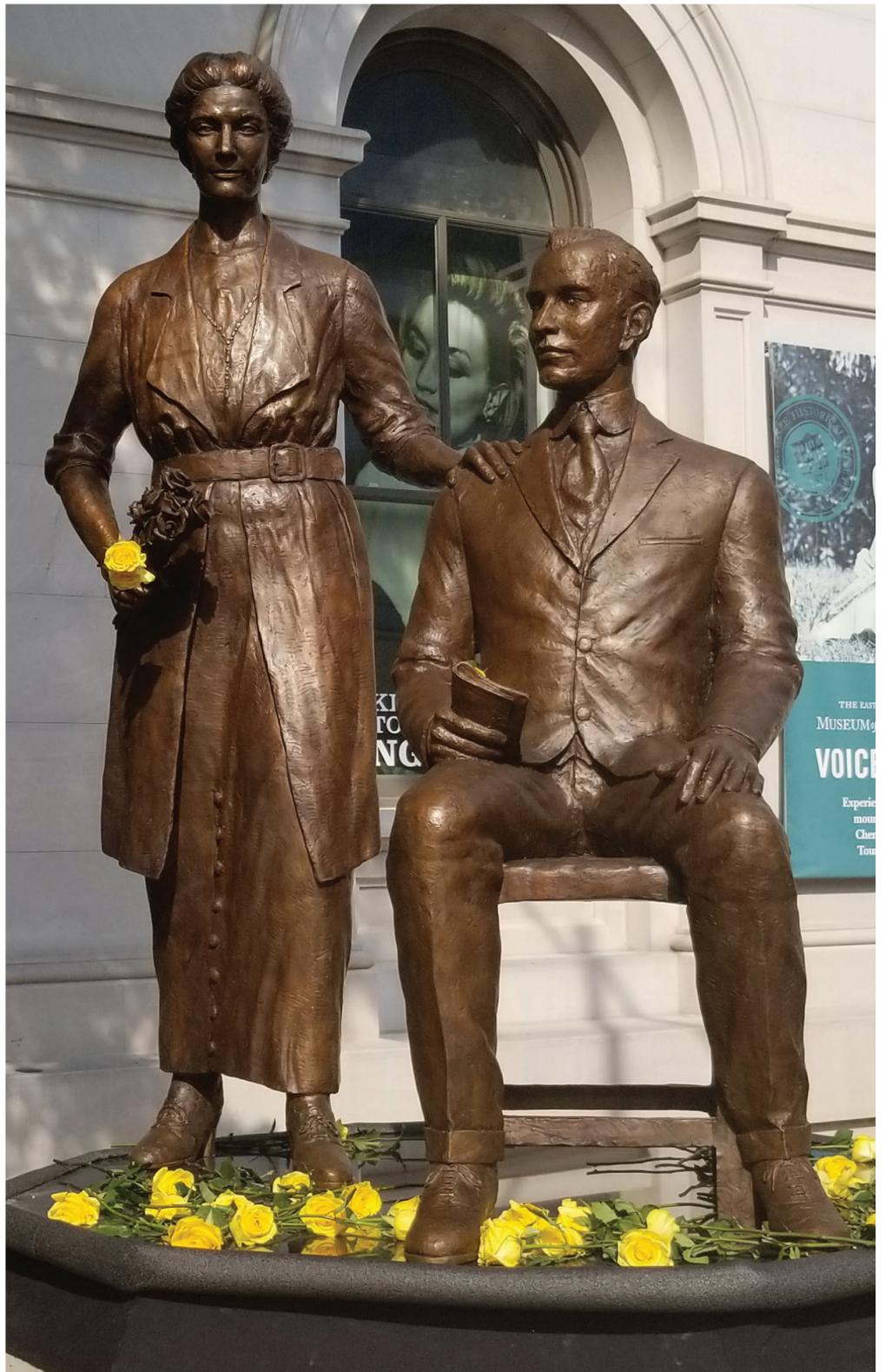
East Tennesseans like Chattanooga's Abby Crawford Milton and Knoxville's Lizzie Crozier French, who organized the Ossoli Circle, were also influential on the movement.

However, no woman may have had more influence on the fight for women's suffrage than Niota's Febb Ensminger Burn whose letter to her son Harry T. Burn, a state senator representing McMinn County, tipped the vote in favor of suffrage.

In addition to giving women the opportunity to vote, the bill also led to more women becoming involved in government, ranging from city mayors and locally-elected officials to women running for state and federal office across Tennessee and the nation.

Beginning with the centenary of the House passing the amendment bill this past March and ending with the centennial of the ratification next August, Tennessee will join other states and the nation at-large in celebrating this moment in American history. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has issued a proclamation declaring Aug. 18, 2019, until Aug. 18, 2020, as the Tennessee Women's Suffrage Centennial.

Here's what the women municipal leaders who serve on the TML board had to say about the importance of this anniversary.



A statue of Febb Ensminger Burn and her son, state Sen. Harry T. Burn, was recently unveiled in Knoxville. Located outside the Knox County East Tennessee History Museum, the statue is one of many that have been recently erected across the state to honor Tennesseans who were instrumental in the suffrage movement, including monuments to Anne Dallas Dudley and other suffragettes in Nashville, a statue honoring Sue Shelton White in Jackson, and a statue unveiled this past month in Clarksville. After the Burn monument was unveiled, it was decorated with yellow roses, a symbol of the suffrage movement.

"More than 70 years of sacrifice and intense struggle by countless remarkable women from every walk of life resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

This inalienable right for women to cast our ballot has paved the way for a more diverse and non-discriminatory government, as women are allowed to run for office and assume roles as essential, contributing lawmakers of federal, state, and local governments whose decisions help to shape our democracy.

It is important to remember the unwavering dedication of the suffragettes who secured this cherished right and fundamental responsibility for all American women and to always exercise our right to vote."



Jill Holland
TML President and Mayor of McKenzie

"Women's suffrage gave women of all ages, background, and educational levels the opportunity to grow, develop, and contribute to their communities.

Women should never take their right to vote lightly, and they should always take every opportunity to vote in local, state, and national elections.

In Tennessee, we have been fortunate to have many talented and knowledgeable women who serve in local, state, and national offices.

This would not have been possible had Harry T. Burn not voted 'yes' in 1920, giving all women in the U.S. the right to vote. We should never forget our history and never neglect our responsibility to vote."



Margaret Mahery
TML Executive Director

"As a result of women's suffrage, women have progressed from being allowed to vote to being recognized as capable, visionary individuals who can lead through their strength, courage, wisdom, and experiences.

The equality of women today presents greater possibilities for future generations.."



Doris Hensley
Mayor of Erwin

"It is especially meaningful to me as a woman in government in Tennessee to celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage.

Tennessee played such a vital role in the passage of the 19th Amendment, and Nashville was the center of national attention.

It was an exciting and historical time for our state and country, and I would not be where I am today were it not for those brave women who tirelessly fought for the right to vote.

I'm very grateful to them and strive to represent women in leadership to the best of my abilities."



Gina Holt
City Manager of Springfield

WAUFORD

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

“Any woman in government, elected or appointed, should understand very clearly that she stands on the foundation established by the strong, strategic, and intentional women who participated in the women’s suffrage movement.

These women were visionary leaders who knew the right to vote was paramount to our existence and choices in life.

I am able to serve as vice mayor because of them. We honor them for their work as positioned women to serve in high-level decision-making



Christa Martin
Vice Mayor of Columbia

roles today. There is still much work to do!”

“Women’s suffrage enables me the opportunity to place my name on a ballot and hold an office.

It empowers me to have a voice and know I can make a difference in local, state, and national government.”



Katie Lamb
Mayor of Collegedale

“I wouldn’t be in this position today if it weren’t for the determination of brave women suffragists and the enlightened men who supported them.

The best way to honor their legacy is for women to vote, work to elect good candidates, and run for office.

In turn, we must ensure that others are not denied the right to vote *de facto* due to arbitrary legislation or election policies.

We are stronger when we are inclusive.”



Madeline Rogero
Mayor of Knoxville

“Tennessee’s deciding vote granting women the right to vote also laid the foundation that opened doors for women to pursue leadership roles on all levels of government.

In 1993, I walked through that open door to become a member of the Morristown City Council.

We honor the sacrifice of the brave women who struggled to ensure all women could vote by exercising our right to vote at every opportunity and pursuing leadership roles.”



Kay Senter
Vice Mayor of Morristown

“I believe the increase in female legislators at the national and state level has influenced public policies that were historically either neglected or not prioritized by male legislators.

Women bring a perspective and influence to legislative decisions that affect issues close to home and have consideration for the quality of life of families.

On the local municipal level, I am the first female elected to my town’s board of alderman and serve on an all-male board.

When I was elected, there was a development planned for a new municipal complex, and my ability to bring a voice to the needs of women and families in my town enabled me to shape the decisions to include a park with green



Mary Ann Tremblay
Vice Mayor of Threeway
space, playground, and walking trail into the municipal complex plan that was not in the original plan. Without the ability of women to vote, I may not have been elected, and therefore, not able to influence the decisions affecting the local citizens in such a positive way.”

Political Milestones for Tennessee Women

1919



Etta Stockard Crawford becomes the first woman to legally cast a ballot in a municipal election in the state after Lawrenceburg becomes the first Tennessee city to let women vote - before the passage of the 19th Amendment.

1920



After a letter from his mother **Febb Ensminger Burn**, Tennessee State Rep. Harry T. Burn, R-Niota, casts the deciding vote in the state legislature that ratifies the 19th Amendment.

1921

Anna Lee Keys Worley of Bluff City becomes the first woman to serve in the Tennessee legislature after being appointed to fill the seat of her late husband. She carries a bill that allows women to run for political office in the state and hold clerk positions in the legislature, which passes and is signed into law later that session.



1923

Marion Griffin of Memphis becomes the first woman to be elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives. She was also the first woman admitted to the Tennessee State Bar.



1932



Fayetteville native **Willa McCord Blake Eslick** is the first woman elected to serve Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

1940



Mary Ellen “Ma” Presnell Brendle is believed to be the first woman to be elected as a city mayor in Tennessee when she is elected the first female mayor of Englewood.

1977

During the Annual TML Conference, Oak Ridge councilwoman **Jo Roe** and 17 other female TML members organized Women in Municipal Government. The TML-affiliated group worked locally and with the National League of Cities to encourage more women to run for municipal office across Tennessee.



1966

Dr. Dorothy Lavinia Brown of Nashville becomes the first African-American woman elected to the state legislature, serving in the Tennessee House. “Dr. D.” was also the first African-American woman certified as a surgeon in the South.



1980



Jane Eskind becomes the first woman to win statewide election in Tennessee when she is elected to the Public Service Commission.

1987



Memphis’ **Lois DeBerry** becomes the first African-American woman selected as Speaker Tempore of the Tennessee State House.

1991

Nashville’s **Thelma Harper** becomes the first African-American woman elected to serve in the State Senate. She also becomes the first woman to preside over the Senate.



1990

Newport’s **Jeanne Wilson Birdwell** becomes TML’s first female Mayor of the Year. After serving her city as an alderman and mayor, she returns as an interim city manager in 2009.



1994



Athens Mayor **Margaret Mahery** becomes the first female president of the TML Board. She became the executive director of TML in 2002.

2002



Kim McMillan becomes the first woman to be selected as Tennessee House Majority Leader. She goes on to become the first female mayor of Clarksville in 2010.



Nashville’s **Beth Harwell** is elected the first female Speaker of the House in the state legislature.



2011

That same year, **Madeline Rogero** is elected the first female mayor of Knoxville and the first female mayor of any of Tennessee’s “big four” cities.



2018



Marsha Blackburn of Brentwood becomes the first woman elected to represent Tennessee in the U.S. Senate.

For more information on ways Tennesseans are celebrating the centenary of women’s suffrage, visit the Official Committee of the State of Tennessee Woman Suffrage Centennial’s website at TNWoman100.com

To learn more about Tennessee’s suffrage history and the people who made the ratification of the 19th Amendment possible, visit the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Heritage Trail at <https://tnwomensuffrageheritagetrail.com>



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

BUILDING AND CODES INSPECTOR

HENDERSONVILLE. The city of Hendersonville is currently accepting applications for a building and codes inspector. This position is responsible for performing all necessary and required inspections of buildings, property, and related systems to ensure compliance with applicable building codes. This position is eligible for possible merit and COL increases as well as longevity and other excellent benefits. Monthly Pay: \$3,944 - \$4,248 or DOQ. Candidate must possess one or more valid and current ICC Inspector certifications, one of them being building (either residential or commercial); 1-3 years of related work experience; high school diploma or GED; possession of or ability to obtain a valid TN driver's license; and the ability to satisfactorily utilize basic computer applications. To apply go to www.hvilletn.org or come by Hendersonville City Hall at 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Open until filled. EOE

CODE ADMINISTRATOR BUILDING OFFICIAL

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol Tennessee is accepting applications for a code administrator building official Under direction of the development services director, the person will be responsible for professional, technical, managerial, and administrative work of the Code Enforcement Department. A degree in building technology, construction management, business administration preferred. At least 5 years in managing building and code enforcement functions. Have or be eligible to obtain building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical certifications designated by the state of Tennessee. Prefer certification as a certified building official from the ICC. Experience in plan reviews. Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite. Prefer experience with Blue Prints and EnerGov software. To read additional information concerning the city of Bristol and the code administrator-building official position, please apply and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>. EOE

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol Tennessee is accepting applications for a community relations director. Under direction of the city manager, the community relations director performs work related to communications, public relations, and marketing. The community relations director drives the development and execution of the city's communications and public relations strategy, directly managing communications activities that promote, enhance and protect the organization's brand reputation and further its mission. This position is responsible for the development, integration and implementation for a broad range of public and media relations activities, building strong relationships with the media and other key influencers to expand the reach and impact of the city message and mission. It is essential that the candidate has the ability to work with others who want to build a remarkable and vibrant city. A master's degree in marketing, communications journalism or related field with seven years of relevant experience and three to five years of progressive supervisory experience preferred; or equivalent combination of education and relevant experience. To read additional information concerning the city of Bristol and the community relations director position, please apply and upload a resume at: <http://bristoltn.org/jobs.aspx>. EOE

COMPTROLLER

GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a qualified individual to serve as a comptroller. Under general direction of the budget & financial services director, this position is responsible for managing financial compliance, internal controls, internal/external auditing and cash flow processes. Responsibilities also include analyzing a variety of financial operations, accounting systems, policies and procedures with standard preparation of financial statements including statistical sections in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This position manages the external, independent, annual financial audit process along with fiscal year reviews. Selected candidate will develop and administer control systems to comply with new accounting procedures, laws, ordinances, regulations, best practices, and generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The comptroller has direct supervision of payroll and accounts payable/receivable. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and seven years experience managing accounting and cash management operations, including two years professional experience in governmental accounting; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. All qualified applicants must have local government experience. A master's degree is preferred. Certification as CPA strongly preferred. For more details and applications, please visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/germantown>. Open until the filled. EOE.

DRAINAGE ENGINEER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Staff/Drainage Engineer in the Development and Engineering Services Department. Qualified applicants will possess a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent combination of training and experience. Engineer Intern (EI) Certification is preferred. Anticipated Starting Salary Range \$50,500 - \$55,900. Responsibilities include collect storm drainage data and prepare drainage studies for stormwater culvert design. Investigate field drainage issues affecting property owners and assist public works maintenance operations with resolving drainage issues. Perform land topographic surveying and construction staking for capital improvement projects (CIP). Use computer aided design software under the charge of engineers. Candidate must have 1-year minimum experience in the design and preparation of civil engineering construction documents using AutoCAD/Civil 3D or Bentley Micro station/Bentley Open Roads. Research property owner deed information, prepare technical descriptions of easement and right of way boundaries for legal documents, assists with obtaining easements and properties for public use. Prepare plans and cost estimates for (CIPs) that include streets, storm drains, sidewalks, greenway, etc. Perform construction inspections to ensure conformance to construction plans and specifications on (CIPs) such as, storm sewer projects, street improvements projects, and TDOT Locally managed projects. Coordinate Engineering Division activities with other city departments and outside agencies such as Tennessee Department of Transportation and Cleveland Utilities. Prepare special engineering studies, reports, and permitting applications. Interested applicants may apply online at the city of Cleveland's website: www.clevelandtn.gov or may submit a resume with cover letter to the city of Cleveland Human Resources Department Office, PO Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519 or submit by email to Kimberly Spence, HR Director @ kspence@clevelandtn.gov who may be contacted at (423)472-4551 for questions. The city offers a competitive benefits package. Open until filled. EOE

ENGINEERING SPECIALIST

SPRINGFIELD. Hiring Range: \$64,625 - \$73,881/YR. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for an engineering specialist with Springfield water/wastewater department from July 15, 2019, until filled. Essential responsibilities include professional work in the design and maintenance of water treatment and water distribution systems and wastewater collection and wastewater treatment systems. Graduation from a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering or Engineering Technology (ABET); some practical experience in design and construction of public water and wastewater systems; or any equivalent combination of education, experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. EIT Certificate required. Professional Engineering Registration in the state of Tennessee preferred. Applications may be submitted on-line at the following website: www.springfield-tn.org. Applicants who applied within the last six months will be re-considered and need not re-apply. Send to City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, TN, 3712. EOE

FINANCIAL ANALYST

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is seeking a financial analyst to be responsible for a broad range of administrative, accounting, and support services under the direct supervision of the finance director. The qualified candidate will have a bachelor's degree in accounting and/or business administration and 1+ years of accounting/finance experience, preferably in a government setting. Starting pay \$23.08/hr. DOE. Must have the ability to be bonded and possess a valid driver's license. CPA candidate is desirable; must have ability to achieve CMFO (Certified Municipal Financial Officer) certification within 1.5 years of employment. Additional qualifications include: knowledge of accounting principles and procedures for governmental finance; knowledge of best supervisory and management techniques and skills; advanced skills in Microsoft Office Excel and Word, data entry and use of a ten-key calculator; strong organization skills and ability to work effectively with minimum supervision; skilled active listener with ability to read with understanding and speak and write clearly and effectively; ability to learn and accurately use applicable computer programs/software and office equipment including fax, scanner, copier machine, etc.; ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing and deal effectively with the public; ability to perform mathematical computations accurately and quickly; ability to work under pressure and deadlines with frequent interruptions and minimum supervision; must have strong work ethic and excellent work and attendance records. Performs, plans, and organizes duties of the general accounting department, billing and utilities collection department and general administration; responsible for accounting and financial records for all funds of the city; performs and supervises treasurer and cash management functions; responsible for risk management administration including

filings, premium administration, asset control and reporting; Assists in preparation of annual budgets and budgetary reporting for all funds of the city; To apply, visit <https://cityofportlandtn.gov/government/careers/>, or send resume and cover letter to: City of Portland, ATTN: Human Resources, 100 N. Russell St., Portland, TN 37148

PLANNER

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is seeking a highly motivated individual for a full-time position at town hall. Applicants shall have excellent project management, oral and written communication skills. Applicant must have an a bachelor's degree, master's degree preferred, from an accredited college or university in urban or regional planning, civil engineering, landscape architecture, or a closely related field. At least five years of public management and professional planning experience, preferably in a municipality. AICP certification is preferred. Applications should be sent to Human Resources P.O. Box 507 Arlington, TN 38002 or by email to jfussell@townofarlington.org

POLICE OFFICER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for police officer. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. They must possess an appropriate driver's license valid in the state of Tennessee. P.O.S.T. Certification must be obtained within six months of employment. Must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106) requirements. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and meet the physical, psychological and criminal records and other standards for the assignment established by the White House Police Department. Starting salary is \$14.86 - \$17.66 hourly (\$35,233.06 - \$41,871.86 annually) DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city of White House's website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Open until filled.

POLICE OFFICER

PITTMAN CENTER. The town of Pittman Center is seeking candidates for the position of police officer. Starting salary is \$32,000 - \$40,000 DOQ. The town offers an excellent comprehensive benefit package including TCRS, the town covers 100 percent of an employee's medical, dental, and vision insurance. Applicants must be POST certified. Application packets are available at Pittman Center Townhall located at 2839 Webb Creek Road Sevierville, TN 37876 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; (865)436-5499 (packets may also be emailed). Completed packets must be submitted either by mail, in person, or emailed to kwatts@pittmancenter.gov. Open until filled.

SOLID WASTE MANAGER

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is accepting online applications for a solid waste manager. This position has overall responsibility for planning and directing solid waste crews engaged in refuse collection and disposal, recycling collection, roll off collection, and other related activities. Prepares the annual budget for the division to include personnel, capital improvements, regional and city collections and recycling. Will frequently communicate with the public regarding solid waste operations and will respond to complaints and inquiries. Will work closely with other city departments related to budget and customer billing. The solid waste manager reports directly to the public works director. Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university with emphasis in civil engineering, business or public administration, or other related field. Extensive and verifiable experience in refuse collection activities at the management level. This position will be open due to the impending retirement of the current solid waste manager. Salary DOQ. To apply visit our website at www.johnsoncitytn.org.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

MCMINNVILLE. The city of McMinnville is seeking qualified candidates for the position of public works director. The director is responsible for planning, organizing and directing the overall operations of the public works department including street, sanitation, urban forestry, animal control, and vehicle maintenance. Responsibilities include overseeing department projects and coordinating efforts with the public works street maintenance supervisor, consulting with engineers, contractors and design professionals on construction and maintenance projects, interacting with state and federal agencies, preparing bid documents and specifications, writing grants or assisting with grants. The ideal candidate must have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration, public works or related areas, five years of progressively responsible experience in, construction trades, road maintenance, business management, or civil engineering of which two years experience must have been at a responsible supervisory or administrative level. Ten years of heavy construction management experience may be substituted for the above educational and experience requirements. The successful candidate will be examined by city physician to determine if applicant can perform all essential duties required of this position. Residency requirements per the city's personnel policy and procedure manual is required within 90 days of employment. The full job description

can be viewed at <http://www.mcminnvilletn.gov>. The salary for this position is dependent on experience and qualifications. In addition the city offers a progressive benefit package that includes paid vacation, paid holidays, an extensive benefit package that includes: health insurance, dental, vision etc., and contributions to the state of Tennessee retirement plan. Qualified persons should submit an application, a resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history and professional references to: Jennifer Rigsby, Human Resource Administrator, City of McMinnville, P.O. Box 7088, McMinnville, TN, 37111. Deadline for applications is Sept. 27.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is currently seeking a new director for the public works department. The public works department is vital to the success of the mission of the city of Springfield and contains four primary functions of the city: street maintenance, sanitation/refuse collection, stormwater management, and vehicle maintenance. The public works director plans, organizes, directs, controls and evaluates all activities of the department and oversees department personnel. The position is also responsible for administrative function such as budgeting as well as preparing cost estimates for construction projects. The Director works under the general supervision of the city manager. Bachelors' degree from an accredited degree-granting, four year college or institution in management, public administration, business administration, construction trades, engineering, political science, or applicable area of study; prefer 10+ years of progressively responsible supervisory/management experience in street construction and maintenance, stormwater operation, drainage construction and maintenance, and management of employees - 5 of which were in a mid-level or higher decision-making position; or a combination of experience and training equivalent to the required knowledge and abilities. Salary range is \$74,737 - \$102,847 (DOQ); plus full health, dental, and vision insurance plans; and 100 percent of retirement costs as a member of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System's defined benefit plan. To apply or for more information, visit our website at springfield-tn.org or contact the Personnel Office at (615) 382-2200. The city of Springfield is an AA/EO Employer.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

NOLENSVILLE. The town of Nolensville is seeking an energetic, proactive, local government professional to be their next town administrator. The town (pop. 11,097), comprising an area of 9.5 square miles, is located 18 miles southeast of downtown Nashville in high growth Williamson County. The town administrator is appointed by and reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen comprised of a mayor and four aldermen elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The town has a \$10.99M budget with 33 full-time and part-time employees serving the community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressively increasing professional experience with a municipality. Salary: \$100K - \$120K, DOQ. Position profile is available at www.nolensvilletn.gov. Send cover letter and resume to Joe Cosentini with the UT-MTAS at joseph.cosentini@tennessee.edu. Initial review of applications will occur on Aug. 30. Please direct questions to Joe Cosentini.

TOWN RECORDER

ENGLEWOOD. The town of Englewood is looking for applicants to fill the position of town recorder. The position requires highly responsible administrative and supervisory work in planning and directing all financial management activities of the town. Responsible for all financial and accounting, purchasing and control to include AR, AP, payroll, taxing, and town court. Candidates must have a high school diploma. A bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, or public administration is preferred. Must be able to obtain a CMFO certification within two years of employment. Minimum five years' experience in accounting and knowledge of GL, AR, AP, purchasing and payroll is a must. Applications available online at www.townofenglewood.com or by calling 423-887-7752. Compensation DOQ. EEOC and drug free employer.

WASTEWATER SYSTEMS MANAGER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for wastewater systems manager. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, mathematics, environmental science, environmental health or related field. They must possess an appropriate driver's license valid in the state of Tennessee. Applicants must possess a valid Class II Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Operator's certificate issued or recognized by TDEC, or have the ability to obtain an appropriate state certified license within 12 months of employment. This position requires a minimum of 5 years of directly related experience in the operation and maintenance of wastewater systems similar in size and complexity to the city of White House. Applicants must have proven management skills; a minimum 2 years of experience developing and managing budgets; good communication skills, both verbal and written. Applicants must have a strong knowledge of applicable compliance requirements and state and federal (EPA) regulations; Must have knowledge in the operation and maintenance of

wastewater treatment procedures and methods, and operation of pumps, motors, drive units, electrical controls, etc.; Must be computer literate in spreadsheet and word processing software and be able to create and maintain documents and spreadsheets. Starting salary is \$51,701.00 - \$61,456.25 annually DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city of White House's website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. This position is open until filled.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator until filled. The position reports to the Utilities Director and is responsible for the daily operation of the wastewater treatment plant including wastewater testing, monitoring and compliance responsibilities; maintenance of the plant; and department personal training and supervision. Competitive starting pay, depending on experience, education, and qualifications. This position is a Grade 10 on the City of Portland Pay grades and ranges (\$48,964 - \$73,446). Position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Candidate prepares a variety of standard managerial reports and special reports as required by state and federal regulations; supervises and participates in plant operations; performs the more skilled and technical work; performs laboratory tests relating to PH, dissolved oxygen, sediments, BOD, COD, ammonia, Fecal coliform and various other microscopic tests; conducts special tests and inspections requested by City management or State authorities; comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices, methods, techniques, tools, and equipment used in wastewater treatment plant operations; and performs the public relations function including handling of complaints of customers and contractors. Required Qualifications include high school diploma/GED; 3+ years of experience in the operation of a wastewater treatment facility; 2+ years in supervision; additional formal training including state of Tennessee Grade IV; Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license; and valid driver's license. Preferred Qualifications include bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology, sanitary and/or environmental engineering or related field as applicable to the wastewater treatment industry. An application and job description may be obtained from Portland City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Completed applications and resume must be returned to city hall receptionist or faxed to 615-325-1481 or mailed to the address below. The position is open until filled. Portland City Hall; Attn: Human Resources; 100 South Russell Street; Portland, Tennessee, 37148. Pre-employment background screen, post-offer/pre-work drug screen and physical required. EOE.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATIONS

MCMINNVILLE. The city of McMinnville is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of director of water/wastewater operations. The ideal candidate will possess highly developed technical, presentation and communication skills. The ideal candidate will have in-depth knowledge and experience in management of water/wastewater systems. The ideal candidate will have significant operational experience, and will be responsible for the general administration of the department's operating budget and enforcement of city policies regarding employees, facility use and overall supervision of the activities of three divisions of the water department. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to, preparing operating budget, working with city administrator and water committee to develop capital plan and budget for department, overseeing and coordinating the various operations at city facilities, and the ability to plan, organize, delegate, supervise and inspect work of subordinates. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in water and wastewater operations of which two years must have been in a responsible supervisory consultative, or administrative capacity or a bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college or university with a major in civil engineering or related field or an associate degree may be substituted with eight years of progressively responsible experience required. The successful candidate will be examined by city physician to determine if applicant can perform all essential duties required of this position. Residency requirements per the city's personnel policy and procedure manual is required within 90 days of employment. The full job description can be viewed at <http://www.mcminnvilletn.gov>. The salary for this position is dependent on experience and qualifications. In addition the city offers a progressive benefit package that includes paid vacation, paid holidays, an extensive benefit package that includes: health insurance, dental, vision etc., and contributions to the state of Tennessee retirement plan. Qualified persons should submit an application, a resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history and professional references to: Jennifer Rigsby, Human Resource Administrator, City of McMinnville, P.O. Box 7088, McMinnville, TN, 37111. Deadline for applications is Sept. 27.



Let's Build BlueCross Healthy Places Together

The BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Health Foundation is creating active, healthy spaces across our state that bring people and communities together. We'll reach urban and rural areas taking on projects of all sizes.

If you want to create a Healthy Place in your community, we'd like to hear from you.

We're accepting proposals the entire month of August 2019. Learn more and submit your proposal at bluecrosshealthyplaces.com.

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Are states reaping more revenues from online sales taxes?

SALES TAX from Page 1 Has the ruling helped state budgets?

Prior to the *Wayfair* ruling, some observers estimated that states were collectively missing out on anywhere from \$13 billion to \$23 billion a year in potential online sales tax revenue. It's too early to know whether those estimates are accurate.

For one, it's nearly impossible to separate out the impact of the ruling from economic growth that would have occurred anyway over the last year. Furthermore, the data for this year is incomplete because states began officially collecting online sales taxes at different points throughout the past 12 months -- some will start collecting them later this year.

Still, there are signs that the new taxes are helping state budgets.

For starters, sales tax growth over the past fiscal year, which for most states will end on June 30, has exceeded expectations. According to the latest data from the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), 32 states are collecting more than they anticipated. The tax is outperforming budget forecasts by 1.4 percent, or \$3.6 billion. That's better than the income tax, which is exceeding forecasts by 0.6 percent.

In total, sales tax revenue is projected to grow by 3.5 percent in fiscal 2019, an increase NASBO attributes at least in part to the uptick in online sales tax collections.

And with more states implementing a tax over the coming year, states collectively are projecting even stronger growth -- 4.8 percent in 2020. Among those, California is projecting \$616 million in additional sales tax revenue, and New York is projecting \$346 million more.

Still, Dadayan warns, the revenue boosts "might be more modest than expected if the economy slows down and if consumer spending declines."

What's next?

With a tax in place, most states are now looking at how to make their process for collecting online sales taxes more efficient.

The main way they're doing that is by defining how much business an online retailer needs to do for it to be worthwhile for the state to tax. This threshold is referred to as "economic nexus" in tax circles.

In most places, that means a retailer has to either sell more than \$100,000 in goods or services, or conduct more than 200 transactions in a certain state over the course of a year to qualify as having an economic nexus. But that nexus doesn't make sense for all states.

After it enacted its sales tax

legislation this year, for example, California bumped up its nexus to \$500,000 and got rid of the transaction minimum. The higher threshold makes more sense for a state with the fifth-largest economy in the world.

Other states are taking similar action to redefine what their threshold is, according to Sovos. So far, Colorado, Iowa, North Dakota, and Washington have done away with their minimum transaction requirement but kept their \$100,000 threshold.

Meanwhile, the threats to ban online sales taxes that emerged in the months following the *Wayfair* decision appear to have subsided. And while a bill still lingers in Congress that would create a federal sales tax standard for online sellers, it doesn't appear to be heading anywhere.

States' swift action to implement their own standards, plus their work with technology companies and vendors, has done a lot to quiet any concerns, said Sovos' Maniace.

"There was a bit of 'the world would come to an end' reaction on the idea that governments would impose a sales tax on all these small businesses," he said. "I think we've found that states have been pretty reasonable about things, and the technology is there to provide management and compliance in a way that's affordable."



Aug. 29-Sept. 1: Cookeville

Muddy Roots Music Fest 2019
Three days of music, camping, and vendors bringing together unique acts ranging from hardcore punk to hillbilly to classic country to blues and singer/songwriter genres, this festival aims to showcase the musical roots of Tennessee. For more information, visit http://muddyrootsrecords.com/mr_events/mr_musicfest/index.php

Sept. 2: Harrogate

Annual Labor Day Celebration
The city of Harrogate will sponsor its free Annual Labor Day celebration featuring live music and entertainment, craft vendors, food vendors, kiddie rides, and inflatables. Bring a lawn chair to Harrogate City Park to enjoy the festivities, beginning at 3 p.m. and lasting until a fireworks display at 9 p.m. For more information, call 423-869-0211, or visit our website at www.harrogate-tn.com

Sept. 2: Monterey

Monterey Labor Day Celebration
Monterey will hold its annual Labor Day celebration at Whittaker Park. The event will include a flea market, food, live music, Monterey Civitan Auction and more. Visit www.montereytn.com/ for more information.

Sept. 5-7: Clarksville

Riverfest
Riverfest is Clarksville's longest running community festival, and brings more than 30,000 people to the banks of the Cumberland River in an arts and recreation celebration. Music, art, family events, and more will fill Liberty Park on Sept. 5, and McGregor Park on Sept. 6-7. Admission and entertainment at the festival are free and open to the public. Visit www.clarksvillerverfest.org for more info.

Sept. 7: Goodlettsville

Salty Dog Festival
Arts and crafts vendors from across the southeastern region will showcase their handmade goods and products. Live band performances all day and more than 10 food trucks will be present. Kids activities include a petting zoo, kiddie train, dog costume contest, woodcarving, and DIY craft station. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/264709367789466/> for more info.

Sept. 7: Hendersonville

2018 Tennessee Honey Festival
Founded by U.S. Pest Protection, the Tennessee Honey Festival has garnered attention all across America. This public awareness campaign will continue to bring the honey bee crisis to the forefront of community minds with more honey vendors, food trucks, live music, unique arts and crafts for the kids, a VIBee Experience, interactive beekeeping classes, and extraordinary exhibits. For more info, visit <https://uspest.com/tn-honey-festival/>

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. economy added 164,000 jobs in July, while unemployment held even at 3.7

according to the U.S. Department of Labor. While the labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 63 percent, economists said the jobs gain was a positive sign amid recent concerns for the long-term health of the U.S. economy. The country reported a dismal gain of 62,000 jobs in May while 192,000 jobs were recorded in June, 41,000 less than initially reported. The service sector has been the focus of most job creation in recent months while job gains in the manufacturing sector have remained flat. Industrial activity in the U.S. has remained flat and the country has seen a 5.2 percent decline in exports during the second quarter. The Federal

Reserve also announced it would cut interest rates for the first time since the financial crisis of 2008.

The U.S. fertility rate fell to another all-time low in 2018,

according to new information released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report found that the amount of women between the ages of 15 and 44 having children declined by 2 percent over the previous year, putting the rate at a 32-year low. America's fertility rate has been on the decline for several years and has been below the level needed to replace the U.S. population. The birth rate decline was reported across all ethnicities and age groups with a seven percent decline in teen births.

The opioid epidemic has cost states some \$130 billion in treat-

ment and other related expenses

according to research from the University of Pennsylvania. The study estimated that states spend somewhere between \$6 billion and \$10 billion yearly on the ongoing crisis. The study also found that despite a high percentage of money spent on incarceration and legal responses to the opioid crises, the use of the criminal justice system to correct opioid misuse may actually make the amount of money governments have to spend on the crisis worse, rendering more people unable to find jobs or housing and not actually working to end opioid abuse. To try and generate a more comprehensive cost estimate, researchers analyzed information on states ranging from incarceration to child care to Medicaid costs to declines in employment to losses in tax revenue to arrive at the figure.

UT-MTAS SEPT MAP CLASSES

LEADING A CULTURALLY DIVERSE WORKFORCE

This workshop provides participants with insights, knowledge and practical strategies to sensitively manage the issues and challenges associated with leading a culturally-diverse team. Managers will understand how cultural diversity impacts human behavior and learn effective strategies to negotiate and deal with the competing challenges arising between staff from culturally and linguistically-diverse backgrounds.

Dates/Locations/Times

- Sept 24 Jackson**
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
- Sept 25 Franklin**
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
- Sept 26 Knoxville**
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

Target Audience: Managers, Supervisors, City Recorders, HR Directors

Credits: 4 CPE



To register for a course go to the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu and select training calendar under the "Training" tab. You can pay upon registering with a credit card or request an invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411.

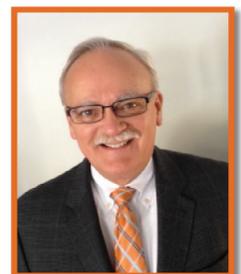


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