



Clarence Anthony

Transportation funding, E-fairness legislation among key federal issues addressed by NLC's Clarence Anthony

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

How local officials can influence important decisions on the state and federal level was the focus of remarks made by National League of Cities Executive Director Clarence Anthony during the 2015 Tennessee Municipal League Conference in June.

Anthony said the decisions made by local officials on a day-to-day basis can have a big impact on communities. And by working with organizations like NLC and TML, city officials can help make real change, not only in their communities but on a larger level.

"I hope that you will recognize that if it wasn't for your voice and your advocacy, much of what happens on the capitol steps, in the legislature, and in the governor's office in this state that impacts cities wouldn't be positive. It is your views and your voice that makes that happen," said Anthony.

He explained that NLC works

with organizations like TML to address issues facing towns and cities across the country. Among some of the top issues are convincing the federal government to pass a transportation bill and passing E-fairness legislation to even the playing field between online businesses and brick-and-mortar stores.

"We need the House and the Senate to step up and make sure that they pass a marketplace fairness bill so those people who own businesses on Main Street have the same level of playing field as those on the Internet," Anthony said. "I am not against Internet prosperity. I think that has been a wonderful opportunity for others to grow and employ people, but we need to be supportive of those downtown businesses too."

Another issue the NLC is addressing on the federal level is a proposal to take away tax exemption status from municipal bonds.

"All of those water and wastewater projects that are needed for infrastructure improvements, capi-

See **FEDERAL** on Page 4

Heroes and Hounds program brings military veterans, shelter dogs together

BY KATE COIL

A new program at a Knoxville-area animal shelter is bringing military veterans and homeless dogs together.

The Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley's (HSTV) Heroes and Hounds program works with military veterans to train shelter dogs and prepare them for adoption as well as help veterans readjust to life stateside.

The program pairs veterans and dogs together and then gives the veteran a training regimen and goals for the dog's training. Once these goals are accomplished, the dog graduates and is ready to be adopted while the veteran begins working with another dog.

The program was created by Michelle Goetze, an HSTV employee and spouse of a military veteran.

"I have a passion for both veterans and our shelter animals. I wanted to find a way for them to help each other," Goetze said. "I believe that through this program, the lives of both veterans and our shelter dogs are becoming more meaningful."

Katie Crossen, a communications assistant with HSTV, said four dogs have been adopted since the program began. Tubbs, the first dog to graduate the program, was adopted in May and his family told the shelter he stood out from other shelter dogs because of his training. Presently, five veterans are working with the program. The shelter is currently working with the local Veteran's Administration in hopes of expanding the program.

Dogs are chosen for the program because they have no training or need to learn to trust in humans again. The training focuses on creating trust between dogs and humans, as well as basic obedience and



Kevin, one of the veterans working with the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley's Heroes and Hounds program, trains a shelter dog to shake hands. The program gives shelter dogs a leg up on being adopted and gives veterans a way to use their skills.

simple commands. Trainers are also working on a more advanced course for dogs that have gone through the

Congress approves 3-month highway extension

Battle over long-term transportation funding to continue in October

BY MICHAEL WALLACE
National League of Cities

Congress approved another short-term extension of transportation programs to last until October 29th. The extension ensures that transportation projects will be funded through the summer and gives the Senate and House three months to find agreement on a long-term bill. At the same time, the National League of Cities (NLC) supported and the Senate approved the DRIVE Act, a six-year transportation bill that represents an improvement over the status quo.

In a statement on the short term extension, NLC President Ralph

Becker expressed disappointment, saying, "Today, for the 35th time in the past decade, Congress has passed a short-term extension to fund the nation's transportation systems. While Congress has promised further consideration of a long-term bill in the fall, it's far too long overdue to have a real and robust, long-term plan that would allow greater certainty in the planning process necessary for good projects that contribute to local economies."

On the DRIVE Act, President Becker commended the Senate for listening to local officials, and urged the House to make the bill even better, saying "The Drive Act affirms that the Senate is hearing the mes-

sage from local officials' that cities and towns need a long-term federal transportation bill that respects local decision-making, and that is oriented toward a future of metropolitan growth...but there is much more that could — and should — be done."

In NLC's analysis of the DRIVE Act, the bill generally provides greater local control over federal transportation projects, but in some cases the trade-off is reduced funding for those projects. In particular, the DRIVE Act underfunds the Surface Transportation Program and, as a result, the bill would not completely eliminate the possibility of future See **HIGHWAY** on Page 5

Public safety issues featured at TML Annual Conference

BY KATE COIL

Cyber security and minimizing the use of police force were among tactics experts discussed during the Tennessee Municipal League annual conference in Nashville.

Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson explained his department's decision to peacefully handle protesters following the unrest in Ferguson, Mo., and tactics for dealing with similar situations.

With incidents like those in Baltimore and Ferguson, Mo., as well as the prevalence of cameras and recording devices, Anderson said police departments nationwide are under more pressure and scrutiny than ever before.

"Everything we do anymore is scrutinized to the nth degree," he said. "Everybody has a camera. If you go outside and stop anyone under 30, they can pull out their camera faster than I can pull out my pencil and start recording. Those recordings are amazingly good quality."

Anderson said many departments across the nation are taking a second look at their use of force policies in light of recent protests and incidents.

"I just got back from Washing-



Police Chief Steve Anderson



FBI Agent Scott Augenbaum

ton a couple weeks ago where we did a workshop on use of force, the ramifications of Ferguson and how that has become an issue," he said. "They brought in people from Scotland and from England to talk about how they manage use of force issues. If you think about it, they do not have weapons or firearms. Pretty much everything they must do must be accomplished without the use of firearms, which may be telling us we rely too much on firearms here. We are not doing all the things we can do to diffuse situations."

Communications with the media and the public are also now more important than ever, and Anderson said departments must keep the lines of communications open so their story can be told.

"If it's good news, get it out there

fast; if it's bad news, get it out there faster," Anderson said. "You have to keep the public informed. In Ferguson, you had all this misinformation out there and no information from the city or police themselves. If you do not address the media, then they get to make their own story or use someone else's story. No one can tell your story better than you can tell your story. It's something you have to do."

Departments also need to think about how they appear to the media and the public. Anderson said plans need to be made in advance.

"You have to have a plan and you have to have management in place for these incidents," he said. "There was a picture shown time and time again from Ferguson of an officer in See **SAFETY** on Page 5

Tennessee joins lawsuit against new EPA Federal Water regulations

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III announced the state of Tennessee has joined the states of Ohio and Michigan in a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The lawsuit asks the court to strike down a new rule, known as the "waters of the United States" rule, that unlawfully expands the federal government's regulatory authority over local bodies of water, lands, and farms.

Under the Clean Water Act, Congress established federal regulatory control over "navigable waters," defined by that statute as "waters of the United States, including the territorial seas." However, the rules initiated by the U.S. Corps and EPA no longer limit their authority to navigable waters and adjoining waters or wetlands. Instead, federal authority would include nearly every conceivable water tributary in the country including those that in no way constitute navigable, potentially navigable, or interstate waters — even in various instances reaching land that is typically dry.

"This rule would allow the federal government to claim authority over areas clearly left to the supervision and care of the states," said Attorney General Slatery. "There is little doubt that this rule would negatively impact the citizens of Tennessee, subjecting homeowners, farmers, and businesses to costly regulations that in many cases lack basic common sense."

This overly-broad definition of

"waters of the United States" could be used by the federal government to penalize landowners improperly. To comply with regulations, property owners would be required to obtain costly permits not necessary under the current structure.

The states are asking the court to vacate the rule, enjoin the defendants from seeking to claim jurisdiction under the rule, and remand the matter so the agencies can propose new rules which are consistent with the U.S. Constitution and the Clean Water Act.

The case is filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Background
(By the National League of Cities)

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released the final "waters of the U.S." rule to clarify which waters fall under federal jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Under the final rule, "waters of the United States" means:

- All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (commonly referred to as "traditional navigable waters")
- All interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
- The territorial seas;
- All impoundments of waters otherwise identified as waters of

See **EPA** on Page 6

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ASHLAND CITY

Ashland City officials are moving forward with a plan to develop 229 acres along the Cumberland River for potential recreational use through a partnership with Cheatham County. The two government entities purchased the property from A.O. Smith as part of an incentive package following the 2010 flood. Lose & Associates are working with both the city and the county on site analysis and gathering community input to develop a \$15,000 master plan for the property, with estimated costs of the project.

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood has surpassed the 40,000 mark in terms of population. City officials have received the results of a special census, which the city began conducting in September. According to the results, the city has grown 9 percent in five years, and its new population is 40,401. The increase in population will bring an estimated \$300,000 to the city's general fund, as well as an additional \$85,000 for the state street aid fund. Brentwood has added 3,341 residents since the 2010 federal census, when the population stood at 37,060. The city has felt a ripple effect of growth from surrounding areas. The Metropolitan Statistical Area grew by 7.3 percent from 2010 to 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

DICKSON

A state grant will help the city of Dickson proceed with the fourth phase of a Downtown Dickson Revitalization plan. The \$550,000 transportation alternative grant from the state comes from a federally-funded program formerly known as transportation enhancement and is administered through the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Dickson will be providing a 20 percent match to the funding. The fourth phase of the Downtown Dickson Revitalization project includes 2,035-linear feet of sidewalk improvements, landscaping and lighting on East College Street and is an extension of the second phase of the revitalization project, which began at Church Street and proceeded east to Masonic Street.

FRANKLIN

Franklin's fiscal year budget included funding for 110 body cameras for patrol officers, as well money to hire a new staff member. The cameras will cost about \$340,000, which will come from the city's reserves. About \$50,000 from the city's general fund will go toward an added staff position and another \$50,000 will pay for software and equipment for file management. Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey estimated the total cost of the program will cost about \$450,000 to start up, with ongoing costs of approximately \$100,000 per year.

GATLINBURG

Gatlinburg has been named one of the top resort destinations for conventions, meetings and events by *ConventionSouth* editors. The editors of this convention-focused magazine are helping meeting and event planners take a fresh look at resort areas by exploring key components of booking future events at resort destinations. As a chosen destination, Gatlinburg was highlighted in the *ConventionSouth* annual resort issue. As one of the highlighted destinations, Gatlinburg was chosen from a 16-state (plus the Caribbean) coverage area. Convention and resort destinations like Gatlinburg offer both the ROI as well as the ROE (Return on Experience) that will draw more attendees, keep them engaged and make them want to return again and again. More than just a meeting venue, communities like Gatlinburg are true resort destinations offering diverse opportunities for imaginative event planners. They are top choices for enhancing the experience for all types of event attendees. *ConventionSouth's* editorial team researches communities throughout the South and makes selections based on several factors. Included in those are their diverse recreational offerings, fitness, health and spa opportunities, dining and entertainment options, as well as availability of versatile meeting venues and accommodations for groups.

LEBANON

The city of Lebanon has unveiled its redesigned town square after the city and Tennessee Department of Trans-

portation (TDOT) officials completed a \$1 million renovation project. The roadway has been converted into a roundabout with more visible crosswalks and aesthetic upgrades like shrubbery, landscaping, lighting and other decorative features. The new design has also added parking on each of the four corners around the courthouse property. The construction process began last October and local business owners are hopeful the new design will boost economic activity downtown.

KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Carousel has officially opened inside Pal's Roundhouse at 350 Clinchfield St. in Kingsport. After months of mechanicals, years of painting and carving, and construction of Pal's Roundhouse this iconic landmark begins its legacy for all of Kingsport and the Tri-Cities. The carousel features hand-carved wooden animals and chariots and original paintings on a refurbished/rebuilt 1956 Herschell frame. Each animal on the carousel took between 800-1,000 hours to carve and many more to paint with original artwork flanking the top and bottom. Details on the carousel include rounding board murals depicting the history of the area, paintings of local butterflies and native wildflowers and birds from the Kingsport Birding Trail. There are even animals hiding up in the sweeps. The Kingsport Carousel Project is a six-year-old effort involving more than 300 volunteers from Kingsport and many surrounding communities. It is a joint effort by the city of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts & Engage Kingsport, the "Friends of the Cultural Arts" group, a private 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation governed by a volunteer board of directors and supported by people who love the arts. Sponsorships and donations came from local businesses, individuals and organizations.

KNOXVILLE

Officials with the city of Knoxville and South Waterfront neighborhood and redevelopment partners have broken ground on a new \$3.4 million Suttree Landing Park. The 8.245-acre linear park will help redevelop the three-mile South Waterfront area and is expected to be opened in a year. The Suttree Landing Park will feature a festival lawn, children's playground, boat dock and boat ramp, river overlooks and parking. The park will be accessible by Waterfront Drive, a new 2,988-foot-long, two-lane tree-lined road. The park will also include a 2,000-foot-long section of riverwalk. In total, the Suttree Landing Park and Waterfront Drive will represent \$6.6 million in investment by the city of Knoxville.

MCMINNVILLE

Litewire, LLC., announced the new IT services company will begin operations at a new Tier IV data center in the former A.O. Smith Building in McMinnville, creating 66 new jobs. Litewire offers managed enterprise IT services, data center colocation, private and shared cloud services, disaster recovery service strategies, network management and information security and training. At 285,000 square feet, the facility is the largest potential data center footprint under one roof in the Southeast. The facility also houses the city of McMinnville Police Headquarter, making it the only data center in the world with a police station "onsite." Phase 1 construction is now complete and Litewire is fully functional with an initial footprint of 35,000 square feet.

MEMPHIS

The approval of a 20-year property tax freeze and a \$10 million contribution for a public parking garage have brought the downtown project One Beale closer to reality for the city of Memphis. The Center City Revenue Finance Corp. board endorsed tax abatement and funding for a \$15 million parking deck as part of the \$160 million project. Plans for One Beale include a 30-story, 280-apartment tower and an 18-story, 255-room four-star hotel at Beale and Riverside. The towers would rise above a 544-space parking deck in a complex including meeting and convention facilities and restaurants. Construction is expected to begin next year and take 30 months, generating 1,783 local jobs, \$85 million in wages and nearly \$2.8 million in local sales taxes. When complete, the hotel will have 138 full-time employees and a \$5 million annual payroll. The

apartments are expected to draw 420 residents to downtown.

MT. JULIET

A construction project that will more than double the size of Mt. Juliet's public library has begun with a ceremonial groundbreaking held in July. Officials are hoping work will begin in the spring after the additional plans for the project are finalized. The Mt. Juliet-Wilson County Harvey Freeman Memorial Library will grow to 23,400 square feet after the project is finished, up from its present 9,970 square feet, to accommodate the increasing population in the Mt. Juliet area. A new children's area, small café, reading room and meeting room with space for around 280 people will also be added. The project will also add 40 parking spaces to the library lot. The \$2.5 million library expansion project is funded through \$100,000 in a construction grant from the state and \$35,000 in donations.

MT. JULIET

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

NASHVILLE

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

PLEASANT VIEW

Building will soon commence on a new fire station for the city of Pleasant View's Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Chief P.J. Duncan said the department has been saving money for 14 years to fund the \$90,000 project, and the new fire station will be built on Main Street. Work is expected to begin later this year on the 8,700-square-foot building, which will be constructed next to the existing fire station. Duncan said the current administrative house on Highway 49 will remain as the headquarters for the full-time administrative staff and will continue to house the county's ambulance. The existing fire station on Main Street will be turned into a museum. The Cheatham County Commission will provide half of the project's funding.

SPRINGFIELD

TDOT has opened bids for the much-anticipated widening of Tom Austin Highway in Springfield. The project calls for expanding 2.1 miles Highway 341 South between Memorial Boulevard and Walling Road in Springfield, which is the first phase of work planned for the area. A second phase of the project will be the widening of the highway from William A. Batson Boulevard from where the first phase ended. The project will create more traffic lanes across Carr Creek and eventually add three traffic signals to the area. Both bid amounts total around \$20 million.

WHITE HOUSE

Officials with the city of White House have opened the community's new library across from city hall in the town center on Highway 31W. Library workers have been moving books and materials from the old location on Highway 76 to the new facility during the summer and city officials held a soft opening before the scheduled grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 6. The new library facility will include



The city of Tullahoma is inviting local residents and visitors alike to cool down this summer at the upgraded Splash Island and new indoor pool, which was officially opened July 27. The city's Board of Mayor and Aldermen and Parks and Recreation Department held a ribbon cutting for the new facility, which includes many new features for adults and children including three 25-foot-tall slides, a 300-foot lazy river, basketball goal and splash area with features for youngsters.



The Kingsport Carousel has officially opened. After months of mechanicals, years of painting and carving, and construction of Pal's Roundhouse this iconic landmark begins its legacy for all of Kingsport and the Tri-Cities



Lebanon Mayor Philip Craighead cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the newly-renovated Lebanon Public Square. Among those in attendance were Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer and state Reps Mark Pody and Susan Lynn.

a coffee shop, computer lab, children's story time room, study rooms, teen room, book sale room, and additional spaces for materials and reading. The 14,000-square-foot facility and approximately \$600,000 of the project's \$2.76 million price tag was funded through grants. The facility will also include a self-checkout service, new materials within the library collection and technological material available for checkout.

WHITE HOUSE

Construction has begun on a new Love's Travel Stop near Interstate 65 in White House, which will feature a tire shop and three eating establishments. The Oklahoma-based Love's has purchased the 23-acre property

between the interstate and the White House Days Inn on Highway 76 in November for \$1.7 million. To accommodate the new development, the company will be working with TDOT to realign Industrial Drive, widen portions of the highway, and install traffic lights on the interstate exit ramp. The travel center will have a 10,000-square-foot main building with an 8,200-square foot tire center and lots for overnight parking. About 17 of the total 23 acres will be used for the project. IHOP, Godfather Pizza and Chester's Chicken restaurants will also be operating at the travel stop, which is expected to open next year. The business will bring an estimated 1,000 trucks per day and \$6 million in sales per year.



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PEOPLE

Clay Anderson has been named the new police chief of Coopertown and is set to take office Aug. 10. A lieutenant with the Humphrey's County Sheriff's Department, Anderson was selected as the new chief by the Coopertown Board of Mayor and Aldermen during a special session after recommendations were rendered by a selection team. Anderson was one of five finalists considered by city officials. He has been employed by Humphrey's County since 2012, and previously served with the Lakewood Police Department from 2009 until it was absorbed by the Metro Nashville Police Department in 2011.

Dawn Michelle Foster has been promoted to director of the office of redevelopment for the city of Knoxville. Foster, who currently serves as deputy director of the office of redevelopment, was promoted by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero following the retirement of current Director Bob Whetsel. Foster will begin her duties on Aug. 31. She has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Tennessee and began work with the city of Knoxville in 2012. Prior to that, she worked for 22 years for Wilbur Smith Associates (now CDM Smith).



Dawn Michelle Foster

Mark Goins has been appointed as the new building commissioner for Pleasant View and will begin his role with the city Aug. 3. Goins previously served as the senior building and mechanical inspector for the town of Springfield. In addition to his inspector certifications, he has earned TDOT certifications, an ICC disaster inspector certification, the Tennessee erosion control inspector certification and various FEMA certificates. Goins will replace former building commissioner Mike Gupton.



Mark Goins

Ryan Holobaugh has been recognized as the city's STARS award recipient for July 2015 for outstanding performance. Holobaugh has been working with the Murfreesboro Police Department since April 2006, and was nominated for the award by Dispatcher Amber Smith for his assistance during a motor vehicle accident. After seeing flames coming from the vehicle's engine, he used his extinguisher to put out the fire and then pulled two occupants out of the vehicle. He stayed with them until other agencies arrived on scene. In 2013, Holobaugh has also been involved in the Murfreesboro Citizens Police Academy and the Leadership Ruthford Ride-A-Long program.



Ryan Holobaugh

Chris Howley has been selected as the engineering planning chief for the city of Knoxville's Engineering Department. Howley replaces Brent Johnson, who recently retired after more than 27 years of service. The division's responsibilities include site development permitting, construction inspections, survey plat reviews, managing the city's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Stormwater Program, GIS work and street lighting. Howley is a 1995 graduate from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with a degree in civil engineering, and earned a master's degree in environmental engineering in 2004. He was the 2011 recipient of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) Local Professional Engineer in Government Award.



Chris Howley

Addam McCormick has been chosen as the new director of planning and development services for the city of Goodlettsville. McCormick will be stepping into the shoes of Rick Gregory, who recently retired after 11 years as the planning director. McCormick will oversee the city's planning and codes functions, which have now been combined into one department. He will begin work with the city on Aug. 17 and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in urban studies from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.



Addam McCormick

Jeff Spalding has resigned from the Fiscal Review Committee, the organization that reviews and predicts the financial impact of proposed legislation. Spalding was hired in December to serve as the committee director. The committee is an independent entity within the General Assembly.



Jeff Spalding

Julian Wisner has been selected as the Jackson Chief of Police and was officially sworn in July 22. Wisner, who had been serving as interim police chief for the city since October 2014, has been with the department for 19 years and was the first supervisor of the city's Street Crimes Unit when it was formed in 2008. He has also served with the Gang Enforcement Team and Canine Unit and served on the U.S. Marshal Task Force. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marines and has served as a Federal Task Force Officer with the ATF, and Explosives, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service.



Julian Wisner

New TMAA president touts benefits of belonging

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With a new president at its helm, the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys' Association is reaching out to legal advisors for towns and cities across the state.

TMAA President Laura Keeton, who also serves as the attorney for the city of McKenzie, said the organization works as a resource for government and municipal attorneys through online resources, conferences and seminars. Keeton was recently chosen as the president and said one of her goals is to educate her fellow municipal attorneys on the benefits of TMAA membership.

"I don't think a lot of city staff members or its elected officials recognize what a fantastic resource they have in TMAA," she said. "They need to be sending their attorneys to these seminars and getting them involved. It can help them as a city from heading down the wrong path or stumbling into trouble."

An attorney from any size municipality can join the organization. TMAA sees the strongest participation from municipal attorneys from mid-sized cities. But the smaller and more rural municipalities can sometimes see the biggest benefits from joining the organization. A part-time city attorney herself, Keeton said TMAA offers a lot of resources that aren't otherwise available in smaller communities.

TMAA holds seminars twice a year: one in the summer during the Tennessee Municipal League's annual conference, and a second in the winter focusing on legal issues. Past seminar topics have included

a wide variety of topics such as collecting taxes, zoning, land use, sign ordinances and usage, water and utility problems, and easements.

"Any attorney can come to any of our seminars who are not municipal attorneys. We always have a session every summer on new laws passed by the Tennessee General Assembly or new cases ruled on by the Supreme Court," Keeton said.

Online, members can access a library of old legal decisions or cases as well as old seminar topics to brush up on their knowledge year round. Members can also contact other attorneys across the state for advice or perspective.

"We have a listserv our mem-

TMAA President Laura Keeton
McKenzie City Attorney

bers can email into and say 'I have a question or a problem, and this is what it is. Does anyone have any ideas or have you been through this before?'" she said. "You ask who the reining expert on this problem is and get a name. Just the networking is invaluable. I get questions all the time about dealing with taxes because years ago I did a seminar for TMAA and MTAS on collecting delinquent taxes for cities. We all just try to help one another out."

Keeton said discussions with fellow TMAA members are highly beneficial.

"There is only so much you can learn from books," she said. "Sometimes you can read the Tennessee Code 15 times and still not understand it. Sometimes, it can be helpful to have someone else in your same position that you can bat ideas around with and play devil's advocate with. Two attorneys can read the same sentence and see it two different ways, and sometimes that is very helpful. You can get almost tunnel vision when you are preparing for something, but if you can talk to someone else and get their perspective, it can really expand your view."

Tullahoma Police Department welcomes new officers



Tullahoma Police Chief Paul Blackwell and Lt. George Marsh welcome new officers to the department. Matt Pruitt is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in both Iraq and Afghanistan as an infantry soldier. Jacob Smith previously served as a department reserve officer for approximately two years. Brooke Earhart is a recent graduate of Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Taylor Gannon is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served in the security forces in Iraq and during European deployments. Karl Pyrdom joins the department after five and half years of service as a Bedford County Sheriff's Deputy. Officers Pruitt, Earhart, and Gannon will be attending the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy class that begins Aug. 2 and is scheduled to graduate Oct 9. Officer Smith will attend the training academy in October. Pictured are: (front row) Matt Pruitt, Jacob Smith, Brooke Earhart, Taylor Gannon, Karl Pyrdom; (back row) Lt. George Marsh and Chief Paul Blackwell

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STATE BRIEFS

Motor vehicles exports from Tennessee have more than doubled since 2010 with the automotive industry close to becoming the largest exporter in the state, according to a new study conducted by Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). Vehicles accounted for 8.5 percent of all state exports, an increase from 3.6 percent in 2000. Vehicles valued at \$2.8 billion were shipped outside of the country last year. Tennessee is home to three major automotive manufacturers: Volkswagen, Nissan and General Motors. The Volkswagen assembly plant is in Chattanooga while General Motors operates an assembly plant in Spring Hill. Nissan has a plant in Smyrna and one in Decherd that also serves Infiniti and assembles engines for Mercedes-Benz in addition to its own vehicles. The majority of vehicles exported from the state came from the Nissan plant in Smyrna, which has seen a surge of growth in the past two years. The plant started building the all-electric Nissan Leaf in 2010, and the Nissan Rogue compact crossover in 2013, two vehicles

Haslam launches statewide transportation meetings

Gov. Bill Haslam announced that he will be traveling the state with Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer over the next six weeks to discuss the state's transportation and infrastructure needs relating to the functionality and capacity of Tennessee's state roads and highways, safety issues around roads and bridges, and the impact infrastructure has on economic development efforts in urban and rural communities.

"Tennessee's transportation and infrastructure system always ranks at or near the top when compared to the rest of the country," Haslam said. "We have no transportation debt, and we do a great job maintaining our roads, but we know we have challenges on the horizon.

"We know that we can't depend on the federal government to be the funding partner that it once was," Haslam continued. "We also know that as our infrastructure ages, maintenance becomes more important and more expensive. And we know that maintaining our roads is only part of the equation. Right now we have a multi-billion dollar backlog of highway projects across this state that address key access, safety and

that were both previously assembled in Japan. Smyrna is also the only plant to produce the Pathfinder and the Infiniti QX60, including exported versions of the vehicle with right-hand drive for motorists in Australia and New Zealand. The Smyrna plant alone exports vehicles to more than 60 markets worldwide including countries in South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Nissan's U.S. exports rose by 29 percent last year and the company exported more than 129,000 vehicles in 2014, an all-time record for the company. Nissan officials said they expect to increase that number again. In addition to auto manufacturers, more than 900 parts-supplier plants are located throughout the state. Parts exports from Tennessee has grown from \$2 billion in 2000 to near \$7.5 billion last year. Tennessee is the seventh-ranked state for car exports nationally, up from 11th in 2000. More than 100,000 Tennesseans are employed by auto or auto parts manufacturers and 76 percent of all U.S. auto markets are within a day's drive of the state.

economic development issues and that's only going to grow."

The 15 meetings will be held throughout August and early September in Memphis, Clarksville, Union City, Jackson, Nashville, Franklin, Kingsport, Greeneville, Shelbyville, Murfreesboro, Crossville, Chattanooga, Cleveland, LeNoir City and Knoxville.

Participants will include state legislators, mayors, local elected officials, business leaders, chamber of commerce executives, and local infrastructure officials.

"TDOT is responsible for taking care of the assets we already have, for implementing current projects in the most cost-effective way, and for planning for the state's infrastructure needs of the future," Schroer said. "In putting together a long-range plan, we look to Tennessee communities to help prioritize these projects to make sure we're addressing evolving traffic patterns, population growth, safety issues, and the many other things that impact our infrastructure. These conversations are invaluable to the process."

The first meeting will be held Aug. 5, in Memphis at the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

June revenues \$56.5 M more than state budgeted

Tennessee's June tax collections were above budgeted expectations with an overall net positive growth of 7.29 percent over June 2014, according to Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin.

Overall, the state's June revenues were \$1.3 billion, \$56.5 million more than the state budgeted. Martin said the state remains cautious as franchise and excise tax collections rose due to two significant but one-time corporate tax payments. These taxes are also based on estimated payments made throughout the year, before taxpayers finalize how much they owe on their tax returns. As a result, Martin said there could be refunds made later this year in cases where estimated payments exceeded the amount of tax actually owned.

"The state experienced similar growth in fiscal year 2012-13, but there was a significant drop in collections in the following year when corporate taxpayers reported their actual liability," Martin said.

The general fund was over collected by \$52.3 million, and the four other funds were over collected by \$4.2 million. Sales tax collections

were \$34.9 million more than the estimate for June. The June growth rate was positive 7.62 percent. For eleven months revenues are over collected by \$185.4 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eleven months was positive 6.10 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$27.7 million above the budgeted estimate of \$328.5 million. The growth rate for June was positive 8.23 percent, though privilege tax collections were \$8.0 million below the June estimate.

For 11 months collections are \$1.8 million above the budgeted estimate. Business tax collections were \$3.3 million more than the June estimate. Year-to-date collections for eleven months are \$1.6 million below the budgeted estimate. Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$3.0 million below the June estimate. For 11 months collections are \$10.6 million above the budgeted estimate.

Tobacco tax collections were \$700,000 below the budgeted estimate of \$23.5 million. For 11 months revenues are under collected by \$5.9 million. Gasoline and motor fuel collections for June were over collected by \$1.1 million. For 11 months revenues are over collected by \$16.5 million. All other taxes for June were over collected by a net of \$1.2 million.

Year-to-date collections for were \$551.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$502.4 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$48.9 million. The revised revenue ranges for 2014-15 assume an over collection from the July 2014 budgeted estimate in the amount of \$32.3 million to \$73.4 million in total taxes. The revised ranges for the general fund recognize a negative growth in the amount of \$6.6 million up to a positive growth of \$27.5 million for the current fiscal year.

Contact your Congressmen during the August recess

Senators and representatives will be home for the month of August, and this is a great time to meet with your legislators and let them know how much your city needs E-fairness legislation. Spend time with your congressional delegation, and ask your senators to cosponsor **S. 698, the Marketplace Fairness Act,**

and your city's representatives to cosponsor **H.R. 2775, the Remote Transactions Parity Act.**

It's easy to take action! Download NLC's one-stop guide to meeting with your legislators at home to get started. Once you've gotten your meeting planned, download a one-page fact sheet. If you are meeting with a senator, discuss the Marketplace Fair-

ness Act; if you are meeting with a representative, discuss the Remote Transactions Parity

For **August Recess Meeting Toolkit** click here: <http://www.nlc.org/Documents/Influence%20Federal%20Policy/Advocacy/August%20Recess%20Meeting%20Toolkit.pdf>

NLC director addresses key federal issues

FEDERAL from Page 1

tal improvement projects, and new schools – all of those things would be stripped from tax exemption. It would cost a lot more money, millions of dollars to local governments. We need to get the message to Washington that is not good public policy."

Anthony said local officials need to write letters, call their Congressmen, or meet with state and federal lawmakers in person to discuss these issues.

"We are providing the housing, the public safety and the infrastructure that citizens need. With your leadership and with TML and the voice they provide at the capitol, they are making a difference. But they can't do it alone. One of things I recognize as an elected official is we can send our staff to meet with state representatives, to meet with senators, but they appreciate more having elected officials come talk to them about the real issues. We need the staff there to help us, but we need

you to go to the capitol to help out."

In addition, Anthony said officials need to encourage federal officials to work together.

"We need a strong partnership on the federal level," he said. "We need the House and Senate to start partnering. We have gotten very little out of Washington in a long time. We must demand they start talking and having discussions that have outcomes for American citizens."

Local officials also need to work to make sure they don't get caught up in partisan politics, he said.

"Let's not get caught in the battles that are taking place in Washington and not get anything done," Anthony said. "On the local levels, firetrucks are not Democrats or Republicans. They just show up and put out the fire. Police departments are not Democrats or Republicans. The water that flows through those pipes and the sewer system in your city are not Democrats or Republicans. We cannot let what happens in

Washington, D.C., change the way we lead in cities. We need to maintain nonpartisanship and focus on who we represent.

By working together, Anthony said city officials can affect change.

"We need you to be prepared by understanding the issues," Anthony said. "We need you to go to the capitol and fight on the behalf of cities. And we need you to expect you are going to win because you are on the right side of public policy."

Before heading the NLC, Anthony served for 24 years as the mayor of South Bay, Fla. and has also served as the president of the Florida League of Cities. He also holds a master's degree in public administration with specialization in city growth management policy from Florida Atlantic University.

NLC is holding its annual Congress of Cities in Nashville from Nov. 4-7. Go to www.nlccongressofcities.org for more information about the event.

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Metro Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson told city officials, "If it's good news, get it out there fast; if it's bad news, get it out there faster. No one can tell your story better than you can tell your story."

Public safety issues discussed

SAFETY from Page 1

an armored vehicle, pointing a rifle and scoping through the crowd. This is where we get into optics, which are important. This is what people perceive you are doing and what can be generated out of it."

Anderson said the officer was using the scope to search for a person in the crowd who had a gun. It was later discovered no one in the crowd had a gun, but the image of the officer looking through the scope was broadcast worldwide. Anderson said the incident was a failure of a supervisor, who had checked on what the officer was doing and not stopped it.

Instead of using a rifle scope, Anderson said the search could have been conducted with a pair of binoculars, which wouldn't have caused the negative publicity. The image generated by the officer with the rifle brought about a discussion of demilitarizing the police, he said. Police departments should also take an inventory of what equipment they have, especially military equipment. Anderson said many departments are unaware of what equipment they have.

When protests arise, Anderson said it is best to make sure you don't give them a fight and allow them to feel they are getting what they want. Protesters must be humanized to officers in the same manner that officers must be humanized to protesters by finding common ground.

"It's hard to be mad at someone who just handed you a bottle of water, a cup of coffee or a cup of cocoa," Anderson said. "Think about it from the other side, too. It also served a purpose of putting that thought in the mind of the troops on the ground, to let them see these other people as humans."

When handling Ferguson protesters in Nashville, Chief Anderson drew on experience from handling union picket lines when he worked in White County.

"People coming out to protest are good people," he said. "If we can avoid arresting people, I would prefer to do that, but if we have to arrest people, I would prefer to do it in the least physical way possible. I would meet with the police officers and point out they were all good people protesting what they believe in. I would meet with the protesters and explain that some of us are on your side, but we're police officers, and we have to enforce the law."

Anderson would then let them protest, block traffic and be filmed by the media before asking them to move back to a safer area. He said allowing a little bit of law breaking being monitored by law enforcement would ensure that protests were safe for both protesters and the general public. Anderson said officers should keep in mind that some people want to be arrested because it advertises their cause. This "soft approach" allows people to vent their frustration makes sure protesters, officers and the public are safe.

Anderson expects body cameras will become standard-issued equipment for police officers in the next decade, if not sooner.

"The presidential report recommends cameras," Anderson said. "The militarization issue, the officer involved shooting issues and camera issue, are all generated by the lack of confidence the public has in us at this point. We have to do everything we can to get that back. It's like the

public is saying we don't really trust you, and that's just where we are."

Departments that want help with procedures ranging from use of force to civil rights or changing their department culture can bring in the Department of Justice on a voluntary basis for assistance. Anderson said the Department of Justice also has the authority to take over municipal and university police departments if they deem necessary and have done so with 30 cities in recent years.

Cybercrime

Scott Augenbaum, a cybercrime supervisor with the FBI Memphis Division, educated municipalities on what they can do to protect themselves from cyber threats. When he first began working in cybercrimes, Augenbaum said the majority of perpetrators were amateurs and thrill seekers but much has changed.

Recent attacks on financial institutions, major corporations, and government entities have been the result of foreign hackers from China, the Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe. Since most threats come from other countries, there is not much the government can do to prosecute hackers.

Municipalities may be vulnerable to cyber attacks because they keep important information such as financial information, human resources information, and social security information; In order to prevent these attacks, cities must be aware of what threats are out there.

"Think about the most sensitive information you have in your organization," he said. "If someone clicks on an email, surfs on the Internet, or goes to a website that has drive-by malware, the bad guys can get into you. You really need to identify, figure out what the sensitive information is, and have access controls in place to this information."

Expensive firewalls and computer systems don't always neutralize a threat as many major data breaches have occurred despite top of the line protection, but there are several things that can be done to prevent cyber threats.

Augenbaum said municipalities should use a separate computer for banking and financial activities and not permit checking email or web surfing on the computer. Purchasing a virtual machine - a computer program that creates a virtual computer system within the computer - can also help prevent cyber attacks.

The human element can also be important in protecting sensitive information.

"In these attacks where people lose money, 90 percent of the time it could have been prevented," he said. "It often comes down to someone doing one thing on the computer that causes the attack, like clicking on an email attachment. Become your own human firewall. Don't open attachments or click unknown links. Think before you click."

Cities should also be aware of who has access to money and have multi-factor authentication required to access accounts. For passwords, Augenbaum recommends separate passwords for every account and creating difficult passwords for hackers. Instead of actual words, "pass phrases" may be more secure, he said.

These passwords include an upper case letter, a lower case letter, numerals and symbols, and Augenbaum said placing the numbers in the middle of a word or phrase can improve password security.

Managing change in the workplace topic of TML conference workshop

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Whether adjusting to new leadership, new state mandates or restructuring of a department, change can be a difficult thing for any municipality to tackle.

Gary Jaeckel, an MTAS municipal management consultant based in Nashville, conducted a workshop at TML's Annual Conference on how employees may react to change in the workplace and what can be done to alleviate the stress of change. A former city manager himself, Jaeckel said the change management workshop was originally designed for MTAS employees when the organization was undergoing some changes of its own.

Change has seen some cities go from regional hubs to struggling with their population and local economy.

"When our environment changes, the people, companies and businesses who succeed are those that adapt to the changes," Jaeckel said. "That is also the same for cities. If you have lived in your area for a long time, you can probably think of several places that are struggling and have struggled with making changes in their communities."

If municipalities cannot change, they might "go out of business," Jaeckel said. With an increasingly mobile society, residents have a choice to move to other places and without the resources needed to operate, city employees might seek another job where they are provided with what they need. As a result, municipalities must be prepared to change and prepare their employees for change.

When changes are implemented, employees often feel awkward, ill-at-ease or self-conscious. People tend to focus on what they will have to give up rather than what they will gain as a result of a change and may be concerned they will

not have enough resources to deal with change. Some will feel alone, even if others are going through the same change and others many not be as prepared for change. Jaeckel said people can only handle so much change at one time.

He also warned against "taking the pressure off," as this may lead employees to revert to old behaviors.

"If you take the pressure off folks who don't want to change, they can slide right back to what they are used to doing," he said. "We do it ourselves. There are actually stages of change: denial, resistance, adoption and involvement."

To help employees cope with change, it is essential to understand why people resist change. Often times, change makes people lose their sense of security or status or may inconvenience them. Others mistrust change and must be shown it is for the better.

Others may perceive that a new method of doing something means that their previous way was bad or wrong. Instead, Jaeckel said supervisors must show that change is needed to meet new requirements or that new technology can make work easier.

An organization can learn to manage change and the stress and setbacks that come with it by expecting employees to be uncomfortable and ill-at-ease with change.

"Don't panic or be reactive," Jaeckel said. "If you believe it was the right choice to begin with, follow through. Just because people are uncomfortable or unhappy doesn't mean the change is not the right thing to do. This is one of the hardest things for people to stick to, because it is far easier in the face of opposition to panic and go back."

Supervisors must analyze the situation and figure out what employees really fear. Those who are in the midst of a change need to also listen to their body and the changes it is going through as the result of stress. People may become tired, sick, lose sleep or see a difference in



Gary Jaeckel

their eating habits because change is causing stress. As a result, people must find balance in their lives between work and the rest of their life. People must know what activities in their life relieve stress and cultivate new methods of stress relief if old ones are not working. Managing stress is managing fear, he said.

"Understand why we are trying to go through change, because you have to be able to explain that change to other people," Jaeckel explained. "Sometimes we choose to make our changes and other times we are being forced to make changes. As a manager, you want to identify obstacles and barriers to change in your organization or your community."

To face change, a community must choose its mindset and choose a plan of action then stick to that plan. Afterwards, Jaeckel said it is important to review, reflect, refocus and renegotiate after a change has been implemented.

"A lot of communities with workers with 25 or more years of experience will get caught up in doing certain things certain ways," Jaeckel said. "You have to remember that this isn't always the best way for your organization."

Program brings veterans, shelter dogs together

HEREOS from Page 1

Each training session lasts an hour and dogs remain in the program until their veteran handlers and trainers feel they have successfully completed their goals.

"We choose dogs we believe need the program like high energy dogs with no training," Crossen said. "We also work with dogs who have come to us from a background of abuse, neglect and mistrust. Currently, one of our veterans, Kevin, is working with Le Fou, a previously abused dog who is fearful of men. Kevin is helping Le Fou learn to trust men again slowly. Although, Le Fou will always be physically limited from the abuse he suffered, we are trying to help him heal mentally and emotionally."

Meeting the physical and mental needs of dogs through training makes them happier and more adoptable, Crossen said.

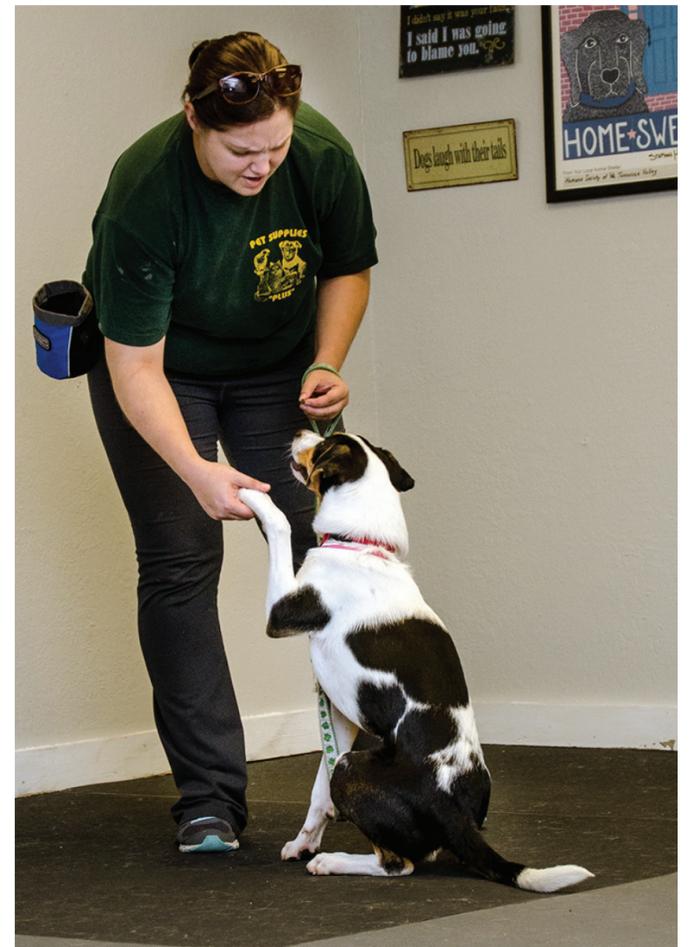
"Many dogs are surrendered by their family to shelters because of bad habits such as jumping," she said. "Hereos and Hounds are our other training programs are an effort to keep dogs in homes and out of shelters. This program allows us to help damaged dogs heal and learn to trust people. It allows us to provide high energy, rowdy dogs with an outlet while redirecting their enthusiasm towards goals and valuable skills. Happy and well-mannered dogs get adopted faster and we want to help our dogs be happy, well-mannered, healthy dogs."

The dogs aren't the only ones who benefit from the program.

"Several of our veterans were referred to our program by the VA, and our hope is that the dogs and program will help them deal with conditions such as PTSD," Crossen said.

Ashley McMeans, an Air Force veteran and one of the first trainers working with the program, said working with the dogs gives her a sense of calm and purpose. "I really take pride in what I do," she said. "When a dog comes to me and I work with her, every new thing that she learns is an accomplishment for me. When a dog gets adopted, it's just the best feeling knowing that I contributed. I'm much happier now that I'm able to serve my community in a positive way."

Goetze, who coordinates the program for the shelter, said the program is all about developing trust. "As veterans work side by side with



Ashley McMeans, an Air Force veteran, works with a shelter dog through the Heroes and Hounds program. She said working with the dogs can be helpful for veterans with PTSD.

a dog, they create a sense of trust while they work toward goals," Goetze said. "At the end they must say a happy goodbye to a dog when he graduates and gets adopted. Es-

ablishing trust and a relationship, working together, accomplishing goals, and saying goodbye are all valuable experiences for our veterans and dogs."

Congress delaying long-term highway funding until October

HIGHWAY from Page 1
disruptions for local transportation projects.

Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced an amendment to increase the percentage of funds allocated to local jurisdictions under the Surface Transportation Program, and during debate NLC made the Wicker-Booker amendment a top advocacy priority. Despite a great effort from local

officials, the amendment was not voted on.

With work on a Senate bill complete, the pressure is now on the House to approve a long-term transportation bill before the current short-term extension expires. Among other things, NLC's advocacy strategy for the House will include pursuing a Wicker/Booker-like fix for funding under the Surface Transportation Program.

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State joins lawsuit against EPA Water regulations

EPA from Page 1

the United States;
• All "tributaries" of waters identified in 1-3 above;
• All waters "adjacent" to a water identified in 1-5 above, including wetlands, ponds, lakes, oxbows, impoundments, and similar waters;

1. Waters including Prairie potholes, Caroline bays and Delmarva bays, Pocosins, Western vernal pools, and Texas coastal prairie wetlands where it is determined, on a case-specific basis, to have a "significant nexus" to a water identified in 1-3 above;
2. All waters located within the 100-year floodplain of a water identified in 1-3 above and all waters located within 4000 feet of the high tide line or ordinary high water mark of a water identified in 1-5 above where they are determined on a case-specific basis to have a significant nexus to a water in 1-3 above.

The final rule includes definitions of "tributary," "adjacent," and "significant nexus," among others.

This new definition of "waters of the U.S." has the potential to expand the number of waterbodies that are federally regulated under the CWA. Among the most significant changes

from the proposed rule is an exclusion for "stormwater control features constructed to convey, treat, or store stormwater that are created in dry land." The possibility that water conveyances, including but not limited to MS4s could meet the definition of a "tributary" under the proposed rule and thus be jurisdictional as a "waters of the U.S." was one of the National League of Cities' top concerns with the proposed rule.

While the language establishes a broad categorical exclusion, it does not apply to stormwater control features that were built on wet land or if the features are part of a traditionally navigable water, interstate waters or the territorial seas. For example, the exclusion may not apply to infrastructure in coastal or low-lying areas. Additionally, some features, such as channelized or piped streams, would be jurisdictional.

While the final rule does not include a specific exclusion for green infrastructure, the preamble states, "this rule is designed to avoid disincentives to [the] environmentally beneficial trend in stormwater management practices"-using green infrastructure to manage stormwater

at its source and keep it out of the conveyance system.

The exclusion for stormwater control features "is intended to address engineered stormwater control structures in municipal and urban environments-those that address runoff that occurs during and shortly after precipitation events; as a result stormwater features that convey runoff are expected to only carry ephemeral or intermittent flow."

The final rule also includes an exclusion for wastewater management systems, as NLC requested. The exclusion covers "wastewater recycling structures constructed in dry land; detention and retention basins built for wastewater recycling; groundwater recharge basins; percolation ponds built for wastewater recycling; and water distributary structures built for wastewater recycling." As with MS4s, the concern with the proposed rule was that water deliver and reuse facilities could be considered a "tributary" and therefore jurisdictional. Even if stormwater and wastewater infrastructure are not considered a "waters of the U.S.," they may still be regulated as a point source under the CWA Section 402 permit program.



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TCMA Fall Conference, Double-Tree Hotel, 407 Chestnut Street, downtown Chattanooga. A wide range of topics timely to the needs of TCMA members will be covered over 2 1/2 days, beginning at 9 AM on Oct. 21, and ending by 12 noon on Oct. 23. To reserve a room at the DoubleTree, call the hotel at 423-756-5150 and indicate the group name - TN City Managers Association. Or go online to www.chattanooga.doubletree.com. Rooms are also available at the Hampton Inn & Suites. Call 423-693-0500, or go to www.chattanoogadowntownsuites.hamptoninn.com

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Sales of existing homes rose to their highest level since 2007 in June, and the median sales price hit an all-time high. That's according to the National Association of Realtors, which reported that existing home sales increased 3.2 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.5 million. That rate is nearly 10 percent above what it was a year ago. "Buyers have come back in force, leading to the strongest past two months in sales since early 2007," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "This wave of demand is being fueled by a year-plus of steady job growth and an improving economy that's giving more households the financial wherewithal and incentive to buy." Plus, the prospect of rising interest rates is encouraging people "to buy now rather than wait until later when borrowing costs could be higher," Yun said. The

median price for an existing home was \$236,400, breaking the previous high set in July 2006. Strong demand combined with a limited supply, particularly in the West, is pushing prices higher.

President Barack Obama's plan to proclaim three new national monuments: Basin and Range National Monument, which will cover more than 704,000 acres in Nevada, 110 miles north of Las Vegas; Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, encompassing about 330,780 acres, less than 100 miles from both the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas; and the Waco Mammoth archeological site in West Texas. The Nevada monument is larger than any other land monument the president has designated to date. Basin and Range National Monument will preserve a region rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources—a treasure for Nevadans and for all of us. This designation

will safeguard irreplaceable Native American rock art, preserve wildlife habitat, and protect rare and sensitive plants. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild Inner Coast Range. An intact ecological treasure located less than 100 miles from the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas, it is accessible to millions of Californians. Visitors enjoy whitewater rafting on the wild and scenic Cache Creek, hiking in the national forest, fishing in Lake Berryessa, camping, hunting, and horseback riding. In Texas, the site preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood approximately 68,000 years ago.

A federal appeals court ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to relax some limits it set on smokestack emissions that cross state lines and taint downwind areas with air pollution from power plants.

At the same time, the court upheld the EPA's right to impose the clean-air standards, rejecting an argument by states and industry groups that the rule was overly burdensome. The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit orders the EPA to redo sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen-oxide standards for 13 states, mostly in the South and Midwest, that contribute to soot and smog along the East Coast. Texas and South Carolina would see limits for both forms of pollution adjusted, while new limits for either sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides would be set in 11 other states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The ruling follows a Supreme Court decision last year upholding the so-called Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which blocks states from adding to air pollution in other states.

No loan is too large or too small



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



The town of Livingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.1 million for a capital outlay note to finance parks and recreational facilities.



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ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia is currently seeking applications for assistant city manager. Columbia is a full service city with an annual budget of approximately \$54 M, and employs approximately 400 people. The assistant city manager will oversee many important projects and will play a key role in working with staff to ensure that city council's goals are coordinated across the organization, and achieved. He/she will execute strategic priorities of the council, coordinate assigned activities with city departments, outside agencies, and the general public, and provide information and assistance to internal and external customers regarding programs and services. The assistant city manager will serve as media contact, answering media inquiries; writing and distributing news releases, newsletters and other public information. Candidates must be able to coordinate grant activities including writing grant applications, serve as a member of a variety of city committees, and participate in special projects including planning and implementation of special programs and events and complex research of new programs and services. In addition, he/she prepares and delivers presentations on a wide variety of issues to the city council, other city boards and commissions, community groups and acts for and on behalf of the city manager in his absence. A bachelor's degree in public or business administration or related field is required; and at least five years of increasingly responsible experience in the management of public sector operations. It is preferred that the successful candidate reside within the city during their tenure. To apply submit resume, cover letter and 3 professional references at: www.columbiatn.com or in person at Personnel Department, City of Columbia, 700 N. Garden Street, Columbia, TN, 38401. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance. The city of Columbia is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Open until filled, first review of applications Aug. 13. EOE

CITY ATTORNEY

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

CITY RECORDER

ADAMS. The city of Adams is currently accepting applications for the position of City Recorder. This full-time position performs duties pertaining to the day-to-day business and finances of the city; a background in accounting is preferred. Individual will be the primary city contact with the public providing customer service. Responds to public requests for information and distributes information as requested. Processes public inquiries and complaints; researches and assembles information for response as required. Responsible for communicating effectively with the public regarding City programs, policies, and procedures. The successful candidate must have, or be willing to obtain a Tennessee Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation within 2 years of being hired. The responsibilities of this position include but are not limited to the following: prepare, maintain, and manage the city operational budget for the city's general fund, museum fund, parks fund, and state street aid fund; keep minutes of all meetings of the board of mayor and commissioners; prepare commission meeting packets for the mayor and commission; perform accounting transactions such as journal entries, deposits, accounts payable, payroll, and accounts receivable; prepare and transmit the following reports - payroll taxes, federal quarterly taxes, and quarterly unemployment report; and organize and submit all applicable financial documents to be audited on an annual basis. Salary will DOQ. Resumes may be mailed to Mayor Mary Mantooh, City of Adams, 7617 Hwy. 41 N, Suite 101,

Adams, TN 37010 or e-mailed to mman-tooth37010@gmail.com. The City of Adams is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Deadline: Open until filled.

HR MANAGER

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

IS ADVISOR I GIS COORDINATOR

GALLATIN. The City of Gallatin IT Department is seeking applications for the position of IS Advisor I-GIS Coordinator. Duties: Serve as project lead for special GIS projects, database design and development, does related work as required. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of IT. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in information sciences, geographic information systems, engineering or a related field. Requirements: Four years of increasingly responsible geographic information systems experience. This is a 40 hour per week day time position with some weekend work required. The starting rate is \$22,93 + excellent benefits. To see the full description and to apply, go to www.gallatinonthemove.com. EOE.

MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALIST

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

PLANNER

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for a city planner. This entry-level position involves performing responsible, complex professional work in a variety of current and long-range planning studies. Requires a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture or a closely related field from an accredited college or university with major course work in urban planning and two years' experience in a municipal planning office; or a master's degree in Urban Planning and one year of experience in municipal

planning; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Experience with Microsoft Office, Photoshop, and AICP Certification preferred. Requires a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Salary Range is \$35,578.00 - \$44,220.00 (DOQ) annually, with full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, Monday through Friday, 8-5. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

PLANNING DIRECTOR

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

PLANS EXAMINER I- ZONING

FRANKLIN. Under limited supervision, is responsible for technical work in the review of construction plans and enforcement of building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, flood plain, zoning, and/or fire and life safety codes and City ordinances as assigned. This position will be assigned to the Zoning section and review duties will focus on the zoning aspects of residential permit applications and also to ensure that planning conditions and Zoning Ordinance regulations are followed through on non-residential projects. The disciplines most applicable to this position will be zoning, flood plain, building, and City ordinances. The required knowledge, skill, and abilities to satisfactorily perform job duties are normally acquired through attainment of a bachelor's degree from four-year college or university; or four to five years building inspection related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of

education and experience. Must have experience as a Building Inspector III. SALARY: \$21.29/HR For a complete job description or to apply on-line go to: www.franklintn.gov/jobs. Deadline to apply: Open Until Filled EOE/Drug-free Workplace

POLICE OFFICER

RUTHERFORD. The Town of Rutherford, Tn. is accepting applications for a fulltime police officer. Qualified candidates must possess the following minimal credentials: Legal resident of the State of Tennessee with a valid Tn. driver's license, current Tn. Post certification as a law enforcement officer with a minimum of one year full time law enforcement experience, and over 21 years of age. Applications may be picked-up at the Rutherford City Hall 206 E. Main Rutherford, Tn. 38369. Out of town request may be made by phone at 731-665-7166 or via e-mail at (townofrutherford@ken-tennwireless.com). Completed applications will be accepted at the City Hall until 4:00 PM Aug. 14. The Town of Rutherford is an equal opportunity employer.

STAFF ENGINEER

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



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

August 10 -15: Greeneville Greene County Fair

County Fairgrounds. Livestock shows and exhibits, demonstrations, entertainment tent, kids activities, food, vendors, tractor and truck pulls. Two action packed nights of demolition derby; rodeo; firefighters challenge; gospel groups; singing contest; along with the annual favorites - Fairest of the Fair, Baby Show and the Youth Talent Contest. Nightly, the midway will feature an array of exciting rides.

August 13 -22: Jefferson City Jefferson County Fair

County Fairgrounds. Family fun, food, farming, carnival rides, pageants, tractor and truck pulls, concerts, demolition derby, poultry dairy and beef shows, crafts and much more. Hours: 5pm-11:30pm

August 14 -22: Lebanon Wilson County Fair

County Fairgrounds. Agricultural, educational, and commercial exhibits; musical, motor sports and entertainment venues; carnival rides and food concessions. Hours: Weekdays 5pm to 11pm, Saturday 10am to 11pm, Sunday 12pm to 11pm

August 17 -22: Newport Coker County Fair

County Fairgrounds. Visit us for 67th annual fair for great food, entertainment, livestock shows, and good family fun.

August 21 - 23: Knoxville Fall Home Design Show

Knoxville Convention Center. Show is designed to place quality homeowners in direct contact with quality home improvement, interior decor, landscaping, and outdoor living companies. The show attracts homeowners ready to make decisions about building, remodeling, decorating, landscaping and lifestyle. Hours: Fri 12pm-8pm, Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 11am-6pm

Sept. 4 - 5: Cookeville Fall Funfest

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

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Green Development Grants: Improving quality of life through improved stormwater management

BY LEILA DONN
TDEC Office
of Sustainable Practices

Native plants, trees and more green spaces- three cities in Tennessee will be creating beautiful landscapes and educational opportunities for residents, all while making improvements to their stormwater management systems.

Johnson City, Ducktown, and Lewisburg have been chosen to receive Green Development Grants designed to help local governments fund green infrastructure and low-infrastructure development proposals. The grants are administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in partnership with the Tennessee Stormwater Association, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Johnson City

A native plant garden will be built on the east lawn of the city's public library. It is the city's creative way of handling stormwater, providing an attractive spot for picnicking and recreation to the public as well as giving birds, native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds a habitat.

In addition to the native plants, the existing stormwater system will be replaced with underdrainage. A portion of the lawn will be excavated and poor quality top soil will be removed to a depth of 18 inches. This space will be filled with a geotextile-wrapped stone infiltration bed and amended soils. It will then be topped with three inches of mulch and compost.

The infiltration bed will capture the first inch of rainfall as it runs off the roof, providing small-scale flood mitigation and enhancing water quality. Precipitation in excess of one inch will exit through an overflow outlet tied into the storm sewer system. An added bonus, the infiltration bed will not take up any aboveground space so the land will remain fully available for landscaping and use.

The amended soils will support plant growth, which will provide cost savings for plant maintenance such as labor, pesticides, fertilizer, and irrigation. Native plants will be grown in the new healthy soil providing habitat for local pollinators. The garden area will be a functional, sustainable, aesthetic addition to the library grounds and will provide opportunities for public recreation and education.

"I'm excited to see this project come to fruition," said Johnson City Library Director Bob Swaney. "Not only will we be doing our part to reduce flooding conditions in downtown Johnson City, but we can potentially have a much larger impact through community awareness. We're planning a series of related programs to run through the spring and fall. Not only that, we hope to springboard off this project and take even further steps toward re-approaching the library's grounds in a more green and sustainable way."

The new stormwater management system will also provide educational opportunities to students, businesses, and the public. The library plans on hosting a

series of lectures and workshops that highlight local innovative and sustainable practices. Workshops will provide opportunities to learn about and tour various places with green infrastructure. Sessions will include information about calculating roof runoff volume for stormwater retrofit planning; learning best practices for funding and installing stormwater retrofits; constructing a rain barrel for home installation; and learning natural ways to enrich the soil, reduce reliance on chemicals, and provide habitat for pollinators.

Ducktown

With a history that includes almost two centuries of extensive copper mining, the city is managing stormwater by installing tree wells, pervious pavers, and bioretention cells on a downtown street. This will make the area more attractive and accessible to pedestrians.

Years of mining have caused damage to Ducktown's vegetation and water resources. While remediation has taken place, water quality is still a concern and improving stormwater management is a priority. Ducktown's planned Spruce Street stormwater management system will replace an outdated system with natural water filtration methods. Main Street, the center of Ducktown's historic downtown, drains onto Spruce Street. Stormwater from extensive rainfall sometimes overwhelms downtown infrastructure and pools in impervious areas on Main and Spruce Streets. The tree wells, pervious pavers, and bioretention cells will help to eliminate these drainage issues.

Tree well box filters will be installed as mini bioretention areas beneath trees. Stormwater runoff will be temporarily stored in the tree well, providing habitat for native vegetation. Water will drain through a filter media and the treated water will flow out of the system through an underdrain connection to a storm drain or into the surrounding soil. The permeable pavement will also allow water to filter through it, temporarily holding water in a gravel base layer so it can gradually flow into the groundwater table.

"The new system will mitigate a stormwater issue that otherwise would have taken us at least two years longer to address, under normal budgetary conditions," said Ducktown City Manager James Talley. "It's a much needed thing - we have some flood issues." These new stormwater management features are expected to manage the first inch of rain along Spruce Street, which can contain sediment, oil, grease, chemicals, heavy metals, debris, and fertilizer. The reduction and filtering of stormwater runoff will have a significant impact on the water quality of the receiving streams.

Talley added that over the last few years Ducktown has been "trying to make sustainable improvements to the city so the new stormwater system fits right in."

Officials hope the new stormwater management system will be an example for others and may serve as an initiative to alter private land use regulations in the city. The town is currently exploring amend-



Pervious pavement will be installed to create a parking lot near Rock Creek Park in Lewisburg. It is part of a larger overall plan to improve the park and will help work toward a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

ments to its regulations that may require green infrastructure in new residential subdivisions as well as the installation of best practices in stormwater management.

Lewisburg

The city will remove an area of approximately 4,500 square feet of impermeable asphalt paving to create additional public green space as one way to manage stormwater.

They are also replacing an impervious parking area at Rock Creek Park with 24 pervious parking spaces. The park sits parallel to the free-flowing Rock Creek which flows into the downtown area. It is the central point of the city's open space and connects to the north-south five mile Lewisburg Greenway.

The new parking lot will be shaded by a large stand of established trees that will help reduce the heat island affect. The pervious surface will decrease runoff from the lot and provide natural filtration of rainwater into the ground. The lot will also serve as a much needed trailhead for users of the Lewisburg Greenway system.

The pervious pavement will help Rock Creek Park to work toward a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. It is part of a larger overall plan to improve the park. "Sustainability is a key component of the City of Lewisburg's planning and it has helped us to achieve TVA Valley Sustainable Community status at the Silver Level," said City Manager Randall Dunn. "We are continually working to improve our quality of life for our residents using our 20-year Vision Plan as the foundation and with sustainability in mind."

The Vision Lewisburg 2035 Plan identifies the city's priority of providing residents with accessible open spaces and environmental education. Lewisburg plans on posting a sign in recognition of the importance of the pervious pavers



Tree well box filters will be installed in Ducktown as mini bioretention areas beneath trees. Stormwater runoff will be temporarily stored in the tree well, providing habitat for native vegetation.



A native plant garden will be built on the east lawn of the Johnson City's public library as a means for handling stormwater. The garden area will be a functional, sustainable, and an aesthetic addition to the library grounds, it will also provide opportunities for public recreation and education.

and the functional use of the surface. There will also be educational material to teach people about the importance of environmental stewardship.

"We hope this project, as well as several others the City of Lewisburg is planning, will allow us to achieve

TVA Valley Sustainable Community Gold Level status this year," Dunn said.

For more information about the Tennessee Green Development Grants go to <http://www.tn.gov/environment/article/grants-green-development-grants>.

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