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Register for Legislative Conference March 16-17

Join us March 16-17, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Nashville for TML's Legislative Conference.

The two-day event is a chance to hear state leaders address the municipal issues being debated in the General Assembly.

TML has moved to an online registration processs. The form can be used to register all officials, https://www.cognitoforms.com/ TML1/_2020TMLLegislative-Conference. A second form is available to register guests and spouses. Access to TML's group rate at the DoubleTree is only available after a paid registration form has been submitted. The form will redirect to the hotel registration page after submission, and a copy of the link to the hotel group will also be included in the confirmation email.

The TML special room rate will be available until Feb. 14, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

Contact Sylvia Harris at sharris@tml1.org with any additional

From school outreach to hip hop: How mayors plan to **boost Census participation**

The 2020 Census count will begin nationally in March and mayors are working to get the message out that every resident needs to be counted.

> BY BILL LUCIA *Route Fifty*

When the 2020 Census count kicks off later this year, the mayors of Atlanta and Houston plan to wager on which city will have a better overall response rate.

A prize, other than bragging rights, is yet to be determined, said the two mayors, who spoke about the census at the U.S. Conference of Mayors earlier this month.

But with the ability to track census from response rates in real time, it's the type of messaging they encouraged other city leaders to consider as a way to boost awareness about the decennial count.

Beginning in March, the Census Bureau will upload daily response rate data from each census tract to its Response Outreach Area Mapper, said Burton Reist, a spokesman for the agency. The data can be used to target neighborhoods or communities with low response rates with extra outreach efforts.

To engage a diverse set of residents, state and local leaders need to come up with diverse approaches that will allow them to reach those communities.

"What we've done is try not to think about it as a government messaging format, but what makes sense to our community," said Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bot-

That has meant partnering with artists in Atlanta's hip hop community as a way to spread awareness.

In Houston, officials have ramped up communication strategies through schools and city services to reach residents, said Mayor Sylvester Turner. Unlike many other states, Texas is not providing financial support to help facilitate the census count.

The 2020 Census will be crucial in determining how hundreds of billions of federal dollars are divided among states and localities

See CENSUS on Page 6

Proposal to modernize NEPA implementing regulations

Action seeks to improve efficient and timely reviews of infrastructure projects

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) titled "Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act." The NPRM was filed in the Federal Register on Jan. 10, for public comment.

For the first time in more than 40 years, CEQ is proposing to modernize its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations to promote more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews of infrastructure projects that will increase our nation's economic competitiveness and improve the quality of life of our citizens.

The outdated regulations have slowed and impeded the development of needed infrastructure in communities across the nation. Environmental impact statements (EISs) for federal highway projects have averaged more than 7 years to complete and many reviews have taken a decade or more.

CEQ's proposed rule would modernize and clarify the CEQ regulations to facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by simplifying and clarifying regulatory requirements, incorporating key elements of the One Federal Decision policy, codifying certain case law and CEQ guidance, updating the regulations to reflect current technologies and agency practices, eliminating obsolete provisions, and improving the format and readability of the regulations. The proposed rule seeks to reduce unnecessary paperwork and delays, and to promote better decision-making consistent

Request for Public Comment

CEQ requests public comment on the NPRM. Comments should be submitted on or before March 10, 2020. Go to https://www.regulations.gov/ and follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. CEQ-2019-0003.

with NEPA's statutory requirements.

Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), signed into law in 1970, is a procedural statute that requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of proposed major federal actions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued regulations for federal agencies to implement NEPA in 1978. CEQ has not comprehensively updated these regulations in more than 40 years, and has made only one limited substantive amendment in 1986.

In 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13807 establishing a One Federal Decision policy, including a two-year goal for completing environmental reviews for major infrastructure projects, and directing CEQ to consider revisions to modernize its regulations. In 2018, CEQ issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting comment on potential updates to its regulations. CEQ See NEPA on Page 6

Gov. Lee's new budget pushes education funding, support for rural communities



Gov. Bill Lee delivers his second annual State of the State address. Pictured on the dais are Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, and House Speaker Pro Tempore Bill Dunn.

BY CAROLE GRAVES

TML Communications Director

Declaring the state as "healthy and strong," Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee outlined his administration's major initiatives for the coming fiscal year in his second annual State of the State address given before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

His proposed \$40.8 billion budget includes major investments in education, a continued focus on rural economic development, criminal justice reforms, and a 50% tax cut to the professional privilege tax.

His budget also recommends \$100 million in one-time funding for local government: \$50 million to be allocated among cities and \$50 million to counties.

"The state is seeing strong economic times, but many of our local governments are struggling financially," Lee said.

If Lee's plan is approved by the legislature, each local government would be eligible to receive its share of the \$50 million in grant money provided it is spent on one-time expenses in the areas of public safety, street projects, capital maintenance, utility system upgrades, and IT hardware upgrades. Specific grant amounts will be based on population and will be administered through the state comptroller's office.

"Local government knows better than we do how to direct resources," Lee said.

For education, Lee is proposing the largest investment in K-12 teacher salaries in Tennessee

history. His budget sets aside \$117 million for teachers' salaries, equal to a 4% pay raise and increasing the average starting salary from \$36,000 to \$40,000.

Other K-12 education investments include:

• Improving Early Literacy: \$70 million to create new teacher training standards;

· Governor's Teaching Fellowship: \$8.5 million to provide college scholarships to at least 1,000 students in order to recruit and retain the best teachers to stay in Tennessee;

Tennessee Teacher and Leader Institute: \$4 million to support professional development; and

K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund: \$250 million investment in one-time funds to support mental See BUDGET on Page 5

Rural hospital closures impact healthcare of Tennessee's most vulnerable children

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With one of the highest rates of rural hospital closures in the nation, communities across Tennessee are struggling to ensure their most vulnerable residents have access to needed care.

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's recent "Kids Count" report found that, for the first time in a decade, the number of uninsured children increased in 2018. Furthermore, there are more than 45,000 Tennessee children who qualify for TennCare of Cover-Kids who still lack health insurance.

The Tennessee Justice Center (TJC) was founded in 1996 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy advocacy organization that works across the state of Tennessee to provide advocacy, research, and legal aid to low-income families across the state of Tennessee. The organization works with families to secure health care, assistance, and food aid as well as to help them navigate programs like TennCare, Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and LIHEAP.

Kinika Young, director of children's health for TJC, said health care touches more aspects of people's lives than many realize. "Health is really at the core of

people being able to live and thrive, specifically for children," she said. "If they are not healthy, they are more likely to miss days of school. We have seen studies that find kids who have comprehensive health coverage tend to miss fewer days of school, have better grades, are more likely to finish high school, more likely to go to and graduate from college, and more likely to earn more money. It is also essential for developmental reasons for children to have this access so any issues can be identified and addressed early on. With this care, children can grow up to be healthy adults who then work and are able to earn more money as adults and contribute more to the community. The lack of access to healthcare has impacts on education, the economy and filling jobs, and also the crimi-



Cumberland River Hospital in Celina announces its imminent closure to patients. Tennessee has one of the highest rates of rural hospital closures in the country, and the closures of those hospitals can sometimes lead to a domino effect of lost access to healthcare. Many rural hospitals have closed because they lose money providing healthcare to those who otherwise cannot afford it.

nal justice system."

With 12 closures, Tennessee has lost the second-highest number of rural hospitals among all states since 2010. Several more remain at risk, meaning many more rural children could lose healthcare access. Young said her organization has seen a lot of impact on families in rural communities where hospitals

"A lot of communities depend on these hospitals as a primary employer, and once that hospital is lost, it can be hard to attract other employers to the area," Young said. "A lot of the officials we have talked to in rural communities are concerned about being able to attract new companies and new people to their area if they no longer have a hospital to provide for those healthcare needs.'

Unfortunately, the fact that a lot of these hospitals provide care for those who are uninsured or underinsured is also one of the reasons so many are struggling to stay afloat financially.

"A lot of these rural hospitals are nonprofits; they aren't part of these larger hospital corporations," Young said. "Therefore, they have been more likely to treat patients who maybe can't afford to pay. These rural hospitals are often struggling to keep the lights on and rely on programs like Medicaid to stay viable for their patients. A lot of hospitals that are closing are seeing patients who could be covered if Medicaid were expanded and are still coming to these facilities for treatment but without any insurance. Covering them through Medicaid expansion would benefit hospitals because they would have that source of revenue to offset the loss these hospitals are seeing.'

Of course, even those with insurance are still struggling to pay their medical bills.

A new study by the Commonwealth Fund found that more middle-class workers are spending their income on health care rather than other necessities because of rising insurance costs.

In Tennessee, the average, middle-income resident loses 13.5% of their income to health insurance with the average premium contribution and deductible increasing from \$4,090 to \$7,966 in the past decade. Sara Collins, lead author of the study, said these rising costs could put healthcare See CARE on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville is moving forward with its largest water treatment plant expansion project in more than 30 years. The city has contracted with Consolidated Technologies, Inc., for design and engineering for the project at a cost of \$1.55 million. The total project is estimated to cost \$15 million and will take place over several phases. Cookeville's water plant not only provides water to Cookeville citizens but also several county utility districts, the city of Algood, and the town of Baxter. The expansion would allow the city to serve approximately 80,000 more customers than its current capacity allows and will increase the plant's capacity to 22.5 million gallons per day.

COLUMBIA

The pond at Columbia's Woodland Park has been stocked with freshwater rainbow trout as part of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's (TWRA) winter trout program. The agency has stocked the duck river at Riverwalk Park in past years, but chose Woodland Park this year because the area isn't prone to flooding and there is no chance the fish will be washed away by river currents. The fish stocked in the park were sourced from the Flintville Hatchery in nearby Lincoln County. Fishing in the pond will add to the amenities already available at the morethan-60-acre park in the heart of Columbia. Woodland Park is anchored by the historic Rainey House and features walking trails, a large playground and smaller play areas, an amphitheater, tennis courts, picnic pavilions, and a disc golf course.

COLUMBIA

Columbia-based Maury Regional Health system just received a \$362,087 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement telehealth and remote patient technology through the hospital's six county coverage area. The grant will be used to serve patients in rural communities who suffer from chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and chronic pulmonary disease. The USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program, from which the award is funded, supports 133 projects in 37 states and two U.S. territories. In total, the project benefits an estimated 5.4 billion rural residents, according to a MRH press release. The hospital system also has locations in Chapel Hill, Collinwood, Hohenwald, Mt. Pleasant, Lawrenceburg, Lewisburg, Pulaski, Spring Hill, and Waynesboro.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin is starting the new year with several municipal construction projects. The city's \$375,000 Belvedere-Lakeshore Stormwater project will include a 1,700-foot-long ditch and pipe network to alleviate local flooding issues. The city will also start construction with its new Miracle Park, the first all-inclusive park for children and adults of all abilities under construction at Triple Creek Park. The park will include a baseball field, playground, and pedal park with an anticipated opening date this fall. One of the city's biggest projects is the \$31 million Albert Gallatin Avenue extension, which will build a connector between State Route 109 and Dobbins Pike. The project is the largest locally-managed road construction project of its kind in Tennessee and is expected to

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be completed in 2021. The city will also be tackling various sidewalk projects funded through a \$700,000 grant. One of the main goals for the sidewalk project is to bring new sidewalks along Browns Lane between Starpoint Drive and Nashville Pike.

GERMANTOWN

Germantown's Fleet Services Department has been ranked one of the 100 Best Fleets in America. Since 2000, 100 Best Fleets annually reviews and identifies performance improvement within the fleet industry. Germantown has received a top 100 ranking from the organization for three years in a row. Germantown's Fleet Services technicians currently maintain 29 Automotive Service Excellence Certifications (ASE) and 16 Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) Certifications. The department operates from one central garage location that provides support services to twelve departments within the city. The 100 Best Fleets recognizes and rewards peak-performing fleet operations in the Americas. Currently in its twentieth year, The 100 Best Fleets identifies and encourages ever-increasing levels of performance improvement and innovation within the public fleet industry. The contest is open to all public fleets in North and South America. The 100 Best Fleet accreditation process is determined by 12 criteria that are universal drivers of change and excellence in any operation.

KNOXVILLE

Budget airline carrier Allegiant Air will be adding 44 new nonstop routes to Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport, including new destinations such as Chicago, Boston, and Houston. The Las Vegas-based airline added 15 Airbus jets to its fleet last year as part of the largest expansion in company history. The new seasonal flights will begin in the spring and are aimed at vacationers. Each flight will be offered twice a week rather than daily, which is one of the reasons Allegiant can offer cheaper prices than its competitors who fly daily routes.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission has been named a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) from the League of American Bicyclists. The planning commission staff have been enjoying the nearby, freshly painted bike lanes and arrive to work energized. The commission has encouraged bicycling as an easy option for transportation and provides amenities such as an agency bike for nearby meetings and incentives such as Smart Trips Commuter Rewards. Moving forward, staff will have access to a variety of tools and technical assistance from the League to become even more bicycle-friendly. When employees bike, great things happen: decreased carbon footprint, reduced healthcare costs, connected to community, and a fun and healthy work culture.

LEWISBURG

Minth Group will expand its operations in Lewisburg, creating 254 new jobs and investing \$87 million in the next five years. The automotive supplier will construct an additional 236,000-square-foot facility on its current property in Lewisburg for the production of injection-molded, painted, and chrome-plated plastic components to be supplied to automotive OEMS. The construction of the facility is expected to be completed by 2021. Based in China, Minth is a leading designer and manufacturer of structural body, trim and decorative parts for the automotive industry. Worldwide, Minth has 40 production plants that support automotive markets in 29 different countries. The company supplies many world-renowned international automakers and together, Minth customers represent 80 percent of the total global auto market share.

LEXINGTON

Adient will invest \$23.5 million and create approximately 330 jobs as part of an expansion to its facility in Lexington. The automotive seating manufacturer already

expanded significantly in the Lexington area in 2018. With 83,000 employees in 35 countries, Adient operates 220 manufacturing/assembly plants worldwide. The company produces and delivers automotive seating for all major OEMs, manufacturing both complete seating systems and individual components. Headquartered in Ireland, the American arm of Adient is based in Plymouth, Mich.

MARYVILLE

Maryville residents will be able to pay utility bills online as the city rolls out the new payment system this February. The city has partnered with software company Utilitec to provide a billing service that can be managed both entirely online and through text messages. Finance officials from the city said there will be a 2.85% transaction fee when residents use the online payment system. The system will also allow users to view their account histories, usage history, and other information about their utility account. Officials said moving to an online service for bill pay was among one of the most common requests by utility customers who felt the move would make bill pay more convenient.

MEMPHIS

Blues City Brewery in Memphis is planning a \$49 million upgrade to its facilities, creating 155 jobs. The company presently employs 516 people and plans to use some of the upgrade money to purchase new equipment. The company has also sought financial incentives for the expansion from the Economic Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County (EDGE) based on its projections of generating \$10 million in property taxes in a 12year time frame. Originally built by Schlitz in 1971, the Blues City Brewery was purchased by Wisconsin-based City Brewing Company nine years ago. City Brewing Company was founded in 1999 out of the former G. Heileman Brewing Company that operated from 1858 until 1996.

MEMPHIS

Amazon is establishing a new, state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Memphis, creating 1,000 new full-time jobs. The company will locate to an 855,000-squarefoot facility to work alongside Amazon's innovative robotics technology to pick, pack, and ship smaller customer items, such as books, electronics, and consumer goods. Amazon currently operates fulfillment and sortation centers in Charleston, Chattanooga, Lebanon, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville, a Prime Now Hub in Nashville, and various other facilities supporting last-mile delivery operations across the state. The company is in the midst of building a corporate office in downtown Nashville, which will house the tech and management functions for Amazon's Retail Operations division. To date, Amazon has invested \$6.5 billion in Tennessee since 2010.

NASHVILLE

Accenture will expand its operations in Nashville, creating 165 new technology jobs. The professional services firm will operate out of a new space in the Sylvan Supply project at the former Madison mill site. Sylvan Supply is the adaptive reuse of the former Madison Mill in Sylvan Park featuring large format, class-A creative office space and destination retail from Third & Urban and FCP. Accenture is a leading global professional services company that provides a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. The company has offices and operations in more than 200 cities in 52 countries. Its clients span the full range of industries around the world and include 92 of the Fortune Global 100 and more than three-quarters of the Fortune Global 500.

NASHVILLE

AllianceBernsten L.P. will invest \$11.4 million and create 200 additional jobs at its global headquarters located in Nashville. The expansion of the global asset management firm brings the company's total investment in

Aquatic wheelchairs donated to Lebanon city health center



Lebanon-based company Permobil recently donated two aquatic wheelchairs to the city's Jimmy Floyd Family Center. The chairs are used by a number of residents including senior citizens, those with physical disabilities, Special Olympics athletes, and water therapy patients. The group that worked to provide the two aquatic wheelchairs are (left to right): Lebanon Grant Writer Anthony Tate, Lebanon Mayor Bernie Ash, Permobil's Ashley Davis, Permobil's Kathy Edson, Jimmy Floyd Family Center Aquatics Manager Alex Major, and Jimmy Floyd Family Center Director Tim Hill.

Dyersburg Police Department earns CALEA Accreditation



The Dyersburg Police Department was recently awarded an accreditation award by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA). The assessment of the department was conducted this summer and the award was presented at a recent Dyersburg City Council meeting. From left to right: Vince Dauro, CALEA Regional Program Manager, presents the award to Dyersburg Police Chief Steve Isbell and Officer Heather DeFoe.

Newbern cuts ribbon on new police department headquarters



Officials with the city of Newbern and the Newbern Police Department recently cut the ribbon to open the new Newbern Police Station. The city acquired the former Med South Building and remodeled the structure downtown to meet the needs of the department.

Fayetteville installs new bridge as part of greenway extension



Crews work to install a new bridge over Tanyard Branch as part of the first phase of the city of Fayetteville's Greenway Project. Hoisted by a crane, the bridge was then guided into place by a ground crew. The first phase of the project will connect the downtown square with Stone Bridge Park via the bridge and a walkway. Officials expect the first phase of the greenway to be opened sometime in early spring. The second phase calls for a similar pedestrian bridge over the Elk River, connecting the first phase of the project to the camp Blount Historical Site.

Nashville to \$80 million after the company announced it was relocating its headquarters to Nashville from New York. The new 200 jobs announced by the company will fill various tech, operations and compliance functions. AB anticipates moving into its permanent downtown headquarters at Nashville's Fifth + Broadway development by the end of 2020. AB is a leading

investment management firm that offers a comprehensive range of research and diversified investment services to institutional investors, individuals and private wealth clients in major markets across the world. The financial firm has approximately \$623 billion in assets under management, nearly 3,800 employees and offices in 25 countries.

Multi-Factor Authentication: Why you need more than passwords

BY JOE HOWLAND, VC3

Chief Information Security Officer

Cyberattacks are increasing in sophistication and frequency. You need more than a password to secure your accounts.

What is Multi-Factor Authentication?

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is an added layer of protection to help secure your accounts. MFA goes beyond a password to add another step to the login process. The common industry language for how we can secure accounts includes:

- Something You Know like a password
- Something You Have like your phone
- Something You Are like your fingerprint

MFA includes your ID and passwords as the things you know. It then adds something you have which can be an app on your phone that prompts you when you try to login; a text message with a code; or a secure token with digits that change at regular intervals.

Not All Second Layers of Protection are Equal

When setting up MFA, should I use:

Keywords and security questions?

No. MFA requires the addition of something you have. Entering a unique word or answering a set of security questions is not something physical. The answers to these questions or the keyword you use to validate your identity is likely stored in the same system as your user ID and password. If a service is breached, you can assume this information will be compromised with your credentials.

My primary email address?

No, unless it's the only option available. This can be tempting because we live in our email and have frequently established access from many different devices. However, email is also the most commonly breached service. If someone gets into your email, they are likely to look for emails associated with authentication requests from other services. If they find one, they can typically reset your password to the service (most "Forgot My Password" tools will send you an email) and then watch your email for the code to confirm a login attempt.

Smart attackers can accomplish this while hiding all evidence that they are working their way into a system you want to protect. Consequently, email should be your last choice for MFA if given options and you should request that the service be disabled if other mechanisms are available.

Text Messaging?

Maybe. Text Messaging or SMS is a common option for MFA. It is popular because it only requires a phone which most of us keep close. However, SMS MFA has been successfully exploited. If an attacker breaches a service and gets your user ID and password, they are also likely to get your phone number.

They can then duplicate that phone number on a device they control to intercept the SMS containing the verification code required to log in. This is not a simple attack and requires some unique information about your phone and service, but it has been done. Like email, SMS is a better option than no MFA at all but should only be used if other more secure options are not available.

Mobile Applications?

Yes. Many services offer the use of a mobile application on your smartphone to support MFA. Many



third party applications work with other services. The most common of these apps include Google Auth, Microsoft's DUO, and Authy.

These applications create a secure link between your physical device and the service you are protecting. You log in with your ID and password as normal, but then either need to provide a code from one of these services, or some will even simply send you a prompt to confirm the login attempt. Some will even allow you to use your fingerprint or facial recognition on devices that support such technologies.

Thankfully, this is convenient and secure. The secure link between your device and the application is established when the app is installed. Even a cloned phone with the same number will not be able to substitute for your device. This is the most secure and convenient option.

A key fob or token?

Yes. Not as convenient as a phone as it requires carrying around another device, however, they are

typically small and can attach to your key chain.

These devices have a constant set of rotating numbers that are used as your multi-factor code. Very secure and a great option for someone who does not want to install an application on his or her personal phone.

Be cautious of any request to "remember" a device or a location.

Many services will prompt you to "remember" a device or location when you log in. The idea is to offer the user the convenience of forgoing MFA on subsequent logins from that same location or device. Unfortunately, security is rarely convenient. We recommend you do not "remember" devices.

Don't Wait. Start Using MFA

Thankfully, many online services now include an option to enable MFA at no additional cost. Some, like many banks, force you to use MFA. MFA is so important

Preferred
Technology
Partner

for cybersecurity. We recommend it to anyone and everyone.

For more information on VC3 and its services, head over to TML's TECH page, https://www.tml1.org/tech

About Joe Howland

Joe has been in the IT industry for more than 20 years and has extensive IT management experience that spans multiple industries. A UCLA grad with a degree in mathematics computation with a computer specialization, he worked with Computer Sciences Corporation for 10 years supporting defense and financial sector contracts. Joe joined VC3 in 2009. During his time with VC3, Joe has performed in the role of Virtual CIO for some of VC3's largest government customers. Joe is currently VC3's Chief Information Security Officer and is responsible for VC3's IT security as well as advising on security for VC3's customers.

Hospital closures impact healthcare of state's most vulnerable children

CARE from Page 1

out of the reach of even middle-income families and cause more and more people to defer healthcare treatment.

The closure of a hospital may also lead to a domino effect of closures of other medical facilities or put a strain on the area's medical community at large.

"Doctor's offices often need to have access to a facility so they can send their patients if they need inpatient care," she said. "Sometimes, hospitals will have physicians who are employees that also have outpatient offices. If the main employer is the hospital and the hospital leaves, that means the doctor loses out on that employer. Those doctors may then not be able to sustain themselves on those outpatient practices."

Beyond that, the loss of rural health care facilities can further reduce the access residents have to healthcare. Young said many are beginning to realize the important role transportation plays in health-

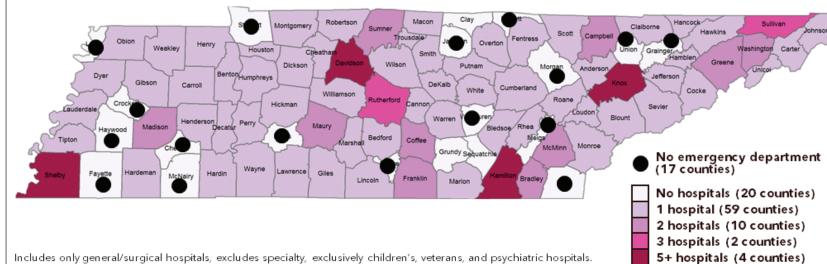
"There are a lot of people who are also concerned about where they will get their healthcare when these facilities close," Young said. "People worry about having an emergency situation, like a heart attack, and then having to go to the next county over to be treated. A lack of local healthcare resources means that a parent may have to take more time off work and then take their child out of school for longer to see a doctor in another area. It really adds a lot of time and stress to a working parent's day if they have to travel somewhere else just to see a doctor. Transportation is also a big issue for low-income people, particularly since public transport isn't available in a lot of places. If they don't have a car or money for gas, then they are really stuck."

While rural areas have a lower percentage of the population under the age of 18, Tennessee children in rural areas are more likely to live in poverty than their urban counterparts. An estimated 21% of the state's children live in poverty or roughly one-in-five children. Food insecurity, afterschool care, and healthcare are all issues that can impact families in poverty.

Beyond primary care, Tennesseans living in rural areas often have a harder time accessing other types of healthcare. A smaller percentage of rural Tennessee children receive dental care than the national average, according to the Kids Count survey.

20 Tennessee Counties Do Not Have a Hospital, 17 Do Not Have an Emergency Department

Number of Hospitals by County (2019)



Accounts for hospital closures through May 1, 2019 and both hospital-based and freestanding emergency departments as of February 27, 2019. Source: The Sycamore Institute's analysis of information from the Tennessee Hospital Association, Tennessee Department of Health and news reports.

A map of hospital locations in Tennesssee. The state has seen 12 hospitals close since 2010, the second-highest number of any state in the country. At present, there are 20 counties in Tennessee with no hospital and 17 with no emergency department access.

Rural populations with lower dental care utilization also tend to have less water fluoridation, fewer dentists per population, and children in these areas are three times as likely to miss school because of an oral health problem. For every \$1 spent on preventative dental care, it is estimated that between \$8 and \$50 is saved on restorative and emergency dental treatments.

Pregnant women and new mothers are also being impacted by a lack of comprehensive care, Young said.

"We had 52 women die in 2017 from preventable deaths in Tennessee because their post-partum coverage ended," she said. "Presently, the state only provides two months of post-partum coverage. Moms really need comprehensive coverage before, during, and after birth."

The ongoing opioid crisis is also another healthcare need that is pressing rural communities.

"Medicaid is the largest insurer or provider for substance abuse disorder treatment," Young said. "If people don't have that coverage, they aren't able to afford to get treatment for these issues. In terms of children born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), moms really need treatment and need coverage to get that treatment to avoid issues during pregnancy and to deliver a healthy baby. Especially those with substance abuse disorders, the time after birth is critical. If a woman goes off a substance to have a baby and then relapses after birth, her likelihood of overdose is very high. Having coverage and access to ongoing treatment is important."

Furthermore, Young said that a lot of those who have turned to abusing illicit substances have done so because they were already not setting the health core they maded.

getting the healthcare they needed.

"Studies have shown that a lot of people who are incarcerated have significant illnesses, especially mental health issues and drug addiction," she said. "Substance-use disorders are often times a side affect of not having access to healthcare at an early age. In a lot of instances, people start to self-medicate or develop a drug addiction to cope with mental illness or the fact that they haven't been able to reach their full potential."

Young said people with disabilities have the highest need of anyone in rural areas.

"They have chronic needs that require consistent care," she said.

"Particularly for kids who have special equipment or may rely on a ventilator or breathing tubes in their home, if that equipment needs to be replaced that can be the difference between life or death for those kids. Provider capacity is an issue across the state. We don't have enough providers for therapies and different interventions that kids with disabilities need."

SycamoreInstituteTN.org

The expansion of Medicaid is one of the main solutions to all of the state's healthcare issues.

"The best thing leaders can do is to speak out about Medicaid expansion," Young said. "That is really the thing that separates Tennessee from other states. The states that expanded Medicaid are six times less likely to have a rural hospital close. Expanding Medicaid is the best thing we can do to stop this tide of hospital closures."



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



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Steve Anderson, chief of police of Metro Nashville, has been appointed to the seven-member



Steve Anderson

Board of Directors of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the nation's preeminent independent research organization that focuses on critical issues in policing. The Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit improve the delivery of police services through the exercise of strong national leadership, public debate of police and criminal justice issues, and research and policy development. Anderson received PERF's Leadership Award in 2016, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of law enforcement, and who exemplify the highest principles and standards of true leaders in policing on a national level.

Alonzo "Al"
Ansley, police chief for the city of Clarksville, has announced his retirement.
Ansley has served as



Al Ansley

chief of the Clarksville Police Department since 2007 and will officially retire from the position on June 30. An Alabama native, Ansley came to Clarksville after being stationed at Fort Campbell and began a career in law enforcement with the Clarksville Police Department 33 years ago. Ansley is largely credited with bringing the department into the digital age both administratively and technologically.

Willie "Butch" Borchert, a former state representative, died Jan. 7, at the age of 82. A native of Benton



Butch Borchert

County, Borchert was a retired pipefitter and retired owner of The Catfish Place Restaurant in Camden. Borchert also served as representative for State District 75, covering areas of Henry, Benton, and Stewart Counties, for eight years from 2003 until 2010. A state rest area on Highway 79 in Henry County was named in Borchert's honor for his community service.

Lisa Powers Cooper, director of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission's Consumer Services Division, died Jan. 3, after a brief

illness. A member of the commission staff for nearly 20 years, Cooper served as senior policy advisor and division director. Coo-



Lisa Powers Cooper

per is survived by her husband, former State Sen. Jerry W. Cooper of McMinnville, as well as a daughter and three step-daughters, five grandchildren, and two sisters. A statement from the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission said: "Her passing comes as a shock to us all and we will miss her bright smile and boundless energy sorely in our agency."

Kevin Fischer, director of parks and recreation for the city of Spring Hill, died Jan. 19, after a bat-



Kevin Fischer

tle with lung cancer. Fischer was 43. A native of Huntington, W.Va., Fischer graduated with a degree in parks and recreation management from Marshall University. He worked at the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation Department before coming to Spring Hill. An avid sportsman, Fischer was also a member of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) and the Spring Hill Kiwanis Club.

Karen Harper has been appointed as the new finance director for the city of Brentwood, taking over from Rich-



Karen Harper

ard Parker, who retired last month. Harper began her career with the city in 1996 as an accounting clerk. Within four years, she was appointed to the position of city treasurer, which she held for 20 years. She also served as the city's interim finance director in 2016. Harper earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University.

Craig Kirkpatrick, an alderman with the town of Rogersville, died Jan. 20, after hospitalization due to a serious ill-



Craig Kirkpatrick

ness. He was 61. Kirkpatrick was first elected to the Rogersville Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2013 and was hailed as the board's "voice of reason" by many of his fellow aldermen. Kirkpatrick was the owner and operator of Patriot Tire in Kingsport and was the husband of Hawkins County Register of Deeds Judy Kirkpatrick. Rogersville Mayor Jim Sells said of Kirkpatrick: "He was very good with all the boards he was on. He was very conscientious with what he was doing. He did things for the betterment of the town and for the citizens of Rogersville. He was just an all-around good fellow."

Bill Revell, former long-time mayor of Dyers-burg, died Jan. 13, at the age of 90. Revell served as

mayor of



Bill Revell

Dyersburg from 1980 until 2006, being named Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League in 1987 and served as president of TML. Revell served eight years as chairman of the Tennessee Local Governmental Planning Advisory Commission. He also served as president of West Tennessee Mayors, former president of the West Tennessee Mayor's and County Executives Association, former chairman of the Tennessee Local Governmental Planning Advisory Commission, a member of the advisory board of the National League of Cities, and was invited to be on the Advisory Board of the Great Lakes Trade Corridor. Revell continued to be active in the Dyersburg community after his 26 years as mayor, serving as the vice president of the I-69 Coalition.

George
Walker, the
late Collierville alderman and
prominent
businessman, will
have a bridge
in the town



George Walker

named in his honor. The Highway 72 overpass above the Norfolk Southern Railway line will be named after George T. Walker, who was Collierville's first African-American alderman and police officer as well as a prominent local business owner. A veteran of World War II, Walker opened the Walker & Sons Grocery Store in 1967 and in 1991 was elected as the first African-American alderman in town history. Walker was murdered on Dec. 9, 2001, in his Collierville store in a case that remains unsolved. He was posthumously named the Collierville Person of the Year in 2002. The town of Collierville put forth the request that the bridge be named in Walker's honor.

City officials receive certification



Municipal officials from across the state recently received their certification from the Tennessee Certified Public Manager® (CPM) Program, based in the Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership, an agency of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. In total, 19 staff members from city and county governments participated in the year-long training. Pictured above are the municipal officials who graduated from the program. From L to R: Laura Smith, Decatur city recorder; Scott Collins, Fayetteville city administrator; Denise Paige, TML government relations; Mike Foster, Rocky Top city manager; Lisa Piefer, Germantown procurement director; Jeff McCormick, Goodlettsville public services director; and Cameron Ross, Germantown economic and community development director.

Spencer joins MTAS as West TN accounting and finance consultant

Eric Spencer has joined MTAS as a finance and accounting consultant for West Tennessee.

A lifelong resident of Martin, he attended the University of Tennessee at Martin where he earned a bachelor of science in business administration/accounting and a master's of accountancy.

Spencer has more than 21 years of accounting experience in both public and private sectors. Most recently, he spent the last seven years as a controller at a privately held corporation in the online education/training industry.

Prior to that, he spent several



Eric Spencer

years with a CPA firm working on governmental audits and taxes.

Bartlett swears in new police, parks officials



The city of Bartlett recently swore in three new law enforcement officials and a parks official. From left to right: Mayor Keith McDonald, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Paul Wright, Inspector Chris Page, Chief Jeff Cox, and Assistant Chief Steve Sones. Chief Jeff Cox has been with the Bartlett Police Department since 1989 and has served as assistant chief since January 2019. Assistant Chief Steve Sones began his career with the Bartlett Police Department in 2001 while Chief Inspector Chris Page comes to the department after five years as a military police patrolman with the U.S. Army. Paul Wright began his career with the city's parks and recreation department in 2000.

No loan is too large or too small



Etowah recently closed a \$1 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a new city hall. Etowah has used TMBF loan programs 21 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Burke Garwood and City Manager Tina Tuggle. Standing L to R: Finance Director Alison Bull, and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.

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



East Ridge recently financed a \$132,748 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to purchase police cars. The city has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1992. Seated: Mayor Brian Williams. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative; Chris Dorsey, City Manager; and Diane Qualls, Finance Director.



STATE **BRIEFS**

Methamphetamine has overtaken marijuana for the first time since records began as the top substance Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) labs are asked to test for. The number of submissions for methamphetamine jumped by more than 2,500 between 2018 and 2019. At the same time, the number of submissions for marijuana dropped by almost 1,000 from 2018 to 2019, from 10,652 to 9,795 submissions. Submissions for methamphetamine jumped to 12,072 for 2019 — around 2,300 more than

Ava has returned to the top spot as the popular name for baby girls born in Tennessee while William managed to hold onto the top spot for male names for the 13th straight year. The Tennessee Office of Vital Records reported the top 10 most popular names for both genders in the state. Ava reached the top ranking in 2017, but fell to second in 2018. Ella is a new addition to the top ten for girls' names, knocking off Abigail while Wyatt is a new arrival in the boys' top ten, making the name Grayson fall off the list. The top female names were: Ava, Olivia, Emma, Amelia, Harper, Charlotte, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Isabella, and Ella. Top male names for 2019 were: William, Liam, Noah, James, Elijah, Mason, Oliver, John, Wyatt, and Jackson.

The state of Tennessee loses nearly \$25,000 per year per smoker, according to a new study published by personal finance website WalletHub. The site found that the state loses approximately \$24,930 a year per smoker in related costs. The state ranks fourth in the nation in health-care costs related to smoking with the average smoker costing \$124,689 per year in healthcare costs. The state also ranked ninth in out-of-pocket cost

per smoker (\$94,378) and financial opportunity cost per smoker (\$827,393). Tennessee also ranked tenth in the amount of income the average smoker loses - \$213,690.

Tennessee's first-year education commissioner plans to launch a new \$15 million literacy initiative, refocusing an issue championed under her predecessor. Tennessee Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn unveiled a \$109 million budget presentation aimed at increasing early grade literary in light of low and backsliding test scores in the state. Studies found that on the first day of high school only 27% of the state's students can read a textbook at proficiency. Across the state in 2018-19, about 34% of Tennessee's students in grades three through eight are proficient in the state's reading test. Eighth grade reading, however, trailed in 2019, with 27.1% of students reading on grade level.

Tennessee is the second-best state to drive in and has the best quality roads in the country, according to a new survey by financial planning website WalletHub. The quality of the state's roads led to its high overall ranking. The study found Tennessee has cheaper fuel and maintenance costs than most states and better than average roads and more access to car dealers. Tennessee also has less congestion than many other more populated states and fewer issues with weather-related potholes or storm damage. OverDrive magazine has rated Tennessee highways among the top five states in the nation for years, based upon surveys of truck drivers. Last year, the Reason Foundation ranked Tennessee No. 7 among all 50 states for its road conditions and cost-efficient state highway system, based upon data the states submit to the federal government.

Year-to-date revenues for five months \$351.1 M more than budgeted estimate

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration announced that state revenue collections for December were \$55.3 million higher than the budgeted estimate and 4.87% more than December 2018. On an accrual basis, December is the fifth month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Total revenues in December were \$55.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded revenues exceeding budgeted estimates by \$50.2 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$5.1 million more than estimates.

Year-to-date revenues for five months were \$351.1 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$292.3 million in revenues more than estimates, and the four other funds recorded \$58.8 million more than estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$19.6 million more than the estimate for December with a growth rate of 4.15%. For five months, revenues are \$123.5 million higher than estimated, and the growth rate is 5.54%.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$29.7 million more than the December budgeted estimate. Year-to-date revenues are \$151.8 million more than estimates, an increase of 17.75% compared to last year.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues increased by 6.76% more than last year and \$1.4 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$100.8 million. For five months revenues are \$31.2 million more than estimates.

Motor vehicle registration rev-

enues were \$0.9 million less than the December estimate, but on a year-to-date basis they are \$5.1 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$1.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$18.4 million. For five months revenues are \$3.1 million less than estimated.

Privilege tax revenues were \$3.1 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$23.3 million. Year-todate revenues for five months are \$21.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$1.2 million more than the December estimate and \$6.7 million more than estimates on a year-to-date

All other taxes for December recorded a net increase of \$2.6 million compared to estimates.

Tennessee Blue Book goes yellow to honor state's role in passage of 19th Amendment on anniversary

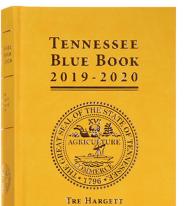
The 2019-2020 edition of the Tennessee Blue Book honors the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

Initially introduced to Congress in 1878, the 19th Amendment was not submitted to the states for ratification for 41 years. Only in 1919 did the amendment pass Congress, allowing it to be sent to the states to be ratified.

On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th (and final) state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment, thereby making women's suffrage legal in the United States.

Secretary of State Tre Hargett said the special "yellow" Blue Books show the importance of the event to both Tennessee and national history.

"This commemorative edition honors the steadfast efforts of Tennessee suffragists and the pivotal role Tennessee played in



The Tennessee Blue Book has a new look this year, going yellow in honor of the anniversary of women's suffrage.

ratifying the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," Hargett said. "It is fitting to dedicate our state's official historical reference, the Tennessee Blue Book, to this significant milestone."

The cover of the 2019-2020 Tennessee Blue Book is yellow, honoring the symbolic color of the national women's suffrage movement.

Published every two years, the Tennessee Blue Book is the definitive manual on Tennessee state government.

It features detailed information about all three branches of government, Tennessee state history, biographies of elected and appointed state officials, census data, election statistics, and more.

The 2019-2020 Blue Book, published by the Secretary of State's office, is available free of charge to any Tennessee resident through members of the General Assembly or the Division of Pub-

TN Comptroller's Office discovers 62 opioid prescribers with abnormal prescribing patterns

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has released a new report that examines the opioid prescribing patterns of Tennessee's doctors, nurses, dentists, and other licensed practitioners.

Comptroller researchers worked to identify prescribers whose patterns were "significantly statistically abnormal," and to investigate what disciplinary responses, if any, were taken by the licensing boards in response.

The Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) identified 62 prescribers for further investigation based on their 2017 prescribing patterns. It is important to note that identification by OREA for further investigation alone did not indicate inappropriate prescribing. Prescribing data can be used as a tool to find potentially inappropriate prescribing, but a fuller range of information is necessary to determine if an identified prescribing pattern is inappropriate.

Forty-nine of the 62 prescribers identified by OREA (79 percent) have not been disciplined by their licensing board since the start of 2017 and are not currently under investigation by the department.

Eight of the 62 prescribers identified by OREA received some level of discipline since the start of 2017, and the department is developing cases against the remaining five prescribers.

The report's key conclusions

For half (31 of the 62) of prescribers identified by OREA, no query had been opened by the Department of Health. This suggests that an area of potential improvement for the department is the monitoring of specific types of prescribing patterns, such as monitoring prescribers with a high number of patients on concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions.

Consultants play a significant role in determining the ultimate course of the Department of Health's investigations into prescribers. Consultants decide whether the department will begin an investigation and, after an investigation, whether discipline will be sought against a prescriber and the level of discipline that will be pursued. Of the 62 prescribers identified by OREA, queries opened by the department were closed for 16 prescribers based on a consultant's opinion, while six

prescribers reached a settlement with the department based on the disciplinary recommendations of a consultant.

From opening a query to receiving a ruling from a board, the disciplinary process can take years to complete. For example, four of the five prescribers whose cases are currently being developed by the department have been under investigation for at least two years and have not yet been brought be-

fore the relevant board. The report includes three policy considerations that address the Department of Health's use of data to identify potentially inappropriate prescribers and the role of consultants in determining whether to seek discipline against practitioners with potentially inappropriate prescribing patterns.

To read the report, please visit the Comptroller's OREA website at http://comptroller.tn.gov/orea

Lee highlights budget priorities BUDGET from Page 1 health services in all 95 counties.

"Funding BEP growth, 4% teachers raises, the Tennessee Teacher and Leader Institute, record investments in teacher recruitment, professional development, literacy training, and the K-12 Mental Health Trust Fund, our total new dollars invested in the future of public education in the coming fiscal year will equal more than \$600 million" Lee said.

Lee has also earmarked \$160 million for Higher Education capital improvements and \$70 million for capital maintenance projects on college campuses.

In the area of rural development and support, Lee's proposal includes:

- Economic Development Opportunity Fund - \$20 million to support site development, main-street development; and infrastructure assistance:
- Restructuring ECD's incentive package to companies who locate in the state's distressed counties;
- Broadband Expansion \$25 million to increase services in rural

- Office of Rural Tourism \$2.4 million for marketing efforts in rural Tennessee; and
- Health Care \$4 million for increased payments to rural health clinics and expand dental care through the Department of Health

Lee closed his speech with inspirational remarks, paying tribute to the leaders before him.

"As we celebrate the centennial of Tennessee's role in ratifying the 19th Amendment this year, I hope we remember this – the long arc of history remembers fondly when leaders do the right thing, especially when it's hard, especially when the politics of the day don't offer any rewards.

My hope is that history records that we were leaders who worked together, who stood firm in our individual convictions but who remembered that differences should not divide us. Rather, they challenge us to take the higher, harder road of understanding, respect, and common purpose.

God has given us great favor and blessed us with a great responsibility to affect positive change for our families, our communities, and our state. May we pursue the challenges before us with grace, humility, and courage. Some 6.8 million Tennesseans are counting on us to do just that. Let's make them proud. Thank you, and God bless the great state of Tennessee."



TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail. Send your updates to Jackie Gupton, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to jgupton@TML1. org, or call 615-255-6416.





CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ACCOUNTANT / ASSISTANT FI-NANCE DIRECTOR

GREENEVILLE. The town of Greeneville is seeking a professional with a CPA, CMFO, or achievement of such certification within two years. Municipal government finance accounting experience preferred. This is a career track to the finance director position. Bachelor's degree required. Salary DOE. Resumes will be accepted by email to pfuller@greenevilletn.gov or mail to Attention: Human Resource Director, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. An application will be required for full consideration. Click "Forms and Downloads" for the application. Opened until filled. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace

AIRPORT MANAGER

GREENEVILLE. The airport manager will serve as operations manager at the Greeneville Municipal Airport. Experience in budgets, planning, staffing, and economic development/improvements. Requires initiative, problem solving, positive customer service. Bachelor's degree in aviation or management with 5 yrs. of experience. Licensed pilot preferred. Application and job description available at www.greenevilletn. gov mail to ATTN: Human Resources, 200 N. College Street, Greeneville, TN 37745, or email to pfuller@greenevilletn.gov EOE / Drug Free Open until filled.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

COLUMBIA. The city of Columbia is seeking talented, qualified candidates to apply for the assistant finance director position. This position reports to the assistant city manager/finance director/city recorder, and interacts with elected officials, citizens and other staff members. The city operates on an annual budget of more than \$64 million, including an enterprise and internal services fund. This position will include tasks related to accounting, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, controls over financial reporting, debt management, cash management, grant compliance and billing, investments, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing card program, revenues, and budget management. The ideal candidate will meet the following education, experience and minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. A minimum of three years full-time professional employment in accounting, auditing, budgeting, or closely related financial activity. Other combinations of experience and education, which meet the minimum requirements, may be substituted. Licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience working with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) principles and/or Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) is preferred. Experience in supervision of paraprofessional and/or clerical staff. Qualified applicants should submit applications and resumes online by visiting the city's website at www.columbiatn.com. Position open until filled. EOE.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR/ **CITY TREASURER**

BRENTWOOD The city of Brentwood is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as assistance finance director/ city treasurer. The purpose of this job is to assist the finance director by performing managerial/financial activities associated with cash management, budgeting, and financial accounting/reporting for the city. Duties and responsibilities include: supervising department staff, directing accounting activities; managing receipt of revenues; approving disbursements; coordinating investment activities: implementing and maintaining cost controls; and assisting with budget development and related activities. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or closely related area, with prior experience in local governmental accounting activities, auditing, or related areas. Working knowledge of GAAP standards. Experience with governmental budgeting; analysis and reporting financial data. CPA or CMFO designation or ability to obtain within a reasonable time preferred. Prior supervisory/management experience required, preferably in a local government or related environment. Requires professional use of MS Office Suite with specific emphasis in MS Excel a must, and the efficient use of 10 key calculator and other modern office equipment. Interested parties can review a complete job description and apply for this position by visiting the city of Brentwood website at https://www.governmentjobs. com/careers/brentwoodtn. Deadline for accepting applications is Feb. 28.

ASSISTANT PLANNING DIRECTOR

COOKEVILLE. The Cookeville Planning Department is now accepting applications for assistant planning director. Responsibilities include assisting in the management of the planning department, which includes planning, zoning, subdivision regulations, and related areas. Assists in reviewing site plans, proposals, subdivision plats, rezoning requests, variance requests, annexation proposals, street construction; Represents the city and the department before all boards and commissions; Must possess required knowledge and abilities normally acquired through an M.A. in urban planning or related discipline and 4 years of city or regional planning related experience or an equivalent of education and experience. Must possess a valid TN driver's license. AICP Certification required or obtain within one yr. of hire date. Pay range \$58,718 -\$88,088 DOE Applications/resumes must be submitted online at www.cookeville-tn. gov. Position open until filled. EOE.

BUILDING/ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET The city of Mt. Juliet is currently accepting applications for a building/ electrical inspector in the building and codes Department. Applications must be filled electronically and are available at our city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov Detailed job description and requirements are available online. The city will accept electronic applications until the position is filled. Salary \$17.89/hr. and tops out at year three \$25.83/ hr. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

MAYNARDVILLE. The city of Maynardville, a general-law, manager-commission city located just 15 miles north of downtown Knoxville, is currently accepting applications for a city manager. The position is appointed by, and responsible to a five-member board of commissioners. The city manager is responsible for oversight of a budget of approximately \$3.3M and 19 FTE employees, including water and sewer utilities. Maynardville is a friendly town with an eye on the future. The next city manager must have highly developed problem solving, technical, project management, presentation, and public relations skills. For more information, visit www. mtas.tennessee.edu/sites/default/files/Jobs/ City%20Manager_Maynardville.pdf

GRANT WRITER

LAVERGNE. The city of LaVergne is currently accepting applications for a grant writer. Responsibilities include: researching various sources and seeking external funding for existing and proposed programs and/ or services; coordinating and overseeing the grant application and management process including: identification of potential new funding sources, writing grants, development of funding resources, collaborating on grant applications with various city departments and community organizations, and processing, monitoring and coordinating required report evaluations on existing grants. Additionally, the grant writer will provide support to the city administration and assist other departments as needed. Bachelor's degree in education, public administration, public relations, human services or related; 2 years' experience in grant seeking, grant writing, and grant administration or acceptable combination of relevant education and experience. Annual salary for this position will be \$35,384-\$41,001. Open until filled. To apply visit https://www.lavergnetn. gov/190/Job-Opportunities. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for parks and recreation assistant director. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in recreation administration or other acceptable field and moderate leisure service experience. Some experience in the management of a parks and recreational program/division, ideally in a county, municipal, or state setting is highly desired. CPRP is also highly desired. Starting salary is \$51,701.00 - \$61,456.25 annually DOE with an excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit a city of White House application. Applications and additional details on how to apply are available on the city's website at www.citvofwhitehouse.com or in person at the Human Resources Office at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. This position is open until filled.

PARKS AND RECREATION

DIRECTOR. LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of parks and recreation director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The director is primarily responsible for planning, directing, organizing, and administering the city's parks programs, including special events and other activities. Coordinates the maintenance and improvements of leisure facilities. Participates in the long-range planning of parks and recreational facilities and guides plan development. Updates boards and commissions on the status of programs and facilities, as appropriate. Supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance. Procures funding for recreation and parks facilities and programs from a variety of sources, including grants, donations and fund-raising activities. Hires employees under contracts with the city and monitors activities for contract compliance; coordinates activities and trains volunteers, staff, officials, instructors, and other personnel associated with recreation and parks programs; seeks public input on parks and recreational facilities, programs, and associated activities. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; three to five years of related experience and a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration or related field. Must have CPRP certification or obtain it within 12 months. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

PLANNING DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of planning director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The planning director is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and directing all planning and land development for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: advising and making staff recommendations to city boards, commissions and departments on planning and land development issues including interpretation, revision, implementation and enforcement of regulations and ordinances



At the Congressional City Conference, city officials will learn more about the common challenges affecting cities during workshops and general sessions. Conference delegates will get specialized training to build leadership skills and conduct productive meetings with federal representatives. For more information and to register, go to https://ccc.nlc.org/

Proposal to modernize NEPA implementing regulations

NEPA from Page 1

received more than 12,500 comments, which informed CEQ's proposed rule.

CEQ has found that the average length of an EIS is more than 600 pages, and that the average time for Federal agencies to conduct these NEPA reviews is four and a half years.

However, reviews for some projects have taken much longer. NEPA analyses are frequently challenged in the courts, and while federal agencies ultimately prevail in many cases, litigation can unnecessarily delay and increase costs for important projects such as needed transportation, water, and other infrastructure that benefit states,

tribes, and local communities. The increased costs and complexity of NEPA reviews and litigation make it very challenging for large and small businesses to plan, finance, and build projects in the U.S.

Modernize, Simplify and Accelerate the NEPA Process

• Establish presumptive time

Overview of key elements of the proposed rule

limits of two years for completion of environmental impact statements (EISs) and one year for completion of environmental assessments (EAs)

- Specify presumptive page limits
- Require joint schedules, a single EIS, and a single record of decision (ROD), where appropriate, for EISs involving multiple agencies
- Strengthen the role of the lead agency and require senior agency officials to timely resolve disputes to avoid delays
- Promote use of modern technologies for information sharing and public outreach

Clarify Terms, Application and **Scope of NEPA Review**

- Provide direction regarding the threshold consideration of whether NEPA applies to a particular action
- Require earlier solicitation of input from the public to ensure informed decision- making by Federal agencies
- Require comments to be specific and timely to ensure appropriate consideration
- Require agencies to summarize alternatives, analyses, and information submitted by commenters and to certify consideration of submitted information in the ROD
- Simplify the definition of environmental "effects" and clarify that effects must be reasonably foreseeable and have a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed action

- State that analysis of cumulative effects is not required under NEPA
- Clarify that "major federal action" does not include non-discretionary decisions and non-federal projects (those with minimal federal funding or involvement)
- Clarify that "reasonable alternatives" requiring consideration must be technically and economically feasible

Enhance Coordination with States and Localities

Reduce duplication by facilitating use of documents required by other statutes or prepared by state, tribal, and local agencies to comply with **NEPA**

Reduce Unnecessary Burdens,

- Facilitate use of efficient reviews (categorical exclusions (CEs), environmental assessments)
- Allow agencies to establish procedures for adopting other agencies' CEs
- Allow applicants/contractors to assume a greater role in preparing EISs under the supervision of an agency

Request for Public Comment

CEQ requests public comment on the NPRM. Comments should be submitted on or before March 10, 2020.

To submit comments:

Go to https://www.regulations.gov/ and follow the online instructions for submitting

- comments to Docket ID No. CEQ-2019-0003.
- By Fax: 202-456-6546
- By mail: Council on Environmental Quality, 730 Jackson Place NW Washington, DC 20503

Attn: Docket No. CEQ-2019-0003

Additional Information

NEPA applies to a broad range of Federal actions, including federally funded construction projects, plans to manage and develop federal lands, and federal authorizations of non-federal activities such as licenses and permits.

NEPA encompasses a variety of activities, including projects involving the construction of roads, bridges, highways, and airports, conventional and renewable energy production and distribution, electricity transmission, water infrastructure, and broadband deployment, as well as management activities on public lands.

Such management activities include leases and authorizations for energy production, mining, grazing, and other activities: management of national parks and forests; and environmental restoration projects.

Under the CEQ regulations, there are three levels of environmental review: environmental impact statements (EISs), environmental assessments (EAs), and categorical exclusions (CEs). Annually agencies prepare approximately 170 EISs and 10,000 EAs, and apply categorical exclusions to approximately 100,000 actions.

and the creation and implementation of development and growth plans; directs implementation of sign ordinance, zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, design guidelines, comprehensive plan and related plans and policies; provides strategic direction in short and long-range planning and growth management; researches, prepares and implements technical and operational studies, reports and projects; supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance; develops and implements the departmental operating budget and monitors costs to maintain budget integrity; evaluates and revises tracking procedures for development projects; makes presentations to boards, commissions, volunteers and other community groups. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; five to seven years of progressive planning experience and a bachelor's degree with a focus in Planning and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification required. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www. lakelandtn.gov/jobs

POLICE OFFICER

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is currently accepting applications for police officer. Applicants must have a high school diploma and must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Applicants must be a citizen of the United States, at least 21 years of age and meet the physical, psychological and criminal records and other standards for the assignment as established by the City of Fairview Police Department. Current Tennessee P.O.S.T. certification is preferred but not required. Starting salary is \$34,632 DOE with an excellent benefits package. Full job description and applications available at www.fairview-tn.org.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

MOUNT PLEASANT. The city of Mount Pleasant (estimated pop. 5,093) in Maury County is seeking a well-rounded individual with proven leadership skills to serve as the

city's next public works director. Strong interpersonal, organizational, supervisory, and decision-making skills required; ability to interact and communicate effectively with local, state and local officials and the public is required. Must be a team player who can work well with other city departments, the city manager, the commission, and outside agencies. An associate's degree is preferred or commensurate experience. At least five years in the profession with management and command experience. Send résumé and cover letter to: HR Director Sonya Pinkard, 100 Public Square, P.O. Box 426, Mount Pleasant, TN 38474, until filled. Or email to spinkard@mountpleasanttn.org. The position profile can be found at www. mountpleasanttn.org. All candidates must successfully complete a thorough background investigation, physical examination and drug screening. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. EOE.

TOWN PLANNER

THOMPSON'S STATION. Long tenured town planner has accepted a private sector position. Accordingly, the town of Thompson's Station is accepting applications for the position of town planner. Bachelor's degree required, related experience and AICP is a plus. Interested parties should apply through the town website, https:// www.thompsons-station.com/jobs.aspx. Resumes may also be sent to the Town of Thompson's Station, Attn: Steve Banks, 1550 Thompson's Station Road, W. Thompson's Station, TN 37179. Open until filled. Salary DOQ and attractive benefit package.

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Census 2020 count begins nationally in March!

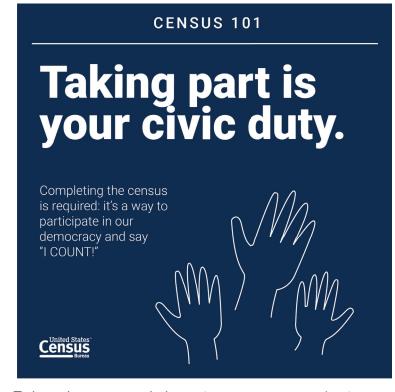
CENSUS from Page 1 in the years ahead for programs that help provide money for highway construction, food stamps, and health care for the elderly and the poor. Census data provide the bedrock on which formulas are based for distributing certain federal funds.

An undercount of just 1% of the population could have dramatic implications for state coffers. About 300 federal programs rely on census data to make decisions about the allocation of more than \$800 billion a year in funds.

Some mayors worried that mistrust of the federal government among immigrant communities will make it more difficult than in prior years to count residents. Although a question about citizenship will not be included on the 2020 Census, mayors said they still encounter hesitance by community members to participate.

In those instances, local governments could have the most well-crafted messaging about the importance of completing census forms, but residents will not believe the message if it is not delivered by a trusted community member, said James Diossa, mayor of Central Falls, R.I.

To dispel myths about



To learn how you can help, go to www.census.gov/partners

the census, he believes the best approach is to have influential. well-known community members knock on doors to talk to residents about how census data is and is not used.

Vanita Gupta, the president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, encouraged state and local governments to utilize such "trusted messengers" to explain to residents how

census data is safeguarded. Data collected by the bureau can only be used for statistical purposes and the bureau is barred from releasing any identifiable information about respondents to anyone, including law enforcement.

"The only way to overcome it is to repeat, repeat, repeat and then let people know what the infrastructure is to safeguard the census," Gupta said.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

More than three-fourths of U.S. mayors believe their cities are too car oriented, according to a recent survey about pedestrian and cyclist safety. The 2019 Menino Survey of Mayors conducted by researchers at Boston University interviewed 119 mayors across the country. The study found that 76% of mayors felt their cities were too car oriented. Additionally, nearly 40% said they believed travel is unsafe for pedestrians in their city while nearly half felt cyclists were at risk. However, mayors also seemed skeptical of expert reports that lowering speed limits would increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists with 77% saying they believe local speed limits are generally set at the right level. Additionally, 60% of mayors

believed that their city has the right amount of parking while 27% said their city has too little parking. More about the survey can be found at www.surveyofmayors.com

The U.S. saw its highest number of groundbreakings on new homes in more than a decade in December. Residential starts rose 16.9% to 1.61 million, the highest number in 13 years. The gain is also the biggest in three years though permits – which can help determine the number of future construction starts – fell 3.9% at the same time. Single-family home construction was at its highest rate since mid-2007 while permits for multifamily homes jumped to 29.8%, the highest since 1986. Year-over-year, the total number of new home construction projects rose just 3.2% between 2018 and 2019.

UT-MTAS Continuing Education Classes

Target Audience: All Municipal

8:30 a.m. -11:30 p.m. CST

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. CST

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. EST

Jackson

Knoxville

Mid TN (TBD)

Dates/Locations/Times:

Visiting the local library was the top cultural activity for Americans in 2019, outpacing going to the movies, watching live sporting events, going to live music events, or visiting historical parks and museums. A recent Gallup poll found that the average U.S. adult recorded 10.5 trips to the library in 2019. Women were twice as likely to report visiting the library with women logging 13.4 yearly library visits to men's average of 7.5. Men were more likely than women to visit casinos, sporting events, or visit national and historic parks. Younger Americans were also more likely to check out the library than older adults with adults 18 to 29 visiting the library more than all older age groups. Those with lower incomes were also more likely to visit the library than those with higher incomes.

To register for a course go to the

MTAS website at www.mtas.

tennessee.edu and select training

calendar under the "Training" tab.

You can pay upon registering with

a credit card or request an invoice.

Program Information:

Registraion Information:

Sarah Curtis, (615) 253-6385

Doug Brown, (865) 974-9140

doug.brown@tennessee.edu

sarah.curtis@tennessee.edu

TENNESSEE

Feb. 10: Covington Chocolate Tour

Don't miss this chance to tour Covington's Historic Square while tasting chocolate from local shops. For more information, visit the Covington-Tipton County Chamber of Commerce at www.covington-tiptoncochamber.com.

Feb. 22: Sevierville

Rose Glen Literary Festival The Sevierville Chamber of Commerce and King Family Library present the Rose Glen Literary festival on Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sevierville Convention Center. Celebrate authors and literature at this annual festival featuring book signings, workshops, and more. For more information or to buy luncheon tickets, visit http:// roseglenfestival.com.

Feb. 29-March 1: Clarksville 11th Annual Clarksville Home &

Garden Show

Check out the latest trends and technology in home improvement and speak with experts about projects. A perfect event for local homeowners. For more information, visit www.clarksvillechamber.com

March 4-7: Pigeon Forge

26th Annual A Mountain Quiltfest Celebrate the art and heritage of quilting at the 26th Annual A Mountain Quiltfest. Quilters from all around come together at the Le-Conte Center in Pigeon Forge for this five-day-long quilting event. Quilters have the opportunity to attend classes that are based on skill level and technique. There will also be a quilt show that displays a variety of quilts. The event will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. all days. For more info, visit https:// www.mypigeonforge.com/event/ quiltfest



Feb. 27 - 28, 2020 TMAA Winter Seminar Brentwood, TN

March 8-11, 2020

NLC Congressional Conference Marriott Wardman Park Washington, D.C.

March 16-17, 2020 TML Legislative Conference

April 1-3, 2020

DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville

TCMA 2020 Spring Conference Franklin, TN

June 27 - 30, 2020 TML Annual Conference Chattanooga Convention Center



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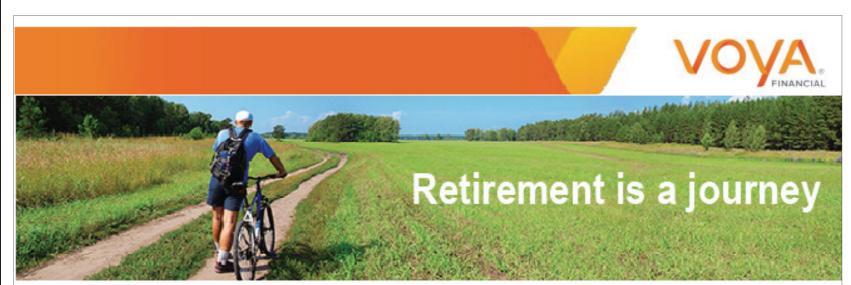
Employees

Feb. 12

Feb. 13

Feb. 20

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Community and Rural Development **Best Practices Series**

Comprehensive Façade Improvements Smithville

Smithville uses facade grants to help redevelop downtown

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES

jones-bridget consulting group

DeKalb County, is located on the Cumberland Plateau just south of Interstate-40.

The town and county are home to notable events and outdoor recreation destinations that are assets to the local economy. From the annual Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival held on the downtown square to nearby Center Hill Lake and the Appalachian Center for authenticity and local culture.

Local economic developers and elected officials value these assets and realize the potential in redeveloping downtown Smithville as the anchor destination to support the other economic drivers. Like many of Tennessee's rural small towns, Smithville's courthouse square had experienced the closure of longtime local businesses due to economic changes and the changing life cycles of businesses and property owners.

TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS **DESIGNATION**

In 2012, Smithville/DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce leaders identified the TNECD Tennessee Downtowns Program as a fit for their community's downtown development needs. Chamber leaders gathered broad community support DOWNTOWN SMITHVILLE to apply for the program.

The county's strong history of collaboration among local officials, community leaders, and local business owners in economic and community development efforts positioned the Chamber to submit a compelling application.

received the news of their selection chamber and jamboree. into the Tennessee Downtowns • county officials and a group of to add to the charm of downtown. technical assistance that positioned the community for broad-based buy-

PHASED APPROACH

As the committee began to research best practices and available resources, they developed a phased approach to guide their efforts. Between 2013 and 2022, the community will have created three phases of work that have supported impressive progress and the leveraging of local and state resources.

DOWNTOWN SMITHVILLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PHASE 1 FOR 2013 – 2015

- All downtown buildings to have inviting, attractive exteriors
- Promote the downtown business district to Center Hill Lake and Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree tourists and other unique visitors using banners, brochure racks at marinas, social media, and other marketing
- Promote downtown Smithville to locals through a "Shop Local" campaign
- Develop Evins Park to be used for outdoor concerts, performances, and other community events
- Provide 10 new directional/ way-finding signs to the downtown business district
- Create a new logo for downtown Smithville

Recruit community volunteers

media to continue the downtown committees and projects

Smithville, the county seat of DOWNTOWN SMITHVILLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN **PHASE 2 FOR 2014 – 2016**

- Complete downtown facade renovations with consideration to historical and architectural design.
- Develop new downtown events including music/art events, classic car shows, weddings at the open-air stage and boat shows to draw locals and visitors to downtown Smithville.
- Create additional downtown Craft, the county is recognized for its residential areas (loft and studio apartments, family apartments, etc.) by developing presently unused space in second stories and alley-
 - Set up committees for beautification, special events, marketing, and new business recruitment.
 - Create marketing materials for display at Center Hill Lake marinas, Edgar Evins State Park, Smith County Welcome Center, Highlands Welcome Center, local and regional chambers, and other venues.
 - Create new signage for downtown businesses.

Pursue new retail and service businesses for the downtown.

Develop "Shop Downtown" signage with new logo and display on high traffic areas on Highways 56

DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PHASE 3 FOR 2018 – 2022

- · Create an open space, recreation, and greenway advisory group to explore the possibility of more sidewalks, greenways, walking paths, and recreation.
- Develop a new Welcome/Vis-In 2013, Smithville leaders itors' Center with offices for the
- Beautification Committee Projprogram. A Steering Committee ects: new lampposts, benches, flowwas formed to lead the program's er pots/hanging baskets, improve efforts. Smithville city leaders, grassy areas and mulching flowers
- downtown stakeholders participated Create a Downtown History in TNECD-sponsored training and Walk to include the old cemetery, downtown history, Civil War marker, Main Street homes, Public Library, and other historical assets.
 - Develop outdoor kiosks to share information with visitors (county and lake maps, history walk and county brochures, demographics, and newcomer/tourism info).
 - Encourage property/business owners to keep up the visual appeal, general care, and maintenance of their buildings.

2013 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT **PROGRAM**

In the first two years of their Tennessee Downtowns program participation, the Smithville Downtown Steering Committee made great progress in accomplishing their Phase 1 objectives.

Their first priority was for all downtown buildings to have inviting, attractive exteriors. In order to accomplish this, the committee invested \$8,000 of the \$15,000 Tennessee Downtowns grant in a façade improvement project that created community support to improve 16 downtown properties.

During this first phase of façade improvements, the committee provided grants up to \$1000 and required a 50% match from property owners. The committee decided to select projects in one area of their square for maximum impact of grant and property owner investments. The response was phenomenal with through the Chamber and local 16 buildings improved and over

TNECD TENNESSEE DOWNTOWNS AND FACADE **IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

Downtown revitalization is a critical component of rural economic and community development. TNECD encourages revitalization of commercial buildings in downtown business districts through the Tennessee Downtowns program and the Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) programs. Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtowns program resources along with the CDBG Façade Improvement Grant program work together to help communities revitalize their downtown districts and create new businesses.

For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development



As part of Phase 1 of a three-phase process, Smithville and DeKalb County invested \$8,000 of the \$15,000 Tennessee Downtowns grant in a façade improvement project so that all downtown buildings have inviting, attractive exteriors. The grant funds and private investments were used to improve 16 downtown properties.

\$100,000 made in private invest-

2014 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT **PROGRAM**

In 2014, the community received funding through the TNECD Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) program to give property owners in the northwest section of the square an opportunity to apply for funds to improve their buildings. This block was prioritized; many of the properties were empty, unappealing buildings with old awnings, faded and peeling paint, and broken win-

The \$25,000 grant plus the 25% matching funds from each building owner would have made a big impact, but, as they had seen from earlier façade improvement efforts, local property owners invested much more than the minimum requirement. The final impact was estimated at more than \$75,000.

Applications were received by the design committee and awarded through the Tennessee Downtowns Steering Committee. Each subgrantee was encouraged to complete their project in 11 months or less and was reimbursed after both committees approved and confirmed the project's completion.

The Smithville-DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce managed the FIG and updated the downtown committees, DeKalb county executive, Smithville Board of Mayor and Aldermen regularly on the progress. Updates were also provided through the local media and the Chamber Chat TV and radio programs.

2016 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT **PROGRAM**

In 2016, the community received a second TNECD Façade Improvement Grant that provided property owners in other sections around the square an opportunity to apply for grant funds. The \$100,000 grant plus the additional 25% matching funds from each property owner provided larger grant amounts to tackle more

expensive building improvements. This project gave Smithville the opportunity to turn old, unappealing buildings into charming, well-maintained properties and helped to continue the momentum. Exterior improvements addressed needs including new paint, new canvas or metal awnings, new entries, new or refurbished windows, and repair of masonry and foundations.

The second FIG project allowed the community to complete a major portion of their 2014 – 2016 Phase 2 plan. The overarching goal to bring back the downtown's charm and increase excitement about the downtown business district was accomplished as residents saw the positive changes. The project motivated two additional property owners to complete seven projects for an additional \$52,730 in building investments. Additionally, in 2016, the city invested approximately \$240,000 in the downtown through paving streets, replacing water lines, and improving sidewalks.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Smithville, Tennessee Downtowns committees have systematically created an aesthetically-pleasing downtown that is encouraging new business development and stimulating the local economy. The property owners were committed to investing in the community development of the downtown knowing that the efforts would lead to economic development. The FIG projects gave the boost needed to get the downtown back on track to economic prosperity. The project also promoted community pride, provided the community with a visual identify, and reinforced a positive sense of community.

Today, Downtown Smithville is positioned to blend established businesses with a new mix of retail, services, restaurants, music and art venues, along with downtown residential living to help support growth in business revenues and extended business hours.

Between 2013 and 2018, Tennessee Downtowns and FIG recipients completed improvements that leveraged significant private and public investment. Smithville has completed a total of 64 building rehabilitation projects on 38 properties and realized over a 3:1 return on investment for private and state funding from the project.

2013 Façade Improvement Program (Tennessee Downtowns funding)

FIG Building Rehabilitations **Public Improvement Projects** 16 Buildings/16 Projects

(10 new directional signs to the downtown square, new public outdoor event space, new downtown logo) 18

New Downtown Jobs Created

New Downtown Businesses Created/Expanded (two gift shops, a new restaurant, a new salon, a new ladies clothing shop, a new beauty shop)

2014 Façade Improvement Program (FIG funding)

FIG Building Rehabilitations 12 Buildings/16 Projects **Public Improvement Projects** (repayed streets, replaced water lines, sidewalk improvements, street and directional signs)

New Downtown Jobs Created 10

New Downtown Businesses Created/Expanded

(two new salons, a ladies' clothing boutique, a gift and consignment store, a flower shop, an herb store, a specialty clothing store, a graphic advertising business, a new barber shop, and a new law office)

2016 Façade Improvement Program (FIG funding)

FIG Building Rehabilitations Privately-Funded Building Rehabilitations

20 Buildings/32 Projects 2 Buildings/7Projects

Public Improvement Projects

(Paving, repaired and resurfaced Courthouse entry/steps, city hall façade cleaning, new LED

lighting and LED outdoor Christmas trees, new Christmas decorations) New Downtown Jobs Created

New Downtown Businesses Created/Expanded 13

(a ladies' boutique, a new restaurant, a gift shop, a general store, a new barber shop, an antique store, a financial services office, and a new law office)

PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECT FUNDING

\$562,550 \$8,000

\$100,000

*Projections for state grant funding, property owners investments 2013 TNECD Tennessee Downtowns/Façade Improvement Grant 2013 Property/Business Owner Match

2014 TNECD Façade Improvement Program Grant \$25,000 2014 Property/Business Owner Match \$125,000 2016 TNECD Façade Improvement Program Grant \$100,000 2016 Property/Business Owner Match \$204,550

PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

Smithville/DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce Smithville Tennessee Downtowns Committee

City of Smithville DeKalb County Government

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

For project information, contact the Smithville/DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce.