



Key legislators to speak at TML Legislative Conference

Several key legislators will join us March 16-17, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Nashville for TML's 2020 Legislative Conference.

House Speaker Cameron Sexton, Senate State and Local Chairman Steve Dickerson, and House Local Government Chair John Crawford are among a host of speakers scheduled for the two-day event.

Also on the agenda are Comptroller Justin Wilson and TBI Director David Rausch who will update us on key issues taking place within their departments. We will also hear for the U.S. Census Bureau who will provide a timeline for the upcoming census and provide information on some on-line tools that are available to help each community with the count.

The conference is an excellent opportunity to hear state leaders address the municipal issues currently being debated in the Tennessee General Assembly. The schedule also allows ample time to attend House and Senate floor sessions at the Capitol and committee hearings taking place at the Cordull Hall Building.

It's not too late to register, TML has moved to an online registration process. The form can be used to register all officials, <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TML1/2020TMLLegislative-Conference>. A second form is available to register guests and spouses. Contact Sylvia Harris at sharris@tml1.org with any additional questions.



Cameron Sexton
House Speaker



Steve Dickerson
Senate State & Local Chair



John Crawford
House Local Chair

GNRC Unified Transportation Plan unites dozens of mayors across Middle Tennessee

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Mayors and municipal officials from across Middle Tennessee are coming together to support a new transportation plan aimed at alleviating congestion and preventing predicted gridlock on major roadways in the greater Nashville area.

The Unified Transportation Plan 2020 was created as part of the "Year of Transportation," an initiative seeking federal funding for mass transit and alternative transportation in the Middle Tennessee region. Created by the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), the plan has the support of 93 mayors in the region.

The plan involves studies of key corridors, including the southern Interstate 65 corridor, Downtown Interstate Loop (I-40, I-24, I-65), and incorporating local transportation plans and priorities, including the work currently underway across Metro Nashville and the greater Nashville area.

Research has already indicated if the area's current congestion and transportation issues are not dealt with the region could face complete transportation gridlock.

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore serves as chair of the Regional Council's Mayors Caucus, which develops the organization's annual policy and legislative priorities. Moore said the study of key corridors is aimed at regions that seem to be major sources of congestion that can lead to traffic issues further out.

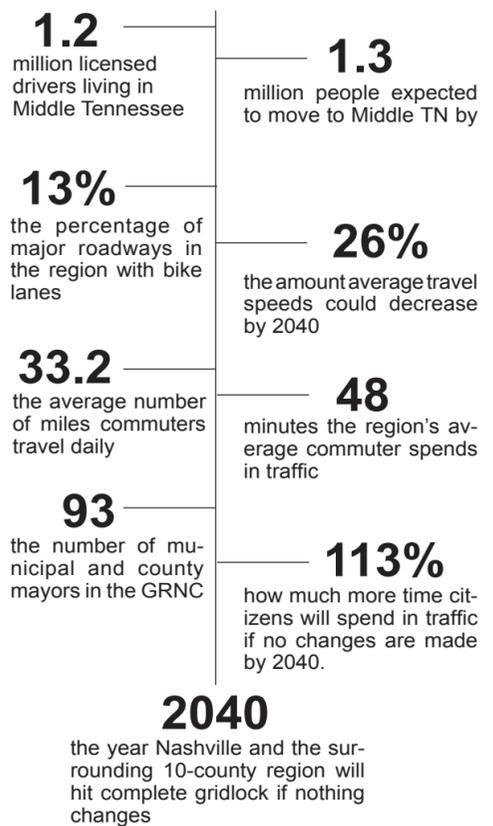
"We know that the major choke points happen to be the inner loop in Nashville," Moore said. "That is why both TDOT and the GNRC's Transportation Policy Board are studying that loop to see what solutions there may be. That would be a good start in solving some of the congestions and delays. There are some unusual things about the South Interstate 65 corridor that goes from Davidson County down through Williamson into Maury. The major difference between that corridor and others is that it has almost the same number of people leaving as it does coming in every day."

The plan also looks at how
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Research has already indicated if the area's current congestion and transportation issues are not dealt with the region could face complete transportation gridlock, which not only wrecks havoc on citizens' quality of life but it will greatly affect economic growth for the entire state.

Middle Tennessee Transportation Issues by the Numbers



Doing more, spending less with cloud computing

BY JOE HOWLAND
VC3 Information Security Officer

What if you could pay only for what you need when you want it? That'd be pretty nice, right? That's the power cloud computing can bring to your organization.

Technical Definition

Cloud computing utilizes off-site third-party resources to deliver computing services like applications, servers, and storage.

What Is Cloud Computing?

Think of your favorite entertainment streaming service, like Netflix. Remember what it was like before Netflix? You either needed to own individual movies or go to Blockbuster to rent them.

What's it like now? You can stream thousands of movies and tv shows whenever you want.

The old way of watching movies (owning hard copies of them) is a lot like on-premise computing services. You own your servers and purchase the key operational software you need to use. This setup requires office space for the servers and someone to install and manage the servers. Also, you may only use 25-50% of the full power of that server. This method can be inefficient in time and cost.

The alternative is cloud computing. And it's a lot like using Netflix. Replace the on-site server with cloud servers that you access through the internet.

What are the benefits?

Efficient Spending. You may only need a fraction of the power your server or servers can provide. So why buy 100% of something when you maybe only need 40%? Cloud computing allows you to buy what you need and use it when you need it. Sometimes, you can even save money by shutting down machines at night or other times of inactivity.

Predictable Budgeting. Instead of purchasing, installing, managing, and fixing your servers, you gain access to cloud servers for a monthly cost. This moves your IT costs from a difficult capital



expense to plan for to a manageable, budget-friendly operational expense.

Greater Access. Because you're using the internet instead of an onsite server, you can access your files and applications anywhere you have an internet connection. This is incredibly helpful for offices with remote employees or satellite locations.

Improved Flexibility. Without the burden of physical hardware, leveraging the cloud allows you to scale up and down based on employee count with ease. Get more licenses for key software, increase data storage, and more thorough digital replication.

Better Support. Onsite maintenance is no longer needed. Your internal IT staff or your IT partner is now able to perform routine maintenance, update software, and patch a greater number of servers faster. Cloud computing can also be helpful when it comes to cybersecurity. Your IT partner can deploy security measures faster and at greater breadth.

Takeaway

Cloud computing is to Netflix as on-premise computing is to your DVD library.

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

Kingsport takes proactive approach, builds coalition to address homelessness

By KATE COIL

When city officials began to notice an increase in the local homeless population, the city of Kingsport decided to take a proactive, data-driven approach to solving the issue.

While the city has several organizations that provide services to local homeless citizens, Kingsport officials felt more could be done to address the issue in the community. In the fall, Kingsport City Manager Chris McCartt, and Kingsport Police Chief David Quillin met with the United Way of Greater Kingsport board members to plan a way forward for homelessness outreach in the community.

The result was the creation of a new homelessness coalition to study the issue and the addition of two new positions with the municipality: a homeless liaison partnering with the local United Way chapter and a Kingsport Police Homeless Outreach Worker working with the city's police department.

Erin Gray, the new police homeless outreach worker with the Kingsport Police Department, will be working as "boots on the ground" to help the coalition gather more accurate statistics on the issue. Gray is a licensed master social worker with more than a decade of experience in the field.

Jonathan Anderson is the homeless liaison serving in partnership with the city of Kingsport and the United Way of Greater Kingsport. Anderson is the founder of Engage Tri-Cities and has 13 years of experience with local or-



The city of Kingsport has created two new municipal liaison positions and a coalition of city officials, community leaders, and nonprofit leaders already working to address homelessness in the region to tackle the issue. One of the project's first tasks is collecting data on homelessness in Kingsport to better connect people and services.

organizations in both Tennessee and North Carolina.

Anderson said the city and its partner organizations will be working with the homelessness coalition to find data-driven solutions to the issue. The coalition is comprised of a cross-sector of community members, community leaders, and non-profit organization leaders who will guide the city's approach.

"We want to determine the makeup of the homeless population," Anderson said. "We will be using different data from different organizations and agencies. We are looking at crime statistics, the Point-In-Time Count (PIT) numbers, and numbers from the school system. We are trying to gather as much data as possible and have as much of an education for our coalition before we move forward.

We are also looking at how our data compares to other areas in our region – and whether or not there is an increase in homelessness and what is causing it."

The annual PIT Count is conducted each January by the Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness (ARCH) through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2019, this data showed an average of 150 people in Kingsport experiencing homelessness. Of those 150 homeless citizens, 50 individuals typically have a shelter to stay at overnight, 46 are unsheltered, and 38 who are transitionally sheltered or between shelters – meaning two-thirds of the city's homeless population doesn't always have a safe place to stay at night.

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NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Budget, the first time the city has received the award. The city of Columbia also received the city's first Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award in July 2019 and the 21st consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA in August 2019. As the primary department designated to prepare the annual budget, the city's finance department will also receive a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation. The GFOA is a major professional association servicing more than 18,000 appointed and elected local, state, and provincial-level government officials, and finance practitioners. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

ELIZABETHTON

The city of Elizabethton has recently achieved Tennessee Main Street status, bringing the total of Tennessee Main Street communities to 37. Elizabethton has a historically significant downtown that it plans to improve through the Main Street program, encouraging new investment and entrepreneurship. The city, in conjunction with the Elizabethton Downtown Business Association, announced the hiring of a director for its Main Street program in October 2019. Elizabethton's Main Street application was supported by Sen. Rusty Crowe, R – Johnson City, and Rep. John Holsclaw Jr., R – Elizabethton, in the Tennessee General Assembly.

ERWIN

The town of Erwin is on track to open the city's first bark park this spring. Fencing and signs have already been installed at the dog park, which is located behind the Unicoi County Animal Shelter. The town is waiting for conditions to improve to install benches. The dog park was funded through a \$25,000 grant from the Boyd Foundation's Dog Park Dash grant program. The park will provide 1.5 acres of natural space for dogs with sections for smaller and larger animals. The property had previously been used as a brush dump. The park will be free and open to the public during daylight hours.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin has announced the top 10 construction projects the city anticipates for the coming year, including a new retail shopping center, the city's first all-inclusive park, a mixed-use development, and an addition to a local car dealership that will include a dog park. The city's \$31 million Albert Gallatin Avenue extension to State Route 109 will divert 12% of downtown traffic and is expected to be complete in 2021. The city also has been awarded \$700,000 to fund various sidewalk improvements, including from Browns Lane from Starpoint Drive to Nashville Pike. A \$375,000 drainage improvement project will include a 1,700-foot-long ditch and pipe network to alleviate flooding issues in the Belvedere and Lakeshore Drive areas. The 126-acre mixed-use Windsong development will feature 630 new homes and retail establishments anchored by a Publix grocery store while the Butler Properties retail shopping center will feature a McAllister's Deli and Moe's Southwest Grill.

The GreenLea Commons development will include two new restaurants, a dentist office, fitness center and daycare. The Mapco at Hunter Pointe will expand to include an outdoor flex area and event space, bicycle repair, and dog washing stations while the Learning Zone, a locally owned daycare, has plans to build a new facility in the Belvedere Drive area. The \$10.3 million Gallatin Subaru extension on 5.82 acres will not only create a 26,750-square-foot-dealership but also a dog park.

HENDERSONVILLE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center has announced the groundbreaking for a new 31,000-square-foot medical facility in Hendersonville. The clinic will offer adult outpatient specialty care along with limited pediatric specialty care and imaging services. The single-story facility will contain 40 clinic exam rooms, urgent care services, and imaging capabilities including CT, ultrasound, and X-ray. Vanderbilt expects the facility will require between 50 and 60 employees to serve in fields including women's health, pediatrics, adult primary care, orthopedics, imaging, rheumatology, walk-in care, and non-chemotherapy medical infusions.

HUMBOLDT

The city of Humboldt has recently achieved Tennessee Main Street status, bringing the total of Tennessee Main Street communities to 37. Humboldt successfully participated in the 2016-18 round of the Tennessee Downtowns program, focusing on rebranding its downtown and celebrating its longstanding strawberry festival. Humboldt officials selected areas of their downtown cores where the program will focus on historic preservation, community events and economic revitalization. Humboldt's Main Street application was supported by Sen. John Stevens, R – Huntingdon, and Rep. Curtis Halford, R – Dyer.

KNOXVILLE

The Knoxville City Council recently approved a \$1.6 million new sidewalk project in East Knoxville that will remove and replace 35,000 square feet of sidewalk in 32 areas of the city. The Wilson Avenue Sidewalk Project will construct 1,500 linear feet of new sidewalk with a curb and drainage system along the north side of Wilson Avenue, connecting existing sidewalks between the corner of South Chestnut Street and South Harrison streets. Recently completed work in the vicinity created about 1,300 linear feet of sidewalk along nearby South Castle Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and the entrance of Claude Walker Park. The Wilson Avenue Sidewalk Project will also involve installing two concrete pads for future bus shelters on Knoxville Area Transit's Burlington Route 34.

MCEWEN

Gorman Woodyard LLC will expand its operations in McEwen, investing \$1.5 million and creating 46 new jobs in the next five years. Gorman Woodyard is a wood chipping company based in McEwen that provides wood for several paper mills, including Hood Container in Waverly. The company plans on expanding its current operations in McEwen and adding new equipment to keep up with growing demand.

MEMPHIS

Two Memphis landmarks have been added to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail: the WDIA Radio Station and Beale Street Historic District. WDIA Radio was the first radio station in the country programmed entirely for African Americans. Efforts to break down racial boundaries pushed WDIA Radio to the top of the charts, both on the air and in the Memphis community. The Beale Street Historic District is a National Historic Landmark. The 15-block area was a hotbed for several African American businesses, a Freedman's Bank, the headquarters of Ida B. Wells' anti-segregationist newspaper, "Free Speech," and churches after the Civil War. African Americans came to work, entertain and be entertained, shop and strategize during the Civil Rights Movement.

NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville set another tourism record in 2019 with 16.1 million visitors coming to the city over the course of the year. Events like the NFL Draft and the city's New Year's Eve party are credited for the 6% increase in tourism over 2018 when 15.2 million people traveled to the city. Nashville's hotel room sales were similar to those in Tampa and Philadelphia and exceeded sales in New Orleans, San Antonio, Charleston, and Austin, according to the Visitors Corp. The top states where tourists visited from include Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, California, Illinois, Alabama, Ohio, Georgia, Texas, and Indiana. The number of Nashville hotel rooms has grown to 33,200, up from 30,600 in 2018. More than 5,000 rooms are under construction and more than 9,600 are in the final stages of planning. Another 17 hotel projects are expected to open in 2020 and 18 opened in 2019.

NASHVILLE

Genesco, Inc., will expand its operations in Nashville, creating 60 new jobs and investing \$31 million in the next five years. Genesco will be relocating to 535 Marriott Drive in Nashville, where it is expected to occupy approximately two-thirds of the existing 310,000-square-foot facility. The company's expansion will be complete by 2021. Genesco, founded in Nashville in 1924, is a retailer and wholesaler of footwear, apparel, and accessories. The company operates under several retail brands including Journeys, Johnston & Murphy, Schuh, and sells at wholesale under the Johnston & Murphy and Trask brands and the licensed Levi's and Dockers brands. Genesco operates approximately 1,490 stores throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, and employs approximately 21,000 employees worldwide.

SEVIERVILLE

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) has purchased a property known as Dumplin Creek near Interstate 40's Exit 407 in Sevierville. The tribe paid \$13.2 million for 198 acres of commercial property and is considering many options for the property, including a resort, several branded hotels, retail outlets, and a hotel with convention space. Development of the 198-acre property will be handled by the new Kituwah LLC, which was created by the EBCI to conduct business on behalf of the tribe. The tribe has already developed a resort hotel and casino on its property across the state line in Cherokee, N.C., and is also working to develop a similar property near Bristol, Va.

SHELBYVILLE

Newell Brands will expand its operations in Shelbyville, creating 115 new jobs and investing \$11 million in the next five years. The consumer goods manufacturer will expand into a 211,000-square-foot facility in Shelbyville. Newell Brands is a leading manufacturer and distributor of consumer goods including appliances and cookware, writing products, home fragrance and more. Newell Brands and its subsidiaries currently employ more than 1,000 Tennesseans across the state.

SMYRNA

The Smyrna Fire Department (SFD) recently received a grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to purchase three Mobile LED Light Towers. Smyrna Fire and Police Departments plan to use the lighting when responding to a variety of incidents. Appropriately lighting the scene allows personnel to respond effectively and to alert citizens—particularly motorists—that personnel are on the roadway. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Its mission is to impact the lifesaving capabilities, and the lives, of local heroes and communities. This is the second grant SFD has received from the foundation. In 2011, the city was awarded \$8,516 for the purchase of four gas monitors to have on every front-line apparatus.

TVA donates brush truck to New Johnsonville FD



TVA Johnsonville Combustion Turbine Plant Site Manager Mike Parker, left, hands the keys of a donated fire truck over to New Johnsonville Fire Chief Dale Allen, right. The Tennessee Valley Authority recently donated the former Johnsonville Fossil Plant fire brigade brush truck to the city of New Johnsonville and New Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Department. The truck was used by the Johnsonville Fossil Plant's fire brigade, but after the fossil plant was retired, TVA officials decided to donate the truck to the local fire department. The truck will still continue to serve TVA, however, as the department's coverage territory includes the TVA Johnsonville Combustion Turbine Plant.

Collierville official, arts council honored at local chamber awards



Collierville Vice Mayor Maureen Fraser and the city's arts council were lauded at the Collierville Chamber's 2019 Excellence in Business Awards. Fraser was honored as the "Person of the Year" while the Collierville Arts Council was named the "Non-Profit of the Year."

Dayton purchases new fire truck



The city of Dayton recently unveiled its newly purchased fire truck, Tower No. 1. The new truck will be stationed at the Dayton Fire-Rescue's Station No. 2, whose service area includes the local industrial park.

Fayetteville PD K-9 team completes training course



K-9 Officer Bryan McCrory and K-9 Omen of the Fayetteville Police Department are pictured with Madison County, Ala., Deputy Craig Wells after completing an 11-week course at the William C. Wells Training Center. The team is now certified to U.S. Police Wells Association standards as a dual purpose team.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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GNRC Unified Transportation Plan unites dozens of Middle TN mayors

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many of these same routes could benefit from alternative transportation.

"This study is looking specifically at I-65, Highway 31, and the CSX rail lines, which are potential route options for us," Moore said. "This helps us paint a vision for the future, what potential there is, potential stops for mass transit, and some potential funding options. I don't think we want to leave anything off the table at this point. There are some things that might be more attractive to us."

If nothing changes, Moore said the region's continued growth could be impacted.

"In our corridor, there will be more than half a million people in Williamson County by 2045," he said. "The last transportation plan we had showed that we would be at complete gridlock by 2040 if nothing changed. Now we are looking toward 2045 and those growth factors continue to indicate a lot of positive growth, a lot of job creation, and a great economy. All of those things could come to a halt if we don't solve this transportation problem."

Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown said her community faces similar issues on transportation routes that travel south into Nashville.

"Within the city of Gallatin, there are two things our residents complain about most," she said. "There is an increased amount of traffic in our city, and it takes longer to get across town than it once did. The second is the commute time to Nashville, which is a serious concern. We have proposed a Northeast Transportation (NET) Corridor. The idea of that is to widen Highway 386 because it is gridlocked every morning and afternoon, provide a northern loop in Gallatin that is connected to Highway 31, and take a four-lane road up through the northern part of Sumner County to the state line. We feel that is very important to our entire county. We also have the Highway 109 connector, which will change traffic for us and for Nashville. That will allow a lot of freight traffic to take an alternative route around Nashville."

Moore said changing technology may help provide some solutions to the region's transportation woes.

"Technology is changing very rapidly," he said. "Things like Smart Corridors and autonomous vehicles can be part of the solution moving forward. With all of the options we have, we still have to change some of our habits. It's estimated 95% of the cars on our high-

ways only have one person in them. We can help our congestion now if there were more opportunities to carpool, even a few days of the week. Vanpools can be great options because if people work at one place they can ride share or share in the cost of the van, which is very economical."

Brown said the plan looks into several options that rely on new and emerging transportation technology.

"We are also looking at options like a transit lane or a lane for autonomous vehicles," she said. "The reality of where we are in Middle Tennessee is that we will have new technology on the roads before we have the funding for those transit projects. That reality is going to impact what our future transportation networks

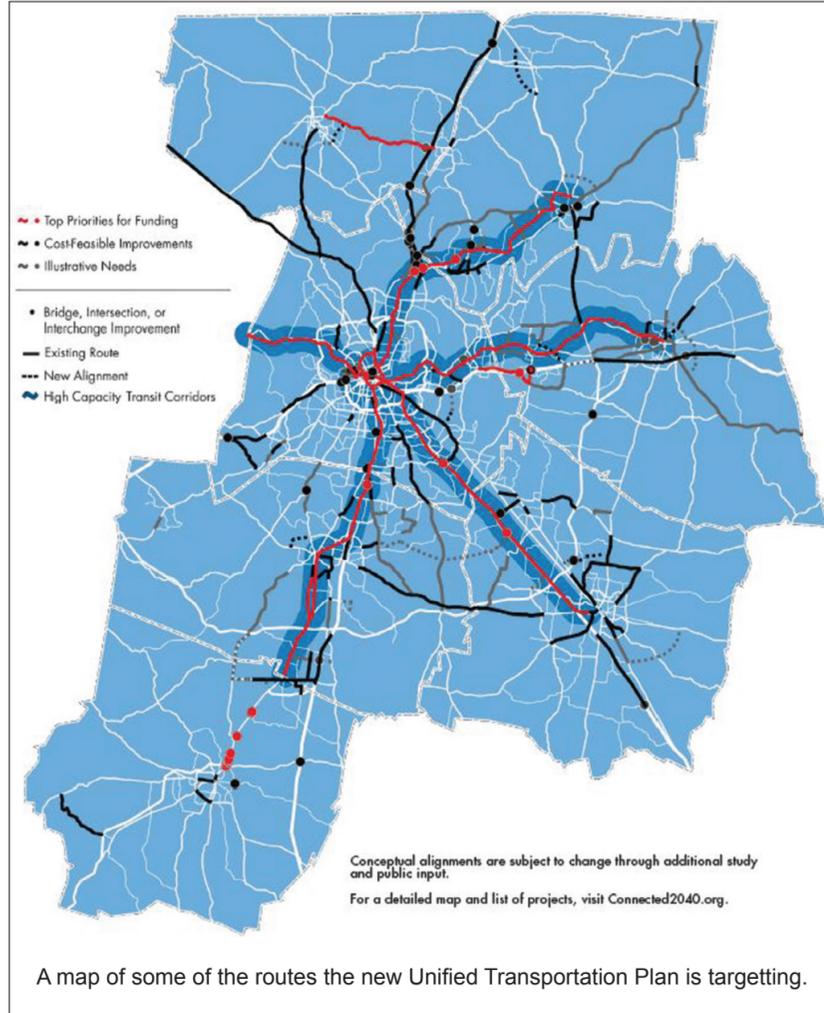
look like. Other parts of the country are using a lot of technology that we aren't using here. There are also toll lanes where you pay based on traffic to get into the lane. The rate fluctuates based on the intensity of traffic when you're using it."

These new technologies may also benefit those who prefer more old-fashioned methods of travel.

"Some people are so excited for whatever technology might bring and would love to have public transit," Brown said. "There are other people who will hopefully understand that those options will make it easier for them to drive their car into Nashville. You can't pave your way out of traffic. There has to be another solution. That is why I like so much of this plan because it does touch on some of the other needs we have to make our traffic run more effectively."

Overall, the solution to the area's congestion will require support from the entire region.

"The whole region is growing, and it's not just one corridor that has traffic issues," Moore said. "That's why the Mayors Caucus



has worked so closely together. The cooperation has been there, but I think it is more evident now. We are trying to promote the fact that we are all in this together and the only way to solve this is by working together. I think there is a lot of positive alignment from a lot of different areas to move transportation solutions forward."

Likewise, citizen input and buy-in will be important moving forward.

"Citizens are going to have to work with us," he said. "We have no dedicated funding at this point, which can scare people. There was a failed referendum in Nashville. We have to have some source of dedicated funding to pay for what we are going to do to solve this. That is important for us to work together as a region and in our communities build support for dedicated funding in the future. There has to be a revenue stream for things we do as cities and counties. You can't keep the same revenue stream you had 20 years ago. Our cities are very frugal with taxpayer dollars, but if you are growing at the pace we are it

does take revenue to provide service at a top level."

Brown said, if left unchecked, the transportation concerns in Middle Tennessee could even have a greater impact than realized on the state as a whole.

"Everybody in this region is experiencing the same issues," Brown said. "That is why this consolidated plan has to happen. Roads don't stop at city lines or county lines, and traffic is the biggest issues we are all facing. We have to have a solution and that solution has to be regional. We know that none of us can do it alone. It's not just a Middle Tennessee issue; it's a state issue. Middle Tennessee is an important economic engine for Tennessee, and when your congestion starts to negatively impact your economy it becomes a state issue. This plan is going to help holistically alleviate a regional issue. You have to look at the big picture."

Town of Smyrna Mayor Mary Esther Reed, who chairs GNRC's Transportation Policy Board, said the planning process comes at a crucial time for a region that has

reached a tipping point with traffic.

The organization launched www.solvehistogether.org as a resource center for government officials and the public during the process. The public is encouraged to visit the site to learn more about ongoing studies, upcoming meetings, and other ways to get involved.

"We can't ignore our transportation challenges any longer," Reed said. "Past initiatives have fallen short in communicating the importance of a multi-county approach or to get broad enough buy-in from Middle Tennesseans. The process for the Unified Plan will be collaborative, and our job is to work alongside TDOT to bring people together across the region to solve these problems."

Nashville Mayor John Cooper also recently announced the Mayor's Office and Department of Public Works has kicked off a comprehensive evaluation of traffic management operations throughout Metro Nashville. An assessment of Metro's traffic and signal management system, a modern traffic control center, and staffing required to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety for all traffic will be performed.

"Nashville's traffic problems need smart, 21st century solutions, and smarter traffic management is low-hanging fruit to improve congestion on our roadways," Cooper said. "There's no good reason that our drivers should be spending 20% more than the national average commuting. I'm confident that my transportation team, led by Faye DiMassimo, and Metro Public Works will determine a right-sized traffic management solution for Nashville."

The assessment will compare the region's traffic to similar areas including metro Atlanta; Los Angeles; Anaheim, Calif.; Orlando, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Denver, Colo.

"We are working to build a Nashville for everyone and establishing equity in our transportation and infrastructure systems is crucially important," Cooper said. "Folks need to be able to reliably get to job opportunities and other resources. We also know that traffic for people trying to get in and out of downtown Nashville is unpredictable, creating problems for the entire region. We need everyone's voices at the table to ensure equitable solutions."

For information about the Unified Transportation Plan or how to get involved with it, visit www.solvehistogether.org.

Kingsport takes proactive approach to homelessness

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Anderson said the city's new homelessness coalition is working to determine both what services are being provided in the community, if homeless individuals are receiving services that best address their specific needs, and what services are still needed. One of the goals for the project is a coordinated entry-system, which will make it easier for homeless individuals to connect with the programs that are right for them.

"That will cut down both on struggles clients are having and streamline processes for local agencies, giving them more time to assist clients," Anderson said. "We know we have issues with mental services and needs with addiction and recovery services. We are trying to figure out specifically where those gaps are and how to address them moving forward."

Homelessness is an issue that touches citizens from all walks of life. A report issued in January 2018 found that the state of Tennessee had an average of 6,139 residents experiencing homelessness on any given day. Of those more than 6,000 people, some 1,744 were entire family households, 742 were military veterans, and 485 were young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

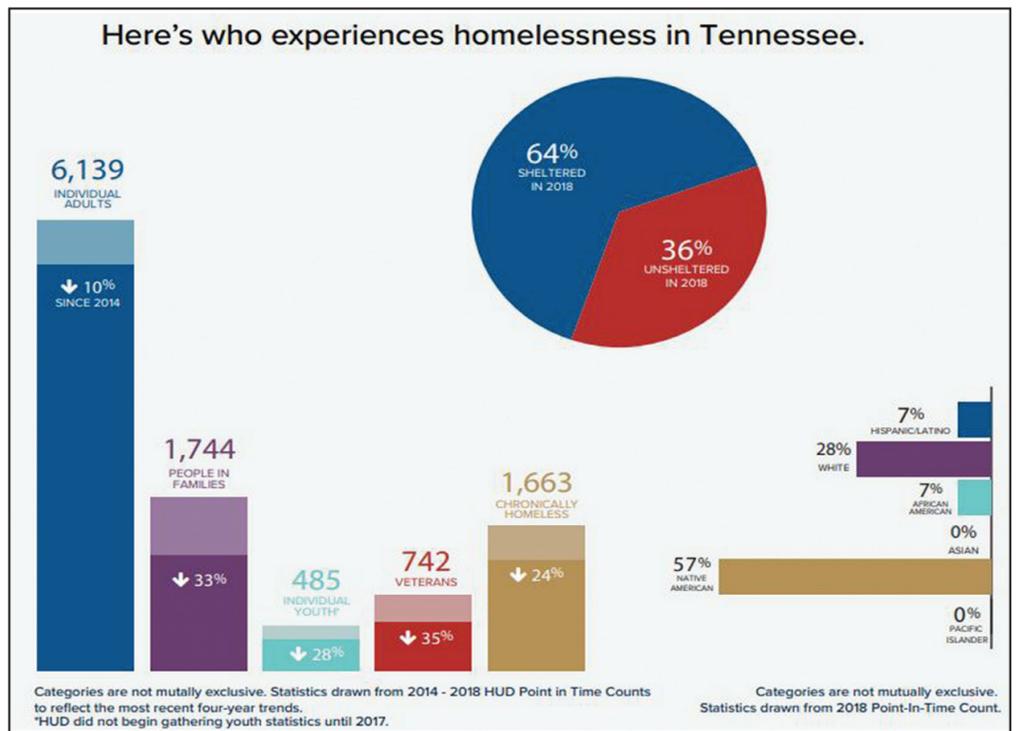
Anderson said it is also important to realize that homelessness isn't an issue confined to major metro areas.

"Unfortunately there isn't a one-size fits all solution for homelessness," he said. "With smaller communities there may be a homelessness problem, but it may not be as visible. In more rural communities, people aren't as centrally located so it isn't always something you can see. I think we have always had

an issue of homelessness in smaller cities, but it may be a situation where an individual family might help a homeless person or family rather than it being a very visible community issue."

In addition to the United Way, organizations including the Salvation Army and Family Promise, Frontier Health, Safe House, Hope Haven, Friendship Diner, Kitchen of Hope, Hunger First, Shades of Grace, and nearly 30 other organizations already providing homelessness services to the community will be working with the city as part of the project.

"We have a lot of great organizations in our city, and I want to assist them moving forward as a team," Anderson said. "We already have a lot of great communication across the board, but we need to think about how we can improve that. We have to help them better track those numbers so we can see what programs are working better than others. We want to see a greater increase of folks getting off the street and into housing. There are no quick fixes to this issue. You have to be slow and steady to see progress over time."



A recent study of Tennessee's homeless population found that 6,139 Tennesseans are homeless on any given day of the year. Of these people, more than a third have no shelter during the night. Some of the largest groups of the homeless population include military veterans, family units, and young adults.

WAUFORD

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



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bob Browning, town administrator for Jonesborough, has announced his retirement. Browning has served three stints



Bob Browning

as the town administrator, first in 1978 and beginning his most recent term in 2001. Browning intends for his last day to be June 30, but said he will continue consulting with the city for ongoing projects such as the Jonesborough School project and Jackson Theatre. During his tenure with the town, Browning has also been credited for facilitating projects such as improving the wastewater treatment plant, creating the new senior center, and the look of downtown Jonesborough.

Amy Fitzgerald, government affairs and information services director for the city of Oak Ridge, has been appointed by the Secretary of Energy to the U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB). The EMAB provides advice and recommendations to DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management on the complex issues facing the program. Fitzgerald holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University as well as a master's degree in public administration and a doctorate in political science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She held research positions at the University of Tennessee's Energy, Environment, and Resources Center and at the Vanderbilt Institute



Amy Fitzgerald

for Public Policy Studies. **Mildred Garrett**, a recreation programmer with the city of Cookeville Department of Leisure Services, has retired after more than 35 years with the city. Garrett's career in local government stretches back to 1979 when she was hired by the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Department to teach arts and crafts at the West End Community Center in Cookeville. When the county and city divided recreation services in 1983, she became a city employee but continued working at the community center. In 1987, Cookeville developed its own leisure services department, at which time Garrett moved to city hall. Garrett then worked for the city for the next 37 years, planning and presenting a variety of classes, programs, workshops and events for the community.

for Public Policy Studies.

Brian Hercules, Smyrna town manager, has been appointed to serve on the TriStar StoneCrest Hospital Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees' primary responsibility is to develop and follow the hospital's mission of being committed to the care and improvement of human life. The board is also responsible for assessing physician credentialing, as well as quality of services provided by all individuals who perform duties at TriStar Stone-



Mildred Garrett



Brian Hercules

Crest or under the board's sponsorship. Hercules has been town manager of Smyrna since 2018.

Keith McCafferty has been named the new public works director for the city of Mt. Pleasant. McCafferty will take over from Donald Groves, who left the position in October. McCafferty comes to Mt. Pleasant from the city of Columbia, where he served as the chief operator of the wastewater plant. He holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Middle Tennessee State University, and has multiple certifications ranging from leadership theory and managing change to extensive training in public utilities, water and wastewater treatment and pre-treatment.



Keith McCafferty

Bettye Scott, the first woman elected to the Gallatin City Council, died on Jan. 20, at the age of 80. Known as a trailblazer as well as an outspoken and staunch protector of taxpayer money, Scott served on the Gallatin City Council from 1962 until 1970 and again from 1986 until 1992. A Gallatin native, Scott helped to further develop Gallatin's park system and was instrumental in many decisions that helped advance growth throughout the city.



Bettye Scott

Garrett named House Whip

House Republicans elected State Rep. Johnny Garrett, R-Goodlettsville, to serve as Republican Whip for the 2020 legislative session.

As Republican Whip, Garrett is the fourth ranking officer in the House Republican Caucus. He will serve as the information channel between membership and caucus leaders. Garrett is also in charge of providing communication to membership related to caucus positions on legislation. He will work with members to understand their position related to legislative initiatives and communicate all information obtained to House Republican leadership.

Garrett joins a leadership team that also includes House Speaker Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville; Speaker Pro-Tempore Bill Dunn, R-Knoxville; House Majority Leader William Lamberth, R-Portland; Republican Caucus Chairman Jeremy Faison, R-Cosby;



Rep. Johnny Garrett

Assistant Majority Leader Ron Gant, R-Rossville; Republican Floor Leader Paul Sherrell, R-Sparta; Freshman Leader Chris Todd, R-Madison County; Republican Caucus Vice-Chairman Brandon Ogles, R-Franklin; Majority Secretary Clay Doggett, R-Pulaski; Majority Treasurer Mark Cochran, R-Englewood; and Deputy Speaker Curtis Johnson, R-Clarksville.

Fatal accident injures Sevierville employees returning from event

A van transporting several city of Sevierville employees and their relatives was struck by a tree on Feb. 8, killing a Sevierville elementary school teacher and injuring four city workers.

The accident occurred on Wears Valley Road near Heaven Road in Blount County during heavy rains.

"The van was returning from an American Public Works Association meeting in the Townsend area when the tree fell on the van, causing extensive damage," Sevierville spokesman Bob Stahlke said in a statement. "Rescuers had to extract some of the persons from the van."

The one fatality from the accident was Brooke Sampson, 36, who died later at Blount Memorial

Hospital from her injuries. In addition to teaching fourth grade at Sevierville Intermediate School, Sampson was the wife of Sevierville municipal employee Michael Sampson.

City employees Bob Moncrief, Nathan Raulston, Joseph Dodgen, and Eldon Denney were all transported from the scene as well. Two other employees in the van were not hurt.

"The city of Sevierville asks that your thoughts and prayers be with Michael Sampson and his family, and the families of the injured employees," Stahlke said. "We respectfully ask for your understanding as we grieve as a city family at this time."

Smyrna Police Department hosts pinning ceremony for six new officers



Smyrna Police Department (SPD) recently hosted a ceremony pinning six new officers. The pinning ceremony is the culmination of an intense officer training period, including 12 weeks of in-residence training at The Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy and 16 weeks of internal training with SPD. From left to right, Captain Jeff Dwyer, Officer Brandon Kilfoyle, Officer Cole Lewis, Officer Ernest Carr III, Officer Alex Watlington, Chief Kevin Arnold, Officer William Charbonneau, Officer Matthew Richert, Officer Khang Pham, and Dispatcher Elizabeth Hennegar.

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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.



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.

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STATE BRIEFS

Only half of Tennessee parents talk with their children about substance abuse according to a new youth survey conducted as part of the TN Together initiative. The first-ever Student Survey conducted by the initiative found that parents are a valuable influence on their children's decisions whether or not to use substances and can have the most impact by discussing these issues with children in early middle grades. Approximately half of students surveyed said their parents had talked to them about tobacco and other drug use, but only about a third had discussed the dangers of prescription drug misuse. Across all substances, the average age of first use was 13 to 14 years old. Alcohol is the most frequently used substance among youth with 40% of students saying they have consumed it. Students reported alcohol and tobacco products were the most accessible substances with around two-thirds saying they could easily obtain either. Approximately half of students said it was "very easy" or "fairly easy" for them to gain access to prescription drugs or marijuana.

More than 90% of Tennesseans used seat belts in 2019, a record-high in seat belt usage for the state. The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) reported that 91.75% of state residents used seat belts in 2019, increasing from 90.9% in 2018. This marks the second year the state's usage rate surpassed 90 percent and the second year the state's usage rate exceeded the national average. Female occupants used seatbelts at higher rates than male. Those in pickup trucks were the least likely to use seat belts. Data for the survey was collected at 190 pre-identified roadway locations across the state.

The state of Tennessee ended 2019 with an unemployment rate of 3.3%, just 0.1% above the state's all-time low unemployment rate. December 2019 unemployment rates were the same

as unemployment rates reported in the state in December 2019. The highest job gains were reported in sectors including leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and trade, transportation, and utilities. The state's unemployment rate was below the national average of 3.5% for December.

A new mobile app is making it easier for Tennesseans to access state government services. "MyTN" is now available for download from the Apple and Android store. Citizens will be able to access the services including renewing or getting a duplicate driver's license, renew a handgun carry permit, upgrade to a graduated driver's license, get hunting and fishing licenses, register boats, use the Tennessee Felony Offender Information Lookup (FOIL) or Child Abuse Referral and Tracking (CARAT), get information on Pick Tennessee products, info on the state museum, and use Kidcentral TN. Additional services will be added to the MyTN mobile app this year.

Child sexual abuse is on the rise in Tennessee according to a new report by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Our Kids, an agency that partners with TBI to treat child sex abuse victims, reported that they treated 940 children in 2019, their highest patient volume in a single year to date. Of those children, 95% were abused by someone known and trusted by their family—including family members. One in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18. However, 88% of child sexual abuse incidents are never reported. Children are most likely to be abused by someone unknown to the child but known to other relatives (43%) followed by a biological parent (38%) followed by another relative (13%). Child abuse can be reported via the Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline at 1-877-237-0004. The hotline is available 24/7.

Nominations being accepted for Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards

Each year, the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards honor outstanding accomplishments that support the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's natural resources. Nominating an individual, group, or organization for their achievements is a meaningful way to promote conservation and recognize effective environmental leadership in Tennessee.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2020 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards. Help identify organizations and individuals who are improving the quality of Tennessee's land, air, and water.

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards include 10 categories:

1. Agriculture and Forestry (NEW)
2. Building Green
3. Clean Air
4. Energy and Renewable Resources
5. Environmental Education and

6. Materials Management
7. Natural Resource (NEW)
8. Water Quality (NEW)
9. Sustainable Performance
10. Lifetime Achievement

Any individual, business, organization, educational institution, or agency is eligible, provided it is located in Tennessee and the project was completed during the 2019 calendar year. All nominees must have a minimum of three consecutive years of overall environmental compliance with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Self-nominations are encouraged.

A panel of judges representing agricultural, conservation, forestry, environmental, and academic professionals will select award recipients based on criteria including level of project or program completion, innovation, and public education. The deadline for nominations is March 31. Award recipients will be announced in May 2020.

TACIR reports \$55B needed for public infrastructure improvements

Tennessee needs at least \$54.8 billion worth of public infrastructure improvements during the five-year period of July 2018 to June 2023—a \$4.8 billion (9.7%) increase from the year before—according to a new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

More than \$3.7 billion of this year's increase is attributable to increases in the need for transportation and utilities infrastructure, the fourth year in a row the estimated cost of needs for this category has increased. This increase in needed infrastructure for transportation and utilities resulted primarily from road projects being developed as part of the Improve Act.

The \$575 million increase in needed improvements for education infrastructure is the second largest among the infrastructure categories in this year's inventory. Most of this increase resulted from the \$395 million increase in needed improvements at institutions of higher education across the state, while the need for renovations to existing public K-12 schools increased \$242 million.

Some of the need for additions and improvements to existing space at public K-12 schools are caused by the condition of existing schools. Although local school officials rated just under 11.5% of public K-12 schools (198) in Tennessee to be in fair or poor condition, 182 of those schools need improvements to existing space and account for 48.2% of the total estimated cost for improving existing space.

Estimated cost was also up in three categories: health, safety, and welfare (\$208 million); recreation and culture (\$206 million); and



More than \$3.7 billion of this year's increase is due to increases in the need for transportation and utilities infrastructure primarily from road projects being developed as part of the Improve Act.

general government (\$195 million). Reported needs decreased in one category: economic development, which was down \$65 million compared to last year.

Information about funding for the infrastructure needs reported in this year's inventory indicates that 67% of the funds required to meet those needs was not available at the time the inventory was conducted, relatively unchanged from last year's 68.6%. Excluding improvements needed at existing schools and those drawn from capital budget requests submitted by state agencies, neither of which includes funding information, only \$13.6 billion in funding is available for the remaining \$41.1 billion in needs.

Total estimated costs for current infrastructure needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$29.6 billion
- Education: \$14.2 billion

- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$7.6 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$2.1 billion
- General Government: \$894 million
- Economic Development: \$300 million

For each county, the report includes one-page summaries, which list the estimated cost for all types of needed infrastructure in each county by stage of development, highlight the top three types of infrastructure improvements needed in each county based on the total estimated cost, and provide comparisons of the infrastructure needed at public school systems to student enrollment.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at <https://www.tn.gov/tacir/infrastructure/infrastructure-reports/infrastructure-needs-2018-2023.html>.

Online hazardous waste tool to assist with determination process

The Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) is pleased to announce the development of an online draft of a Hazardous Waste Determination Matrix, which is designed as an assistance tool to guide persons step by step through the questions and regulatory citations associated with the hazardous waste determination process.

The Matrix is only an assistance tool. The information pro-

vided by this tool is not intended to be all inclusive and is subject to change. This Matrix is not a substitute for evaluation of compliance in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. It is the responsibility of the generator of a solid waste to determine if that waste is a hazardous waste.

The draft guidance document that refers to the draft online Hazardous Waste Determination Matrix may be found at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/policy-and-guidance-documents/boe-guidance-document-drafts.html>.

[tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/policy-and-guidance-documents/boe-guidance-document-drafts.html](https://www.tn.gov/environment/about-tdec/policy-and-guidance-documents/boe-guidance-document-drafts.html).

The DSWM is accepting comments on the draft online Hazardous Waste Determination Matrix through March 23.

Please send comments to Janet Dutto at Janet.Dutto@tn.gov. If you have any questions contact Dutto at 423-634-5775 or at Janet.Dutto@tn.gov.

Grants for Volunteer fire departments available, deadline to apply March 27

The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) announced that applications are now being accepted from volunteer fire departments for grants through the newly established Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program.

Created through legislation overseen by Gov. Bill Lee and passed by the General Assembly, the program earmarks \$500,000 for the purchase of firefighting equipment by Tennessee's volunteer fire departments or to help volunteer departments meet local match requirements for federal grants for purchasing equipment.

Fire departments must hold a

valid recognition from the SFMO and have a staff made up of at least 51% volunteers to apply. Grant proceeds may be used to purchase equipment used by a firefighter to extinguish fires and protect the life of a firefighter, other than fire trucks or vehicles.

The grant program joins ongoing lifesaving programs such as "Get Alarmed, Tennessee!" and "Close The Door!" while further expanding TDCI's commitment to saving lives, protecting property, and reducing fire fatalities in Tennessee.

Applications received during the submission period will be scored internally and submitted

to a seven member committee who will make the final decision and award selection. The committee is composed of three representatives from the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association, three representatives from the Tennessee Firemen's Association, and TDCI's Assistant Commissioner of Fire Prevention. Per statute, the funds will be awarded equally among Tennessee's Grand Divisions.

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. CT on Friday, March 27. For a full list of rules and an application form, visit <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/departments/grant-opportunities.html>



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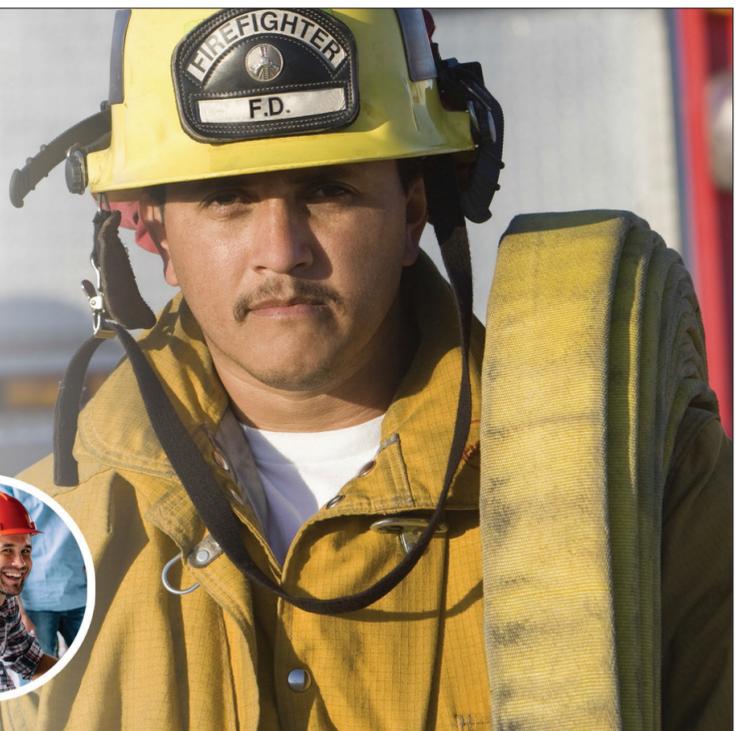
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ACCOUNTANT / ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

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 BUILDING INSPECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is accepting applications for the position of chief building inspector which coordinates the activities of the building and codes compliance functions, property maintenance and permitting process. The chief building Inspector conducts inspections, provides technical and professional advice on building issues, prepares and coordinates reports, and recommends codes and processes for building codes enforcement. Associates or bachelor's degree preferred in construction management or closely related field. Five years of progressively responsible experience with building inspection or construction management of complex residential, commercial and industrial facilities. Certifications in building inspection, mechanical and plumbing preferred or the ability to attain the certifications within one year of date of employment. The annual salary starts at \$58,561, depending on qualifications. Qualified individuals can submit a resume to cbrice@tullahomatan.gov or mail a resume to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388. Additional information is available on-line at www.tullahomatan.gov and applicants can print and complete the application. A job description is available upon request and the position is open until filled. EOE

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.cityofwhitehouse.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 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 DISPATCHER

SHELBYVILLE. The Shelbyville Police Department will be accepting applications for full-time police dispatcher. Applicants must be 18 years of age and high school graduate or equivalent. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN., 37160, and will be accepted until position is filled. Applications and job

descriptions can be picked up at city hall or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen.

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.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time project manager/civil plans reviewer to assist the director and deputy director of public works and engineering in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications, for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. You will need to hold a valid TN driver's license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOQ. Detailed job descriptions

and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. The city of Mt. Juliet does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d). EOE/ Drug-free Workplace.

STORMWATER COORDINATOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for a stormwater coordinator with Springfield Public Works Department from Feb. 17- March 20. Essential responsibilities include providing leadership and technical guidance for implementation of the stormwater program to maintain compliance with the city of Springfield MS4 permit. The employee must perform difficult professional and technical duties in administration of the stormwater management program. Graduation from a standard high school with a minimum of two years of college level courses in engineering, environmental sciences or a related field; at least one year of increasingly responsible engineering or environmental sciences experience in stormwater management programs; experience developing and implementing watershed planning that includes floodplain management, stream valley protection and restoration, TMDL implementation, low impact development and use of non-structural best management practices and stormwater control measures. Must have a TDEC Level I & II certification or ability to obtain both within one year of employment. Salary range \$50,627 - \$69,618. Applications can be submitted on-line at the following website: www.springfield-tn.org. City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, TN. 37172. AA/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.

UT-MTAS Continuing Education Classes

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING

This class is a broad overview of the grant writing process and focuses on how and where to find available grants and how to write a grant proposal. Also discussed will be how to find federal and state government grant sources and how to find foundation grant programs. The essential components of the grant proposal package and how to craft a quality grant proposal designed to align with the grant makers interest will be addressed.

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TML Board to meet March 16

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 10 a.m. in the Nashville Meeting Room of the Doubletree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 13, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information may be obtained from Jackie Gupton, 615-255-6416.

Bond Fund Board to meet March 16

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 8:00 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, March 13, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Anne Dallas Dudley Blvd., Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information may be obtained at 615-255-1561.

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The Social Media opportunities local governments are missing

It shouldn't be just for announcing meetings, holiday office closures or road construction. Local governments should see platforms like Twitter and Facebook as powerful tools for building community, not just posting city hall selfies.

BY DUSTIN MCKISSEN
Communications Consultant
Governing Magazine

For the last decade or so, lots of smart people have debated the purpose and value of social media. Do we really need to take pictures of our half-eaten food? How many duck-faced selfies does one person need? Are 280 characters all that's required to express complex thoughts? And if I work in local government, how do I use this tool to tell our story without alienating or angering the people, families and businesses that call our community home?

Getting social media right in any environment is hard, but local government — which is, as a result of painful experience, risk-averse — presents unique challenges. Even the most well-intended tweet or status update can easily descend into a rage-filled comment section. Just try posting something on Facebook about an upcoming city council meeting where a proposal to allow apartment buildings in a single-family neighborhood will be discussed. Seriously. Go ahead. Try it. You will regret it.

The result of this (very justifiable) caution is a hesitancy to use social media for one of its most effective purposes. Since its inception, social media has been an incredibly effective tool for community building.

It doesn't matter whether that community exists around Kylie Jenner's makeup tips or a shared interest in video games. Either way, those communities are real, and they matter to the people who belong to them.

But community building isn't just the domain of social media influencers and gamers.

Successful community building is also the difference between a city that attracts and retains a talented workforce and a city that watches its labor pool (and any chance at a vibrant local economy) disappear before its eyes. Simply put, social media illustrates some basic facts about humanity: We all want to belong to something. We all want to feel like we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. And, we all want to live somewhere that feels like home.

Unfortunately, most local governments use social media only to push information toward residents rather than to engage them.

Need an example? Every year on the third Monday of January, the nation honors Martin Luther King Jr. How do most local governments recognize the importance of Dr. King's contributions?

For the most part, local governments:

- Post a meme or a photo featuring one of King's quotes (looking at you, Portland, Maine).
- Or inform residents of government office closures (looking at you, Phoenix).

There isn't a city in the United States that would intentionally disrespect King's legacy. Phoenix, Portland, and the thousands of other cities that treated that day the same way weren't guilty of dishonoring one of history's most important Americans. What were they guilty of? Failing to capitalize in a meaningful, authentic way to use social media to strengthen their communities.

So what should they have done?

Rather than use their social media feeds solely to push a message toward their audience, local governments should use it to elevate the people and organizations working hard to create better cities, counties, regions and states. Martin

Luther King Jr. Day represents a fantastic opportunity to do that. Instead of merely reminding residents that offices will be closed or posting the same meme as a thousand other cities, why not also feature residents who best embody the spirit of MLK?

Digital community-building doesn't begin and end with the sender delivering a message people want to hear. At the civic level, community-building occurs when local governments recognize and elevate the important role residents play.

Most local governments have a decent-sized social media following. Twitter and Facebook are excellent ways to learn more about road closures and upcoming events, but those kinds of feeds receive remarkably little engagement.

That Jan. 20 tweet from the city of Phoenix informing residents that municipal offices would be closed? It received two likes and eight retweets — in other words, .00029 % of the city's 34,300 Twitter followers engaged with the post. Typically, a good Twitter engagement rate ranges between 0.2 and 0.9 percent. While that latter number might be attainable for Kylie Jenner, it's probably unrealistic for a routine announcement of municipal business, but there is no reason social media should be limited to routine announcements.

Clearly there is a lot of room for improvement for local governments that understand the mostly untapped power of social media.

Of course, the real objective of approaching social media as a tool for community-building is far more important than the number of likes. A social media strategy centered around community-building can be an important step toward attracting and retaining the workforce, businesses and people that make a city special.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

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 LeConte Center in Pigeon Forge for this five-day-long quilting event. The event will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. all days. For more info, visit <https://www.mypigeonforge.com/event/quiltfest>

March 6-7: Etowah

26th Annual Cousin Jake Tullock Memorial Bluegrass Festival
The Cousin Jake Memorial Bluegrass Festival, established in 1994, is an annual event that celebrates bluegrass music and honors the late "Cousin" Jake Tullock, a native of Etowah. The festival takes place in the historic Gem Theater. For more info, visit <http://www.etowaharts.org/>

March 20-21: Linden

12th Annual Blooming Arts Festival

The Blooming Arts Festival hosts more than 150 regional and local artisans and vendors featuring fine arts, quality woodwork, crafted art glass, chainsaw carving, live dance performances, painting exhibits, a quilt showcase, and exhibitions of homemade and handmade goods that reflect local and regional culture. For more info, visit <https://bloomingartsfestival.org/>

March 21: Bell Buckle

Daffodil Day

Historic Bell Buckle has invited visitors to see its daffodils in bloom in March. This year's Daffodil Day event will include the Daffodil Flower Show, book signings, an interactive BBQ cook-off, and Arbor Day festivities celebrating Bell Buckle's 25th year as the smallest Tree City USA in Tennessee. For more info, visit <https://bellbuckle-chamber.com/daffodil-day/>

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. added 255,000 jobs in January, above projects of economists who had expected the economy to only add between 150,000 and 160,000. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said the job gains were boosted by a decline in trade tensions and mild winter weather. However, the nation's unemployment rate also rose to 3.6% while the labor force participation rate rose by 0.2% to 63.4%. The construction sector led the number of jobs gains with 44,000 workers. Healthcare, transportation and warehousing, leisure and hospitality, and business services also posted significant job gains. Employment in manufacturing — particularly the automotive industry — and mining posted the

biggest jobs losses.

U.S. home prices rose 4% in 2019 over the previous year according to the CoreLogic Home Price Forecast. Based on previous year's increases as well as increases in recent months, the HPI further projects that home prices will rise by 5.2% between 2019 and the end of 2020. Home prices are predicted to increase because less people can afford homes and a lack of new housing inventory has driven up prices. Moderately-priced homes are in high demand and short supply, which in turn makes it harder for first-time buyers to purchase homes. While 79% of people between the ages of 21 and 38 expressed a desire to purchase a home, most cited affordability as the top reason

why they have not done so. Nearly three-quarters (74%) admitted that in order to purchase a home they would have to make "significant financial sacrifices."

The U.S. ranks 39 out of all nations in the world in a recent survey of children's rates of survival, health, education and nutrition. The report was published in the medical journal *The Lancet* and ranked 180 countries based on a "child flourishing index." One of the reasons for America's middling rating on the scale was the fact that the country was ranked No. 173 for environmental sustainability. The top 10 countries on the list were Norway, South Korea, the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Denmark, Japan, Belgium, Iceland, and the U.K.

COMING UP

Feb. 27 - 28, 2020

TMAA Winter Seminar
Brentwood

March 8-11, 2020

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

March 16-17, 2020

TML Legislative Conference
DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville

April 1-3, 2020

TCMA 2020 Spring Conference
Franklin

June 27 - 30, 2020

TML Annual Conference
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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CF
Financial Advisor

Hazlewood brings business experience, work ethic to legislature

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Never one to be idle, State Rep. Patsy Hazlewood uses her experience in business, finance, and community involvement in a variety of ways on arguably one of the busiest committees in the Tennessee State House.

Hazlewood serves as vice chair of the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. In their work on the state budget, Committee Chairwoman Susan Lynn, R-Mt. Juliet, has gotten to know Hazlewood well.

"I absolutely love working with Patsy," Lynn said. "She has terrific experience both professionally and personally. She is a real asset to the finance committee."

Born in Fayetteville, Hazlewood grew up on a family farm just over the state line in Athens, Ala., today a suburb of Huntsville. After graduating high school, Hazlewood became the first in her family to earn a college degree when she graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 1973. After college, she went to Nashville to work for BellSouth – now AT&T. She met her late husband there. The two then moved to Signal Mountain to work for BellSouth and to raise their son, Ben.

In addition to working for BellSouth and AT&T for more than 30 years, Hazlewood served as director of CapitalMark Bank and Trust. In 2011, she was selected by then-Tennessee Economic and Community Development (TNECD) Commissioner Bill Hagerty to serve as the TNECD Regional Director for Southeast Tennessee.

Hazlewood also served on numerous boards and commissions in the Greater Chattanooga area. She became the first female president of the Chattanooga Downtown Rotary, served as president of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, and served on the boards of the United Way, the Enterprise Center, the Stadium Corporation, the Speech and Hearing Center board, and the Community Foundation board.

In 2014, Hazlewood was elected to serve the state's House District 27, which includes the municipalities of Lookout Mountain, Red Bank, Signal Mountain, Soddy-Daisy, Walden, and a portion of Chattanooga.

TT&C: How did your upbringing make you who you are today?

Patsy Hazlewood: I was born in Fayetteville, but I grew up in North Alabama about 45 minutes away, but was still very close to family. I grew up on a farm. The area is not rural now, but it was rural then. Athens, Ala., is a small town that has really become over the years more of a bedroom community for Huntsville, but for us it was a small rural town. We grew cotton and corn, and raised chickens, pigs, and cows. We always had a big garden in the summer. When you grow up on a farm you learn to work. There is always something to do all the time, and if nothing else you develop a work ethic. That is definitely something that has shaped me. I'm not very good with leisure time. I feel like God gave me this day, so I should use it.

TT&C: You were one of the first in your family to graduate from college. Why was that an important step for you?

PH: My mom went to college but didn't graduate. My dad didn't go. I have three brothers, and I am the only one who went to college and graduated. Two of my brothers were killed in separate accidents, and my youngest brother was a senior in high school who was headed to college, but didn't have the opportunity to make it.

While my parents didn't have a college education, they had a great respect for education. They really encouraged me to be a good student, and I was able to get some financial aid. At the high school I went to, not every one went to college. Not even the majority of kids went to college, so I think I had an appreciation for that education that perhaps those from other backgrounds took for granted.

I knew it was a huge opportunity for me. It opened a lot of doors for me that wouldn't have been opened otherwise. I have been very blessed in that God has always guided my steps and blessed them. I certainly never planned to be a state representative or spend a lot of years in the business world. I wasn't a math major, so it was a bit of a switch. Having a degree got me in the door. It provided a big step up.

TT&C: Who would you say were your biggest influences?

PH: My parents were always so supportive and wanted me to have more opportunities than they had. They did all that they could to make that happen. I had fantastic grandparents on both sides. I had and do have a very good, close family growing up with cousins, aunts, and uncles who provide a lot of support. I had some teachers who made a big difference in my life from elementary school on up. I think sometimes we can underestimate the kind of impact those folks have on us long years after we leave their classrooms.

TT&C: What first brought you to Signal Mountain and the greater Chattanooga area?

PH: I went to work for South Central Bell/BellSouth in Nashville after I graduated from MTSU. I met my husband who also worked for the company. He was transferred by the company to Chattanooga, so frankly I had to go. We moved there in 1980, and it was a great move. Our son was born there and grew up on Signal Mountain. It's a great place to live and was a great place to raise a family. The Chattanooga



Above: State Rep. Patsy Hazlewood, R-Signal Mountain, addresses the Downtown Chattanooga Noon Rotary Club. Hazlewood was the first woman elected president of the club.

Below: Hazlewood presents a state resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Soddy-Daisy at the city's Veteran's Park to City Commissioner Rick Nunley, Vice Mayor Robert Cothran, Commissioner Max Lowe, Mayor Gene Shipley, and Commissioner Jim Adams.



area is my home and it's been good to me and my family.

TT&C: How would you describe your district to someone who had never been there?

PH: First of all, I would tell them what I tell everyone at the Capitol all the time when we are introducing ourselves, which is that I truly think I have the most beautiful district in the state of Tennessee. I have everything. I have the river as you come into Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and Lookout Valley. We have Elder Mountain and Signal Mountain. We have the lookout at St. Elmo that is an older community on the upswing. We have Red Bank at the foot of Signal Mountain and Soddy-Daisy on the lake. We have lakes, rivers, and mountains. It really is a slice of Tennessee that I have an opportunity to represent. It's a little bit of everything geographically and demographically as well.

TT&C: How has your experience in the business world helped with your work as a public servant?

PH: The job that I had for a number of years with BellSouth and AT&T was working as the face of the company in that area. You have a lot of interaction with people, but rather than constituents they were customers. I had an opportunity because of the position I had with the company to serve in a lot of capacities within the community. I headed up a number of community organizations including the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation, and was the first woman president of the Downtown Chattanooga Rotary Club. I chaired United Way campaigns and served on lots of boards. I think all of that gave me a pretty broad perspective in terms of both the business community and other parts of the community as well.

I was part of a group that started a bank, and I think the experience I had chairing boards and serving on executive committees with those organizations as well as the work I had done with the company made me an effective bank board member.

I think education and economic development are the two things in my mind that government needs to focus on. They are inextricably connected. You can't bring in jobs if there aren't people in the community who have the education to do those jobs. We did a lot of work with both new companies that were trying to recruit and companies that were already in the area trying to expand.

Working with the legislature from a business perspective throughout the years really prepared me for the legislative process. I think it showed me the real importance of what happens at the state level. I think in many ways the things that happen at the state legislature have more of an impact on our lives than any other place in government.

TT&C: What first interested you in politics? Was there a particular issue or cause that prompted you to run for office?

PH: Because of the position I had with BellSouth, I had been involved from that perspective. My involvement on various boards showed me how political dynamics impacted those organizations and people's lives. I felt the experience I had gained put me in a position to hit the ground running and accomplish things that will make Tennesseans' lives better.

We all want our children and grandchild-



Hazlewood helps officials with the city of Red Bank cut the ribbon on the new Red Bank City Hall. Hazlewood's district encompasses a portion of Chattanooga as well as five small cities: Lookout Mountain, Signal Mountain, Soddy-Daisy, Red Bank, and Walden.

dren to have better opportunities than we do. I am fortunate that my son lives a few miles from me on Signal Mountain, and my grandchildren are there. I want to do all that I can to make sure there are places in Tennessee for them to come back to when their education is completed. I want to keep them close, so I want to do all I can to make Tennessee an attractive place for my grandchildren and other people's grandchildren as well.

TT&C: Last year, when you and House Finance, Ways and Means Committee Chair Susan Lynn presented the budget, it was the first time in Tennessee history that two women presented the budget. Why do you think it's important to see women in leadership roles in the Legislature?

PH: First of all, I think we all have talents and we all have gifts. I think in order for our state and country to be successful, we need to access and maximize the potential of everyone. Women are at least half the population. Women have a lot to offer just as men have a lot to offer. I think it's important that young girls and young boys are able to recognize that it's not a gender issue, that it's about talent and passion. It's about who is really equipped or wants to become equipped to lead and serve in that way. At the end of the day, we talk about leadership roles, but these are servant positions. That's what they are designed to be. We are meant to serve the people in our district. I try to remember that, and I think my colleagues do as well.

TT&C: What do you enjoy most about your work with the House Finance, Ways, & Means Committee? What is the most challenging aspect of working with the committee?

PH: One of the great things about being on that committee is that it gives you such a broad and in-depth understanding of state government. Anything that costs \$1 in state government has to go through us. We hear from every department about their work. It's great educational experience just to learn about state government, what it does, what works, and what doesn't.

It's also a place where you feel like you can make an impact. A lot of the dollars are predetermined because we have to fund TennCare, education, and corrections. We have been in such a positive fiscal position in this state for the past few years, it has given us some latitude to focus on some other things as well. I think being in finance gives me more of an opportunity to impact that.

There are so many good ideas, wonderful programs, and great things that could be done should we have the resources. One of the more frustrating things about the budget – and this sometimes seems like a contradiction of common sense – it can be harder in years when we have more resources because there are so many ideas and suggestions on how to spend those resources. If everyone knows you're short of money, they don't ask for anything.

My priorities are always to continue to beef up the rainy day fund. We have to make sure we stock some money away because we will have a rainy day at some point, and since we are a sales-tax driven state we are in some ways more susceptible to economic downturns.

At the end of the day, we have to live within our means, and we have to have a balanced budget. I think Tennesseans as a culture are very frugal. We like to make sure we get our money's

worth. There are always things that could be done that we don't have the resources to do.

There are always disagreements over what the priorities are. We always try to prioritize and make sure we provide the services for citizens that they can't provide for themselves. I believe that is what government is supposed to do. We also have to take care of the more vulnerable, those who can't take care of themselves.

On the flipside, we want to make sure we are putting as much money in the pockets of taxpayers as we can because it's their money. That's something you have to remember.

TT&C: What do you think are the major priorities for this year's budget? What can we expect from this year's state budget?

[Editor's Note: This interview with Rep. Hazlewood was conducted prior to Gov. Bill Lee's State of the State Address on Feb. 3]

PH: We always have to deal with some household issues like education. These are issues that are always there; they don't go away. There is probably going to be a lot of legislation in the healthcare and insurance arena that could impact the budget perhaps. There is always a surprise or two, something you never thought about but will jump out of the woodwork. The governor's package I think is going to include judicial reform work that will more than likely have budget implications.

TT&C: What is your stance on pre-emption and local control?

PH: I contend the best government is the best government that is closest to the people. I try to be accessible to my constituents, but I know there is no way I can be accessible as one of the town council members in Signal Mountain. There is just a different opportunity for interaction there. I think it is really critical that we leave as much to local government as possible.

I do think there are some times when standardization issues come up, that have statewide components and it doesn't make sense to have a patchwork of regulation. If you are trying to do business in Tennessee, you shouldn't have to have a whole different set of rules in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Shelbyville. I hope we try not to pre-empt, but there are instances in our legislative session when we feel there is a need to do that.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the municipal officials in your district? What projects have you worked on with them?

PH: I would describe the relationship as good, and I hope they would as well. I try to work with them, and a lot of the things I have done with them have been TDOT related, repairs, and expansions. I try to work with my municipalities to get local grants and dollars from the state to do projects they wouldn't be able to finance on their own. Most of the area I represent is comprised of small cities.

I also represent a small part of Chattanooga. The budget of those small cities is a whole different animal from that of Chattanooga or Hamilton County. You have to recognize that and work with them to get things done. Most of all, you have to work with them to make sure the legislation we propose is not detrimental.

TT&C: Is there any particular piece of legislation you have worked on that has stood out or been special to you?

PH: I have done a lot of business legislation that isn't going to excite anyone but me and the business community or people that it helped and benefited. I was a co-sponsor last year on the Hands Free bill, which I think will save lives. If you feel like you can positively impact a life or save a life, it's a pretty big deal. A few years ago, I sponsored a bill with Sen. [Steve] Dickerson, [R-Nashville,] on needle exchange, which has saved lives. It has helped people get out of that addiction cycle and move forward with their lives. I am really proud of some of the other things we've done because ultimately my goal in carrying those bills was to make Tennessee a business-friendly climate so we could continue to have businesses move here, grow here, and provide living-wage jobs.