



TML Legislative Conference March 26- 27 in Nashville

The Opioid Crisis, transportation funding and the state's infrastructure plan, the governor's new TN H2O water plan, and the state budget and other funding issues are just a few of the hot topics to be discussed during TML's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 26-27 in Nashville.

A host of state officials are lined up to speak, including Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, House Majority Leader Glen Casada, Senate Finance Chair Bo Watson, House Finance Chair Charles Sargent, Senate State and Local Chair Ken Yager, House Local Chair Tim Wirgau, and TDOT Commissioner John Schroer.

Conference registration opens at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 26, followed by a buffet lunch at noon.

The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday, March 27, things will get underway at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast served until 8 a.m. The conference program will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 10 a.m.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum to network with other municipal officials and interact with your legislators. Those in attendance are encouraged to attend legislative committee meetings while in Nashville.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard



Lt. Gov. Randy McNally



House Speaker Beth Harwell

in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a great opportunity to communicate that message. For information regarding registration and hotel reservations, visit www.TML1.org

New bill aims to restore local decisions on smoking policies

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

A new bill aims to restore more local control over smoking policies to better protect the health of local citizens just as a new report gave the Tennessee Legislature low marks for efforts to prevent tobacco use and encourage tobacco cessation among citizens.

Known as the Local Option Bill, HB 2327 was introduced by House State Government Committee Chairman Bob Ramsey, R-Maryville, with the companion SB 2525 introduced by Sen. Bill Ketron, R-Murfreesboro. The bill seeks to repeal the tobacco preemption clause from Tennessee law and insert the local option. The bill designates local government exemptions to state tobacco products preemption law and allows local governments to regulate smoking in those areas.

"As written today, state law is ignoring the will of the people in local communities who desire smoke-free air," Ramsey said. "The air we breathe is a public safety matter — no one should be forced to walk around in a cloud of poison. Telling a community 'you have control over your smoking-related policy' is simply the right thing to do."

Under the bill, cities could not be less restrictive to smoking than currently permitted by state law. The bill has the support of the American Heart Association as well as Tobacco Free Kids, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Americans for Nonsmokers Rights and the American Lung Association. Officials hope the bill



This legislation will give cities the ability to reduce secondhand smoke exposure by restricting smoking in some public spaces like city parks and playgrounds.



Rep. Bob Ramsey



Sen. Bill Ketron

will also help educate Tennesseans about the health issues caused by secondhand smoke.

As currently written, the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-1803 prohibits smoking "in all enclosed public places" and lists 19 examples.

However, TCA 39-17-1804 allows smoking in "non-enclosed areas of public places" and 10 exempted enclosed areas.

These include age-restricted venues including retail tobacco. See **SMOKING** on Page 3

Join us on April 3, 2018!



National Service Recognition Day provides a unique opportunity for local officials to honor constituents who are serving their communities. If you're a local leader, want to get involved, visit www.NationalService.gov/RecognitionDay.

On National Service Recognition Day, thousands of local leaders will honor AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers by participating in recognition events, issuing official proclamations, and taking to social media in a nationwide show of appreciation.

The sixth annual National Service Recognition Day will take place on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**. This initiative is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and Cities of Service.

Mayors and city leaders from across the country are using national service more and more to solve their community's toughest challenges. CNCS, America's leader in volunteering and service efforts, engages more than 325,000 AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers in national service at more than 50,000 locations each year.

Through partnerships with schools, faith-based groups, non-profits, and local agencies, national service members are embedded within the communities they serve, using their ingenuity and training to make a tangible, lasting impact. Whether responding to natural disasters, tackling the opioid epidemic, educating students for the 21st century

workforce, or supporting veterans and military families, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers help local leaders make their communities stronger.

Meeting Tennessee's needs

More than 5,300 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Tennessee.

Serving at more than 880 locations throughout the state, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers.

This year, the CNCS will commit more than \$18.1 million to support Tennessee communities through national service and social innovation initiatives.

To thank the many volunteers who serve in your communities, please consider planning and participating in recognition events in your city or town. It's a great opportunity for city officials to highlight local initiatives, engage their constituents, and thank those who serve. For ideas on how to host an event or get involved, visit: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/national-service-recognition-day/resources>

Trump infrastructure plan wants to stop 'overreliance' on federal money

The president's long-awaited infrastructure plan pushes state and local governments to spend more but offers them a smoother path to getting federal regulatory approval.

BY DANIEL C. VOCK
Governing Magazine

The White House is hopeful that its plan will spur \$1.3 trillion in new infrastructure spending by states, localities and private companies.

State and local officials who have clamored for years for the federal government to increase spending on infrastructure projects like highways, transit and water systems won't get much new money under President Donald Trump's infrastructure package. But they could get help building those projects more quickly.

There are few surprises in the broad outline of Trump's long-awaited infrastructure plan, as described by a senior White House official that could be disappointing news for many state and local leaders who have been skeptical of the effort.

The administration wants state and local governments to pay more for infrastructure, and it wants the federal government to speed up its approval processes for those projects.

"The flexibility to use federal dollars to pay for essentially local infrastructure projects has created an unhealthy dynamic in which state and local governments delay projects in the hope of receiving federal funds. Overreliance on federal grants and other federal funding can create a strong disincentive for non-federal revenue generation," the White House explained in a statement. "At the same time, we continue to apply federal rules, regulations, and mandates on virtually all infrastructure investments. This is despite the federal government contributing a very small percentage of total infrastructure spending."

The administration hopes to



State and local officials won't get much new money under President Donald Trump's infrastructure package. But they could get help building those projects more quickly.

reshuffle the federal government's budget to find \$200 billion for new infrastructure initiatives, although some of that money would come from cuts to Amtrak and other infrastructure grants that it considers ineffective.

Of that money, the White House proposes spending:

- \$100 billion on competitive grants for state and local governments;
- \$20 billion to expand low-cost federal loans and other borrowing, particularly by expanding the use of private activity bonds, railroad loans, water loans and loans authorized by the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA);
- \$50 billion in block grants to states for rural infrastructure;
- \$20 billion for "transformative" projects, such as those relying on using new technologies; and
- \$10 billion to improve federally owned infrastructure.

The administration hopes the \$200 billion will be enough to entice \$1.3 trillion in new infrastructure spending by states, local governments and private investors. In other words, the federal government would pay only about 13 percent of

the cost of its infrastructure initiative.

The White House adviser, who spoke to reporters on the condition that he not be named, said the administration settled on the \$1.5 trillion total, which officials had originally pegged at \$1 trillion, based on feedback from state and local officials.

"We've actually received a more enthusiastic response than we anticipated from state and local governments coming to us," he said. "The plan would leave in place most current infrastructure programs, including those paid for with the Highway Trust Fund, the main federal source of funding for road and transit projects."

But the way that most of the new money under the Trump plan would be spent would be a sharp departure from how many transportation projects, in particular, are currently funded.

Overall, the federal government pays roughly a quarter of the cost of building and maintaining roads in the country. But the federal government's role skews heavily toward big projects. It subsidizes up to 80 percent of the cost of federal highways, and even many of its subsidized loan programs are. See **HIGHWAY** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CLARKSVILLE

The city of Clarksville is working on a new sidewalk project to improve bus stop locations and usage along Fort Campbell and Providence boulevards. The 2.4-mile-long project will begin at Highway 41A beginning at Quin Lane, just south of the 101st Airborne Division Parkway, and continue south to just past Dover Crossing, at Cave Street. The city has been working with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for more than a year to install nearly 40 bus shelters in the area. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires sidewalks to connect bus shelters, and the city is hoping TDOT will kick in 95 percent of the total \$655,000 project price tag so the project will comply with federal standards.

DICKSON

The Dickson Fire Department will be purchasing a forcible door entry simulator after the training equipment was approved by the Dickson City Council. The simulator is made by Firehouse Innovations and costs \$7,650. The device is about 6 feet tall and weighs nearly 800 pounds assembled though it can be broken down to carry. The simulator was made by a former longtime New York firefighter to help trainees learn to forcibly enter a variety of door styles and types during emergency situations.

GALLATIN

Gallatin Public Utilities will be implementing a new \$6.9 million water and natural gas meter-reading system to keep up with rapid growth in the system. The project will replace all of the city's approximately 30,000 water and gas meters so that data can be transmitted over a wireless network. The city is currently adding between 300 and 400 new meters a year, which makes it difficult for utility employees to manually read each meter. The new system will provide hourly usage updates, increase accuracy of reporting, prevent tampering, and reduce the department's fuel costs. Customers will be able to monitor their meters online as well as receive notifications about spikes in usage that could indicate possible leaks.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City has announced the start of its first Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program following a yearlong planning and development process. The city's UAVs, commonly referred to as drones, will be used for a variety of functions including project management, public safety, economic development, mapping, and surveying. The city has two Federal Aviation Administration-certified pilots who will assist with the program, which will help the city safely gain both visual and non-visual data. One device will be used for city projects with a second to be employed by the city's police department. Officers will be able to utilize drone technology for help with missing persons and fleeing suspects.

JONESBOROUGH

The town of Jonesborough received two grants to promote arts and culture to help foster storytelling traditions in the region. A \$100,000 façade improvement grant from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development will help with ongoing renovations to the town's Jackson Theatre. The historic 1920s movie theatre will be restored to

how it looked in the 1940s when it originally bore the name Jackson Theatre. The National Endowment for the Arts also recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to the town's International Storytelling Center for Storytelling Live!, the center's teller-in-residence program. The program brings master storytellers from around the world to Jonesborough to make up a 26-week series. Between The National Storytelling Festival and the Teller-in-Residence series, ISC is able to reach almost 30,000 attendees across the world, create 111 local jobs and add more than \$7.6 million in annual economic impact.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville won first place and a \$120,000 grant as part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' and American Beverage Foundation's Healthy America initiative. The city took home the first prize for medium-sized cities in the Childhood Obesity Prevention Grant program. Funds will be used by the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department to expand the city's "Neighborhoods to Nature" program, which promotes outdoor play. The grant funds will go toward creating and staffing a mobile recreation center that brings unique games and activities to at-risk neighborhoods. Knoxville Parks and Recreation staff will collaborate with partners to reconnect families to nature, exercise and provide nutritious snacks.

MORRISTOWN

The Morristown City Council has finalized a \$1 million purchase of a 14-acre tract of land inside the East Tennessee Progress Center, an industrial district near Interstate 81. Money for adjacent tracts on Howard Allen Road were also purchased from the city's general fund. Morristown's third and newest industrial park, the East Tennessee Progress Center already consists of more than 900 acres of land. Morristown Utility System provides water, sewer, power, and a 1-gig fiber optic network to the park as well as the city.

NASHVILLE

Asurion, LLC, will create 400 information technology jobs as it consolidates operations into a new corporate headquarters in downtown Nashville. Asurion currently employs more than 3,100 Tennesseans and will be consolidating four existing Nashville facilities into a single, downtown corporate headquarters in the Gulch district. The location will house Asurion's corporate personnel and serve as a global product and technology hub for the company. Pending an executed lease agreement, construction of the new office is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2019 and open in the third quarter of 2021. Nashville-based Asurion is a global technology company that provides technology support solutions and protection for smartphones, tablets, consumer electronics and other devices. The company operates in dozens of countries and has 17,000 employees worldwide.

NASHVILLE

The city of Nashville is deploying a new technology aimed at curbing gun violence and helping authorities more accurately respond to gun crime. The city will pilot ShotSpotter technology, the leading technology solution for detecting the frequency and location of gunfire and provides real-time alerts to law enforcement so they can respond faster and to more precise locations than traditional gunfire reporting typically allows. This technology aims to reduce overall gun violence and improve community safety and has been deployed in over 90 U.S. cities, including Oakland, Calif., New York, and Washington, D.C. The technology helps cover gaps in reports of gunshot incidents and allows authorities to respond to these incidents in a timelier manner. The ShotSpotter system is a series of audio sensors installed on top of light posts and buildings throughout specific areas. When a gun is fired, the sensors triangulate the sound of the gunshot and pinpoint the location of the shots, as well as recording the number of shots fired. ShotSpotter-trained acoustic experts review and classi-

fy all gunfire incidents and alert law enforcement within 30 seconds to a minute of the gunshot occurring. ShotSpotter delivers real-time data to dispatch centers, patrol cars, and even smartphones, alerting police officers of gunshot crimes in progress. This precise information allows officers and first responders to make more informed decisions and provide a better and faster emergency response. Following a successful pilot phase, the city of Nashville will look to roll the program out in other areas experiencing high amounts of gun violence.

SNEEDVILLE

Allied Dispatch Solutions, LLC has been selected to occupy a state-funded call center facility in Sneedville as part of the Project 95 initiative. Allied Dispatch Solutions, headquartered in Johnson City, plans to create more than 100. The Sneedville facility, located in the Hancock County Industrial Park, will be available for lease at no cost to the company. Project 95 combines resources from federal partners and state agencies to establish a holistic program to promote economic growth in Hancock County, which has ranked at or near the bottom of Tennessee counties in poverty rate, unemployment rate, per capita income and other economic indicators.

SPRINGFIELD

Electrolux will invest \$250 million and add 400,000-square-feet of manufacturing capacity to its Springfield facility. Construction of the new space will include a new line of Frigidaire freestanding cooking products and is expected to start in late 2018 with a completion date estimated in 2020. The expansion is the third and largest major expansion the Springfield facility has made in as many years. The company announced a \$25 million expansion in Springfield that created 25 jobs in 2016 and a \$20 million expansion in 2017 that is still ongoing.

Brentwood begins signal timing project

The city of Brentwood recently implemented a new traffic flow plan along some of the city's most traveled corridors.

City traffic engineers along with project consultant, Kimley-Horn, began implementing the new signal timing patterns along Concord Road from Franklin Road to Sunset Road on Feb. 5, with plans to implement new signal timings on Moores Lane, Wilson Pike, and Murray Lane.

These upcoming changes are part of The Tennessee Department of Transportation \$216,000 grant awarded the city of Brentwood in 2016 for a traffic signal timing study. The funds are from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) and are provided to improve traffic flow along our city's major routes.

During the past several months, Kimley-Horn and the city have studied 31 signalized intersections and developed four timing plans for each. The goal of this project is to maximize traffic flow as efficiently as possible through these intersections, especially during peak-hour traffic.

Engineers will begin implementing traffic signal timings after the morning rush hour, adjust the

Tennessee metro areas reporting above average employment growth

Several Tennessee cities are among metro areas that have experienced the most growth over the past year.

While 2017 was a fairly good year for the national economy, it was more of a mixed bag for metro areas. The nation's largest metro areas generally outperformed the rest of the country, though some mid-sized and small regions made significant employment gains.

The Nashville-Murfreesboro-Franklin metro area experienced the second largest amount of growth among all large metro areas in the nation, described as metro areas with 500,000 active employees or more. For the Greater Nashville area, payrolls climbed

Construction underway at new Philadelphia City Hall



Construction has begun on the new Philadelphia City Hall with the exterior shell of the building is already complete. Officials hope construction will be finished by late spring. The \$697,000 project cost is being funded through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and a capital outlay note. The town's former city hall collapsed in 2013 after heavy rains caused the metal roof to cave in. The 6,000-square-foot facility will house the mayor's office, a city council meeting room, bays for fire trucks and an ambulance, an office for the Philadelphia fire chief and other general offices, including room for Loudon County Sheriff's Department officials.

Johnson City installs decorative handrailing on city park bridges



This railing depicting an iris is one of several custom-designed handrails now located on the three bridge walkways at Johnson City's King Commons. Made in conjunction with the Memphis Metal Museum across the state, the railings each feature stylized bees and flowers. The design is related to the city's "What's the Buzz" Program aimed at supporting the development and preservation of pollinator-friendly public spaces and business and residential gardens – green spaces promoting connection and partnership between downtown Johnson City and East Tennessee State University.



Franklin Road is one of the major corridors that will be seeing new traffic flow patterns as part of Brentwood's new signal timing project.

plans throughout the day and including during evening rush hours. The city encourages drivers to continue using their regular driving routes to ensure signal timings are implemented accordingly. Project goals include:

- Improved traffic flow at 31 signalized intersections
- Optimize signal timings, reduced traffic delays, reduced pollutants emitted while vehicles are idling, and improved fuel consumption for drivers.

- Roadway capacity optimized, resulting in an extended life for the existing roadway network
- ADA Crossing Improvements identified

These improvements are just one of several transportation-related projects the City is implementing as a result from community input received during the Brentwood 2030 Comprehensive Plan. More information about the project is available at www.brentwoodtn.gov.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and December 19 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894.

Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to **TT&C:** Attention Carole Graves at 615-255-4752, or e-mail cgraves@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to **TT&C:** Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non TML officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

New bill aims to restore local decisions over smoking policies

SMOKING from Page 1

stores; premises involved in manufacturing, importing, wholesaling, storing, or dealing tobacco; private businesses with three or fewer employees; nursing homes for residents only; private clubs; private homes or residences not used for child care; private vehicles not being used for child care transportation; and commercial vehicles with a single occupant. Hotels and motels can also designate 25 percent of their rooms as smoking so long as they follow certain guidelines.

Christian Marks, chairperson of the American Heart Association's Tennessee State Advocacy Committee said numerous studies show smoke-free laws do not hurt restaurant and bar patronage, employment, sales or profits. In fact, the laws have been found to either have no effect at all on business activity, or they even produce slightly positive trends.

"It is 2018, yet so many Tennesseans are not given an option to breathe clean air," Marks said. "The choice is to limit the places they visit or risk being exposed to secondhand smoke."

Alex Carmack, a spokesperson with the American Heart Association, said the bill both benefits Tennesseans healthwise and restores local control to governments.

"This bill will give cities the ability to act on reducing secondhand smoke exposure, should they wish to do so," he said. "But if a city is not interested in taking on secondhand smoke, this bill would allow that option. It also gives certain cities the opportunity to set themselves apart in the tourism-and-event marketplace. A city could advertise that they have smoke-free parks, public spaces, restaurants, bars, and hotels guaranteed as an incentive to attract conferences and events in a way they could not before."

Carmack said the bill would allow Tennesseans more freedom of choice.

"This gives consumers the option to choose a smoke-free environment for their events and stay, or they could choose a city that does not have those same smoke-free guarantees; this could be particularly beneficial for the smaller cities in Tennessee that are often overlooked by these events and people in favor of our larger cities," Carmack said. "Also, current Tennessee law requires most, but not all, workplaces to be smoke-free. Having the exceptions leaves many employees and customers open to exposure to dangerous second-hand smoke, and some cities would like to address the issue."

However, the state legislature has historically voted against bills aimed at curbing second-hand smoke and regulating tobacco access.

A similar bill sponsored by Sen. Jon Lundberg, R-Bristol, last year to allow municipalities more leeway in regulating smoking policies in public places like parks was deferred

Tennessee Smoking By the Numbers

- 2.67** billion dollars the state spends on smoking-related health care costs each year.
- 11.5** percentage of Tennessee high schoolers who smoke.
- 26.8** percent of state residents who smoke.
- 30** Tennesseans die daily from tobacco use.
- 32.9** percent of state cancer deaths tied to smoking.

to summer study by the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

Carmack said some lawmakers cited infringing on personal freedoms as why they didn't support the bill.

"Just about all lawmakers agree we need to get people to stop smoking, and they want to do so in a way that does not violate a person's personal liberty or stigmatize or ostracize the smoker but instead encourages them to quit," he said. "[Ramsey's] bill does not violate personal liberties, which is one of the many reasons we think this is a bill a lot of lawmakers can get behind. It gives local governments the ability to protect non-smokers' rights to breath smoke-free air."

Tennessee has earned lower than average grades on its tobacco policies from the American Lung Association's 2018 *State of Tobacco Control Reports*. While the state has taken some significant steps to reduce tobacco use, the study said that the state hasn't done enough to curb preventable tobacco-related disease and deaths.

The state's highest grade was a "C" for smoke-free workplace laws, but it earned an "F" grade for state funding of tobacco prevention programs, level of tobacco taxes, coverage and access to tobacco cessation programs, and the minimum age for sale of tobacco products.

Carmack said Tennessee is currently ranked 43 out of 50 in terms of health among the states, is the 44th in cardiovascular deaths, 44th in cancer deaths, 43rd in premature deaths and 48th in diabetes. The state also has the third highest number of smokers per capita in the nation.

"First and foremost, lawmakers should support this bill because we have to start addressing our health as a state," he said. "In Tennessee, we spend \$2.67 billion on health care costs on smoking related illnesses, \$823.6 million of which comes directly from the taxpayers through TennCare. This bill offers a conservative approach to addressing this issue by just allowing local governments to prohibit smoking

DISEASES CAUSED BY SECOND-HAND SMOKE

CHILDREN

Brain tumours*

Middle ear disease

Lymphoma*

Respiratory symptoms, Impaired lung function

Asthma*

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

Leukemia*

Lower respiratory illness

ADULTS

Stroke*

Nasal irritation, Nasal sinus cancer*

Breast cancer*

Coronary heart disease

Lung cancer

Atherosclerosis*

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)*, Chronic respiratory symptoms*, Asthma*, Impaired lung function*

Reproductive effects in women: Low birth weight; Pre-term delivery*

* Evidence of causation: suggestive
Evidence of causation: sufficient

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 41,200 adult non-smokers die every year in the U.S. from heart disease and lung cancer caused by exposure to secondhand smoke. It is also a known cause for low birth-weight births, chronic lung ailments, and other health problems.

in public places reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. This bill will prolong lives, improve our health, save taxpayer dollars, and provide cities the opportunities to attract businesses and events that might have otherwise gone to another state or a bigger city in our state."

American Lung Association in Tennessee's Director of Advocacy Heather Wehrheim has called on Tennessee policymakers to act on repealing preemption related to smoke free public places and making sure all cessation treatments are covered under Medicaid and private insurance without barriers.

"Nationwide, smoking rates have continued to decline to historically low levels, yet tobacco use remains the nation's leading cause of preventable death and disease killing over 480,000 Americans each year," Wehrheim said. "Tobacco use is a serious addiction, and the fact that 26.8 percent of Tennessee residents are current smokers highlights how much work remains to be done in our communities to prevent and reduce tobacco use."

Those who smoke are also putting non-smokers at risk. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 41,200 adult non-smokers die every year in the United States from heart

In nonsmokers, secondhand smoke causes



approximately **7,300** lung cancer deaths per year



and nearly **34,000** heart disease deaths per year

disease and lung cancer caused by exposure to secondhand smoke. It is also a known cause for low birth-weight births, chronic lung ailments as well as other health problems.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, annual healthcare costs in Tennessee directly caused by smoking total \$2.67 billion. Medicaid costs caused by smoking total \$823.6 million annually. And smoking-related productivity loss totals \$3.59 billion annually — this does not include secondhand smoke.

While smoking cessation rates are improving nationwide, Tennessee lags behind other states. The

current smoking rate in Tennessee — 22.1 percent of adults use cigarettes — gives it the eighth highest rate of smoking prevalence in the nation.

"We lose 30 precious people a day in Tennessee to tobacco use, and beyond these tragic early deaths, it costs our state billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and health care costs," Dr. John Dreyzehner, Tennessee Department of Health commissioner, said in a statement. "The impacts of tobacco and nicotine addiction in Tennessee go beyond the damage done to the health, quality of life and incomes of people using these products, most of whom got addicted as youth."

Trump infrastructure plan wants to stop 'overreliance' on federal money

HIGHWAY from Page 1

tailored for megaprojects.

Under Trump's plan, though, the federal government presumably would take a backseat even in paying for large projects that could have a widespread impact, like the New York region's effort to replace damaged and traffic-choked passenger rail tunnels under the Hudson River.

While megaprojects could get some money under the Trump plan, they won't get special consideration, the White House adviser said. "We want to stay away from what has been historical precedent and what undermines the public's trust in sending money to Washington, and that is Washington picking and choosing what we think priorities ought to be for states and communities across the country. One of the problems, when you pick specific projects, is that you then tend to pool federal resources in select areas, and everyone else gets left out," he said.

Trump's plan also does not address one of the top infrastructure priorities of state and local leaders: fixing the Highway Trust Fund.

The account, which is funded by motor fuel taxes, has repeatedly run into the red over the last decade. Every time it has, Congress has had to scramble to find money from other parts of the federal budget to plug the holes in the transportation fund. But lawmakers have not found a long-term solution for keeping the

trust fund solvent, such as raising the 18.4-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline, which was last raised in 1993.

A who's who of state and local groups, in a joint statement, said that "secur[ing] the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund" is one of their top priorities. Signatories included the National Governors Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

"The plan does not call for fixing the Highway Trust Fund," said a separate White House official. "However it's something we have told members of Congress we want to work with them on. We anticipate any final legislation will address the challenges of the highway trust fund."

The White House official said relying more heavily on state and local governments to fund their own infrastructure improvements would help make that funding more "sustainable."

He pointed to Los Angeles, where voters decided in 2016 to extend a sales tax indefinitely to pay for transportation improvements, and to more than two dozen states that have raised their fuel taxes in recent years. That stood in contrast to the federal government, where highway funds were flush in the 1990s but are scarce now.

"One of the problems with federal funding, as you know, is it's very intermittent," he said.

Still, Trump infrastructure adviser D.J. Gribbin told a group of mayors last month that the administration is open to the idea of raising the gas tax to pay for more infrastructure improvements. But the administration is not asking Congress to do that, either. In fact, getting an infrastructure bill through Congress could be difficult even without the gas tax increase.

Many of the cuts the Trump administration is proposing in this year's budget plan, which would help pay for the new initiative, also appeared in the president's budget outline last year but went nowhere.

The bill would also be a heavy lift, especially in an election year when members of Congress are anxious to tend to their campaigns. If it proceeded normally, it would need the sign-off of six committees in the U.S. House and five in the Senate, and agreement between the two chambers.

Congress also passed a budget deal in early February that would keep the federal government going through September 2019. Lawmakers still have to flesh out how that money will be spent in the next few weeks, but it's unclear whether they'll be able to reflect the changes sought by Trump for his infrastructure plan as they do so.

What might get more traction is Trump's efforts to streamline



The Trump Administration has signaled they would be open to an increase in the federal gas tax to help pay for infrastructure improvements. However, many believe it would be a hard sell to get through Congress.

the federal approval process for infrastructure projects, which can sometimes stretch out for a decade or more for large projects. The president wants federal officials to make a decision in two years or less.

To do that, the administration wants to put a single federal agency in charge of the permitting process for each project, so that there would be "one federal decision" on each project. That would prevent federal agencies from second-guessing each other and drawing out the approval processes. The lead agency would have 21 months to review the project and another three months to issue the necessary permits.

The plan would make numerous other changes to the approval processes, but the White House official said the administration would not ask for changes to the major provisions of signature environmental laws, such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act.

The official also said the White House wanted to make it easier for people without college degrees to work on infrastructure projects. The administration wants to make it easier for tradespeople to transfer their licenses from one state to another. It also called for expanding the use of trade apprenticeships.



PEOPLE

Joey Barnard has been selected as the assistant city manager for the city of Morristown. As part of his new duties,



Joey Barnard

he will oversee finance, purchasing, information technology, the airport, and Community Development Block Grant functions. Barnard previously served as the city's finance and purchasing director and has been with the city since 2015. Barnard earned both his bachelor's in business administration and his master's in business administration from East Tennessee University. Before coming to the city, Barnard served as an auditor with Roderfer Moss & Company, as a legislative auditor with the Comptroller of the Treasury, and finance director for Hamblen County.

Scott Boyd

has been named as the new fire chief for the city of Kingsport, taking over from recently retired Chief Craig Dye.



Scott Boyd

Boyd has nearly 30 years of service to the city of Kingsport, including several years as the city's assistant chief. Since 2005, Boyd has also served as the fire department's accreditation manager and helped Kingsport become the first of only 40 departments in the world to obtain the Commission on Fire Accreditation International designation in 2001.

Greg Ellison

has been selected as the director of the codes enforcement department for the city of Morristown. Ellison was promoted from his position as chief building official within the city's building inspections department, a position he had held since 2014. He has been employed with the city of Morristown since 1992.



Greg Ellison

Rick Harmon,

a detective sergeant with the Morristown Police Department, has retired after 32 years with the city. Harmon began his work with the department in 1986 as a patrolman, rising through the ranks to detective sergeant in 2008. He worked in the department's general investigation and narcotics/vice departments as well as on various state task forces. Following his retirement Harmon will move to reserve officer status to keep serving the city on a part-time basis.



Rick Harmon

Ryan Martin

has been named as the new assistant city manager for the city of Springfield. Martin previously served as the public information officer for the Robertson County Sheriff's Office, a position he has held since 2009. He also served as the department's human resources manager and legal advisor. A Springfield native, Martin holds a law degree from the Nashville School of Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville.



Ryan Martin

Steve Neilson

has been selected as the new community development director for the city of Morristown. Neilson previously



Steve Neilson

served as the city's planning director, a position he has held since 2016. Neilson holds a bachelor's in urban planning from Florida State University as well as a master's in urban and regional planning from Florida State and a master's in city management from East Tennessee University. After leaving the U.S. Air Force at the rank of sergeant, Neilson worked for the Florida Department of Community Affairs; as a planner for the city of Bangor, Maine; and as development coordinator for Johnson City.

Sherri Phillips

has been selected as the new financial services administrator and city recorder for the city of Maryville. Phillips has been with the city since 1998, and has held positions including accountant and accounting manager. Phillips began her career with the city in 1998 and held positions including accountant and accounting manager. She helped lead the city's financial software conversion in 2004 and helped implement best practices in municipal financial management for the city in her tenure. She earned the International Institute of Municipal Clerks designation of certified municipal clerk in November 2002 and completed the MTAS Certified Municipal Finance Officer program in 2013. A graduate of Maryville High School, Phillips earned a bachelor's degree in management from Tusculum College.



Sherri Phillips

Lynn Tully,

development services director for the city of Kingsport, has earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). The designation makes Tully one of more than 1,100 active CEcDs in the U.S. Tully has more than 20 years of experience in development and six years in economic development experience with the city of Kingsport. Tully began her career in Kingsport in 1995 as a principal planner and went on to work as a planner for Cherokee County, Ga.; a community development director for Dawson County, Ga., and Milton, Ga.; and as a district director for the Georgia Planning Association before returning to Kingsport as its development services director in 2011. She holds a bachelor's degree in architecture and a master's in city and regional planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Lynn Tully

TBI Director Gwyn announces June retirement

Mark Gwyn, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has, announced his intention to retire from the agency in June.

Gwyn has served as TBI director for more than 14 years and was the first African-American selected to helm the agency.

Gwyn earned a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's from Tennessee State University.

He began his career with the McMinnville Police Department before joining TBI as a special agent in 1988. He served as the agency's executive officer and led the forensic services division before becoming director in 2004.

During his tenure, Gwyn has expanded the reach and resources of the agency. He oversaw the creation of the Technical Services Unit, which is responsible for high-tech surveillance methods, computer forensics, and investigating internet crimes against children.

Under his leadership, the Tennessee Fusion Center was established within TBI's headquarters as a central hub of information sharing between local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.

More recently, Gwyn spearheaded the TBI's efforts to combat



Mark Gwyn

human trafficking, including a unit of agents to investigate cases and train law enforcement officers across the state.

Gwyn has completed some of the most prestigious law enforcement and leadership training available, including the FBI's National Executive Institute, Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the FBI's Leadership in Counter-Terrorism Program.

He has also graduated from the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, the FBI National Academy, the Leadership Nashville Foundation, and the Tennessee Government Executive Institute.

Gwyn also received extensive terrorism training conducted in Israel by the Israeli National Police while attending the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. In 2015, he graduated from the inaugural Tennessee Law Enforcement Command College.

In 2010, Gwyn received the Distinguished Alumni Award for professional achievement from MTSU, and in 2015, received the Lead By Example Award from the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. In 2016, he was awarded the Good Guy Award from the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee.

A nominating commission will present Gov. Bill Haslam with a slate of finalists to serve out the balance of Gwyn's term that ends in 2022. By statute, the five-member nominating panel includes the Executive Director of the Tennessee District Attorney General Conference Jerry Estes, and two members each chosen by the House and Senate speakers. Former Reps. Larry Scroggs, R-Germantown, and Eddie Bass, D-Prospect, are the House appointees. Senate members are attorney Jack Vaughn of Kingsport and Circuit Judge John D. Wooten Jr. of Lafayette.

Welch to retire after 18 years with Savannah

Savannah City Manager Garry Welch will be retiring from his position after nearly 20 years with the city.

In that time, Welch said the population of Savannah has stayed relatively the same but business growth has really flourished.

"We've really become a regional hub for a 50 mile radius around Savannah," he said. "We have a lot of folks that come here to shop."

During his tenure with the city, Welch said the city has opened two new parks.

"We have been very progressive on our quality-of-life issues in Savannah. We built a wonderful six-acre park right in the heart of the historic part of the city," he said. "It has a big foundation, playgrounds for small kids, playgrounds for big kids, a walking trail, and it has become a major asset. We call it Savannah's Disneyland because everybody goes there. Two years ago, we also built a veterans' park that is just top notch. We had a one-acre parcel of land donated to the city in a prime spot, and that was just the best use of one acre I've seen in the state of Tennessee. We've honored every conflict in American history. We also were able to let citizens participate by putting their relatives' names in it. There is someone at that park all the time."

Welch said he also takes pride in two ongoing city projects that will be completed after his retirement.

"We are going to build a 68-acre sportsplex, starting with a first phase that is a soccer complex," he said. "We have acquired the land for it, and we are hoping to get that bid out this year. There is another



Garry Welch

project we've been working on for about 5 years. We are going to build a marina. Savannah is right on the Tennessee River, and we've acquired about 4 acres for that. The design is done, and our engineers are now talking to TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about where we need to go next. We are really excited to see that project getting in the next year or so."

While he is proud of the city's accomplishments, Welch said getting to serve the citizens of Savannah makes his work worthwhile.

"The citizens of Savannah are the best part of my job," he said. "We are just blessed with such wonderful people here. Everywhere you turn a corner there is somebody smiling or saying 'good morning,' 'hello,' or 'how are you?' We are a growing city of about 7,000 people, but there is still a whole lot of love. The citizens support each other, and you're not lost in the crowd."

For those getting into municipal service, Welch said keeping an eye on finances is key to making any

city successful.

"Finances can get you into trouble quicker than anything," he said. "I have been fortunate that the city commission has never had to raise taxes during my time as city manager. In fact, they have gone down about 20 percent. We have tried to promote business so the local economy will increase our revenue instead of putting the pressure on our residents."

In addition to getting to work with citizens, Welch said he has had the pleasure of being involved in various committees and organizations across the state. Welch currently serves as vice-chair of the TML Risk Management Pool board and as a district director with TML.

"One thing I will miss is being on a lot of boards, both locally and on the state level," he said. "I am going to miss those interactions. I've made so many friends both statewide and locally. I have been able to make a lot of good connections with a lot of great people over the years."

With his last day on March 5, Welch hasn't missed one of the 143 city commission meetings held during his tenure as city manager. However, he said he has plans besides city functions for his retirement.

"My wife is a teacher, and she retired last year," Welch said. "She wants to travel some. I am not a huge traveler, but there are some places I would like to see. I also have a 'honey-do' list that seems to be growing every day. I probably have about a year or two of work with that, so I probably won't have to go looking for things to do."

WAUFORD

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

Home Office:
2835 Lebanon Pike
P.O. Box 140350
Nashville, TN 37214
615/883-3243

Branch Office (West):
Jackson
529 Old Hickory Blvd, Ste. A
Jackson, TN 38305
731/668-1953

Branch Office (East):
Maryville
908 W Broadway Ave.
Maryville, TN 37801
865/984-9638

www.jrwauford.com

Water and Wastewater Systems

STATE BRIEFS



Tennessee needs a minimum of \$45 billion in public infrastructure improvements before June 2021 according to a new report issued by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). The report is a \$2 billion or 4.7 percent increase from last year's estimates. Improvements needed for transportation and utilities, education, health, safety, and welfare infrastructure continue to account for the bulk of the needed infrastructure improvement with education, health, safety, and welfare being most responsible for the \$2 billion price increase. More than two-thirds of the estimated cost of needed infrastructure improvements included in this year's report is not funded, a slight increase from last year. The full report is available on TACIR's web site <https://www.tn.gov/tacir.htm>.

Tennessee collects \$19 in tax for every \$1 spent on the state department of tourism's "The Soundtrack of America. Made in Tennessee" campaign, according to a new report. A study undertaken by the tourism department and research firm SMARI found the state of Tennessee has increased its return on investment for the campaign since last year when the state saw \$18 in taxes for every \$1 spent on the tourism campaign. Most states only collect \$11 in

tax for every \$1 spent, putting Tennessee \$8 above the national average. The study demonstrates the economic boost this campaign is to the state, bringing \$1.3 billion in influenced spending and more than \$100 million in tax collection. The report also shows a community benefit of \$251 for every dollar invested in advertising – meaning that travelers spent over \$250 within the state for each dollar the Department spent on the campaign. The national benchmark is \$179.

Tennessee ranked 29 out of 50 in Gallup's annual state well-being survey, an improvement from last year's ranking at 38. Tennessee scored in the top 10 purpose rank – a measure of motivation and happiness – and in top 20 for community rankings, meaning enjoying where one lives and community pride. However, lower rankings in social, financial, and physical categories contributed to the state's lower overall score. Social rankings were determined based on supportive relationships, financial on economic stress and security, and physical based on overall good health and energy. Tennessee earned a 61.5 well-being score – the same as New Jersey. The highest score was a 64.1 awarded to South Dakota and Vermont while the lowest was a 58.8 earned by West Virginia.

State officials launch Tennessee's leg of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail

The state of Tennessee has officially launched its leg of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail with 10 sites that mark important sites in the Civil Rights Movement.

State officials launched the trail at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on Feb. 21.

Sites include Clinton High School in Clinton, which was the first integrated public high school in the state and in the South after the *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling. The school admitted 12 black students that year, who were escorted by local white minister Rev. Paul Turner, who was then beaten for aiding the students to school.

In 1957, Bobby Cain became the first African-American student to graduate an integrated public high school when he earned his diploma from Clinton High. The following year the school was nearly destroyed in a bombing carried out to discourage integration. Students were bused to Oak Ridge's Linden Elementary School until Clinton could reopen the high school in 1960.

A second site in Clinton, the Green McAdoo Cultural Center, commemorates the 12 students who integrated the school.

Three sites are located in Memphis: the Clayborn Temple, the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his final sermon, and the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel.

Five sites are located in Nashville. The sites include the Clark Memorial United Methodist Church where the 1961 Southern Christian Leadership Conference was held, the Fifth Avenue Historic District where the famous Woolworth sit-ins were conducted, Fisk University, and Griggs Hall at American Baptist



Clinton's Green McAdoo Cultural Center is home to a monument honoring the Clinton 12, the first students to integrate a high school in both Tennessee and the Southeast.



Located at 221 Fifth Avenue North, the Woolworth building is a registered historic site in downtown Nashville. One of the original "five and dime" stores, F.W. Woolworth became the site of some of the first lunch counter sit-ins during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement in Nashville.

College. Another Nashville site is the Davidson County Courthouse and Witness Walls, which catalogues how student leaders confronted Nashville's mayor on the steps of the courthouse after months of lunch



The Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was fatally shot as he stood on the motel's balcony outside Room 306.

counter sit-ins and economic boycotts to protest segregation.

More information about the U.S. Civil Rights Trail and related destinations can be found at civilrightstrail.com.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



U.S. employers added 200,000 jobs in January and unemployment held steady at 4.1 percent, federal economists reported. Wages were reported to be 2.9 percent higher in January than in the previous year with average hourly wages rising 9 cents between January 2018 and December 2017. Wage gains have lagged for years after the Great Recession, despite steady job growth and a steadily improving stock market. Economists noted that the increase might be because most minimum wage hikes tend to take effect in January.

U.S. household debt has risen to a new record-high of \$13.15 trillion at the end of 2017, a \$193 billion increase from the previous year. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Center for Microeconomic Data, it was the fifth consecutive year household debt increased in the U.S. with the largest increases reported in the mortgage, student loans, auto, and credit card debt categories. Mortgage debt balances rose the most in the December quarter rising by \$139 billion to \$8.88 trillion from the previous quarter. Credit card debt had the second largest increase of \$26 billion to a total of \$834 billion.

More U.S. children may be suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome than previously thought, according to a new study recently published in the Journal of The American Medical Association (JAMA). Researchers surveyed about 3,000 children in four communities as well as their mothers

and found that 1.1 to 5 percent of children are impacted by the condition, five times more than previous estimates. Additionally, about 1.5 percent of those children suffering from fetal alcohol-related disorders also suffer from autism. Researchers said one of the reasons fetal alcohol syndrome and related disorders may be underdiagnosed is because many effects are subtle and can apply to other diseases as well. When and how much the mother drank during the pregnancy can also create different symptoms, and mothers are often reluctant to acknowledge issues their children face because of stigma. However, researchers said the earlier these conditions can be identified the better school officials, psychologists and pediatricians can work to help mitigate related issues.

Home sales in the U.S. fell for a second straight month as a major housing crunch continues to hit many major metro areas. The January decline was the biggest year-on-year decline in more than three years. A shortage of houses has pushed up prices and kept first-time buyers out of the market. The National Association of Realtors said existing home sales dropped 3.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.38 million units last month. House prices have outstripped wage growth. The median house price increased 5.8 percent from a year ago to \$240,500 in January, the 71st consecutive month of year-on-year price gains. Rising mortgage rates have also contributed to the decrease in sales.

January revenues less than expected

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced overall January state tax revenues posted less than expected, while year-to-date state revenues remain more than budgeted.

Revenues for January totaled \$1.4 billion. Revenues were 3.18 percent less than revenues received in the same time period one year ago and were \$25 million less than budgeted.

"The negative growth recorded in total tax revenues for January, when adjusted for one-time revenues received in 2017 and 2018, reflect an underlying positive growth of 2.62 percent for the month," Commissioner Martin said. "Sales tax revenues, which reflect Christmas holiday retail activity occurring in December, recorded less than normally expected growth and were also less than the budgeted estimate. Corporate tax revenues posted negative growth of 35.31 percent, but reflect positive growth of 6.52 percent after adjusting for a one-time payment received in 2017. The substantial gain in the Hall income tax is thought to be driven by the pre-payment of 2017 taxes due to recent changes in the federal tax code. All other revenues, taken as a group, exceeded the budgeted estimates for January."

General fund revenues were less than the budgeted estimates in

the amount of \$36.6 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$11.6 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$10.1 million less than the estimate for January and the growth rate was 1 percent. For six months revenues are \$39.6 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for six months is 3.86 percent.

Franchise and excise tax revenues combined were \$48.4 million less than the January budgeted estimate. The growth rate over January 2017 was negative 35.31 percent. This month's negative growth is largely due to a one-time payment received in January 2017. Again, after adjusting for the January 2017 payment, the underlying growth rate is a positive 6.52 percent. Year-to-date franchise and excise tax revenues for the first six months of this year are \$59.5 million more than estimated. The growth rate is negative 7.18 percent. However, when adjusted for large one-time payments received in both last year and this year, the underlying year-to-date growth is a positive 4.64 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for January increased by 12.01 percent compared to January 2017 and were flat compared to the budgeted estimate of \$90.6 million. For six months, revenues are more than estimates by \$13.1 million.

Tobacco tax revenues were

\$1.3 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$20.7 million, and for six months they are \$2.5 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate tax revenues were more than estimates by \$200,000 for the month. Year-to-date revenues for six months are \$1.9 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$1.2 million more than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through January, revenues are \$6.9 million more than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$600,000 more than the January estimate. For six months revenues are \$2 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues, including the very large estimated pre-payment of 2017 taxes, were \$33.8 million more than the budgeted estimate. All other taxes were below estimates by a net of \$100,000.

Year-to-date revenues, which include substantial pre-payments of 2017 Hall income taxes and a large one-time franchise and excise tax payment for this year, were \$185.1 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$136.1 million more than budgeted estimates and the four other funds that share state tax revenues were \$49 million above the estimates.

MEMBER FOCUSED



THE
TML
POOL
Tennessee's Leader in Risk Management Services

www.thepool-tn.org • 800-624-9698



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ASSISTANT TOWN ENGINEER

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut is seeking applicants for an assistant town engineer, whose essential responsibilities include: technical and administrative work for supervision of construction and contract management for the town's capital projects, including construction of roadways, greenways, parks and other public facilities. Inspection of public works and public utilities projects. Supervision, preparation and maintenance of engineering records. Provides technical assistance to engineers, contractors, surveyors, architects, developers and citizens on matters related to residential and commercial development. Performs civil engineering work in the field and in the office relating to municipal public works, capital improvements, drainage and other related "in-house" designs for projects constructed by the town's public works department. Works closely with our citizens, as well as other members of the town's staff. Work is performed under the general direction of the town engineer. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, or related field and considerable experience with civil design, roadway construction, project management, municipal engineering, or equivalent combination of education and experience are encouraged to apply. An EIT or PE certification are preferred. Benefits include a competitive salary, medical, dental, life, LTD, and a matching 401(k) retirement plan. Applications and a job description may be obtained at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN, 37934, or www.townoffarragut.org/jobs. Applicants must submit a completed Town of Farragut application with an attached resume. Open until filled. EOE

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MASON. Responsible for bookkeeping and support services under the general supervision of the office manager/human resources manager. Instructions to the employee are general and the employee must routinely use independent judgement when performing tasks. The employee must occasionally consider a different course of action. The uniform accounting code and accounting system must be followed in order to complete tasks. Graduation from an accredited high school or possess equivalency, and supplemental course work in bookkeeping principles and practices. Experience in clerical accounting work. Responsible for all bookkeeping and financial records of all funds including reconciling bank statements and invoices, bond payments, drafting checks, accounts payable, etc.; balances all receipts and tax collections monthly; prepares all deposits and withdrawals; prepares all bookkeeping reports; prepares all payroll; prepares Social Security and tax withholding reports; prepares quarterly unemployment reports; reviews recorder reports before being submitted to state; maintains general records of account according to established accounting classifications, including various ledgers, registers, and journals; posts entries to books and computer from supporting records, makes adjustments and prepares financial statements; and deposit city receipts at bank. SALARY: \$14.00 Hourly. Please apply at the Town of Mason; Mason City Hall; 12157 Main Street. Position open until filled. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah, Tennessee, bordered by the beautiful Tennessee River, is home to 7,030 residents and is a progressive and growing city which provides an excellent community in which to live. Savannah is seeking an experienced city manager due to the approaching retirement of the current city manager. Three years of as a city manager, assistant city manager, or related experience is required. Experience is needed with municipal regulations and grants. The successful candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration or a closely related field. Savannah has 85 employees, a general fund budget in excess of 10 million dollars and a utility department providing water, sewer and natural gas. The city manager is expected to live or relocate within the city limits of Savannah. The city manager position is an exempt, at-will employee working under the general direction of a five member city commission. Savannah operates under a private act city charter, which designates a manager/commission form of operational structure, with duties outlined in the Charter and Municipal Code. The salary is DOQ; plus a comprehensive benefits package. EOE. Resumes will be accepted until March 20. All interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, and salary history along with three personal and five professional references to: City of Savannah, Attn: Mayor, 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ PLANNING DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is seeking a director of development services/planning. This is a high-level, visible management position reporting directly to the city manager. The director will oversee the operations of the planning, building inspection, permitting, code compliance division, and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Will work

closely with community stakeholders and the economic development council to attract new and diverse businesses. Must be a service-oriented leader who works collaboratively with staff as well as with other city departments, city commission, neighborhood groups, public or private agencies to seek resolutions that are in the best interest of all parties. Will oversee the work of all departmental personnel; establish departmental policies, procedures and regulations and ensure proper enforcement. Prepare and administer the departmental annual \$1.6M budget and monitor expenditures during the year and make recommendations for budget modifications or additional funds. Ensure compliance with city policies, procedures, and regulations. Present information and recommendations to various boards, commissions and committees. Research and prepare ordinances and ordinance revisions related to development, permitting and code enforcement. Work with the public and developers in answering questions and providing information regarding land use, the development process, building projects, building and housing regulations and code enforcement. Serve as technical advisor to the planning commission, city manager, board of commissioners, and department heads on planning and zoning issues. Establish and maintain a policy of downtown improvement and coordinates that policy with other urban growth policies and zoning policies etc. Make frequent presentations to the city boards and commissions. Manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment with strong prioritization and organizational skills. A bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, or a related field and five years of progressive experience is required. AICP certification and master's degree is preferred. Must have knowledge of urban planning and zoning principles, land use and development laws, federal, state, and municipal building codes, GIS, and current and long range planning methods. Must be a city resident or secure residence within the city limits within 12 months of employment. Applications will be received on-line at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range \$72,070 - \$116,810. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is seeking an experienced, energetic, team builder with exceptional leader skills to be their next fire chief. This is an exceptional opportunity to serve in a top-notch organization with a superb staff of high-quality leaders and managers. The fire chief's position requires an individual with sound judgment, human resources skills, organization development expertise, and a can-do work ethic. The fire chief is a highly visible city department head that is expected to project a professional image of the city and fire department in all situations. The city of Fayetteville will offer a competitive salary and benefits package to the successful candidate. The position profile is available for review at www.fayettevilletn.com. Send cover letter and résumé to Fayetteville HR Director, at 110 Elk Ave S, Fayetteville TN, 37334 or email cover letter and résumé to: agay@fayettevilletn.com or apply online at http://www.fayettevilletn.com/resident/career_and_employment_opportunities/index.php no later than March 15, 2018.

MANAGER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Economic Development Agency (EDA) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of existing industries manager/graphic designer/administrative assistant II. This position works with existing industry on personnel recruitment and problem-solving, creating promotional materials for the EDA, along with assisting with day-to-day operations of the office. This is a 40-hours per week, day shift position. Starting rate is \$20.11 per hour + excellent benefits. The successful applicant should have experience in event organization, including arranging venues, catering and audio/visual needs; strong organizational and multi-tasking skills in a fast paced environment; advanced computer skills with a thorough knowledge of Adobe Creative Suites, Microsoft Office, and Excel. Essential duties include working with the executive director to gain a general understanding of all initiatives within the economic development agency, representing the agency, and city when appropriate, at job fairs, completing diverse administrative tasks including: appointment management, meeting and presentation preparation and database management, while maintaining strict confidentiality, and arranging travel needs (including but not limited to hotel, air and registrations) for the agency. Qualified applicants must possess an associate's degree. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Must have at least five years recent work experience in a related capacity, preferably working directly with executive level positions. For a full description and to apply, visit the city's website at www.gallatintn.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

FINANCIAL ANALYST

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is now accepting applications for a financial analyst. Under the direction of the city recorder, the financial analyst will perform, plan and organize duties of the general accounting department, billing and collection department and general administration. Responsible for accounting and financial records for all city funds;

perform treasurer and cash management functions; assist in preparation of the annual budget and completion of the annual audit. Qualifications/Requirements: bachelor's degree or equivalent in accounting and/or business administration, minimum of one year's experience in the accounting field desirable. Successful candidate will be required to complete Certified Municipal Financial Officer (CMFO) certification within two years. Compensation range \$45,226 to \$63,100 with full benefits package. Application deadline: March 5, or until position is filled. For a complete job description and how to apply online, visit: www.cityofportlandtn.gov.

FIREFIGHTER-FIRST RESPONDER CANDIDATE TESTING

GALLATIN. The Gallatin Fire Department is accepting applications for firefighter candidates testing. The test will be held on March 24. Testing of firefighter candidates does not necessarily indicate available openings. An eligibility list will be created as a result of this test and utilized to fill future openings in addition to current openings. Aptitude and physical ability tests will be administered to final candidates as part of the selection process. Firefighters average 56 hours per week. The schedule is a rotating shift with weekend work required. Starting rate is \$11.70 + excellent benefits. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma/GED. Must be able to respond to the assigned fire station within 45 minutes in case of call back for emergency service. Must complete FEMA online courses IS-100 and IS-700 within six months of employment. Must have valid driver's license. Must meet physical standards established by the Gallatin Fire Department. The following skills are preferred: commissioned firefighters from state of Tennessee, firefighting certifications from accredited fire school, certified as first responders or EMTs. All non-Tennessee certifications must meet reciprocity standards established by the state of Tennessee. Persons wishing to test must apply online at www.gallatintn.gov. All completed applications must be received no later than March 13. Testing invitations will be emailed out to eligible candidates after the closing date. EOE.

PLANNER I

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut has a reputation for high standards, and this applies to our workforce as well as our vision for the community. We thrive on professionalism and integrity, and genuinely enjoy serving residents. The town is seeking applicants for a Planner I position, whose essential responsibilities include inspecting and coordinating the enforcement of property maintenance, signage, and zoning related matters in response to citizen requests and complaints. Inspects commercial sites for compliance with town approved plans and ordinances and authorizes codes staff to conduct final building inspections. Researches and collects data in association with writing ordinances for planning and land use. Collects data, tabulates, updates, and tracks information and performs other research to utilize in response to requests, report writing, and departmental metrics. Reviews landscape plans and tree preservation removal plans for compliance with Town ordinances. Work is performed under the general direction of the assistant community development director. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in geography, land use, planning, public administration, or related field, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Working knowledge of a minimum of one computer application (for example, Sketch Up, ArcGIS, Adobe Design Creative Suites, or other similar products) commonly used in urban planning is required. Benefits include a competitive salary, medical, dental, life, LTD, and a matching 401(k) retirement plan. Applications and a job description may be obtained at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN, 37934, or www.townoffarragut.org/jobs. Applicants must submit a completed Town of Farragut application with an attached resume. Application deadline is March 7, 2018. EOE

POLICE OFFICER

COOKEVILLE. The Cookeville Police Department, an internationally and state accredited agency, is now seeking qualified women and men for the position of certified police officer, offering superior fringe benefits and pension plan. Applicant must meet Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106), possess a valid TN driver's license and be 21 years of

age. High school education or equivalent is required. Sixty semester hours in criminal justice, police science, sociology or other law enforcement related subjects preferred. Pay range commensurate with experience and qualifications. Applications/resumes must include a full mailing address, and will be accepted until position is filled. Send to: City of Cookeville, HR Department, PO Box 998, Cookeville, TN 38503-0998 or email jobs@cookeville-tn.org. EOE

POLICE OFFICER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications for police officer. Qualified applicants will have a high school education or state recognized equivalent, will be 21 years of age, will have a valid Tennessee driver's license, will be required to undergo post-offer medical and psychological exams including drug screen, and will conform to other standards as set forth in T.C.A. 38-8-106. Applicants will progress through pre-employment testing procedures and successful candidates will be selected as positions become available. Pre-employment procedures consist of: 1) written exam measuring basic skills in reading comprehension, math, grammar, punctuation, spelling, report writing; 2) physical readiness exam consisting of a 1.5 mile run, 300 yard run, one rep free weight bench press, pushups, agility course, and vertical jump; 3) ride-along with certified officer and written assessment of events observed during the ride-along; 4) structured oral interview process; 5) background investigation. Applicants who have obtained an associate's degree or higher from a Department of Education recognized regionally accredited college or university, or those that are currently POST certified will have the written exam waived. Entry level annual salary of \$35,892 and competitive benefits package provided including fully employer paid retirement plan with Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Applications may be obtained by contacting the city of Cleveland Human Resources Office at 160 2nd Street NE or by phone at 423-559-3313. Applications are also available at the city's website www.clevelandtn.gov. Applications should be submitted to the City Human Resources Office at the above address or by mail to City of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department. Please contact the Human Resources Office at 423-559-3313 if you have questions or would like additional information. EOE.

POLICE OFFICERS

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications from qualified individuals to become police officers. Eligible applicants must meet the following minimum requirements: pass a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview board, and thorough background investigation. There is no residency requirement. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age or be a sworn police officer with a minimum of one full year experience. Jackson is looking for officers with no experience or officers with POST Certification. Starting salary from \$34,112-\$43,305/year depending on experience. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, bonus leave, TCRS retirement system, education reimbursement, and specialized units. Applications are being accepted until Feb. 28 for the test date of March 24. POST Certified officers can receive a sign on bonus and up to 4 years of service credit depending on experience and qualifications. Apply online at www.cityofjackson.net.

POLICE OFFICER

PORTLAND. The Portland Police Department is accepting applications for full-time, certified police officers and non-certified officer trainees to develop a hiring eligibility list for the department. Applicants will successfully complete the physical tests and the written test for inclusion on the candidate list for vacancies that may occur during the next 6-month period. Applications will be accepted through close of business, March 16. Applicants for non-certified officer trainee positions will enroll in the Police Academy via the provisions of the city's Educational Assistance Program. Starting pay for the non-exempt, trainee position is \$16.64/hr. Certified Police Officers must have current P.O.S.T. certification. Starting pay, with 3 years of certified experience is \$18.97/hr. Both positions will be full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS

retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. This classification provides protection of life and property, enforcement of federal, state and local laws and ordinances, responds to emergency/non-emergency situations, investigates criminal activity, and performs specialized duties within an assigned division/unit. Work is performed under regular supervision; officer reports directly to the shift supervisor. Apply online at www.cityofportlandtn.gov or obtain an application from the receptionist at Portland City Hall Monday through Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm. Completed applications must be returned by 4:30 pm on March 16, to Human Resources, Attn: Jo Ella Goad, HR Director, jgoad@cityofportlandtn.gov. Confidential FAX 615-325-1481, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN, 37148. Post-offer, pre-employment background check, drug screen and physical required. EOE / Drug Free Workplace.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a risk management and safety program coordinator. The purpose of this classification is to perform responsible administrative work in planning, developing, coordinating and administering the town's comprehensive risk management and safety program functions. Requires an associate's degree with course concentration in business administration, finance, public administration or a related field; supplemented by three years of experience in a safety-related position; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Excellent MS Word and Excel skills strongly preferred. This is an entry level position. A cover letter and resume must be submitted with the application to be considered. Salary is \$35,475 - \$42,397 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EOE.



March 11-14

NLC 2018 Congressional City Conference

Washington, D.C.
City officials will get up to speed on the federal policies that affect cities, the latest funding opportunities, and the emerging practices you can pioneer in your community. During the conference, you'll have designated time to visit your congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit <http://ccc.nlc.org/>

March 12 - 14

Tennessee Environmental Conference

Kingsport Meadow View Conference Resort & Convention Center
This is the 17th year of the Tennessee Environmental Conference. Its continuing mission is improving our public health and the environment through smart choices. Come join us for the region's premier networking event with over 40 speakers that will share information and ideas to help you make informed smart choices. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.tnenvironment.com/>

April 11-13

TCMA Spring Conference

Murfreesboro Embassy Suites
This conference provides an excellent opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills for successful municipal management, while providing a setting to network with other managers, administrators, and assistants from across the state. For more information, visit, <https://tcma32.wildapricot.org/event-2823610>

NLC Congressional City Conference

REBUILD WITH US
CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

Tell Congress to invest in our vision to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure.

- ▶ March 11 - 14, 2018
- ▶ Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Marriott Wardman Park Hotel



Tennessee Municipal League
 2017-2018 Officers and Directors
PRESIDENT
Bo Perkinson
 Councilmember, Athens
VICE PRESIDENTS
Wallace Cartwright
 Mayor, Shelbyville

Jill Holland
 Mayor, McKenzie

Mike Werner
 Mayor, Gatlinburg
DIRECTORS
Jimmy Alexander
 Mayor, Nolensville

Megan Barry
 Mayor, Metro Nashville

Andy Berke
 Mayor, Chattanooga

Tony Cox
 City Administrator, Morristown (District 2)

John Clark
 Mayor, Kingsport

Vance Coleman
 Mayor, Medina

Betsy Crossley
 Commissioner, Brentwood (District 6)

Richard Driver
 Mayor, Lafayette (District 5)

Bill Graham
 Councilman, Dayton (District 3)

Avery Johnson
 Vice Mayor, Cleveland

Hoyt Jones
 Alderman, Sparta (District 4)

Bobby King
 Mayor, Henderson

Christa Martin
 Vice Mayor, Columbia

Lonnie Norman
 Mayor, Manchester

Madelaine Rogero
 Mayor, Knoxville

Paula Sedgwick
 Alderman, Bartlett (District 8)

Charles "Bones" Seivers
 President-CEO, TN Municipal Bond Fund

Todd Smith
 City Manager, Greeneville (District 1)

Jim Strickland
 Mayor, Memphis

Mary Ann Tremblay
 Vice Mayor, Three Way

Garry Welch
 City Manager, Savannah (District 7)
PAST PRESIDENTS
John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg

Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston

Tom Rowland (2014) Mayor, Cleveland

Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon

Ken Wilber (2012) Mayor, Portland

Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor

Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris

Tommy Pedigo (2009) Council, Morristown

Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
AFFILIATE DIRECTORS
Karen Johnson, Councilwoman, Nashville (NLC)

C. Seth Sumner, Athens (TCMA)
TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

(Ex-Officio Directors)

Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports

Tennessee Building Officials Assn.

Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police

TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Records

TN Government Finance Officers Assn.

Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn.

Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors

Tennessee Association of Floodplain

Management

Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.

Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn.

Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference

Tenn. Chapter, American Public Works

Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn.

Tennessee Chapter, American Planning

Tennessee Personnel Management Assn.

Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing

TN Section, Institute of Transport

Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc.

Assn. of Independent and Municipal

Schools

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic

Development Council

Tennessee Urban Forestry Council

Tennessee Stormwater Association

Ticket-buying bots still snag the best seats

Despite efforts by federal and state governments, little has changed

BY REBECCA BEITSCH
Stataline.org

What do fans of "Hamilton," Taylor Swift, and Chance the Rapper have in common? They've all lost out on tickets to performances after they were snatched up by ticket-buying bots.

And despite efforts by federal and state governments, little has changed.

Sophisticated internet software known as bots race through ticket sellers' online ordering forms and buy hundreds of tickets well before human eyes even reach a captcha. Those tickets then get resold with a serious markup.

One broker used bots to buy 30,000 "Hamilton" tickets over 20 months — vacuuming up as much as 40 percent of available seats for some performances — according to a lawsuit by Ticketmaster.

During Bruce Springsteen's Broadway run, tickets with a \$75 face value were selling for \$1,400 on StubHub. Bot-reliant brokers have drawn the ire of pop star Taylor Swift, who vowed to foil them with a ticket-buying system aimed at rewarding the most active fans. And Chance the Rapper bought about 2,000 tickets from scalpers and sold them back to fans.

Federal and state governments have tried to push their way into the murky gutters of the web, banning the use of bots software and, in some cases, instituting criminal penalties for those who are caught. But so far, few have been.

The Federal Trade Commission, which, alongside state attorneys general, is assigned to enforce the federal law, has yet to bring any enforcement action. And of the 13 states that ban bots, New York appears to be the only one to have reached a settlement with ticket resellers.

According to the New York Attorney General's Office, tickets are resold on the secondary market at an average markup of 49 percent. Of course, the markup can

be even higher for major events: The average ticket price for this year's Super Bowl is an eye-popping \$5,500. The face value for nosebleed seats is \$950.

To be sure, bots aren't the only factor limiting ticket availability to the public — an investigation by NewsChannel 5 in Nashville found that just 7 percent of tickets to a Justin Bieber concert were actually up for grabs. The rest were set aside for promoters, fan club members and American Express cardholders. But bots are most targeted by lawmakers.

Proponents say the legislation still has a deterrent effect, particularly once criminal penalties become a part of the package.

"The first step to stop bad behavior is to make it illegal," said Arizona state Sen. John Kavanagh, a Republican who sponsored a bill banning bots. "Even if it's difficult to enforce, you can put a dent in it by making it illegal and hopefully deter people."

Kavanagh's legislation has been through a few iterations. Last year's bill tried to bar the use of any software that impersonates a human and conceals its real identity, but the tech industry quickly opposed it because such software often is used for benevolent purposes such as customer service.

This year's bill would ban bots directly and make their use a Class 1 misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in prison. (A bill in New Jersey, meanwhile, would impose a \$10,000 fine and up to 18 months in prison for those convicted of using bots to buy tickets online.) Even with stiff penalties, enforcement can be a challenge.

State laws have little impact on bots deployed outside their borders, and a 2016 federal law — the BOTS Act — doesn't combat overseas operations.

But consumer advocates say companies that sell tickets aren't doing enough to report problems to enforcement agencies, particularly because their internal data would be the first to flag purchases that didn't fit the typical purchasing algorithm.

"Really, the companies that spot and know a bot is being used are the primary ticketers. That's typically going to be Ticketmaster," said John Breyault with the National Consumers League, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group. "If bots continue to purchase large amounts of tickets, why isn't Ticketmaster taking advantage of the law to bring more prosecutions?"

Breyault said some ticket-selling companies also own the online markets where they can be resold, taking a cut of each sale. Ticketmaster is affiliated with TicketsNow. State laws could strengthen the federal law, he said, if they provided stiffer penalties or required ticket sellers to report suspected bot usage. But Katie Peters, head of public policy with Ticketmaster, said it's not so simple. Bot developers quickly find new ways around additional security measures.

"The problem is we innovate, they innovate," she said. "We innovate, they innovate."

Where the law allows for a private right of action, the company has sued. Ticketmaster filed suit in California against ticket brokers it claims used bots to grab tickets to "Hamilton" and the Floyd Mayweather vs. Manny Pacquiao boxing match, in Las Vegas, in 2015. The \$10 million suit is working its way through court.

And in New York, the attorney general's office last year reached settlements worth \$4.2 million with six ticket brokers, five of which used bots. One of the companies, Renaissance Ventures, also known as Prestige Entertainment, in 2014 bought over a thousand tickets to a U2 concert in one minute. The attorney general's office did not respond to requests for additional information.

Kavanagh said he envisions local police departments' computer crime units as the best avenue for enforcing his bill, should it become law.

"We still need state laws too," he said, "because the feds don't have the time or inclination to do enforcement."



March 1 - 4: Nashville

Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

The four-day, indoor show will include live garden displays, lectures, vendors, floral designs, and special programming, including the popular Tennessee Wine Festival on Saturday afternoon. This year's theme, Guerrilla Gardening and the Urban Jungle, will highlight topics such as small space gardens, urban horticulture, aquaponics, community gardens, and more. Visit: www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com.

March 17: Bell Buckle

Daffodil Day

Bell Buckle celebrates its Daffodil Day in its downtown area. Mass plantings of the golden beauties were planted more than 100 years ago along the corridors to the scenic little town of Bell Buckle. Horticulture seminars, the Daffodil Flower Show, and a seed exchange round out the festival events. Visit: www.bellbucklechamber.com/daffodil-days-2/daffodil-day-flower-show-rules/.

March 20-24: Pigeon Forge

24th Annual Mountain Quiltfest

Quilters will be able to attend classes based on skill level and technique. Vendors will showcase a variety of quilts. Hours: Wed.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pigeon Forge LeConte Center. Visit: www.mypigeonforge.com/events/quiltfest/.

March 23-24: Linden

Blooming Arts Festival

Fine arts, local craftsmanship, engaging performances, and fantastic eats. More than 100 artisans and vendors showcasing fine art and local crafts, chainsaw carving, live dance performances, painting exhibits, kids activities, quilt exhibitions, and more. Hours: Fri. 12 p.m.-7 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., 200 East Main Street, Linden, TN 37096. Visit: www.bloomingarts-festival.org.

March 24: Cleveland

BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled family experience including food, music, vendors, games, and much more. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Greenway Park, 755 Raider Drive Cleveland, TN. Visit: www.bbqbluesandbluegrass.com.

April 2- 8: Columbia

Mule Day

What began in 1840 as a meeting for mule breeders known as "Breeders' Day," Mule Day now attracts more than 200,000 people. In addition to mules, traditional Appalachian food, music, dancing, and crafts are featured at the four-day event. For more information, visit: <http://muleday.org>.

UT-MTAS FEBRUARY MAP CLASSES

CUSTOMER SERVICE: IMPROVE YOUR IMPACT!

This course is designed to assist participants in developing effective customer service skills. Highlights include identification and traits of internal and external customers, defining elements of positive customer service, and addressing barriers to delivering positive customer service.

Target Audience:
 All Municipal Employees

Dates/Locations/Times:

March 6 Johnson City
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
 March 7 Knoxville
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
 March 8 Tullahoma
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST
 March 12 Nashville
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
 March 13 Jackson
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT

Credits: 4 CPE /CMFO



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

No loan is too large or too small



The city of East Ridge closed a \$4.9 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance interchange improvements. Pictured from left to right: J. Scott Miller, city manager; Mayor Brent Lambert; and Diane Qualls, finance director. Standing are Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham, TMBF representatives.



The town of Signal Mountain closed a \$3 million fixed-rate loan to finance the construction and equipping of a new fire station. Pictured are Mayor Chris J. Howley and Carol White, finance director; and TMBF representatives Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham.



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

Compassionate conservative Ferrell Haile takes the reigns as speaker pro tempore

BY LINDA BRYANT

You hear a lot these days about the elected official — sometimes called the “anti-politician” — who proudly enters public office with a resume from just about any other field other than politics whether it’s business, education or the medical profession.

When Ferrell Haile entered office — first by appointment in 2010 to fill Diane Black’s vacated District 18 senate seat and later in 2012 when he ran for the open District 18 seat — he certainly fit the profile of an anti-politician.

His homespun backstory is reminiscent of a scene in a Norman Rockwell painting or a Jimmy Stewart movie.

Haile spent a long career as the owner of several independent community pharmacies, including Perkins Drugs, a historic drug store in Gallatin that’s been in operation since 1895. He’s maintained a family cattle farm since the early 1970s, and until recent years, he purposefully avoided direct involvement in politics.

“The 100 days I spent when I was appointed to Diane Black’s seat was really like a test to see if it was something that I might want to do,” Haile said. “After that experience, I sold the store in 2011, and ran for the seat when the opportunity opened up.”

During his tenure representing District 18, Haile has become known as a team player with a calm demeanor, a well-considered approach to leadership and a compassion for those less fortunate, especially children.

He may be a full-fledged politician now, but he’s determined to make sure the label doesn’t line up the negative stereotypes sometimes associated with politicians.

“Ferrell is one of the most honest people I’ve ever met,” says Sam Rickman, a Sumner County friend and fellow pharmacist who co-owned pharmacies with Haile. “His integrity is impeccable. He always showed compassion for customers and patients. I’ve never seen him not go above and beyond the call of duty. Whatever Ferrell does, he’s doing it because he wants to make a difference.”

In January Haile was named by Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, to his most high profile role to date — Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate, replacing Jim Tracy, who resigned late last year to accept a presidential appointment.

He’s approaching the new job the same way he’s taken on other important life challenges and responsibilities — carefully, thoughtfully, and with a healthy dose of excitement.

TT&C: You are a longtime resident of Sumner County. Can you tell us about your history in the area?

FH: My family originally came from Gainesboro in Jackson County and moved to Sumner County in 1919. My granddad drove his livestock and wagons for two days to get to Sumner County. I live about two or three miles from where my grandfather’s land was. My wife’s great-grandfather bought the land that we live on in 1895.

My wife and I dated when we were in high school. I was a little bit older so I went off to college, and we didn’t see each other for three years. I came back from pharmacy school one summer and asked her out for a date. We married a year later. My father and her great aunt owned adjoining farms when we got married. It’s almost like I’m married to the neighbor’s daughter. I have been blessed with her love, four children, and seven grandchildren. This coming June we will have been married for 49 years.

TT&C: We live in an age of chain and corporate-owned pharmacies. You owned your pharmacies independently.

FH: My goal was always to own an independent pharmacy [as opposed to a chain]. When I was a sophomore in high school, I was in a science club, and Tommy Perkins the owner of Perkins Drugs [a family store in Gallatin in operation since 1895] came to talk to us. He talked about pharmacy as a profession and about the relationship he had with the patients. From that morning when he came to speak with us, that became my path.

If there’s anything I regret, it’s not buying more pharmacies. There was opportunity there. People in the business were complaining because the profession was going through changes. Those people didn’t adapt well because they were only seeing the negative side of things. A lot of the pharmacies I bought were declining dramatically at the time. I bought them and we were able to turn them around.

Our pharmacy was always on the cutting edge, and that’s one important thing I learned about how to be successful. I was one of the first independent [pharmacies] to bring computers into the business. We provided services that the chains didn’t offer. I was very intent on providing personal service. I like being out there and meeting the customers. And I always had a partner because I always wanted an owner in the business when the customer walked into the door.

I sold the store [Perkins Drugs] in 2011 before I ran for office in 2012. I learned a lot from that process. My senior partner was ready to sell, but I wasn’t quite ready. In the end, we brought in a new owner straight out of pharmacy school. He had lots of great ideas. I realized that by that time I had lost some of the fire in my belly. I thought why am I going to hold this man back? He’s got lots of great ideas and things to do, and I don’t want to hinder him. He still owns and runs the store.

TT&C: What lessons from being a small town pharmacist did you carry with you into the Legislature?

FH: Being on the cutting edge and being an innovator were important to [the success of] my pharmacy. The state has to be an innovator also. We can’t run state government like we did three decades ago. During the six or seven years I’ve been here, we have been on the cutting edge; we’ve made a lot of changes in areas such as education and tort reform.

I sat on the education committee. There’s been a lot of pushback in several different areas of that, but we have pursued the cutting-edge and thought about how can we make things better for the student. In turn, that makes things better for the teachers. Some people characterized us as being against teachers but we were never against them. The last poll that I saw said 73 or 74 percent of teachers now see the value of what we have done.

TT&C: Can you talk more about innovation at the state level? What notable innovations have you seen?

FH: One is how we pay state employees. No longer is it about how long you’ve been here; it’s about how good of a job you’re doing. Taking this approach has made a huge difference, and that’s an innovation that comes from the business community. It’s the same way I ran my business. If there’s someone who is very friendly and speaks to the customers and another person who just sits back and waits for the customer to come to him, guess who’s going to get the raise? Of course, it’s that person who takes care of the customer. I know this kind of approach makes a difference in how the state government is run. It definitely makes it more efficient. We are saving dollars; we



Sen. Ferrell Haile



In January, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally appointed Sen. Haile as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate.

have less personnel, and we’re doing more.

We sometimes hear complaints about how much we’ve overtaxed our citizens because we have excess in the budget. From a business point of view, that’s a cash flow, and that’s a good thing. That cash flow has been reduced this year. The budget the governor just announced is nowhere near it was last year as far as revenue and excess that might be in the system. We are dealing with a much tighter budget this year and that goes back to the business angle. The No. 1 failure for small businesses is cash flow because without enough cash flow you can’t keep the business going.

Our budget is one of our big successes. If you listened to the Governor’s State of the State address [on Jan. 29, 2018] it’s pretty hard to argue against all the successes that have come about in the past few years. And we still have improvements to make. For example, we have some computer systems that are just not where they need to be.

TT&C: What inspired you to get involved in politics?

FH: U.S. Rep. Diane Black, R-Tennessee, and I became friends when she was working as a nurse and I was working as a pharmacist. Then she was elected as a state representative. For some strange reason, she put my name forward to the Tennessee Republican Party and the state senate for this office. I wasn’t interested. My dad served one year as a county commissioner, and I can remember being 7 or 8 years old when we were sitting at the supper table and he told me, “Son don’t ever get into politics.” My mother was a teacher, and he’d voted against something concerning the school board. I think the school board thought that he would vote for it because his wife is a teacher.

Then in pharmacy school, we had a pharmaceutical representative who would come in once or twice a year to speak to us. Every time he came in he told us about a pharmacy owner who was elected to the school board. He made some decisions that folks were not happy with and lost a lot of his business. So I have my dad’s story, and I have this other story that’s ingrained in me. I was reluctant to see myself as a politician.

So, when I went into the independent pharmacy business I was terrified of politics. When I was asked to run, at first I wasn’t very interested. What finally got through to me was the question: “If good people don’t do this, who will?” The very first time I ran for office was in 2000. I was absolutely terrified, and I lost that race. I wasn’t ready but learned a lot about myself. I almost needed that failure to move forward. I didn’t need to be elected at that point in time, and quite a bit of time passed before I was ready.

TT&C: What kinds of things did you learn?

FH: You can’t be so reserved that you don’t share opinions [with your constituents]. I didn’t mind working the crowd. I didn’t mind shaking hands or speaking, but to lay my opinion out about a subject was different. I had to have an opinion on what my position was on many different issues and subjects. It taught me a lot about courage and about being straightforward, although I think I was that type of person already. I hope I learned to share what I think without being offensive in the process, although I want to be firm.

TT&C: You were very recently named Speaker Pro Tempore of the Tennessee State Senate, a key leadership role in the General Assembly in terms of both operations and policy. How has your life changed, and do you have some specific goals you want to accomplish?

FH: There is more responsibility and I welcome that. I am very honored to be selected to do this, and presiding is a lot of fun. There’s a lot to learn. I’m excited about what we can do in working with Lt. Gov. (Randy McNally) more closely

than I have. So there is definitely excitement, opportunity, and responsibility.

The speaker pro tempore position has some relationship building responsibilities. I have a responsibility to work with the lieutenant governor to help him be successful in what he wants to do. I have to be on the same page as him. At the same time, I feel like I have a responsibility to the caucus. When members bring their bills, I need to be the one who can help them, especially when there are difficulties. I need to be able to say to them, “You may have an issue here. I’m hearing some good things about your bill or I’m not hearing good things about your bill. You might want to have a conversation with fellow members.”

TT&C: You are known for your work on behalf of children and families. In 2017 you were named “Legislator of the Year” for the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates Association (CASA) for your efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children. Why is working with children and families important to you?

FH: Our fourth child is adopted, and I think a lot about children in the state system. They often get bumped around from one place to another. Making sure that children come first is a passion of mine. My rotary club in Gallatin has taken on a project of getting suitcases and backpacks so at least there’s some dignity involved when they move. You have to realize that many of them move their clothes in trash bags. There are some things that we can do to help these children. Many times they are not put first in the process of adoption, foster homes, and the court system.

It’s ideal for children to go back into a home that’s been stabilized, not in state custody and not going back and forth between foster homes. Of course, that’s not always what happens. Let’s not destroy the child’s life by taking three to five years where their entire childhood is jumping around from one foster home to another. To me, that’s a type of child abuse. Let’s get these children into a permanent home as quickly as possible.

I passed a bill to help children — the “Zero to Three Court Initiative” to reduce the time of permanency of children in at-risk environments by surrounding families of children age 36 months or younger with support services, whether it is returning them to parents, living with relatives or getting them ready for adoption. This is a pilot project; there are seven in the state. The judge in these pilot projects can put a family in the Zero to Three Infant Court, and it means the family is surrounded by help from a whole gamut of things — drug treatment, employment, education, social services, housing, transportation, etc.

TT&C: How did you come up with the idea for the initiative and with having all these services grouped together, to begin with?

FH: I ran into a judge from North Miami on a trip. She was taking this approach. Normally, when a [foster care] case is in front of a judge it’s always contested. The parent doesn’t want the child to be put in foster care or put up for adoption. They don’t want the child taken away from them. This particular judge has been conducting this type of court for about four-and-a-half years, and she’s had no contested cases. None.

The coordinated services are working with these families and in a little more than 50 percent of the cases the biological family is stabilized and only one out of 100 cases is returned to state custody. With the other 40 to 50 percent, the biological parent realizes that they can’t raise their child. It might be due to drug addiction or a lot of other unfortunate circumstances. They are surrounded by those services and called into accountability, and some come to realize they just can’t do this. The child can go to a permanent home, and it’s usually to an adopted home. Many times the biological family is still involved in the child’s life. Important times such as birthdays and Christmas are spent together so there is not complete isolation. But the adopted parent is now the parent.

Here’s another great thing about this approach: When you go through the normal process it takes three years to get a child into a permanent home when you have contested cases. Now they’re doing it in nine months. Think about the wins here. The first one is for the child. The second is for the biological family and the adopted family. The third win is for the taxpayer. You’re also talking about a win for the courts because the process takes less time.

TT&C: What are the state’s biggest challenges?

FH: I think that we need to talk about what the governor is bringing with his opioid package. It’s very important for us to attack this problem. I’ve had some folks ask me in media interviews, “Why this year? Why has it bubbled up, and why didn’t we take care of it in the past?” We’ve actually been working on it since 2009. Every year there are bills brought up that address different pockets of the opioid crisis, but we still haven’t gotten a handle on it. There are lots of things that we’ve done that have helped but it’s still a huge issue. The governor’s package is putting our hands around the entire balloon and offers a way to address the problem in a unified form. We didn’t get into it in a short time period and we’re not going to get out of it in a short time.

Other big challenges include healthcare and our justice system, especially juvenile justice and how we treat folks who have minor offenses that are drug-related. Putting them in jail and expecting them to come out healed is not going to happen. They come out a better criminal than when they went in. That’s not my expertise but I’m going to be supportive of the people who can give us new direction on this.

TT&C: If you could wave a magic wand and say where the state would be in five years what would change?

FH: We will have broken the opioid generational cycle. Our workforce will be workforce ready. Our students coming out of school won’t get left behind, and will have a job where they enjoy going to work every day.

TT&C: Do you have any parting thoughts or issues you’d like to mention?

FH: When I was first elected, pharmacists were seen as the No. 1 or No. 2 most respected profession. Politicians were way down on the list. I had a really hard time identifying that I was a politician. But one of the things that I found out is that there are a lot of good people in the Legislature who want good things for Tennessee. We may differ on how we go about doing those things, but the majority are good people, and they want what’s best for the state. It’s very hopeful. And I think the public needs to hear that message.

I’m very concerned about extreme polarization, and I think both parties are moving that way. The word compromise has turned into a bad word when it shouldn’t be. You may not be 100 percent right, and it really helps for you to know that going into a discussion. If you’re just yelling past the other person what are you getting accomplished?