



TML Legislative Conference March 26-27, Nashville

TML's Legislative Conference is a chance to hear state leaders address the municipal issues being debated in the General Assembly. The two-day conference held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Nashville provides an excellent forum for you to interact with your legislators as well as other municipal officials. To register go to <https://www.cognitofrms.com/TML1/2018LegislativeConferenceRegistrationForm>

New lawmakers seated for 2018 legislative session

Two new faces will be joining the state Senate and three in the state House in the Tennessee General Assembly for its 2018 session.

Republican Mark Pody has won the special election for the Senate District 17 seat vacated by former Sen. Mae Beavers, R-Mt. Juliet, so she can focus on her run for governor.

Pody left his own seat as the state representative for District 46 to run for Beavers' vacated seat. Both Pody and Beavers reside in Wilson County. He beat opponent Mary Alice Carfi by 308 votes in the special election.

The Wilson County Commission appointed Lebanon insurance agent Clark Boyd to fill the seat Pody vacated. Boyd is a former chairman of the Wilson County Republican Party and previously ran against Mae Beavers for the District 17 Senate seat in 2014.

State Rep. Art Swann, R-Maryville, was recently sworn in to represent Senate District 8 following the resignation of Doug Overbey, R-Maryville, when he was selected as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Swann was elected to the State House in 2010 and had previously served as a Blount County commissioner from 19778 to 1982.

Jerome Moon, former Blount County Commission chairman, was then appointed and sworn in to represent the House District 2 seat vacated by Swann.

Both were chosen to fill the



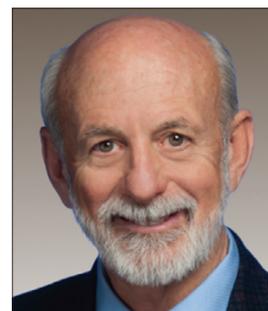
Mark Pody



Art Swann



Clark Boyd



Jerome Moon



Kevin Vaughan

vacancies by the Blount County Commission. Swann was selected after a 14-3 vote while Moon received 16 of the 19 votes cast for Swann's replacement. Swann and Moon will serve until a new candidate is elected in the Nov. 6 general election with a primary to be held on Aug. 2.

Kevin Vaughan will represent the residents of Tennessee House District 95, receiving 62 percent of the votes in the special election to replace Republican Mark Lovell, who resigned from the legislature in February 2017.

A special election is being held on March 13 to replace former Sen. Jim Tracy, who was recently appointed as the head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office for the state of Tennessee. Candidates running for Tracy's seat include former state Rep. Joe Carr, Murfreesboro businessman Shane Reeves, and lawyer Gayle Jordan.

Sen. Mark Norris, R-Collierville, has also been nominated to serve as a U.S. attorney and will have to resign if the Senate confirms him to the position. Like with Overbey's spot, the Shelby County Commission could choose to appoint a replacement to Norris' seat until the general election following a lawmaker's resignation.

New year brings new law aimed at distracted drivers

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Drivers found using cell phones in school zones will be facing new fines after a law designed to decrease traffic incidents near schools went into effect on Jan. 1.

Based on a bill sponsored by former state Sen. Jim Tracy, R-Shelbyville, and state Rep. John Holsclaw, R-Elizabethton, the new law makes it a Class C misdemeanor to operate any handheld device while in an active school zone.

Those found talking or otherwise operating a handheld device in a school zone could face up to a \$50 fine for the action.

The law exempts those with hands-free devices, and texting while driving in school zones has already been prohibited. Drivers under the age of 18 are not allowed to operate handheld or hands-free phones while driving regardless of location.

The new law is designed to not only protect school children but also law enforcement officers and crossing guards directing traffic in school zones.

Major Matt Austin of the Bristol Police Department said drivers

110th TN General Assembly reconvenes



Lt. Gov. Randy McNally



House Speaker Beth Harwell

The second session of the 110th General Assembly got underway Jan. 9.

With November elections looming, most have speculated the 2018 session will be shorter than last year and is expected to wrap up in early April.

Some of the larger issues set to be addressed include a comprehensive plan for addressing the state's opioid crisis including securing more money for rehabilitation and drug court programs; and tougher penalties for drug dealers who lace their products with dangerous

substances like fentanyl.

Some of the more controversial issues include legalizing medical marijuana, offering in-state tuition to undocumented students, and expanding Medicare benefits to low-income residents.

Key issues that city officials will be watching include regulations on short-term rental properties, design standards for residential dwellings, de-annexation, changes to open records laws, and legislation on small cells wireless technology, just to name a few.

Gov. Bill Haslam will deliver

his final State of the State speech at the end of January, when he will outline his budget and last legislative agenda. Issues he is expected to address include welfare reform for food stamp recipients, and improvements to Education by offering some type of incentive for community colleges, technical schools, and four-year higher education institutions that graduate students at a higher percentage rate. He is also expected to propose reducing the number of members who serve on the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Lawmakers offices, legislative committee rooms moved to Cordell Hull Building



Tennessee lawmakers now have a new home. The Cordell Hull legislative office building has undergone a complete makeover throughout the last several months. On Dec. 14, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open the building — just in time for the 2018 legislative session that got underway Jan. 9. All of the committee meeting rooms have been relocated to the new renovated building as well as all of the offices of legislators and their staff. Pictured at the ribbon cutting are Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Comptroller Justin Wilson, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell, State Treasurer David Lilliard, and State Architect Ann McGauran.



A new law preventing the operation of handheld devices in school zones is aimed at curbing distracted driving when students are present. Violators could face a \$50 fine for the action.

should be aware of the new law as students return from holiday breaks.

"A recent study by Safe Kids USA found that one in six drivers in school zones are distracted, with the most common distraction being cellphones," Austin said. "It is wise to also remember that the speed limit is 15 miles per hour in a school zone. In Tennessee, a

ticket in a school zone could result in fines of more than \$200."

Tracy told *The Tennessean* the bill came out of complaints constituents had over distracted driving.

"You should be concentrating on reducing your speed limit and paying attention," Tracy said. "You have children walking and a lot of traffic around."

Holsclaw said his sponsorship

of the bill was the result of a few car accidents close to home.

"My nieces were in accidents that involved cell phones," he said. "A lot of people consider it like a seat belt law, taking away my freedoms. I would rather save your life. It is that important to me."

According to data from the Tennessee Department of Safety See **DISTRACTED** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department has achieved its highest rating for Public Protection by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and its Public Protection Classification program. Fire Chief Brian Goss announced the city has received notice of a Class 2 rating. The Class 2 designation places Brentwood Fire and Rescue in the top 3 percent of fire departments across America. The new classification becomes effective in March 2018 and could mean significant property insurance reductions for residents and businesses. For more than 20 years the Brentwood Fire and Rescue Department has maintained a Class 4 ISO rating.

DUCKTOWN

The historic Burra Burra Mine site in Ducktown will receive \$2.3 million through a public-private partnership designed to bring close to \$4 million worth of renovations to the site. The state of Tennessee has budgeted \$2.3 million to rehabilitate 12 of the approximately 15 structures on the site. Previously, \$1.5 million was spent restoring structures in 2014. The most recent allocation will bring the project into its second and final phase. Owned by the state, administered by the Tennessee Historical Commission and operated by the non-profit Ducktown Basin Museum, the facility is used for historical and educational purposes as well as helping preserve the hub of copper mining in Tennessee. It is the only copper mining site open for visitation in the southern U.S.

DYERSBURG

The Dyersburg Police Street Crimes Unit has been recognized by the Chattanooga-based Tennessee Narcotic Officers Association (TNOA) with a state award for its operations. The award is the second time the department has been lauded by TNOA for efforts to curb the illegal distribution of narcotics in area communities. In 2016, the department worked with the FBI and Jackson Police Department on Operation Southern Comfort, which resulted in the seizure of \$147,468 cash, 95 firearms, 5,922 grams of methamphetamine, and the arrests of 15 individuals arrested later indicted on federal charges. Another five individuals were arrested and prosecuted on the state level.

EAST RIDGE

The city of East Ridge will be rehabilitating approximately 22,000 feet of sewers and 1,800 vertical feet of manholes as part of the East Ridge Sanitary Sewer Basin Project. Partnering with the Hamilton County Waste Water Treatment Authority (WWTa) and the Tennessee State Revolving Fund, officials with East Ridge have already begun working with contractor SM&E during the past 24 months to define what sewer infrastructure needs rehabilitation. The project will help facilitate the growth of the community as well as replace aging lines in service areas through the eastern portion of the city.

FRANKLIN

Mars Petcare will be expanding its U.S. headquarters in Franklin, creating 200 jobs during the next five years. The pet care company will occupy approximately 224,000 square feet of office space in Ovation, one of the largest planned mixed-use projects in Franklin. Construction on the new

headquarters is already underway and is targeted for completion in the second quarter of 2019. Mars has a substantial footprint in the state with more than 2,600 associates, which includes Banfield and Blue Pearl, both part of the Mars Veterinary portfolio, an R&D facility in Thompson's Station, a pet food factory in Lebanon and two Mars Wrigley Confectionery production facilities in Cleveland and Chattanooga.

FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin has won the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Education and Enrichment. The award is given to top-performing jurisdictions that best listen and act for the benefit of their communities based on the NRC's National Citizen Survey. The Voice of the People Awards stand alone as the only award given in local government based on community opinion. The perspectives of the residents themselves determine nominees for the very best of community engagement, safety, mobility, foundations of livability, recreation and wellness, education and enrichment, natural environment, built environment and economy. Of the communities that participated in The National Citizen Survey in 2016, winners and finalists for Excellence in these categories received the highest overall levels of satisfaction from residents.

GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown has won the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) Excellence Award, one of only 24 organizations to have attained the designation. The city received the award based on its low crime rates, high bond ratings, short emergency response times, and focus on education. During 2017, Germantown achieved reaffirmation of the city's triple-A bond rating from both Moody's and Standard and Poor's, Fire Department Class 1 ISO rating, Germantown Police Department Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police accreditation, National Recreation and Parks Association accreditation and distinguished budget and audit awards from the Government Finance Officers Association.

HUMBOLDT

Tyson Food, Inc., will locate new operations in Humboldt, creating more than 1,500 jobs and invest more than \$300 million in the area. One of the world's largest food processing companies, Tyson's investment in Humboldt represents the single largest investment in Gibson County history. The company produces chicken, beef, and pork, as well as prepared foods. Tyson will locate its new facility on the Select Tennessee Certified Gibson County Industrial Park North site in Humboldt. The new facility will operate as a tray pack facility, which will include a hatchery, processing facility and feed mill. The facility is set to be fully operational by 2019. The company offers food products under Tyson, Jimmy Dean, Hillshire Farm, Sara Lee, Ball Park, Wright, Aidells, and State Fair brands. Tyson, which has operated in Tennessee for more than 45 years, currently has four facilities in the state and employs approximately 5,000 Tennesseans.

JACKSON

Toyota Boshoku Tennessee, LLC, will expand its operations in Jackson, investing \$31 million and creating 139 jobs in the area. With this expansion, Toyota Boshoku will add 143,000 additional square-feet to its current facility in Jackson. The company will consolidate its welding operations and add new equipment to the location as well. Toyota Boshoku, one of the world's premium interior systems suppliers and filter manufacturers, develops and produces interior, filtration, and powertrain components for the automotive sector.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville was recently honored with nine state-level parks and recreation awards when the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) acknowl-

Mural welcomes visitors to Columbia Arts District



A new mural recently completed by Atlanta-based artist Michael Colley now welcomes visitors to Columbia's Arts District. Famed for its annual Mule Days, the side of the mural facing Columbia's South Garden Street depicts a mule while side that faces Columbia's Fire Station No. 1 commemorates 150 years of fire service in the city. The city of Columbia worked with the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC), a partner agency that awarded the city matching grant funds that offset the cost of both sides of the mural project.

edged individuals, communities, and organizations for outstanding achievements and projects in the last year. The awards were presented at the association's 66th annual state conference held in Franklin. Knoxville was recognized for innovative projects, standout staff performance, and model community partners. In addition to the Sutree Landing Park project, Inskip Recreation Center, and Aslan Foundation, several Knoxville staff members were also recognized at the TRPA state conference including recently retired director Joe Walsh with TRPA's Lifetime Member Award, Deputy Director for the Parks and Recreation Department Aaron Browning with the Distinguished Young Professional Award, and Recreation Center Leader Daniel Alexander with the Maynard Glenn Award.

LAWRENCEBURG

Cabinets To Go will expand its operations in Lawrenceburg, investing \$6.5 million and creating nearly 70 new jobs. The cabinet production company located to Lawrenceburg last year, bringing its national headquarters, main warehouse and distribution center to the city. Founded in 2008, Cabinets To Go has 62 showrooms across the country and is the largest specialty retailer of kitchen cabinets in the U.S. The company recently added countertops, flooring and installation services along with its kitchen and bath cabinets. With the new investment will help purchase new equipment to manufacture engineered hardwood flooring.

MEMPHIS

Agilent Technologies will expand its logistics operations in Memphis, investing \$600,000 and creating approximately 100 new jobs. The life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemicals company provides laboratories with instruments, software, services, consumables, and applications focused in six key areas: food, environmental and forensics, pharmaceutical, diagnostics and clinical, chemicals and energy, and academia and research. Agilent is headquartered in Santa Clara, Calif. and currently employs approximately 13,500 employees worldwide. Agilent's Memphis facility will function as the company's primary American distribution center. A critical connection within its global supply chain, Agilent will handle the distribution functions of the company in house. The facility will serve markets in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and Central America.

NASHVILLE

Cargill's North America protein business is investing \$146 million to expand the company's Nashville facility, creating more than 100 jobs and doubling the facility's current employment. The investment will grow the company's meat crumble offerings for food ingredient, foodservice and retail customers, including the construction of a state-of-the-art dried sausage production facility. Cargill Protein's Nashville facility complements the company's cooked meats facilities in Nebraska, Virginia, Texas, and Minnesota. Sausage production is scheduled to begin at Nashville during the first half of 2019.

OAK RIDGE

The city of Oak Ridge has re-

Cookeville officials plug in solar array at Highlands Business Park



Following two years of planning and nearly four months of construction, officials with the city of Cookeville, TVA, and RSI have cut the ribbon on a new solar array for the Highland Business Park. The array provides enough energy to power 156 houses per year and the greenhouse gas offset for this project is equal to 222 passenger vehicles per year. Highlands Business Park was named a Sustainable Business Park by the TVA Sustainable Communities Program, one of 28 designated communities in the seven state TVA service area. Plugging in the park, from left, John E. Thompson, TVA; Carlos Mayer, TVA Energy; Carl Haney, Cookeville Electric Department; Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton; Putnam County Executive Randy Porter; Barry Brown, Tennessee Valley Alternative Energy; Paul Clay, RSI; Goran Arya, Enerparc; and Melinda Keifer, city of Cookeville economic and community development director.

Eagleville names city park after late vice mayor



Eagleville Mayor Travis Brown presents Gloria Hill, the widow of late Vice Mayor Ronnie Hill, and his family with his chamber name plate. Hill died on Nov. 24 from a possible heart attack. He was 63. In honor of Hill, the Eagleville City Council also voted to rename the city's park – which Hill was instrumental in creating – the Ronnie Hill Memorial Park with the road to the park being renamed Ronnie Hill Avenue.

ceived a \$496,000 Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to renovate the city's Blankenship Field. The grant will receive an equal match from the Blankenship Field Revitalization Foundation. The funds, totaling roughly \$1 million, will be used to make a number of upgrades to the facility, including, but not limited to installation of synthetic turf, concrete walkways, synthetic track, new fencing, signage for the Cedar Hill Greenway trail head, and additional restrooms. The field and its amenities will be operated like a city park and will be jointly operated by the city of Oak Ridge and the Oak Ridge Board of Education.

SPRING HILL

The city of Spring Hill has been

designated by Gov. Bill Haslam as a "Healthier Tennessee Community." Of the 345 incorporated cities in Tennessee, Spring Hill is now one of only 46 to earn the Healthier Tennessee Community designation. The city has made efforts to encourage a healthy, active population by hosting an annual Spring Hill Health & Wellness Fair, partnering with nonprofits like the Late Bloomers to help make a community garden possible, and Mayor Rick Graham's launch last year of the first Mayor's Healthy Challenge. At a public presentation in Nashville, Gov. Haslam and Governor's Foundation for Health & Wellness CEO Richard Johnson presented the city with a plaque, a flag and a road sign. As part of this designation, the city met the requirements to receive a \$5,000 grant that will be used to install water refill stations in city parks.

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 League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

Law aimed at distracted motorists

DISTRACTED from Page 1 and Homeland Security, distracted driving-related crashes have increased in Tennessee each year between 2007 and 2016 with 2017 showing the first notable decrease in distracted driving crashes in a decade.

Tennessee passed its first distracted-driving laws in 2009, making it illegal to text while driving. The use of cell phones was banned completely for motorists under 18 or those operating school buses, save in the case of emergency.

Despite this, Tennessee had the highest number of distracted-driving related fatalities of any state in the nation in both 2010 and 2011, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

More than 130,000 crashes related to distracted driving have occurred in Tennessee since 2012.

Between 2007 and 2017, approximately 193,426 crashes that occurred in the state had distracted driving as a factor with 2016 recording the most distracted driving-related crashes in a single year with 24,773.

The highest percentage of crashes related to distracted driving also occurred in 2016 with distracted drivers playing a role in 12 percent of crashes.

Preliminary statistics for 2017 released in October indicated 22,700 distracted driving related crashes had occurred so far that year with 81 of those involving fatalities.

Urban areas with larger populations tend to see larger numbers of crashes while areas with less population and less cell phone coverage tend to see fewer crashes, according to the data.

The Memphis-Shelby County area reported the highest number of distracted driving crashes in the past decade with 47,910, followed by the Nashville-Davidson County area with 22,141, Rutherford County with 10,775, Knoxville-Knox County area with 9,657, and Williamson County with 8,753.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County area, Clarksville-Montgomery County, and Sumner County all recorded more than 5,000 distracted driving-related crashes in the past decade as well.

Distracted Driving in Tennessee

Year	No. of Crashes
2012	20,168
2013	19,123
2014	21,056
2015	22,976
2016	24,773
2017	22,700*
Total:	130,796

*Preliminary number as of October 2017

Madisonville sees success in first municipal library building, a century in the making

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

A new library in Madisonville has become a showpiece for the community, has helped double the amount of library users and serves as great industrial recruiting tool for the city.

"We didn't own our own building nor near the amount of facilities we needed," Madisonville Mayor Glenn Moser said. "We wanted something larger, more up-to-date and that we had more control of. We now have facilities for community meetings and events. We have expanded the amount of books the library holds. It's a bigger and more modern space. Any time a new company wants to come into a town, one of their priorities is what kind of library facilities do you have for the public."

Participation in library programs has also doubled since the new facility opened.

"The increase in use of the library has been phenomenal," said J. Alan Johnson, a risk manager for the city of Madisonville who currently serves as the vice-chair for the Madisonville Library Board. "We used to have to close down the library when we offered programs because there simply wasn't room to do anything else. We want to provide services to people in the community, not just as a reference point for information but also as a place for classes to be taught and people to meet."

Johnson said the city had been renting facilities to house its library since 1915 – 11 facilities in all.

"The library started out in a store downtown in 1915," Johnson said. "It was started by 18 women who belonged to the Madisonville Town Club, later the Madisonville Women's Club. When they started the library, it had 18 books. The library moved a couple of years later from the store to the basement of the courthouse. However, the courthouse basement had a dirt floor so they raised \$100 to put concrete down for the floor."

Despite putting in funds to improve the facility, the Madisonville Library wouldn't remain in the county courthouse for long.

In addition to a local store and the county courthouse, Johnson said the library has been housed in several buildings including the county health department offices, city hall, the former Southern Bell Telephone building, and a strip mall.

It was in 2015 that city and library officials decided it was time to give the library a permanent home and sought the backing of the community to make it happen.

"The building and its appearance wasn't conducive to people coming to it and using it," Johnson said. "The city of Madisonville really needed some place to show off. We are very proud of our town."

Mayor Moser said the city borrowed \$1.5 million on a 25-year loan through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

Fundraising on the local level allowed the community to pay off nearly half of what they borrowed before the groundbreaking of the new library facility.

"The building itself cost \$1,127,000 plus all of the furnis-



The city of Madisonville broke ground on its new library in 2015. The facility will be the first permanent residence for the library, which has been located in 11 different rented structures since 1915.

ings," he said. "The friends of the library raised more than \$600,000 to go toward the new building and all of the new furniture. We only ended up with a \$662,000 note on a \$1,127,000 cost."

Construction on the facility began in October 2015 and was finished in July 2016. The 6,200-square-foot structure overlooks the city's Houston Park.

Johnson said the new facility was able to provide Madisonville citizens with a larger children's area that includes an outdoor facility overlooking Houston Park, a room for the summer reading program, a larger public computer lab, a separate computer lab for children, a community room, and multiple restrooms rather than the single one available at the previous location.

The library also hosts art classes, monthly career coach visits, book discussion meetings, iPad classes, weekly book sale, local art displays, and community events for local churches, schools and organizations.



Officials with the city of Madisonville sign off on a loan from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to help finance the library. Citizens would raise more than \$600,000 toward the \$1.1 million price tag. From left to right, back row Madisonville Alderman Fred Cagles, Alderwoman Linda Hensley, Alderwoman Susan Saunders, and Alderman Augusta Davis. Front row: City Recorder Sherri McCrary, Mayor Glenn Moser, and TMBF Marketing Representative Steve Queener.

Crossville city recorder Oglesby retires

After serving for 33 years, in three separate city halls, and under five mayors, 11 city managers, and 22 city councilmembers, Crossville City Clerk Sally Oglesby retired from her position in December.

During her tenure, Oglesby has worked to maintain and preserve all of the city's public records, contracts, city seal, ordinance books and minutes for meetings of the city's council, beer board, and various other committees and boards. Oglesby's job also made her responsible for dealing with business licenses, public notices, beer permits, liquor licenses, solicitation permits, peddler permits, taxi permits, and easements for citizens.

However, Oglesby said she had no plans to go into municipal government work before she was hired in 1985.

"I was hired as city recorder – which was later changed to city clerk – in April of 1985," Oglesby said. "I was a stay-at-home mom at the time and was looking to get back into the workforce. I didn't see myself getting into government at all. I'm not a political type of person at all. Prior to staying



Sally Oglesby

home as a mom, I had worked as a statistician for the Southwestern Publishing Company and as an administrative assistant. My degree is actually in elementary education, but I've never taught."

Even though she hadn't considered a government career before, Oglesby embraced her new job and the changes that have come with it.

"I like to be able to keep the city moving forward," she said. "I enjoy working with citizens and helping them however I can. A lot has changed during this period of time. The population has gone from about 8,000 to about 12,000 now. There has been lots of devel-

opment." Oglesby has also seen city leaders come and go in her more than 30 years on the job. She said one of the skills necessary for those in municipal government is often a willingness to work with whoever is in the current administration.

"You have to deal as a professional with whoever has been elected or who has been appointed," she said. "I always try to stay out of the political side of things. It is critical. You also have to be a lifelong learner. If you don't keep going to classes, you don't learn about new technologies or new ways cities are improving. You need to constantly learn and take advantage of every opportunity to learn."

Pushing Crossville forward in terms of technology has been one of Oglesby's major contributions to the city. One of Oglesby's last projects for the city was converting audio tapes of past city council meetings to CDs so they can be preserved for future generations.

"Electronically, I've seen the city go from typewriters to computers," she said. "There have been a lot of changes as far as transparency and open records. It's been quite interesting to be involved in all of those changes, moving forward from paper agendas to iPads. Scanning documents and document management has changed."

Oglesby has also been recognized for her achievements as a city clerk outside of Crossville. She was awarded the master municipal clerk's designation by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), and she served on the board of directors for IIMC representing the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Spending more time with her grandchildren, mentoring local students, working with the county archives, and traveling are in Oglesby's plans for her retirement, but there is also one project that will be bringing her back to city hall.

"I have been taking the old handwritten minutes and ordinances and transcribing them so they can be scanned and digitally researched," she said. "That will make them more easily available to the public. I may come by city hall when I want to and work on it a few hours at a time, but I'm going to stay out of the city government business for a while."

WAUFORD

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Water and Wastewater Systems



PEOPLE

Robert "Bob" Barnes, fire chief for the city of Bristol, has retired after 43 years of service. A graduate of Tennessee High School, Barnes began working for the city of Bristol in 1974 and graduated with a degree in business administration. He received a certification for financial planning in 1988 and operated a tax preparation and advising business from 1981 until 2007. He was promoted to lieutenant at the Bristol Fire Department in 1981 followed by captain in 1995, battalion chief in 2001, and as the city's fire chief in 2007.



Bob Barnes

since 2010 and will take over from Interim Director Sherry Carpenter. Russell holds a bachelor's degree in management and human relations from Trevecca Nazarene University. Before coming to work for the city of Murfreesboro in 2010, she worked in human resources for companies including Starwood Hotels and Resorts, FSJ, Gateway, and G&C Automotive. She holds accreditation with the International Public Management Association (IPMA) and the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).



Pam Russell

Brian Collins, chief financial officer for the city of Memphis, has left the city to serve as executive director of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. A Chicago native, Collins began his tenure in Memphis in 2012 under Mayor A.C. Wharton and at the height of the Great Recession. Before working for the city, Collins worked in the private banking center at companies including the Postal Employees Credit Union, First Horizon National Corp., Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase. Chief Operations Officer Doug McGowen will serve as interim CFO until Mayor Jim Strickland names a replacement.



Brian Collins

Curtis Sutton, executive director of the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB), was recently elected to the board of the Next Generation 911 Institute (NG911 Institute), a Washington, D.C. based not-for-profit that promotes more effective 911 services across the nation. Sutton, who has served as the TECB Executive Director since 2014, was elected as a member-at-large (public safety category) to the NG911 Institute board during the group's October meeting. Sutton is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky College of Law. He previously served as the board's assistant director and general counsel. As TECB Executive Director, he is responsible for executing the board's mission and programs, including implementing Tennessee's Next Generation 911 system.



Curtis Sutton

Lebanon honors Ralph Cross for years of service



A consultant with MTAS has been honored by a Tennessee city for dedication to instructing and guiding municipal and professional staff.

The city of Lebanon declared Dec. 5 as "Ralph Cross Day" in honor of the finance and accounting consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Lebanon Mayor Bernie Ash presented Cross with a proclamation in his honor at a Nov. 17 council meeting in the city.

Cross has served for the past 18 years with MTAS, working in hundreds of cities across the state. Cross has personally taught approximately 363 of the 600 students who have prepared for the state's Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) program.

Debbie Jessen with the city of Lebanon said Cross has provided exemplary dedication to service for the city.

"The city of Lebanon is fortunate to have had five employees certified through the state of Tennessee's Certified Municipal Finance Officer program," she said. "Ralph Cross was one of the

main instructors who helped these employees reach a significant milestone in their careers. Ralph has been an excellent resource when our employees had accounting, legal or purchasing questions. He has kept our staff up to date on changes."

Jessen said Mayor Bernie Ash and other members of Lebanon's council and staff wanted to show Cross their appreciation for his work in the city.

"Mayor Ash expressed the city's appreciation for the quality programs that MTAS offers and the exceptional staff provided to municipalities," Jessen said.

Cross said the presentation was a complete surprise to him. He had been asked to attend the meeting to present Lebanon City Accountant Sueann Smith with her CMFO certification, but before he could do so, Cross said city officials informed him they wanted to honor him as well.

"I was completely taken aback," Cross said. "It was a marvelous and wonderful surprise. I am just so truly honored. It really means so much to me."

Rowland to retire as Cleveland mayor

After nearly 30 years of service, Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland said he will not seek re-election this year.

Rowland was first elected mayor of the city in 1991 and is the longest serving mayor in Cleveland's history.

Earlier that year, Rowland had been appointed to fill the unexpired term of late City Commissioner Kenneth Tinsley. When then-Mayor Bill Schultz announced he was stepping aside, Rowland decided to run for the mayoral seat and won.

During Rowland's tenure as mayor, Cleveland has grown from a community of about 28,000 to one of 45,000. Commercial and industrial growth has also expanded during the 27-year period.

"Our commercial and industrial growth has been phenomenal," Rowland said. "This is not due to one person, but many partners working for the common good of the community. An outstanding team of city employees and department heads are at the top of the list. And I cannot say enough about the leadership of our Chamber of Commerce."

The city's infrastructure has also changed. Rowland has seen many of the goals he set out in his first year as mayor come to fruition.

"They included a first class museum, a greenway for health and quality of life, becoming a Governors Three Star Community status, Tree City USA, Public Transportation System, a much needed general aviation airport, downtown revitalization, refurbishing the old



Tom Rowland

railroad depot, a veterans park, an emergency services memorial and passenger rail service," he said. "While the rail service has not happened, I did serve as vice chairman of the Virginia - Tennessee Amtrak Initiative. We worked hard and did reach a status to verify that a route through Cleveland and East Tennessee is possible in years ahead as the next feasible passenger route."

Additionally, Rowland said he has been able to work with leaders throughout the Tennessee to better both Cleveland and the state as a whole.

"Over the years, I have developed relationships with state and national leaders that have contributed to Cleveland receiving many things we otherwise would not have," he said. "Networking with our federal and state partners is a key component to the success of this job. I have been honored to serve two full terms as president of the Tennessee Municipal League, vice chairman of The Tennes-

see Advisory Commission, only Tennessee mayor serving on the Homeland Security Council, vice chairman of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board, member the Tennessee Risk Management Pool board and many other local boards, I continue to serve. You can learn a great deal networking with fellow mayors and officials from across the state in these valuable organizations."

For his service, Rowland has recently been honored by the state and several local organizations.

"I was proud to have the Mayor Tom Rowland Interchange completed and the surprise of my life on our 175th city birthday celebration was to see that beautiful Quint 6 Fire Truck with my name on it," Rowland said. "Being named the Honorary Alumnus of Lee University touched my heart like nothing else."

While the decision wasn't made lightly, Rowland said he now feels it is time for him to step aside and let someone else take over.

"That decision was not made hastily; It was made with much prayer," Rowland said. "I will always be eternally grateful to all of you who gave me this opportunity of a lifetime. For me it has been a labor of love and it has been an honor to serve this great city."

However, Rowland said he isn't finished working yet.

"With nine months left on my term, I will not let up, because I am confident there is time for more good things for Cleveland," he said.

Chlarson honored as TNSA Person of the Year

The Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) has recognized John Chlarson as its Person of the Year for 2017.

Chlarson was selected for the honor based on his exceptional dedication to and commitment to TNSA as well as his important work across the state.

A public works consultant with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), Chlarson has been an integral component of the stormwater world in Tennessee since 2003 when he helped TDEC draft the very first Phase II permit and NOI, and the annual report.

He also co-authored a statewide Model Stormwater Ordinance and a statewide Model Stormwater Utility Ordinance for municipalities in the state. In 2008, he helped compile all the necessary paperwork to formally incorporate the TNSA in 2008.



John Chlarson

Chlarson has aided countless communities across the state with municipal operations, traffic, and public works needs. He has assisted many stormwater programs and presented before a multitude of city councils on the importance of responsible stormwater management and has served as TNSA Ad-Hoc Secretary since TNSA's inception.

Those who have worked with him remark that he is always willing to schedule an array of training classes on subjects including municipal housekeeping, administrative hearings, SWPPP development and others.

Before coming to work for MTAS, Chlarson earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1993. He has more than 30 years' experience in a wide variety of engineering applications, having worked for government, industry, and private consulting. He established and ran a materials testing laboratory approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Energy.

An active member of TNSA, Chlarson is a former branch manager for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association's West Tennessee Branch.

Five longtime Brentwood employees plan retirement

Five city of Brentwood employees, with more than 152 years of combined service to the city, have announced their retirement plans. The group represents four different city departments.

"These employees represent true dedication and professionalism," Mayor Jill Burgin said. "We will miss the benefit of their daily contributions, but I am so proud that Brentwood is a city where employees want to work for 30 years. Best of luck to all in their retirements."

Debbie Hedgepath has served the city for 28 years in various roles, most recently as the city recorder since 2006. Prior to that, Hedgepath worked as an executive secretary in the finance department.



Debbie Hedgepath

Holly Earls has been named Brentwood's new city recorder.

After nearly 33 years with the city, Attorney **Roger Horner** is taking a position as a senior legal editor with Thomson Reuter Corporation's Practical Law Division. Horner has always enjoyed writing and in his new role, he will be creating and editing online content to address the needs of municipal lawyers.



Roger Horner

"This position will allow me to combine my love of research and writing with the invaluable experience I have gained in my years with Brentwood," Horner said. "I am so

grateful to have had the opportunity to work for the city."

Horner's last day with the city will be Jan. 23.

Division Chief Nancy Jones, who serves as the city's fire marshal, retired on Jan. 5. Jones began her fire career with the city of Brentwood in 1987 as a firefighter before her promotion to engineer. She was the first paid female firefighter in the city of Brentwood and Williamson County. She has served in the position of fire marshal since 2002.



Nancy Jones

Jones holds a paramedic certification and is a certified fire and explosion investigator.

"Division Chief Jones has been a part of this department almost since the beginning," Fire Chief Brian Goss said. "It will be difficult to compensate for her institutional knowledge and experience in the areas of public education, investigation, and plans review."

Jeff Pender will serve as the new city fire marshal.

Firefighter Allen Wessels is one of only two original firefighters hired by the city of Brentwood in 1986 who remains with the city until January 2018 when he plans to retire.



Allen Wessels

Wessels was hired one month before the Brentwood Municipal Department started responding

to fire calls. Back then, there was one station, 26 employees, and the department handled 665 calls in 1987. To compare, the department responded to 3,291 calls in 2016. Wessels is proud to have served the city for 30 years and plans to become a loan officer after retirement.

Officer John Maxwell has worked with the Brentwood Police Department for 30 years and plans to retire in March 2018.



John Maxwell

Since he started his career with Brentwood in 1987, he has served as a patrol officer, field-training officer, department training officer, and in his current position as the senior traffic crash investigator of the department's directed enforcement team.

"Officer Maxwell has superior knowledge in all areas of crash investigations and has been recognized as an expert witness on court testimony in this field," Police Chief Jeff Hughes said. "In addition to his 30 plus years of service as a Brentwood police officer, John has been instrumental in emergency vehicle operator course training and overseeing special events. He is also our lead investigator in all fatal and serious motor vehicle crashes. We are certainly going to miss John and the knowledge and experience he possesses and we wish him the best on his impending retirement."

After retirement, Maxwell plans to continue teaching for the Tennessee Highway Safety Office and as an adjunct professor with Nashville State Community College.

STATE BRIEFS



Nashville, Morristown, Chattanooga, and Johnson City all made the list of top 10 cities for job growth in the Southeast and the nation in 2017. A study conducted by online finance site 24/7 Wall Street ranked Nashville fifth, Morristown sixth, Chattanooga ninth and Johnson City tenth in its top 10 cities for the Southeast. Nationally, Nashville ranked 11 while Morristown ranked 14, Chattanooga 21, and Johnson City 22. The ranking did a top 25 and bottom 25 of each region and the nation as a whole. None of the bottom 25 national cities were in Tennessee.

A new fish species has been discovered in Tennessee. Named the Tennessee logperch, the darter fish is typically 6 inches long and has flattened little splotches on its flanks. The unique pattern helped identify it as a new species. So far, Tennessee is the only place where the new species has been found. The fish was discovered by TVA biologist Jeff Simmons and Yale professor Tom Near, who were studying the closely related blotchside logperch, another rare darter species found only in East Tennessee.

Substance abuse has a \$2 billion price tag in Tennessee, more than half of which comes from lost in-

come from those who have fallen out of the labor market. A policy research group from the University of Tennessee Health Services Center found the state loses \$1.29 billion from the 31,000 people – an estimated 1 percent of the state population – who are out of the workforce because of substance issues. Additionally, the state spends \$46 million on babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome, \$422.5 million for hospitalizations associated with opioid abuse, and \$138 million for hospitalizations with alcohol listed as the first diagnosis. The study found that substance abuse also contributes to higher jail costs in the state.

Three Tennesseans lose their lives to suicide daily, according to information recently released by the Tennessee Department of Health's Office of Health Statistics. The state recorded its highest number of suicide deaths since record-keeping began 35 years ago with 1,110 deaths in 2016, up from 1,065 the previous year. Those between ages of 10 and 24 and those over the age of 45 presented the largest age groups of suicide victims. Statistics also found whites accounted for 91 percent of suicide deaths in the state and males for 77 percent. Some 61 percent of suicide deaths involved firearms.

Tourism Enhancement Grants available, Jan. 31 deadline

The Tourism Enhancement Grant application is now available for counties and cities seeking to enhance existing tourism assets or develop new infrastructure to increase economic impact.

Funded by the Rural Economic Opportunity Act of 2016, in partnership with the Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), the third Tourism Enhancement Grant offers communities the opportunity for awards of up to \$75,000.

A percentage match is required based on economic status. The Tourism Enhancement Grant will be managed by the Department of Tourist Development. The first two rounds were managed by ECD.

Tourism Enhancement Grants are designed for cities and counties seeking to invest in local tourism

infrastructure assets such as stages, boat ramps, scenic pull-offs and other resources that target expanding state tourism.

In 2017, ECD and Tourist Development awarded Tourism Enhancement Grants to 29 local communities after receiving 50 submissions during the second application round. Thus far, a total of 58 projects across the state have been awarded.

Interested local governments must submit their completed application by Jan. 31, 2018.

For questions and more information, email Tourism.Grant@tn.gov or call Jennie McCabe, TTD outreach coordinator, at 615-741-9005.

For more info visit www.tn.gov/tourism/statewide-partners/tourism-enhancement-grant.html.

Nearly one-third of IMPROVE projects underway in first year

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner John Schroer announced the state has awarded \$297 million in contracts from bids accepted in December for crucial road and bridge construction projects – the first major awarding of IMPROVE Act projects and the largest such bidding process in TDOT's history.

With increased transportation funds provided through the IMPROVE Act and TDOT's federal budget, 72 new projects will be under construction across the state in the coming weeks. Within the first year of the IMPROVE Act's implementation, 288 – 30 percent – of the 962 projects designated in the legislation are underway.

This is TDOT's first bidding process utilizing significant IMPROVE Act funds, along with federal dollars available since the start of the new federal fiscal year, and includes several key IMPROVE Act projects, including:

- Widening of SR 149/13 in Montgomery County;
- Widening of US 431 in Robertson County;
- Widening of SR 14 in Shelby County; and
- Widening of SR 109 in Wilson County

The list of projects also includes several bridge rehabilitations, safety projects and the resurfacing of more than 80 miles of interstates and state routes.

Later this year, TDOT anticipates project bids to increase by about \$100 million, with calendar year bids totaling more than \$1 billion. TDOT will also initiate design/build contracts on reconstruction of I-440 in Nashville and the I-24/I-75 interchange in Chattanooga.

For more information on all projects included in the IMPROVE Act, please visit TDOT's interactive road and bridge construction project map, <https://www.tdot.tn.gov/projectneeds/spot/#/>.

Ava top baby girl name for 2017; William wins for boys

Ava is the new No. 1 name for baby girls born in Tennessee, rising to the top of the list of the most popular names for babies born in 2017. William maintains the number one spot as the most popular name chosen for baby boys in Tennessee for the 11th straight year.

The top 10 names Tennessee parents chose for their new babies born in 2017 are as follows:

Rank	Girls	Boys
1	Ava	William
2	Olivia	Elijah
3	Emma	James
4	Amelia	Noah
5	Harper	Liam
6	Isabella	John

7	Elizabeth	Mason
8	Charlotte	Jackson
9	Ella	Samuel
10	Abigail	Grayson

Names chosen for babies are recorded and tallied by the dedicated team in the Tennessee Department of Health Office of Vital Records. This office maintains the integrity of approximately 15 million records, including issuance and amending records of births, deaths, marriages and divorces that occur in Tennessee. The Office of Vital Records processes an average of more than 14,000 requests for these certificates every month, serving an average of 650 customers each week.



TN Library and Archives breaks ground on new building

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, along with Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, House Speaker Beth Harwell and Tennessee State Librarian, and Archivist Chuck Sherrill, officially broke ground on the new home of the Tennessee State Library and Archives last month.

The new 165,000-square-foot facility will include a climate-controlled chamber for safely storing historic books and manuscripts as well as a state-of-the-art robotic retrieval system. There will also be classrooms for teaching students and meeting space for training librarians and archivists.

"Tennessee has a strong and rich history and it is important to preserve our past to pass on to future generations," Gov. Haslam said. "We have significantly outgrown the space that currently houses Tennessee's most significant

and historic documents and vital records, so I thank the General Assembly for working with us to make this much-needed new Library and Archives facility a reality."

The site is on Bicentennial Mall at Sixth Avenue North and Jefferson Street. The facility will be a major upgrade in capacity, preservation and public access from the current 1950s era building which sits directly west of the State Capitol.

The \$123.8 million project, which started in 2005, received substantial funding this year after being included in the governor's budget and approved by the General Assembly. To date, roughly half of the project is funded and the remainder will be recommended in the upcoming budget.

"The new building ensures Tennessee's history will be preserved for generations while making it more accessible," Secretary Hargett

said. "This world-class facility will blend the necessity of historic preservation with the ever-increasing demand for digital access. I applaud Gov. Haslam and the entire General Assembly for making this a reality so we can better serve Tennesseans."

The new building will also feature a conservation lab for the treatment and restoration of books, photographs and documents. There will also be dedicated exhibit spaces for Tennessee's founding documents and rotating exhibits, as well as a grand reading room with seating for 100 readers and scholars.

Other features include a vault for storing photographic negatives, an early literacy center designed specifically for children with a visual disability and a recording lab to produce oral histories and audio books on Tennessee history.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019.

Eight sites across Tennessee added to the National Register of Historic Places

The Tennessee Historical Commission has announced the addition of eight properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

"The latest National Register of Historic Places listing reflect Tennessee's unique heritage and honor a diverse group of places worthy of being recognized and appreciated," said Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre.

The sites recently added to the National Register of Historic Places are:

Leach Fire Lookout Tower Cedar Grove, Carroll County

The Leach Fire Lookout Tower is an 80-foot tall bolted steel truss Aeromotor LS-40 structure built in 1957. There are several 1957 resources that are part of the historic complex: the tower, utility building, crew house and lookout operator's cabin. The tower and associated resources were built as part of the conservation efforts that included having permanently staffed towers. At one time Tennessee had 208 lookout towers and little more than half remain.

Tennessee War Memorial Nashville, Davidson County

Designed by Nashville architect Edward Emmett Dougherty, with associate architects McKim Mead and White of New York, the Tennessee War Memorial was completed in 1925. In the courtyard is the bronze statue of Victory, designed by prominent sculptors Leopold and Belle Kinney Scholz. The statue and memorial plaques with the names of 3,400 soldiers killed World War I were an integral part of the design. A focus of the interior of the building is the auditorium built to seat 2,500. Since it opened, the Tennessee War Memorial has been used for offices, commemorative events, and as an entertainment venue.

Mt. Zion Negro School Bradford, Gibson County

The original Mt. Zion Negro School was constructed around 1870 and the extant 1915 building may have been constructed on the same site. The school building is located near a modern church and adjacent to a historic cemetery. Former students remember walking as far as 10 miles to get to the Mt. Zion school. The school served as a social center for the rural community, a place where people would meet for events such as cake walks, sports, or plays. The school is an important example of African American education in Gibson County and it is the last known one-room elementary school remaining in the county. Mt. Zion



Completed in 1925 to honor the veterans of World War I, the Tennessee War Memorial in Nashville is one of eight sites in the state recently named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Negro School closed its doors in 1960, was briefly used for church services in the late 1980s, and sits unused today.

Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery Mosheim, Greene County

Located in rural Greene County, the Blue Springs Lutheran Church was built in 1893 and is a good example of an ecclesiastical design that combines elements of the Folk Victorian and Gothic Revival styles. The Rev. Francis Marion Harr, pastor of the church in 1893, is recognized as the architect and builder of the church. The adjacent cemetery dates back to the first organization of the church in 1811, when the church was operated out of a log cabin. The cemetery is an important part of the church's more than 200 year history.

Farmers and Merchants Bank Ethridge, Lawrence County

The one-story brick building in the heart of Ethridge was built in 1927 after an earlier bank building burned. When the current building was constructed, the economy of Ethridge was based on agriculture. The Farmers and Merchants Bank provided financing and capital for expanding businesses and farms. After the bank closed around 1950, it was used for several years as a post office.

Hardison Mill Farm Columbia, Maury County

The Hardison family first settled in Maury County around 1805 and built a farmhouse and mill. After a flood in 1870, the current farmhouse was constructed. Today the working farm includes 66-acres, the farmhouse, sheds, a cistern, dairy barn, and a family cemetery. In 1930, the farm was sold outside of the family and agriculture shifted from milling to

tobacco and dairy farming.

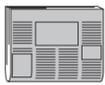
Pottsville General Store Columbia, Maury County

Located on State Route 166 near the intersection of State Route 99, the Pottsville General Store is a good position to attract travelers on both roads. Constructed around 1890, the structure is one of the few remaining aspects of the community of Pottsville, which once had a school, stores, churches, gristmill and house. Fletcher Lumsden ran the Pottsville General Store until the 1930s, providing goods local farmers could not produce themselves. The store changed ownership several times after the 1930s and was used for canoe rental in the 1980s. Today, the former Pottsville General Store, the only commercial building in the community, is used as a restaurant.

Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower Robbins, Scott County

The Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower is an 80-foot tall bolted steel truss Aeromotor LS-40 that was built in 1951. Also built around 1951 and on the site are an operator's cabin, utility building, pavilion, crew house and shed. Federal and state agencies cooperated to conserve forests and prevent fires in the mid-20th century and the Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower is a good example of this. The tower and associated resources were built as part of the conservation efforts that included having permanently staffed towers.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The Tennessee Historical Commission, as the State Historic Preservation Office, administers the program in Tennessee. For more information, visit <http://tnhistoricalcommission.org>.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is now accepting applications for Administrative Services Director. Under the direction of the City Administrator the Administrative Services Director plans, directs, manages and oversees the activities and operations of the Administrative Services Department including the Administrative and Legislative Support, Building and Grounds, Economic Development and Tourism, and Purchasing divisions. The Administration Services Director performs all functions of City Recorder as required by Municipal Code, coordinates assigned activities with other departments and outside agencies, provides high level administrative assistance to City Administrator and elected officials requiring specialized knowledge of administrative support activities and knowledge of local government. **Qualifications/Requirements:** Bachelor's degree or equivalent in liberal arts or business field, and at least three years of experience in a professional office environment, or any combination of training and experience necessary to complete the essential functions of the job. Starting Compensation Range: \$50,440.00 to \$61,456.25 annually DOE. Application deadline: Feb. 15 at 5:15 pm. For a complete job description and details on how to apply online, visit: www.cityof-whitehouse.com.

ASSISTANT TOWN ENGINEER

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut is seeking applicants for an assistant town engineer, whose essential responsibilities include: intermediate to advanced 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. Application deadline is Feb. 28.

BUILDING OFFICIAL

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut is seeking to fill the position of a building official. This position administers all aspects of the Codes Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department. Specifically, the successful candidate should have excellent communication skills, proficiency in coordinating and managing schedules and projects, management experience in a codes-related environment, and a thorough knowledge of all aspects of the ICC building codes. Applicants should have at least an Associates/Technical degree with coursework in construction/engineering, or related field and extensive experience in engineering, architecture, construction and codes enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and a minimum of 5 years relevant experience. State of TN Certified Building Inspector Certification is strongly preferred. Supervisory experience in a codes-related environment and MCP Certification is also preferred. Complete job description and required job application are available at www.townoffarragut.org/jobs.

Resumes may be downloaded. SALARY: \$52,845-\$67,378. (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package. Open until filled.

CITY JUDGE

ATHENS. The Athens City Council is accepting letters of interest and resumes, from licensed Tennessee attorneys entitled to practice in the courts of the state of Tennessee, for the position of Athens City Judge. This position serves at the will of the Athens City Council. Attorneys interested in being considered for this position should send a letter of interest and resume to the City Manager's Office, 815 North Jackson Street, Athens, TN 37303, by no later than 2:00p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26.

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. The role will also support the city's efforts with economic development by working closely with community stakeholders and the economic development council to attract new and diverse businesses. The director 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. Must demonstrate an exemplary customer service approach to development and permitting. The next development services director should possess the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to oversee the work of all departmental personnel; establish departmental policies, procedures and regulations and ensure proper enforcement. Plan, organize and articulate the department's goals, objectives and levels of service to city departments and the community. 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. The ideal candidate is a professional who is open, honest, of strong moral character, promotes transparency, and has excellent interpersonal and communication skills. A leader who is approachable and energetic with an open management style that supports teamwork and staff development. The ideal candidate must be able to create and sustain an organizational climate that promotes quality customer service in departmental operations. Must have the ability to analyze problems, identify solutions, make recommendations, encourage a creative, balanced approach to solving challenges - The ideal candidate asks how we can, not why we can't. 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. EEO

DIRECTOR

SAVANNAH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
The Savannah Industrial Development Corporation (SIDC) is seeking qualified applicants

for the position of Director. The Director plans, manages and directs the activities of the SIDC whose mission is to attract jobs and create capital investment in Hardin County through the recruitment, expansion, and retention of industry and business. The Director coordinates with other outside agencies and organizations to promote economic growth in Hardin County. Resumes may be sent to Savannah Industrial Development Corporation, 495 Main St, Savannah, Tennessee 38372 or by email to SIDC@tourhardincounty.org. Resumes will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2018.

EXISTING INDUSTRIES 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.

HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN

COLLIERVILLE. This is specialized and complex office work assisting employees and the professional staff in the Human Resources Department. Requires an Associate Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Human Resources or a related field; supplemented by two (2) years previous experience in employee program administration, which may include benefit administration or related areas, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration or Human Resources preferred. Must have excellent computer skills using word-processing and spreadsheet software. Two years' experience in working with personnel/benefits with special emphasis on insurance (i.e. claims, filing, benefit's coordination/administration) and experience with workers' compensation and/or safety issues highly desired. Valid driver's license required at time of hire. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Salary range: \$27,848 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package Closing date for accept applications is Jan. 25. Submit an original Town of Collierville application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway Collierville, TN 38017 Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. EOE/Drug free workplace.

PARKS & RECREATION / PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

UNICOI. The town of Unicoi is seeking resumes for the combined position of Parks & Recreation Director and Pub-

lic Relations Director. Duties include organizing all festivals, events and parades, design and distribute flyers, work with town related organizations, attend and present activity reports to town meetings, attend conferences, some overnight travel required, visit town businesses, 4-year accredited college degree in Parks and Recreation or related field is required. Starting pay is \$35k-\$40k DOQ. Send resumes with cover letter no later than Dec. 22, 2017 to: Mayor Lynch, PO Box 39, Unicoi, TN 37692 or e-mail; to: unicoitownhall@comcast.net

POLICE CHIEF

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is seeking a committed public safety professional to lead and manage a modern, full service agency dedicated to policing our city with a highly engaged and community-involved approach. Under the general direction and supervision of the city manager, the chief plans, organizes, directs, coordinates and evaluates all activities of the Johnson City Police Department. The police chief will be privileged to lead a dedicated staff of 149 sworn officers and 32 civilian employees. The chief will manage the non-union police department's \$13.5 million budget and oversee the entire operations. The department is nationally accredited and is organized into three divisions: administration, criminal investigations, and operations. Areas of responsibility include: patrol, criminal investigations, canine, drug task force, EOD, minimum security jail, special operations, community policing, school resource, and SWAT. The candidate must possess the following critical success factors: strong interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written); experience presenting to elected officials and public speaking; ability to motivate and inspire staff to build on past successes; demonstrated ability to develop and achieve long-range planning and budget goals; comprehensive and broad knowledge of the principles and practices of modern police administration; Requirements include a bachelor's degree in a related field (criminal justice, public administration, or equivalent) from an accredited university or college. A minimum of seven to 10 years of command level officer experience in a similar-sized department at the captain level or above. The city operates under the Commission-Manager form of government with a city manager appointed by a five-member city commission. Applications will be received online at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range \$72,069 to \$116,810. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications from qualified individuals interested in a career in law enforcement to compete for the position of 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 1½ 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 Defined Benefit 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. The City of Cleveland is an equal opportunity employer.

POLICE OFFICER

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.

STORMWATER CREW LEADER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for stormwater crew leader. This person is responsible for supervising and participating in the work of a crew performing stormwater construction and maintenance, landscaping, R-O-W maintenance, and public facility and infrastructure maintenance and repair. An application may be obtained by visiting www.cityofwhitehouse.com or at the human resources office located at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Return applications to the human resources office or faxed to 615-616-1058 or emailed to humanresources@cityofwhitehouse.com. Starting Compensation range: \$16.29 - \$19.85 hourly DOE Open until filled. EOE.

WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITY DIRECTOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield (population 16,700) is accepting applications for water/wastewater utility director. Individual will plan, organize and direct the activities of the water/wastewater department under a council/manager form of government. The water/wastewater department administers systems for water distribution, wastewater collection and water and wastewater treatment facilities. Bachelor's degree in civil, sanitary, or environmental engineering or related field required - master's degree preferred. Must have at least five years of progressively responsible management experience in water and wastewater systems. Hiring range: \$72,280 - \$82,929. Salary range: \$72,280 - \$99,465 (DOQ). Applications must be received by no later than Dec. 8, at the following address: Human Resources Department, City of Springfield, P. O. Box 788, Springfield, Tennessee, 37172 or apply online at www.springfield-tn.org or email applications and/or resume to Carolyn Scott at cscott@springfield-tn.org. EOE.

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool ("The Pool") will meet in regular session on Friday, February 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. local time at The Pool's office in Brentwood, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.

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Tennessee, U.S. economies grow in 2018

The Tennessee and U.S. economies will see sustained growth in 2018, according to a report released in December by the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research.

"The economy is on a roll and growth should continue into 2018 and beyond," said Matt Murray, associate director of the center and project director for the *2018 Economic Report to the Governor of the State of Tennessee*.

Murray noted that the current growth cycle is the third-longest expansion since World War II and marks the eighth year of recovery since the Great Recession.

"At this point in the business cycle, we expect to see the pace of expansion slow, with slower employment gains and little further improvement in the unemployment rate," he said. "Ultimately growth will slow because the economy has restored most activity to very high levels."

According to the report, consumer spending will continue to be the backbone of economic growth in the U.S. — with growth of about 2.5 percent expected in 2018 — in response to a low

unemployment rate and ongoing job gains.

Business investment in equipment and computer hardware and software is expected to show modest growth. The nation's housing market will continue its slow growth in 2018, at only 2.3 percent. But improvement is expected in 2019, with the report predicting 6.1 percent growth. Other highlights from the report include:

- The Federal Reserve, which hiked interest rates as recently as Dec. 13, will continue to raise rates in 2018 and 2019. Inflation is expected to remain in check.
- Tennessee is projected to see more job growth in both 2018 and 2019—1.4 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively. Job growth will slow because of the low unemployment rate and a shrinking pool of available workers.
- The state's unemployment rate will average 3.1 percent in 2018 and 2019, well below the rate of unemployment for the nation of 3.9 percent and 3.8 percent.
- Job gains in the state's manufacturing sector are expected to

weaken but remain in the black.

The report also looks at the effects of prescription opioid use on county-level labor markets in Tennessee. Evidence shows a causal effect of prescription opioid use on the labor market: higher per capita opioid prescription rates lead to higher county unemployment rates, lower rates of labor force participation, and diminished employment-to-population ratios.

Together the findings indicate that prescription opioids are driving people out of the labor market. This special analysis is intended to draw attention to the opioid crisis by pointing out impacts that go beyond the health status of individuals.

"The economic forecast should help inform public sector analysts framing the budget outlook as well as private sector businesses who are making business plans for 2018 and 2019," Murray said.

Since 1975, the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research has provided Tennessee's governor with an annual economic report including an in-depth analysis of state and national development trends and forecasts.



Feb. 2-4: Nashville
Antiques and Garden Show
Held in the Music City Center in downtown Nashville, the show will feature an impressive and entertaining lineup of speakers including authors, designers, media personalities, a master floral design expert and celebrities. There will be about 150 antiques, art and horticulture dealers, magnificent gardens, and some of the most renowned design, landscape and architectural speakers in the world. Hours: Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.. For more information, go to <http://antiquesandgardenshow.com/>

Feb. 2 - 4: Tiptonville
14th Annual Reelfoot Lake Eagle Festival
Eagle tours, birds of prey shows, art and photography contests, photography tours, vendor's, Bob Tarter and his amazing animals, wildlife education, children's activities, story telling, paint a ceramic eagle or duck decoy, and more. Maps of the eagle nests will also be available to explore on your own. For more information and a complete festival schedule visit <http://reelfoottourism.com/reelfootlake/attractions/eagles-waterfowl-tours/>

Feb. 10: Cleveland
Brew-Ha-Ha Winterfest
Come out for beer tastings from distributors and home-brewers combined with food samples from restaurants, caterers and pubs. Held at the Museum Center at Five Points from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. For more information, go to www.museumcenter.org/brewaha/

February 16-18: Knoxville
The Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show
Held in the Convention Center in downtown Knoxville, the show is the largest annual fundraiser for Dogwood Arts. The show provides visitors the chance to shop hundreds of retailers and manufacturers exhibiting products, offering services and advice on interior design, home improvement, gardening, and more. Stroll through beautifully landscaped gardens and have the opportunity to talk with the designers. For more information go to www.dogwoodhouseandgarden.com/

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. For more information go to www.mypigeonforge.com/events/quiltfest/

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The average life expectancy for the U.S. has fallen for the second year in a row, and opioid-related deaths are fueling the dip. More than 63,600 people died from drug overdoses in 2016, a rate three times that of overdose deaths in 1999, according to the December 2017 report from the National Center for Health Statistics, which is part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of those who overdosed on prescription pills increased 14 percent between 2015 and 2016 while the amount of heroin-related deaths increased 20 percent. Deaths related to fentanyl and synthetic opiates doubled. The last time the U.S. posted a

similar drop in its life expectancy rate was in 1993 during the height of the AIDS epidemic.

The opioid epidemic cost the U.S. more than \$504 billion in 2015 alone – nearly 3 percent of the same year's gross domestic product – according to the White House's Council of Economic Advisors (CEA). The estimate is more than six times higher than a previous study carried out using data from 2013. Between 2013 and 2015, the number of overdose deaths in the nation doubled. The 2015 estimates also took into account the use of drugs such as heroin rather than focusing solely on prescription drug abuse. Despite the findings, the White House has yet to allocate any new funds to fight opioid abuse.

Every state in the nation is facing a teacher shortage, according to a report recently released by the U.S. Department of Education. School districts are often having a hard time filling positions ranging from harder-to-staff jobs in special education to relatively easy-to-staff grade levels like kindergarten. Even substitute positions are hard for many areas to fill. Often times, districts are forced to hire less-than-qualified personnel to fill positions. According to information from the Learning Policy Institute, many teachers have left the profession because of low salaries and other compensation, the high cost of entering the profession, hiring and personnel management practices, lack of support for new teachers, and difficult or un-supportive working conditions.

UT-MTAS FEBRUARY MAP CLASSES

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING

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

Dates/Locations/Times:

Feb 6 Memphis
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Feb 7 Jackson
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Feb 8 Nashville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Feb 12 Knoxville
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Feb 13 Johnson City
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Credits: 4 CPE /CMFO

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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.

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Rep. Ryan Williams of Cookeville leads from the heart

BY LINDA BRYANT

There's no doubt that Rep. Ryan Williams of Cookeville is a rising young star in the Tennessee Legislature. In late 2016, the 43-year-old became the chair of the House Republican Caucus, one of the highest leadership positions in the legislature.

In many ways, Williams is a quintessential conservative Republican from the South — fiscally cautious, staunchly pro-life, and polite to a T. He has no problem talking to you about his devout faith and can easily fold a fitting piece of scripture into a conversation.

But Williams, who has represented District 42 in Putnam County since 2010, also stands out — perhaps more than most stereotypical Republicans — as a civil servant who's unusually compassionate and civil, and who often leads from the heart. He's involved in education and healthcare-related issues such as autism, and has sponsored key legislation to address the state's prescription drug and opioid abuse.

Despite having a full plate with his substantial legislative duties, Williams works as the director of business development at J&S Construction in Cookeville. He also serves as a member of four committees: Finance, Ways and Means; Government Operations; Health; and the Finance, Ways and Means Subcommittee.

Sen. Paul Bailey, a close Republican colleague who represents District 15, (which encompasses some of Williams' home turf), describes Williams as consummately "dedicated and trustworthy."

"Ryan strives daily to go above and beyond for not only constituents in House District 42, but across this state," Bailey said. "A strong moral character is the foundation of success, and Ryan's character stands out amongst the crowd. Not only is he loyal and responsible, but he also exemplifies the characteristics of trustworthiness and fairness by continuously making sure every side is heard no matter the issue. He has proven to be a strong leader with a heart to serve and make a difference in Tennessee. He is a team player and is a true asset to the Tennessee General Assembly."

TT&C: You've lived in Cookeville for almost 20 years. Where did you come from initially?

Ryan Williams: I was born and raised in Kingsport. I went to high school in Blountville, which is where all of my family lived. I went to Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City on a soccer scholarship. That is where I met my wife, Abby. The Bible says that a man shall leave his mother and father and cling to his wife, and she was from Cookeville. So, that's how I got to Cookeville. We moved here in April of 1999, and in April this year, it will be 19 years. We have two children. Tyson is my eldest and he turns 16 next week. Carson, my daughter, is 13 years old and will be 14 in March. So I have two teenagers, and it is a joyous time in our lives.

TT&C: How did you get involved in politics and public service?

RW: My wife and I went to Washington, D.C., with a church group in 2000. We were young and married with no kids at the time. While we were there, we really developed a heart for service and became interested in the need to have good people run for office. Most people we knew in politics were not people you would invite over for dinner. We wanted to make our lives accessible to people.

When I first got interested in politics, it had a lot to do with Supreme Court rulings. We felt they were literally changing the intent and the shape of the nation through their interpretation of law. We thought it was very important to consecrate ourselves — spending time in prayer and paying attention to what was going on as it related to our nation.

The unborn have always been important to Abby and me. It's something we're passionate about because we love children. There were other issues going on around the same time. It was the Bush-Gore election cycle. If you remember, that was a very controversial "hanging chad" moment. The seed of service and the heart of service were planted during those years. It would still be a little while before I'd listen to my wife and run for office for the first time.

TT&C: You served on the Cookeville City Council and the Planning Commission. What kinds of issues were you involved with?

RW: We developed a comprehensive land use plan as it related to our zoning. We completed a 20-year outlook of the properties in the city and addressed how they would best be developed and improved. Back then it was legal to do annexations by ordinance. I was actively involved in those. I did a couple of annexation proposals during my four years of service. We also worked on utilities. In Cookeville, we own all of our utilities except for cable. We provide water, sewer, gas, and electric. We are very proud of this. It's one of the reasons we are very successful as a community and one of the most affordable places in America to live.

Sometimes on the planning commission people wanted to rezone property from single-family to multi-family or single-family to commercial or industrial. Those can be very contentious debates. Cookeville is unique because a very high percentage of its population rents or leases property. People don't necessarily own the properties they live in. It can be a challenge in a community when you develop a pattern of lack of home ownership.

TT&C: When did you transition from city councilman to state representative?



Rep. Ryan Williams



Rep. Williams with his daughter Carson, wife Abby, and son Tyson.

RW: In March of 2010 there was a piece of federal legislation that was very controversial. The deadline for me to decide if I was going to run again was April 1. That legislation was called the Affordable Care Act, and it happened on a weekend. The filing deadline was the following week. I had already picked up my papers to run for Cookeville City Council because you can run for two consecutive terms. Quite frankly, I remembered the time I went to D.C. and was thinking, "If good people don't run for office, we're going to be in a bad place." I prayed about it and talked to my wife about it. I really felt like I was called to run for state office. So, Monday morning I picked up the paperwork, filed and started to run. I went to talk to my employer about the idea of running. I work for someone else which is somewhat unique as it relates to a state legislator.

TT&C: You worked very hard on the FOCUS Act (Focus On College and University Success). That bill dramatically changed how the state governs its four-year public universities. Why was this important to you?

RW: The FOCUS Act was the governor's piece of legislation. It was extremely important to me because as a state representative for several years I realized that there wasn't a lot of attention paid to the six institutions because the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) had so many new kids coming into the system with Tennessee Promise. So many things were going on that these six institutions were getting lost. [The FOCUS Act provides more focused support by TBR for Tennessee's 13 community and 27 technical colleges. It created local boards for the six public universities currently within TBR: Austin Peay State University, East Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University, and the University of Memphis.]

The TBR schools were sucking all the discussion out of the room, so when Gov. Bill Haslam asked me what I thought, I said it would be a fantastic idea. I thought Tennessee Tech and the other five schools would benefit from having a local board that's managed here to make decisions based upon the community. What's important about the schools is that they are definitely a reflection of our community. Tennessee Tech here in Cookeville and other schools such as Austin Peay are some of the largest employers in their respective communities. There's a real sense of importance as it relates to their overall economic impact. We are all fans of Tennessee Tech and the Golden Eagles here in Cookeville because they are our neighbors and our friends. They go to church with us. I feel like that kind of local leadership is a benefit. And, I think you're now hearing discussions of [the FOCUS Act fruit bearing fruit] because Gov. Haslam is considering doing it for UT this year.

TT&C: Talk about some the bills that you have sponsored that are important to you?

RW: I've already spoken about the original passion for service my wife and I have for caring about the unborn. There was a problem that came up earlier on in my elected role. OB/GYNs were really concerned about the direction of the health in our community, and quite frankly the health of our children. At one point in time, we had the highest neonatal abstinence birth rate in the state per capita, and that's because we had a high consumption of opioids for these mothers. These births started in 2001. It took a few years before [the true effects of opioid use on babies] was noticed. Doctors and nurse practitioners witnessed it before the legislature did. These kids were entering school with learning disabilities and other challenges. Everything was pointing back to the fact that they were born with addiction in the womb. Ironically, people have a preconceived notion

[public] education in the past five years. We've gone from 46th and 48th in the nation to the low 20s in a period of five years. But when it comes to our overall health, we are lingering around 48th. What does tackling health mean, and what does it look like? I could pass bills to restrict the distribution of opioids but if I don't give that stay-at-home mom, professional woman or a male who's working three jobs the ability to get clean, then I'm not doing them any good. Of course, the best way to fix this problem is for people never to get addicted in the first place.

TT&C: As Majority Caucus Chair you have to work with many different kinds of people, many of whom disagree or have different priorities. How do you deal with conflict and reaching consensus?

RW: With my teenagers, in my marriage, and even with the House Republican Caucus, it's easy to build consensus and get people to communicate. I would say for me the key is learning how to listen. In order to be the greatest, you have to be the servant of all. I try to be the first one to volunteer in the room. I want to be the person to help communicate with members if there's controversy. I want to always try to get members to come together. I'm dealing with bills right now that involve issues with Memphis and taking down [Confederate] statues. [Resolving this issue] has to do with communicating and understanding the other person's point of view, and you do that when you genuinely care about the other person's point of view. There may be certain things that we will never agree on, but people who know me know it doesn't mean I don't care. If we don't agree, it's not personal.

TT&C: What do you see as the state's biggest challenges in 2018?

RW: I would use the adage "Mo' Money Mo' Problems" because the state has never had as much money as we have now. There's been a lot of expenditures of dollars already, and there will be a lot of continuing discussion about spending money. There will also be a lot of talk about people who are currently serving [in the legislature]. There are 16 Republicans who have announced they are retiring or not running for office again, and there are six Democrats in the House. You're going to have a 25 percent turnover rate just starting out. What is it going to look like when over half the legislature has come in since the governor was elected? What challenges is it going to create? Most of the Legislature has never had a transition to a new governor regardless of party. I think there's going to be a lot of issues with that.

I also think there's going to be a lot of desire to get out [of office] quick with some parties because of the elections. Some will stay here and do the work. There will likely be a real animus between the two. But we are fortunate because Tennesseans aren't mean-spirited — whether you are a Democrat from Memphis or a Republican from Mountain City. We all have the state's best interest at heart.

TT&C: Even with the Republican supermajority in the legislature, are there areas where the two parties can come together?

RW: I'm hopeful that we come together on some issues. I have a bill this year that talks about the state government's funding mechanism. I'm hopeful that I will have support from my colleagues across the aisle. I want to lead with integrity and make sure I communicate that clearly. A lot of the time people perish for lack of knowledge, and we don't know what they're doing because they [members of the opposing party] don't tell us what they want to do. Sometimes the problem is with original blunt force trauma of an idea [that's presented without communicating first] than it is the actual idea itself. Since I've been in the legislature the average time that you got out [of the session] has been the second or third week in April. All the colleagues that were there before me were out at the end of May, sometimes even in the middle of June. I think we could learn a little bit about slowing down and taking our time and communicating.

TT&C: What do you see as the proper relationship between the state and local government and between the state and federal government?

RW: That's a good question. Local governments are an outpost for state governments. I didn't realize it as a city councilman but I do as a state representative. And, I think that Memphis is beginning to realize this as well [because of the recent removal of two Confederate statues]. City governments exist at the will of the state government. The state government has to coddle that relationship and understand the relationship almost as you would the importance of a family relationship. City governments have to understand that there are some things they have to get permission to do. So, being able to build consensus between the state and local government is extremely important. Between the state and the federal government, there has never been such a push for the states to be more independent from the federal government. Here in Tennessee, we believe that our federal government doesn't know what it's doing. Who would go seek financial advice from someone that is bankrupt? No one. The state government is saying to the federal government, "Let us handle our own business." When it comes to national defense or the Constitution, you handle that. When it comes to everything else, I think we've proven in this state that we know a little bit better how to manage our funds and resources better than the federal government.

about what opioid addicts look like. The truth is in my community 36 percent of those people who have neonatal abstinence babies are people we go to church with. They became addicts because their doctors prescribed them opioids for pain. It has become a huge issue in our community.

Over the years, I have spearheaded legislation not just to fight the opioid crisis that we see before us but to deal with the availability of opioids, how we prescribe them and to whom. For example, I repealed the 2001 Retractable Pain Treatment Act two years ago. That law said for the first time that a patient could demand the medication they wanted, and if the physician didn't give it to them then they would have to refer them to someone — AKA a pain clinic — that would give it to them. [The IPTA gave patients a great amount of responsibility to choose opiate medications as a first line of treatment and physicians were required either to provide requested opiate medication or refer patients to physicians who would. Shortly after the IPTA passed, 300 pain clinics opened up across the state.]

Educating the community about opioids is so important. One of the things that has been most rewarding as an elected official is to be able to see the percentage of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome births begin to deteriorate. To know that we are actually making an impact is truly rewarding.

TT&C: What caused you to sponsor the bill that helps families experiencing autism?

RW: I sponsored passage of House Bill 384 during the 2017 legislative session because I have always been passionate about autism. When I first ran for office in 2010, I met a mother with an autistic son while I was knocking on doors in my community. During our conversation, she mentioned to me that there were simply not enough opportunities for parents of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to obtain information about services available to these children and their families. House Bill 384 is a game changer because it creates the 16-person Tennessee Council on Autism Spectrum Disorder; this important group will make recommendations and provide leadership concerning all levels of ASD services in Tennessee.

TT&C: Talk about what you've done legislatively to support veterans.

RW: House Bill 433 determines how a veteran's military training can count as college credit at Tennessee's colleges and universities. Additionally, it updates the Tennessee Veterans Education Transition Support Act (VETS) Act which encourages enrollment of veterans and removes barriers known to impede their success in attaining higher education credentials. I also cosponsored the Support, Training, and Renewing Opportunity for National Guardsmen (STRONG) Act last year. This initiative allows our brave servicemen and women to achieve their educational dreams without fear of financial burden, thanks to a last-dollar tuition reimbursement to be used toward a first-time bachelor's degree. Finally, we fought to reduce the amount of property tax owed by veterans, eligible low-income elderly and disabled homeowners. Our military and their families make daily sacrifices so that we are able to live in the greatest nation and state our world has ever seen. It is an honor for me to fight for these brave heroes and their families.

TT&C: As we head into 2018, the legislature appears poised to address the opioid epidemic even more seriously. Are we going in the right direction to address this tough issue?

RW: I love the direction we're going, but it's not fast enough for me. We are one of the most overly prescribed states per capita in the nation. Just look at what we've been able to do with