



## Make plans to attend June conference in Gatlinburg

Historian, economist, and demographer, Neil Howe will examine how the different generations impact workforce issues during TML's Annual Conference, slated for June 11-14, in Gatlinburg.

The Millennial Generation is entering the workforce in record numbers. The Boomers are moving into senior leadership positions. And the Generation Xers, are moving into mid life where they will be the hands-on managers.

Come hear from the nation's leading thinker on today's generations and who originally coined the term "Millennial Generation," on what motivates the different generations as workers, and how they will shape the future of America.

Howe is founder and president of the consulting firm LifeCourse Associates, where he develops and implements cutting-edge research, analysis, and consulting services to help clients understand how generations impact marketing, workforce issues, and strategic planning.

He is a bestselling author who has written more than a dozen books on generations and demographic change. His work on the different generations has frequently been featured in the media, including *USA Today*, CNN, the *New York Times*, and CBS' *60 Minutes*.

You won't want to miss this fascinating look at the effect that generational change has on society and the workplace.

Other conference highlights will include dynamic workshop sessions encompassing a wide range of city-related topics, numerous networking opportunities to interact with your peers from across the state, and an annual award ceremony to recognize the extraordinary work taking place in our cities throughout Tennessee.

For more information and to register, go to [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).



Neil Howe

### Schedule At-A-Glance

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

8 am - 12 pm MTAS EOA  
2-3 pm Pre-Conference Workshops  
8-10 pm Welcome Reception Park Vista Hotel

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

11 am - 5 pm Registration  
11 am - 5 pm Exhibit Hall Opens  
11:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:15 - 2:15 pm CMFO Workshop  
1:30 - 2:15 pm District Meetings  
2:30 - 3:45 pm Opening Session Exhibit Hall Extravaganza  
6-8:30 pm Host City Reception

#### MONDAY, JUNE 13

8-8:30 AM Breakfast  
8:45-9:45 am General Session  
10-11 am Workshops  
11:15 - 12 pm Business Meeting  
12:15 - 1:30 pm Lunch  
2:15 - 3:15 pm Workshops  
3:30 - 4:30 pm Workshops  
6-11pm Pool Party

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 14

8-10 AM AWARDS BREAKFAST

## Congress creates bipartisan municipal finance caucus

Group's top priority: preserve municipal bonds tax-exempt status

BY LIZ FARMER  
*Governing Magazine*

State and local governments have a new bipartisan set of advocates for their interests on Capitol Hill. This week, two congressmen launched the Municipal Finance Caucus to protect the municipal bond market.

U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren, an Illinois Republican, and Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, a Maryland Democrat, announced the formation of the caucus at the annual legislative meeting for the National Association of State Treasurers in Washington, D.C. They didn't say how many members they've recruited, but both have regularly rallied support on municipal finance issues from more than 100 of their Democratic and Republican colleagues.

"Our primary focus will be on telling the story of how important the current tax [status] of municipal finance is, and how risky, damaging

and how harmful a change would be," said Hultgren. "So we're going to be very active, very vocal in telling these stories."

The development comes as President Barack Obama's budget once again aims to limit the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

It's a proposal fiercely fought by state and local government associations because it would likely lead to higher interest rates. States and localities sell bonds to raise capital, mostly for infrastructure and school projects. Because the investors that buy them don't get taxed on the interest, governments can offer a lower interest rate (as much as 30 percent lower), meaning it costs less for them to finance their projects.

Over the past five years, Obama has urged federal lawmakers to cap the tax-free interest of higher earning investors. Aimed at individuals declaring more than \$200,000 in taxable income and couples declaring

See **BONDS** on Page 5



To combat increasing congestion, the Nashville Area MPO has released a new 20-year Regional Transport Plan calling for the designation of federal funds for several projects on major arteries in the Mid State.

## Middle TN region releases 20-year plan to address traffic congestion

BY KATE COIL

*TML Communications Specialist*

A new 20-year plan from the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is prioritizing the expansion and reducing congestion on major corridors between Nashville and major outlying communities.

The 2040 Regional Transport Plan calls for construction on major corridors between Nashville and the cities of Franklin, Gallatin, and Murfreesboro that will include dedicated lanes and fixed guideways.

The Nashville Area MPO is composed of officials from a seven-county region including county mayors and representatives of cities with a population of more than 5,000. Public transit, county highway, regional, state and federal agencies are also members.

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore represents his community on the MPO's board and said the plan helps outline both where transportation money needs to be spent and what modalities the communities in the MPO region need to work on.

"The plan was developed by all the communities in the MPO, so these are all projects we have determine should be in the plan," Moore said. "If a project is not on this list, then it is highly unlikely it will get any funding. I think the most exciting thing is that it is a multi-modal transportation plan that outlines various options including

### Nashville Area MPO Cost Estimates for Corridor Rapid Transit/ Managed Lanes Projects

Corridor Name	Total Estimated Cost	Estimated Federal Funding
Nashville-Gallatin	\$437 million	\$341 million (FY2021-2030)
Nashville-Franklin	\$335 million	\$268 million (FY2021-2030)
Nashville-Murfreesboro	\$735 million	\$558 million (FY2031-2040)

roads, mass transit, rapid transit, and stresses the potential for other transit options in the future."

With a price tag of \$1.5 billion, the majority of the funding will come through grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) over a 20-year period. According to Nashville Area MPO Executive Director Michael Skipper, this is the first time the region has elected to dedicate a portion of its formula grant funding from the FHWA to help. The organization is expecting to receive \$1.2 billion in funds to help finance the \$1.5 billion plan.

"The \$1.2 billion is the amount of federal funding programmed for itemized projects with transit dedicated lanes or fixed-guideway," Skipper said. "The revenue comes from our anticipated share of state-wide NHPP (National Highway Per-

formance Program) and STP (Surface Transportation Program) funds between now and 2040. The figure is a year-of-expenditure amount. The funding is earmarked for the three corridors and will most likely need to be combined with additional federal, state, and local money to fully implement the project that ultimately is designed and engineered through the project development and community involvement process."

Skipper said the MPO has already begun exploring ways to provide the rest of the \$300 million needed to complete these projects. "There is additional funding for transit from existing grant programs accounted for in our plan, and of course, we'll need to identify local dedicated revenue to cost-share on the capital expenses and to operate the new service," he said. See **TRAFFIC** on Page 5

## Cleveland to connect to national bike route, potential for increased bicycle tourism brings economic boon to area

BY KATE COIL

Cleveland is the next stop for a regional cycling trail aimed at connecting Georgia and Kentucky and the growing bicycle tourism in Tennessee.

The U.S. Bike Route 21 would eventually connect Atlanta, Ga., and Lexington, Ky. Of the planned 160.8 miles on the route, more than 240 miles would cross through Tennessee. The bike route is part of a National Corridor Plan developed by the Adventure Cycling Association to develop more bicycle routes across the country. In the future, plans could possibly expand the U.S. Bike Route 21 to Ohio.

Cleveland already has 19 miles used to bring cyclists through its downtown via existing roadways and the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway. An additional 5.5 miles would connect Cleveland to the nearby city of Charleston. Eventually, the segment of the bicycle route will connect Chattanooga to Athens via Cleveland.

Cleveland Planning Director and Cleveland Urban Area MPO Coordinator Greg Thomas said officials with the city are excited for the potential the new national bike route



Officials in Cleveland are hoping a new national bike route designation will help promote cycling tourism in the area.

could bring to the area.

"U.S. Bike Route 21 connects from Atlanta to Chattanooga and is intended to come north through Cleveland before heading on through Knoxville and further north," he said. "It is being championed by

Bike Walk TN and we are excited to have the USBR 21 coming through Cleveland and Bradley County. We welcome bicycle tourist and the cycling community."

City officials, members of See **BIKES** on Page 3



A new study released from the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization found that in the future, the seven-county area in Middle Tennessee will grow by 1 million people by 2040. This continued growth and development is expected to double the amount of traffic congestion in the region. This will mean 86 percent more roadway volume, 26 percent slower traffic speeds, 113 percent more time spent in the car, 162 percent increase in miles traveled on congested routes, and 141 percent more freight trucks stuck in traffic.

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## ATHENS

Athens has achieved Tennessee Main Street certification, joining 30 other Tennessee Main Street communities certified through the Tennessee Main Street and accredited by the National Main Street Center. Athens' designation is based upon successful applications submitted by Athens Mayor Ann S. Davis and Athens Downtown Business Association Patti Geek, with support from nine additional community leaders and associations. The Tennessee Main Street Program application requires communities to illustrate a strong commitment to a Main Street Program from city/county government, an adequate organizational budget, a commitment to hire staff, a strong historic preservation ethic, a collection of historic buildings and a walkable, historic commercial district. Tennessee Main Street operates under the National Main Street Center, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## CHATTANOOGA

Officials with the Tennessee Clean Water Network and city of Chattanooga cut the ribbon on a new TCWN water bottle refill station in Coolidge Park near the Carousel Building. The new station is one of nine TCWN water bottle stations located throughout the city. The Bringing Tap Back Project initiative is part of efforts encouraging residents to drink more tap water and less sugary beverages to help reduce obesity. The program also encourages people to use refillable bottles of water. In addition to the stations in Chattanooga, TCWN has installed similar stations in Johnson City, Knoxville, Jackson and Memphis.

## FRANKLIN

The former First Tennessee Bank Building on Franklin's square will receive a \$14 million renovation to bring a rooftop restaurant and event space to the area. The 9,400-square-foot structure at 231 Public Square will include a large patio with 360-degree views of downtown Franklin with room for up to 600 patrons. Developers plan to break ground in the summer. The building will also add a 6,500-square-foot ground level restaurant and 20,000 square feet of Class A office space on two floors. The building will feature new electrical, mechanical, plumbing, access control and security systems. Also, a 2,000-gallon underground grease trap, as well as a service elevator leading to a separate commercial kitchen and storage on the basement level, will be included within the design.

## GALLATIN

The Bradford Company announced it will invest \$5.1 million over the next five years to expand its facility in Gallatin. The reusable packaging manufacturer will create 25 jobs as part of the expansion. Bradford Company is a fifth generation, family and employee-owned business and has been in Gallatin since 1991. With this expansion, the company plans to expand its capacity as well as consolidate all of its Gallatin facilities into one. The company specializes in manufacturing reusable and recyclable containers primarily for the automotive industry. Bradford Company's products are free from pollutants and chemicals which provides a safe, hazardous free work environment for its employees.

## GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown has been awarded the highest possible bond ratings by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's, reaffirming the city's triple-A rating. Germantown has been awarded the triple-A rating by

Moody's since 1987 and Standard & Poor's since 1994.

## GERMANTOWN

The city of Germantown has approved the \$90 million TraVure development, the city's first mixed-use development in the city's Western Gateway district. The development will include office, retail, restaurant and hotel space was approved by the Germantown Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The high-density development could result in more than \$2 million in property taxes on a site that currently brings in less than \$50,000 a year.

## GOODLETTSVILLE

The city of Goodlettsville has seen a 21.7 percent decrease in violent crime during 2015 according to recently released data compiled by the city. The city had 595 Uniform Crime Report incidents in 2015, which is down from 760 in 2014. Violent crime has decreased in the city by 41.5 percent since 2012. The Uniform Crime Report includes the crimes of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. Goodlettsville Police Chief Gary Goodwin attributes the city's decrease in crime to the efforts of his department, and the cooperative effort of community and business partners.

## HENDERSONVILLE

Officials with the city of Hendersonville recently hosted a ribbon cutting for the new Public Works Road Department Salt Barn. The original barn that had served the city for several years had to be replaced as salt had seeped through the concrete of the original barn, severely corroding the interior rebar and making the facility unsafe. Officials with the Hendersonville Public Works Road Department worked to keep costs for the new facility as low as possible by reusing old material and doing work for the new facility in-house. Salvageable lumber from the original barn was taken away for use in future city projects while public works officials designed the new footings for the barn. Public works crews then constructed the footings and retaining walls for the new salt barn to save money. National Barn was selected to construct the frame, walls and roof once the footings and walls were complete. Salt from the old barn is already being stored in the new facility.

## MT. JULIET

The city of Mt. Juliet has been ranked as having the healthiest housing market in the state and the 15th healthiest housing market in the country, according to a recent study by New York-based technology company SmartAsset. The study considered factors including stability, risk, ease of sale and affordability based on costs associated with median income. The average Mt. Juliet homeowners live in a home for 12.2 years and the average home is on the market 60.7 days. The city's homes with negative equity and homes decreasing in value over last year have also been decreasing. The city of Brentwood ranked second in the state on the study and 21st in the nation while Goodlettsville ranked third in the state.

## MURFREESBORO

TwelveStone Health Partners will be expanding its Murfreesboro operations by building a new corporate headquarters, consolidating its corporate, logistics, billing and service divisions. Formerly known as Reeves-Sain Family of Medical Services, the company will invest \$14.9 million and create 200 new jobs. TwelveStone will begin construction in mid-March on a new 30,000 square foot corporate headquarters at Heritage Square in Murfreesboro providing the company with a centralized space for business operations as well as warehouse space. The launch of TwelveStone Health Partners is a result of last year's acquisition of Reeves-Sain Drug Store, Inc. and EntrustRX, its specialty pharmacy business by Fred's Inc. TwelveStone will offer packaged medication, infusion and enteral services, respiratory therapy services and durable medication equipment. The company plans to expand its existing 44-county service area footprint to all of Tennessee's 95 counties

## NASHVILLE

Arciplex officials will be investing

\$500,000 to expand operations in Nashville. The company will create 35 new jobs in the Nashville area. Arciplex is an innovative company that focuses on creativity and ideas of entrepreneurs and inventors. With this expansion, the company plans to be better equipped to meet customer needs and to expand into new markets. The company specializes in making creative ideas a reality. Arciplex takes ideas from entrepreneurs and inventors from all over the world and designs, engineers and produces these ideas into a finished product that can be sold in stores.

## NOLENSVILLE

State officials, including Sen. Jack Johnson (R-Franklin), Rep. Glen Casada (R-Thompson's Station) and Metro Planning Organization Director Michael Skipper, recently met in Nolensville to discuss possible funding opportunities for the town's roads. The meeting was suggested by Alderman Larry Felts, who expressed concerns about mounting traffic issues in the community. Nolensville's master thoroughfare plan includes a list of 24 improvements to road intersections and roadways. Several of the proposed projects involve road widening and additional connectors. Suggestions include an alternate route around Nolensville Road via a subdivision, improvements on Sunset Road from Bennington to Nolensville Road, and another phase to improve Bennington to Waller Road.

## RIPLEY

FAIST Light Metals will locate a new manufacturing operation in Ripley, investing \$3.1 million and creating 30 new jobs in the area. The automotive components manufacturer is a division of FAIST Industrial Group, specializes in high quality aluminum die casting, precision machining and surface plating of components and assemblies for the telecom, automotive, electronics and industrial markets. The Ripley location will function primarily as a manufacturing facility for high precision automotive components, such as engines and power trains operations, but will expand operations into a die-cast facility in the future. FAIST has purchased a 65,000-square-foot facility located on 23 acres at 50 Walker St. which allows for future growth. Headquartered in Italy, the Ripley plant will be the company's third location in North America.

## SPRING HILL

General Motors will be investing \$148 million in their Spring Hill plant to produce V8 engines for the first time. The Spring Hill plant is designed to repurpose flexible machining and assembly equipment so that it can start building Small Block 6.2L V8 engines for many of its pickup trucks and SUVs later this year to meet market demand, which will retain about 200 jobs. This most recent investment is part of \$709.4 million in investments GM has announced since ratification of the UAW-GM national agreement in 2015. Since 2010, GM has announced investments of more than \$1.35 billion for the Spring Hill plant, which currently employs 2,460 people. The plant is continuing to hire new applicants for production of the Cadillac XT5 and GMC Acadia, vehicles which GM announced were moving to the Spring Hill plant beginning with the 2017 model-year production lines.

## TULLAHOMA

The city of Tullahoma has been awarded a \$5,000 Healthier Tennessee Community Grant by the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness. The city will use the funds to develop walking trails, as part of efforts to sustain community-wide projects and activities that encourage and enable physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco abstinence. The Tullahoma Health Council earned the grant through having at least 50 percent of K-8 teachers using GoNoodle, 15 percent of faith communities with 100 or more members using Small Starts @ Worship wellness programs, and 20 percent of workplaces with 35 or more employees using Small Starts @ Work wellness programs. To be designated a Healthier Tennessee Community, Tullahoma must initiate and sustain community-wide events and activities that support physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco abstinence, and then track and measure outputs and accomplishments of the program.

## Southwest celebrates 30 years of air service to Tennessee



Southwest Airlines unveiled "Tennessee One," the latest Southwest 737 aircraft that commemorates the airline's 30th year of flying to Tennessee. The 737 is painted to depict the Tennessee state flag. Southwest first began flying to Nashville in 1986, launching service with eight nonstop flights to two cities. Since then, Nashville has become one of the 10 busiest airports in Southwest's network. The carrier currently flies about 90 daily flights to 35 cities from Nashville.

## Historic photos dress up vacant buildings in downtown Morristown



Downtown Morristown has seen revitalization over the last several years. New businesses have moved in, streets have been cleaned up and the recently formed Crossroads Downtown Partnership has created a united front to beautify the historic buildings and promote business. While a lot of effort has been made to restore derelict buildings, some of the historic buildings lining Main Street remain vacant. The Crossroads Downtown Partnership came up with a creative way to beautify these vacant buildings and bring some nostalgia to downtown. In one building, which previously housed Belk Department Store, large window decals of historic photos are now on display.

## Hendersonville opens new salt barn, reuses materials to keep costs low



Officials with the city of Hendersonville recently hosted a ribbon cutting for the new Public Works Road Department Salt Barn. Officials with the Hendersonville Public Works Road Department worked to keep construction costs for the new facility as low as possible by reusing old material and doing work for the new facility in-house.



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# Go Green, Get Fit

## Health and environment focus of Tullahoma sustainable initiatives

BY ALLE CRAMPTON,  
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

The sign on the highway says, "Welcome to Tullahoma, Tennessee, A City As Unique As its Name." Visitors to Tullahoma will readily understand why that is on the sign – the 18,655 residents have partnered with local government to implement several ambitious sustainability initiatives that improve health and fitness, local green space, and very importantly, the city's finances.

Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee is a driving force behind the city's sustainability initiatives. Mayor Curlee firmly believes that, "A great Tullahoma is intentional, not accidental." He hopes that people will intentionally relocate to Tullahoma because of what it has to offer. Mayor Curlee is serving his fifth term, and remains as dedicated and determined to making Tullahoma a "world-class city" in 2016 as the day he first took office.

He plans to drive his vision of an intentional city "by creating a community where young families flourish. Young families want to be in an artsy, green, fit community where kids have fun things to do," said Mayor Curlee. As part of his effort to make Tullahoma number one, the mayor brings new initiatives to the table every year, many of which are focused on environmental stewardship.

Two of Tullahoma's larger environmentally-related initiatives that have gained traction are Go Green! Tullahoma and Get Fit! Tullahoma. Both were introduced in 2013 and provide the foundation for new initiatives planned for this year, such as the construction of new greenways and exercise trails, residential composting, and the opening of an arboretum.

### Sustainability through Recycling, Composting, and Litter Pick-Up

The Go Green! Tullahoma initiative seeks to create a community that is clean and operates in an environmentally friendly manner. Part of the way this has been accomplished is through a partnership between the Go Green! Tullahoma Board and the public works department, who together have increased the number of households recycling from around 20 percent in 2013 to 33 percent in 2014. Recycling is promoted on television commercials that air on several local stations that broadcast in Tullahoma and adjoining counties. Stickers that say "Think Before You Toss - Landfills Cost, Recycling Pays" are stuck to curbside garbage cans, also helping to advertise the program. The sticker slogan was created by students on the Green Team

at Tullahoma High School.

The city of Tullahoma processes all of the recycling for the city of Manchester and Coffee County, which amounts to about 5,000 tons of materials annually. The program has recently been able to expand the types of materials it is able to process because of the purchase of a new baler for the recycling center, funded through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This baler has enabled curbside collection of Nos. 3-7 plastics.

In Tullahoma, curbside recycling is free to all residents and businesses. Residents don't have to buy or rent specific recycling bins in order to participate, and can use whatever type of container they may happen to have, from old clothing hampers to plastic bags. The only rule is that it has to be separated into paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum, and steel. Glass, leaves, and brush, which are not generally accepted at recycling centers in Tennessee, are accepted at Tullahoma's center.

Wayne Limbaugh, director of Tullahoma Public Works, also provides Tullahoma's businesses with creative solutions to make recycling easier and as inexpensive as possible.



Recycling is financially beneficial for Tullahoma with the most revenue generated by recycled cardboard. Since the start of the Go Green! initiative, cardboard collection has jumped 100 tons in one year to 1,632 tons total – providing just over \$159,000 in revenue in 2015.

To help businesses reduce recycling costs, Limbaugh suggests businesses collect cardboard in dog pens. This eliminates the need to purchase or rent expensive collection bins. Public Works provides these dog kennels, free of cost, paid for in part by another grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Recycling is financially beneficial for the city, and Public Works sees the most revenue generated by cardboard. Since the start of the Go Green! Tullahoma initiative, card-

board collection has jumped 100 tons in one year to 1,632 tons total. That means those 1,632 tons provided approximately \$159,000 in revenue in 2015.

Additionally, the local landfill tipping fee has recently increased from about \$32 per ton, which amounts to over \$377,000 annually, to \$48 per ton. This provides the public works department with further motivation to encourage residents to actively participate in recycling to divert materials away from the landfill. This diversion is also good for Tullahoma residents' wallets, reducing the need to raise taxes to pay the increased tipping fees.

Recently, Tullahoma has begun to promote composting as an additional way of diverting material from the landfill. Annie Clements, a longtime resident of Tullahoma, has been at the forefront of the city's composting efforts. She had previous experience with composting at the Arnold Engineering and Development Complex. She first received a free composting bin from Tullahoma almost 20 years ago, as part of an effort that never really took off.

Beginning in 2015, the city once again began offering home composting bins, with more people



Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee is a driving force behind the city's many sustainability initiatives and is an active participant in Tullahoma's Get Fit program.

Works plans to work toward encouraging restaurants to participate in the composting efforts.

Local residents have been pleased to participate in these greening efforts, and are even quick to participate in litter pick up events, which are held regularly. Stars on street signs signify where groups participated in quarterly events. Public Works also assists with the litter

Tullahoma has a tree board, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. This improves the overall health of Tullahoma by decreasing airborne dust and particulate matter, increasing water conservation and wildlife habitat, increasing property values, and decreasing local energy usage



The city of Tullahoma processes all of the recycling for the city of Manchester and Coffee County, which amounts to about 5,000 tons of materials annually. The program has recently been able to expand the types of materials it is able to process because of the purchase of a new baler for the recycling center.

pick up and cleans up litter on major roads using an all-terrain vehicle. Recently, a litter pick up event was held at Rock Creek, and around 85 volunteers showed up to participate. More than 2.5 tons of trash was removed from the area, which helped to beautify a part of a greenway that runs along Rock Creek.

Tullahoma puts significant effort into local beautification and green space enhancement, which includes striving to meet the standards to become a Tree City USA Community 18 years in a row. This means that

because trees shade homes during the hot summer months when air conditioning bills are high. The Tree City USA projects have culminated in the creation of an arboretum at East Park with over 30 species of labeled trees. The new arboretum was funded through a \$2,500 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program grant, with an additional \$2,500 provided by the city. That money was used to purchase and plant the thirty trees. Eleven additional trees were donated by the Noon Rotary Club as well as an individual donor.

### Wellness and Sustainability

Tullahoma's outdoor enhancement projects tie in well with another one of their successful initiatives - Get Fit! Tullahoma, which promotes health and fitness within the community. Get Fit! Tullahoma connects wellness with sustainability through the support of projects such as the development of new greenways, a disc golf course, and installation of playgrounds in the city's 600-plus acres of parks.

Tullahoma Parks and Recreation manages the Sunrise Rotary Disc Golf Course, which shares space with the arboretum at East Park. The course consists of 18 lush, wooded holes. The disc golf course opened in September 2013, and continues to be an attraction for families that want to have fun while getting exercise. Tullahoma Parks and Recreation also maintains the city's eleven parks and recreational areas, which include beautiful Short Springs Nature Trail, the Imagination Station, and an outdoor classroom. One of their next projects will be the expansion of the greenway that runs alongside Rock Creek. The Rock Creek Greenway currently offers an eight foot wide, ADA compliant walking path with bridges, benches, and picnic tables.

The support of Tullahoma's mayor, public works director, and residents make it clear that sustainability is a large part of what it means to live in this unique city. Most importantly, these initiatives make Tullahoma a great place to live, and a place where people want to live. "The more people who are involved, the better it's going to be. We need to take ownership of the community," said Mayor Curlee. "If you see litter, pick it up... Take ownership in the community and I guarantee the community will benefit from it."

## Cleveland to connect to national bike route, increased bicycle tourism good for economy

See **BIKES** on Page 3

BikeWalkTN, and cyclists from the Cleveland area recently met to discuss plans for the routes through the area. Thomas said the feedback from locals helped determine the safest routes through the area as well as how to best bring the route through downtown Cleveland.

"Right now, they are looking at coming through our area both using on-street paths and then using the greenway in some areas before bringing it back onto the roadway," Thomas said. "Being part of this larger national effort leverages additional resources in terms of promotion and visibility. We welcome the opportunity to do that."

Local tourism can also benefit from a national bike route designation. A study conducted by the University of Montana on one of the state's national bike routes found that the average cyclist spent eight days in the state and spent \$75 per day. A 2015 study by the Michigan Department of Transportation found bicycle touring brought the state \$21.9 million a year from out-of-state visitors.

Chattanooga is already seeing results from its location along the trail. The city recently hosted a three-year stint hosting the USA Cycling National Championships, and was selected because of its cycling friendliness. However, smaller cities have reported the biggest upticks in tourist dollars from bicycle tourism including Twin Bridges, Mont., and Farmington, Mo.

"There is an economic impact associated with bicycle tourism,

and they are sensitive to that," Thomas said. "They try to bring routes through downtown so people can stop and get a sandwich, spend money in our local economy. This is a good opportunity to be plugged into something that presents a regional opportunity for cyclists. We have a lot of natural beauty in this state and a lot of things that are compelling for cyclists to come out and see beyond the map."

The route also has the potential to make biking to work more viable in the region.

"We have some people who ride to work, and I think we are going to see that trend continue for some time," Thomas said. "It seems to be the way things are going nationally. People have that preference and expectation to be able to do their commute on bikes or ride recreationally." Thomas said there is also potential for the route to encourage Cleveland residents to get out on their bikes more often.

"This does provide an opportunity to improve public health and address transportation needs at the same time," he said. "That being the case, we need to be able to spend financial resources to provide the facilities needed for them to do that." Tennessee has already pioneered regional bike routes with U.S. Bicycle Route 23, which runs 154 miles from Kentucky through Alabama through Nashville with Mitchellville serving as the route's northern terminus and Ardmore as the route's southern terminus in the state. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials designated



Greg Thomas, Cleveland Planning Director and Cleveland Urban Area MPO coordinator, said the bike route could utilize the 19 miles of the local greenway that already exist. Cyclists from the Cleveland area recently met to discuss plans for the routes through the area. In addition to bringing more cycling enthusiasts to the Cleveland/Bradley County area, the route has the potential to encourage cycling to work.

that route is the first in the Southeast, and Tennessee already has six bicycle routes crossing the state.

A second route, U.S. Bike Route 121, is also in the works to connect Route 21 and Route 23 in Tennessee. Plans for U.S. Bike Route 21 will be presented to TDOT later this spring and then will go on to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for approval.





# PEOPLE

**Pamela Cotham** has been selected as the new assistant purchasing agent in the city of Knoxville's Purchasing Division. Cotham has been the purchasing agent for Anderson County for the past 15 years. She will start her employment with Knoxville March 14. Cotham's duties will have a particular focus on city contracting with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. Cotham joined Anderson County Government as a purchasing assistant in 2000 and became the county's purchasing agent in 2001. In that position, she was responsible for the purchase of supplies, materials, equipment and contracted service for the county's elected officials, agencies and departments. She also currently serves as vice president of the East Tennessee Purchasing Association and co-chair of the legislative committee of the Tennessee Association of Public Purchasing.



Pamela Cotham

Collierville Town Administrator **James Lewellen** was recognized by the Tara Oaks Parent Teacher Association as a recipient of the Tennessee PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. The PTA wanted to recognize Lewellen for his help in configuring a new playground for the school as well as his "faithful and unselfish service" to the children and youth of the town. The Tennessee Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest award given. A selection committee is formed annually to determine the year's recipients.



James Lewellen

**Louise Povlin** has been selected to fill the vacant North Ward Alderman position for the town of Farragut. The seat was previously held by Ron Honken, who resigned Dec. 31, 2015. Povlin was officially sworn in at the end of January and will serve as alderman until an election can be held in August. Raised in Willingboro, N.J., Povlin graduated from Rutgers University with a bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering. She worked as a research engineer at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., before taking a job as a patent paralegal in New York City. She moved to Knoxville, where she worked at a local patent law firm and trained to become a patent agent. She has lived in Farragut since 2008 and has served on the city's municipal planning commission since 2013.

**James "Karl" Durr** has been named the new chief of police for the city of Murfreesboro, following the retirement of Chief Glenn Chrisman. Durr is presently the assistant chief for the Eugene, Ore., Police Department and was the top pick of more than 69 applicants and three finalists interviewed by the city's staff, a community panel and City Manager Rob Lyons. Durr will begin his tenure with Murfreesboro in April, and he brings more than 30 years of experience to the city. He began his career as a patrol officer for the Boca Raton, Fla. Police Department in 1982, before he was hired by the Palm Beach County's Sheriff's Office. Durr holds a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Lynn University in Boca Raton and a bachelor's degree in business management from Northwood University in West Palm Beach.



James "Karl" Durr

**Emogene Ray**, the longest-serving employee in the city of Covington's history, was recently honored for her retirement in February. Ray began her career with the city as a temporary employee in the recorder-treasurer's office during tax season in January 1965. After 51 years, Ray retired from her position as a utility clerk. City officials presented Ray with a special proclamation honoring her years of service to the city. Born in the Tabernacle community, Ray graduated from Byars-Hall High School in 1947.



Emogene Ray

**Mark Emkes** has been named the new chairman of the Corrections Corporation of America. The former CEO of Nashville-based Bridgestone Americas, Emkes served as the state finance commissioner during Republican Gov. Bill Haslam's first term. A private prison operator, Nashville-based CCA runs seven facilities in Tennessee. Emkes was first recruited by what was then Firestone Tire & Rubber Company in 1976, spending 21 of his 33 years with the company abroad. He retired from Bridgestone in 2010.



Mark Emkes

**Carson Swinford**, the finance director for the city of Brentwood, died on Feb. 14 from bone cancer at the age of 54. Swinford was the city's finance director for 15 years in addition to serving on different government boards and professional organizations. During his tenure, the city's finance department won several top awards and commendations. He was also a certified public accountant and received his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Marie; children, Cristen and Brandon Swinford.



Carson Swinford

## Alexander wins NGA's inaugural James Madison Award

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander has been awarded the first-ever James Madison Award from the National Governors Association (NGA) for his commitment to federalism and for his work restoring education decisions back to the states through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

According to the NGA, the James Madison Award recognizes a prominent public figure for advancing the principles of federalism and strengthening state-federal collaboration. The award will be given annually by the NGA chair.

"I am grateful for the governors' award, but I should be honoring the governors for leading the bipartisan fight to reverse the trend toward a national school board," Alexander said. "Now we can work together to improve schools state by state, com-

munity by community, classroom by classroom."

NGA Chairman and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert said Alexander's work "epitomizes the type of cooperative federalism the founding fathers envisioned and governors expect."

In addition to Sen. Alexander's work in education, the NGA cited Alexander's dedication to federalism through his support of the Marketplace Fairness Act, legislation that recognizes states' authority to collect "the state sales taxes that are already owed from everybody who owes them, including people who buy from out of state sellers."

In 2013, Alexander was awarded the "Restoring the Balance" award by the National Conference of State Legislatures for his commitment to defending the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, which embodies



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander

the concept of federalism by recognizing states' authority and power on all issues not specifically given to the federal government by the Constitution.

## Livingston Mayor Hayes honored for "Impact"

Curtis Hayes, mayor of Livingston, was recently honored with an IMPACT Cookeville Award as part of February's celebration of Black History Month.

The IMPACT awards pay tribute to those exceptional African-American pioneers, trail-blazers and history makers that have made an indelible impact in their community and beyond.

Others honored this year include Rev. Leroy Jackson (posthumously), founder and builder of Trinity Baptist Church Cookeville and entrepreneur businessman, and Robert Dawson, area youth sports coach and camp

organizer.

Money raised at the black-tie event, held Feb. 28, helps fund four 4-year scholarships for talented minority students to attend Tennessee Tech University. "We hope this endowment will help capture and retain minority professionals and leaders across the Upper Cumberland region," said Dr. Robert Owens II, Impact founder.

Impact Cookeville is a Christian-based African American men's leadership group in the Upper Cumberland region founded in 2009 with the mission to educate, strengthen, and involve.



Curtis Hayes

## TMAA names McGannon distinguished municipal attorney

The Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association (TMAA) named Susan Emery McGannon as the first recipient of the organization's Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award at the organization's Winter Seminar on Feb. 19. McGannon is the former city attorney of Murfreesboro. She retired from that position Nov. 1, 2015.

Laura Keeton, TMAA president, noted in announcing the award that McGannon is a gifted lawyer who has always been willing to share her expertise with other members of the association. She served twice as TMAA president and has served on the Tennessee Continuing Legal Education Commission as well as on the state Board of Professional Responsibility.

McGannon has also made her mark nationally, serving on the

board of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. She received and has maintained the prestigious designation as an IMLA Local Government Fellow. In 2008 she was awarded the IMLA Joseph I. Mulligan Distinguished Public Service Award.

McGannon was involved in municipal law long before her stint as Murfreesboro City Attorney. She served that city as assistant city attorney beginning in 1992 and was named city attorney in 2001. Before serving Murfreesboro she was General Counsel of the TML Risk Management Pool. Before going to work directly with these public entities, McGannon was a partner in the storied municipal law firm of Stokes and Bartholomew.

The TMAA Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award is to be



Susan Emery McGannon

given at most once annually at the organization's Winter Seminar and was established to recognize extraordinary accomplishment in municipal law and benefit to the organization itself.

## Farragut's Price honored as East TN Code Official

Farragut Codes Officer Adam Price was named Code Official of the Year by the Chapter of the Tennessee Building Officials Association (ETBOA) during the organization's annual training and safety meeting in Sevierville on Feb. 25.

Code Official of the Year is the most prestigious award bestowed upon any code official by the ETBOA. Honorees are considered to be knowledgeable, hard-working and dedicated to their community and profession.

This award is voted on by more than 100 building and fire code professionals in the East Tennessee region.

Farragut Community Development Director Mark Shipley congratulated Price on the honor. "Adam

is an extremely hard working employee with an outstanding work ethic. This is a real honor for Adam and the town of Farragut," Shipley said.

Price was elected as the secretary-treasurer for the ETBOA Board of Directors in 2015 and was recently elected the organization's president. He holds a state of Tennessee and International Code Council certification in all aspects of codes inspection and Tennessee Department of Economic Development certification in erosion control.

He came to work for the town of Farragut as a codes officer in 2014. Before that, he served as a residential designer and estimator for Knoxville-based Saddlebrook Properties and as an adjunct professor at ITT



Adam Price

Technical Institute. Price has a bachelor's degree in technical project management from the ITT Technical Institute in Knoxville.

# MEMBER FOCUSED



THE TML POOL  
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## Middle TN region releases 20-year plan to address traffic congestion

TRAFFIC from Page 1

Moore agreed with Skipper and stressed the need for all of Middle Tennessee to work together to address the region's traffic needs.

"We can expect certain amounts of state and federal funding, but every community has to participate in some form or fashion to make this happen," he said. "Each community is going to have to give some sort of dedicated funding to go toward many of these projects, particularly with the mass transit. We have to solve the problem on both ends. Nashville has to improve the efficiency of their bus service and their transportation networks, and we have to improve ours locally – particularly in the Cool Springs area. Then, we can continue to develop that connection from Williamson County to Davidson County."

If the region does not work together, Moore said the consequences could negatively affect the area's economy.

"This creates our road map for the next 25 years," he said. "It helps us identify what we need to focus on for the next 25 years. It addresses economic prosperity in our areas. We know if we don't do anything we will be in gridlock. For us to continue to be an active, vibrant economy here in Middle Tennessee, we have to address these transportation issues now."

Sustainable transportation funding and options for dedicated local funding for multi-modal transportation projects are other concerns the region is facing.

"It's all about money in the end: how to spend our money," Moore said. "We don't have enough money to do the projects we need to do, so we need input from our local communities on how to accomplish that. The people at TDOT have told us they are in maintenance mode now. Currently, the projects they have approved – if funding doesn't change – will be finished by 2034. Those projects that need to be in the pipeline won't be done until 2060. That is why creating this road map and developing a sustainable funding source for it is so important."

The work on these corridors are not the only priorities the MPO plan has highlighted. The Nashville area is expected to receive \$8.5 billion from Congress over the next 25 years for transportation funds, and the MPO has recommended that \$2.7 billion of that go to interstate improvements, \$3.2 billion to roadway capacity expansion, \$1 billion to roadway reconstruction and upgrades, and \$269 million to reduce vehicle emissions.

Top funding priorities include upgrading the aging interstate loop around Nashville, modernizing commuter rail services, providing new transit options, improving state routes, and incorporating rapid transit technology between Nashville and outlying cities like Gallatin,

### Cities in the Nashville Area MPO

Brentwood  
Columbia  
Fairview  
Franklin  
Gallatin  
Goodlettsville  
Greenbrier  
Hendersonville  
La Vergne  
Lebanon  
Millersville  
Mt. Juliet  
Nashville  
Nolensville  
Mufreesboro  
Portland  
Smyrna  
Springfield  
Spring Hill  
White House

Franklin and Murfreesboro.

Currently, the region has 1.6 million residents – 1.2 million of whom are licensed drivers – and 1.3 million registered motor vehicles. The average commuter spends 48 minutes traveling each day and 33.2 total vehicle miles are traveled per person, per day.

The region also has 26,000 miles of vehicle travel lanes, 13,000 miles of roadway and 3,270 miles of major roadways. An average of 70,000 heavy trucks utilize these roadways each day with 23 percent of total miles traveled being by freight trucks on congested roadway. Residents in the area travel a total of 49 million miles traveled on major roadways each day.

The MPO study found that in the future, the seven-county area will grow by 1 million people by 2040. This continued growth and development is expected to double the amount of traffic congestion in the region. A higher cost of living in urban centers is also expected to drive more residents into suburban areas.

This will mean 86 percent more roadway volume, 26 percent slower traffic speeds, 113 percent more time spent in the car, 162 percent increase in miles traveled on congested routes, and 141 percent more freight trucks stuck in traffic.

As a result, the study recommends expanding and modernizing transit options, creating more active and walkable communities, and reimagining in corridors with integrated technology.

The study set goals including maintaining a safe and reliable transportation system, helping local communities grow sustainably, enhancing economic competitiveness through improving private sector performance, and spending public funds wisely by ensuring a return on investment.

More information about the regional plan is available at [www.Connected2040.org](http://www.Connected2040.org).

## Preserving municipal bond tax exempt status focus of newly-formed caucus

BONDS from Page 1

more than \$250,000, the president's current proposal would cap the deductions those individuals can make to 28 percent of their income.

Currently, if a couple makes more than \$250,000 -- \$100,000 of which is from muni bond interest -- they don't pay taxes on that income from interest, which amounts to a \$35,000 tax break. But under the administration's proposal, the couple would only get a break on 28 percent of that income, or \$28,000. They would owe the federal government the remaining \$7,000 in taxes.

Although the Obama administration argues that the proposal would only affect the nation's wealthiest earners -- who theoretically could afford to pay more in taxes -- government finance officials caution that states and localities would likely make up for the higher costs by raising sales and property taxes. That, in turn, would more adversely impact middle- and lower-income earners.

Alternatively, governments could simply invest less in infrastructure projects. That's equally concerning, as some estimate that state and local governments are behind by as much as \$3.6 trillion in infrastructure investments.

At a speech to the treasurers group, Jason Furman, who chairs the White House Council of Economic

Advisers, conceded that they have "completely legitimate" concerns about who would end up paying for higher muni bond interest costs. But he also reminded them that Obama has asked for the interest cap only as part of a larger proposal that would ultimately increase infrastructure investment. For example, the president's budget calls for a new \$10-per-barrel fee on oil companies, which would help pay for \$300 billion in new infrastructure investments.

"If you pick and choose a combination that would ultimately result in less infrastructure," said Furman, "that's not something the president would ultimately support."

In reality, neither proposal stands much of a chance in a Congress that remains resistant to raising oil costs and has never debated the municipal tax exemption outside of committee.

Regardless, Hultgren warned that it would be wiser for state and local officials to continue actively lobbying against limiting the tax exemption.

"My fear always is what happens at two in the morning, and they're drafting a bill and say, we need to find this much money to pay for this," he said. "So it gets thrown in there, it gets rolled out and how do we roll it back?"

## STATE BRIEFS

**Bridgestone will receive \$1.25 million to develop fuel-efficient truck and bus tires.** Tennessee-based Bridgestone Americas and Pennsylvania-based PPG have been selected to receive \$1.25 million from U.S. DOE to collaborate on improving the fuel efficiency of truck and bus radial tires. The goal of this project will be to develop prototype tires that help trucks and buses achieve fuel-efficiency improvements of 4-6 percent while maintaining or improving wear strength and tread wear. According to DOE reports, heavy-duty vehicles comprise only 4 percent of all vehicles on U.S. roads but consume approximately 20 percent of all fuel. PPG estimates that if

even 25 percent of all tractor-trailers on the road improved fuel efficiency by 4 percent, they would consume 750 million fewer gallons of diesel fuel annually, saving nearly \$2 billion and reducing carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by nearly 8 million metric tons.

Tennessee Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips announced **Tennessee's unemployment rate for January was 5.4 percent, two-tenths of a percentage point decrease from the December revised rate of 5.6 percent.** The U.S. preliminary rate for January was 4.9 percent, one-tenth of one percentage point lower

than the prior month. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate decreased from 6.1 percent to 5.4 percent while the national rate declined from 5.7 percent to 4.9 percent. Total nonfarm employment increased 13,100 jobs from December to January. The largest increases occurred in retail trade, mining/logging/construction, and professional/business services. Over the year, nonfarm employment increased 96,000 jobs. The largest increases occurred in trade/transportation/utilities, professional/business services, & education/health services. Currently Tennessee employers have more than 100,000 open positions available to qualified applicants in each of the state's 95 counties. Tennesseans have the opportunity to apply for positions in a wide variety of occupations, ranging from health-care, to trucking, and farming.

## AMERICAN PICKERS return to Tennessee in April

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team are excited to return to Tennessee. They plan to film episodes of the hit series AMERICAN PICKERS throughout Tennessee with filming scheduled for April 2016.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique 'picking.' The hit show follows Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques – from mo-

torcycles, classic cars and bicycles, to one-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Wolfe and Fritz continue their mission to recycle America by rescuing forgotten relics and giving them a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about American history along the way.

AMERICAN PICKERS is looking for leads and would love to explore your buried treasure. They are on the hunt for characters with interesting and unique items. Some of what they look for: vintage bicycles, toys,

unusual radios, movie memorabilia, advertising, military items, folk art, pre-50's western gear, early fire-fighting equipment, vintage musical equipment, automotive items, and clothing. They are always excited to find things they've never seen before and learn the story behind it.

If you or someone you know has a large, private collection you can send them your: name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: [americanpickers@cineflix.com](mailto:americanpickers@cineflix.com) or call 855-OLD-RUST.

## TN Fire Safety Coalition celebrate Fire Service Day



Members of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association and the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association were in Nashville Feb. 23, to celebrate Fire Service Day on the Hill. Pictured above is Gary West, deputy commissioner of the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office, and Paris Fire Chief Michael Williams.

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### BUILDING, MECHANICAL & PLUMBING INSPECTOR

**MT. JULIET.** The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking candidates for a state certified building, mechanical & plumbing inspector. Electrical certification is a plus. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available on the city's website. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at, [www.cityofmtjuliet.org](http://www.cityofmtjuliet.org). The city will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. The city of Mt. Juliet does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d). EOE/Drug-free Workplace

### CITY ENGINEER

**GOODLETTSVILLE.** The city of Goodlettsville is seeking an experienced engineering professional to serve as the city engineer. The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced individual to serve in the aforementioned position. The engineer reports directly to the City Manager and is responsible for the development, review, and oversight of plans, specifications, construction and cost estimates for all projects and submittals occurring within the city. The city engineer also manages a broad and diverse range of capital improvement projects. Applicants must possess the following: bachelor's degree in civil engineering from an accredited college or university and five years post-degree full-time engineering experience, preferably within a municipal government setting. A diverse range of work experience that should include the following work areas: transportation, water / sewer, storm-water, environmental, etc. Must hold

active engineering license and possess a valid "Class D" driver's license. Ability to obtain TDEC Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications; Pass a medical examination by licensed physician and drug screen. Salary range of \$63,034 to \$96,938 with excellent benefits. The current beginning salary is expected not to exceed \$76,405 but may be adjusted dependent on qualifications. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Email: [dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org](mailto:dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org) Apply by April 1, 2016. The city of Goodlettsville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. [www.goodlettsville-tn.gov](http://www.goodlettsville-tn.gov)

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

**BRENTWOOD.** The city is currently seeking an experienced professional to serve as finance director. This position, which reports directly to the city manager, oversees a small and talented staff in the finance department and directs all accounting and financial operations of the city. The finance director oversees purchasing, accounts payable, utility billing, accounting, auditing, and revenue collection services and activities. In addition, the finance director performs a variety of professional level financial management responsibilities including analysis, preparation, and maintenance of the annual budget, financial records, statements, and reports with significant responsibility and interaction regarding the annual financial audit. The ideal candidate will have a broad based knowledge of governmental accounting and methods of financial control and reporting as well as outstanding organizational skills and a focus on timely delivery of reports and projects. The position requires a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or closely related area (CPA or advanced degree preferred with consideration given for

TN CMFO designation), with eight years of progressively responsible experience in governmental accounting, auditing, or related areas and experience in a supervisory capacity of accounting functions and personnel; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Previous experience as a local government finance director or assistant finance director or equivalent is preferred. Salary Range: \$76,000-\$114,500 (starting salary is DOQ) Interested parties can apply by visiting the city website at [www.Brentwood-TN.org/employment](http://www.Brentwood-TN.org/employment). Questions should be directed to Mike Worsham, human resources director, at 615-371-0060.

### PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of parks maintenance supervisor. This position is responsible for the organization and management of employees that maintain the park facilities, grounds, greenways, and other city property maintained by the department. Visit [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) for full job description and information on how to apply. Applications and resumes should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street or emailed to [abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com](mailto:abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com). Starting compensation: \$14.50 - \$17.66 per hour or \$30,160.00 - \$36,732.80 per year DOE. Application Deadline: Open until filled. EOE.

### PERMIT TECHNICIAN I

**GALLATIN.** The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for Permit Technician I in the Codes Department. Duties include assisting the public and providing technical office support related to the processing and issuance of building permits. The successful candidates will possess knowledge of internal and external public agency permitting requirements, construction plans, construction terminology, construction practices, and basic math. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position with no weekend work required. Applicants must have a

bachelor's degree in business or other professional related field. Must have a minimum of three years relevant experience in construction/inspections experience, preferably in an administrative role. Must have certification as a Permit Technician through a recognized certification organization within one year from date of hire. The starting rate is \$14.78 per hour + excellent benefits. Interested persons must apply online at [www.gallatinonthemove.com](http://www.gallatinonthemove.com) under "Employment" at the top of the webpage and follow the instructions. The application deadline is March 22, 2016. EOE.

### Police Officer

**HENRY.** The city of Henry is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Candidates must currently be POST certified by the State of Tennessee. Candidates must pass a background check. This is a full time position with benefits. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary \$14.00 - \$15.00 per hour depending on experience. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Applications can be picked up at Henry City Hall at 1232 Pioneer Road.

### PUBLIC WORKS STREET SUPERINTENDENT

**ATHENS.** This position supervises, directs, and schedules work of subordinates in multi-division department; conducts regular inspections of streets, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, and structures for deficiencies and future maintenance; completes a variety of administrative duties such as, evaluating and counseling subordinates, purchasing, budgeting, training, and reviewing plans. Must have knowledge and understanding of regulations and standards for street construction, maintenance, cleaning, and traffic control. Must have good communication skills, both written and oral. A High School education or equivalent plus related work experience is required; a college degree is preferred. Must possess and maintain a valid Tennessee commercial driver's license (CDL) and certifications and licenses identified for the position. Minimum salary \$23.34/hr. References are required and background checks will be conducted. Applications are available at the Human Resource Department, 815 N. Jackson Street, M-F, or email: [rbrown@cityofathens.com](mailto:rbrown@cityofathens.com) EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



### March 31 UT, TDEC & TVA Forum on Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Low-Income Households.

UT Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, Knoxville. The forum will look at this issue from the viewpoints of: Economics and Consumer Behavior, Energy Programs: New Construction and Retrofits, and Utility Companies' Perspectives. This event is free and lunch is provided, but attendees must register in advance and seats are limited. A lunch keynote and additional panelists will be added to the agenda. To register, visit <http://goo.gl/forms/qg8kC6eLt0>. Complete information on parking is available here: <http://bakercenter.utk.edu/how-to-find-us/>.

### April 13-15 TCMA Spring Conference

Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. Variety of sessions geared to the educational needs of TCMA members. Online registration is available at [www.TNCMA.org](http://www.TNCMA.org). A block of hotel rooms are set aside for attendees at the Embassy Suites at the discounted group rate of \$143 per night plus taxes. For more information, please contact Mike Walker at [Walker@TNCMA.org](mailto:Walker@TNCMA.org).

**April 20-22  
TDEC Environmental Show of the South.** The 45th annual event will be held at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The largest and most comprehensive environmental conference and tradeshow in the region. Its goal is to provide high-quality, low-cost environmental training as well as updates on government/industry developments and trends, with a particular focus on solid and hazardous waste issues. For more information, go to <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/article/sw-environmental-show-of-the-south>

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# NATIONAL BRIEFS



New government data showed the U.S. added a strong 242,000 jobs in February, a sign of the nation's economic durability during a tumultuous global slowdown. The unemployment rate held at 4.9 percent, the lowest mark during the seven-year recovery from the Great Recession. The gains extend a period of labor market stability in which the U.S. has added an average of 235,000 jobs per month over the last half year. That pace indicates Americans are returning rapidly to the labor force, helped by steady consumer spending that is bolstering demand and prompting employers to expand their workforces.

U.S. home prices increased at a faster clip in November, the gains fueled by solid hiring growth, historically low mortgage rates and a shortage of houses on the market. The Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller 20-city home price index rose 5.8 percent from a year ago, up from a 5.5 percent pace in October. Home

values nationwide are now just 4.8 percent below their July 2006 peak, as the real estate market has slowly recovered from the housing bust that triggered the Great Recession eight years ago. But several metro areas have fully rebounded from the downturn. Four metro areas — Dallas, Denver, San Francisco and Portland Oregon — have either matched or eclipsed their all-time highs.

For the first time in 25 years, pedestrian deaths in 2015 are projected to account for 15 percent of all traffic fatalities. Safer cars and safer roads have resulted in an overall decline in driver and passenger fatalities in recent years, but pedestrians are as vulnerable as ever and the number killed by vehicles continues to increase, according to a new study. The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) estimates that the number of pedestrian fatalities jumped by 10 percent last year, a year-to-year increase that comes after a 19 percent

increase from 2009 to 2014. During that same period — as air bags, lane warning devices and traction control made vehicles ever more protective — overall traffic deaths declined by about 4 percent. Final figures for 2015 traffic deaths are still being compiled, but the projected 10 percent increase would bring pedestrian deaths to the highest total since 1996, when 5,449 pedestrians were killed by cars. Cheaper gas in a stable economy means more people are driving. And the Government Accountability Office says nearly a million more people are walking or biking to work. A study completed by Public Health Reports in 2010 said distracted driving puts pedestrians particularly at risk. Pedestrian fatalities caused by distracted drivers had increased by 50 percent over five years. In addition to drivers distracted by their cellphones, pedestrians put themselves at risk by staring at their phones or using them with earbuds that drown out the approach of vehicles.



## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

**March 28 - April 3: Columbia Annual Mule Day**  
A Columbia tradition for nearly 170 years. Features arts & crafts, wagon train, jackpot mule races, and more. The festival highlight includes a "Mule Day Parade" held on Saturday during the celebration. For more information go to [www.muleday.com](http://www.muleday.com)

**April 9: Granville Upper Cumberland Wine Festival**  
Eight wineries in the Upper Cumberland area will have booths at the festival, which will be located at the Sutton Homestead in Granville. Tickets for the festival include a wine tasting at each of the booths of the wineries and a wine glass. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. Wine will be for sale at each booth. For more information contact Historic Granville 931-653-4151; [granvilletn.com](http://granvilletn.com); or [www.uppercumberlandwinetrail.com](http://www.uppercumberlandwinetrail.com).

**April 23-24: Chapel Hill The Horton 100.** Annual springtime bicycle ride across Tennessee at Henry Horton State Park. Participants can enjoy riding approximately 50 miles each day through some of Middle Tennessee's most beautiful areas in Marshall and Maury Counties. Riders will begin and end each day at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill. With a mix of family-friendly and more challenging stretches, this ride will show the best of what Middle Tennessee has to offer. The registration fee per person is \$100 for both days and \$50 for one day until April 10. On April 11, the fee increases to \$125 for two days and \$65 for one day. Registration includes breakfast on Saturday and Sunday as well as dinner Saturday night. More details can be viewed online at <http://www.imathlete.com/events/Horton100>.

# UT-MTAS MARCH MAP CLASSES

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**Dates/Locations/Times**  
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March 23: Kingsport  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT  
March 29: Jackson  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT  
March 30: Franklin  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT

**Credits:** 4 CPE/CMFO (Other) (LM)

**Target Audience:**  
All Municipal Employees



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# No loan is too large or too small



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



The city of Jackson closed a variable rate loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$17.4 million to finance its three-year capital improvement plan.



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# Sen. Massey brings nonprofit experience, love of service to legislature

BY LINDA BRYANT

Sen. Becky Duncan Massey was born into a well-known and highly respected political family from East Tennessee.

The energetic state senator, who was elected to fill a vacant seat in Tennessee's 6th District in 2011, took a long time to join in on the Duncan family tradition of running for public office. She spent more than two decades working as a nonprofit executive leader and business woman, which she says prepared her uniquely for elected office.

One thing's for sure: Massey stays busy. She's sponsored or co-sponsored dozens of bills since 2011. In the process, she's earned a reputation for bringing people together on heated issues and often sticking up for the underdog. All along she's maintained her position as executive director of Knoxville's Sertoma Center.

"My non-profit career taught me how important it is to care about people and work together with them to make things happen," Massey said. "I like to work behind the scenes. I like personal communication, reasoning and thinking things through. I even enjoy it when I get a bill that's slightly contentious. I like to bring all the parties to the table and ask, 'What are you trying to achieve?'"

Massey's father and mentor, John Duncan, Sr., was mayor of Knoxville from 1959-1964, and a U.S. Representative, for Tennessee's 2nd Congressional District from 1965-1988. Her brother, Jimmy Duncan, serves in their father's district. Her uncle, Joe D. Duncan, is a former Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals Judge.

Jeff Yarbrow, a Democratic member of the state Senate, says Massey's approach to problem-solving and hard work has earned his respect. "Sen. Massey is a model legislator, and is held in high esteem by her colleagues on both sides of the aisle," Yarbrow said. "We serve together on two committees, and I always welcome her thoughtful perspective on the matters before us. Too often, the legislature can get sidetracked by political games, but Becky focuses on the real work. We may not always agree, but I know that she puts her constituents and what's best for Tennessee first."

Lisa Hood Skinner, immediate past president of Sertoma Center of Knoxville, is similarly impressed. "I've seen Sen. Massey as a problem-solver, mediator, encourager and above all, an advocate for the Sertoma clients," Skinner said. "I believe her advocacy partially stems from her desire to be the empowering voice for the voiceless."

**TT&C: You were surrounded by politics starting at a very young age. Can you talk about how growing up in your political family and about how it shaped you?**

**BDM:** I was four years old when Daddy was elected mayor of Knoxville. He was sworn in as congressman of the 2nd District when I was 10. He was in his 24th year in Congress when he passed away, and that's when my brother Jimmy was elected to serve the 2nd Congressional District. I have wonderful memories of growing up. Every year I would light the city Christmas trees with my magic wand. I was Little Miss Poppy, complete with a headband made of poppies and with my little Chihuahua in my lap, in the Veterans Day Parade. I once christened an airplane.

My dad was known for caring about people. I remember going around with him on Christmas to deliver hams and turkeys. He was Knoxville's mayor during the time of early integration. He worked hard to keep integration peaceful in Knoxville, and he did a good job. When JC Penney didn't want to let African Americans eat at the lunch counter, Daddy went up to New York City to encourage them to reverse their decision. He taught me what public service is all about. As he served in Congress, his responsibilities grew. He became the ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee and met with President Reagan once a week. But he never acted like he was special. He used to tell me, "You're no better than anybody else just get out there and get to work." I can still hear him to this day.

Mother provided a lot of stability. She was an Iowa farm girl with common sense. My sister is 11 years older than me so she got married when I was in 4th grade. The two boys were in-between. Even though we went to Washington, D.C., I never spent Christmas away from Knoxville. It was always home; it was always our base. I came back to go to college at UT. I didn't apply anywhere else. I would have been disowned if I did!

**TT&C: Can you name an important lesson you learned from your father?**

**BDM:** There was always a lot going on in our lives, but we also stayed grounded. Daddy taught us how to make time for each other even when we were busy. No matter how busy you are or how important your job is, you always have to make time for family. It's a balance and you have to work at it.

**TT&C: Even though you've been around politics most of your life, you didn't run for public office until the age of 56. What made you decide to finally try politics?**

**BDM:** At our staff training recently there was a question put forward — "What do you think your best character trait is?" I thought about it, and I really think for me it's service. The desire to serve drives me every day. It's one way I'm carrying on Daddy's legacy. Still, I never really planned on running for political office, although I was always involved with serving others. I feel like God has placed me where I've needed to be when I needed to be there.

I surprised a lot of people because they



Sen. Becky Duncan Massey during the signing of the 2015 "Mabry Kate Webb Act" with Gov. Bill Haslam and Sen. Richard Briggs.



Her father, John Duncan, Sr., (left) served in Congress from 1965 - 1988, representing Tennessee's 2nd Congressional District. Upon his retirement, her brother, John "Jimmy" Duncan, Jr., (above) ran for their father's seat and has represented the same district for 27 years.

*"The desire to serve drives me everyday... Through my community work and my work with Sertoma, I have become a voice for vulnerable citizens."*  
- Sen. Becky Duncan Massey

didn't think I was going to run. The possibility was in the back of my mind because of my work with Sertoma. It brought me to the legislature all the time, and I often met with elected officials, the governor, lobbyists, etc. I started developing an appreciation for this level of communication and service. Then two things happened that helped things fall into place. Jamie Woodson announced she was resigning from her seat and Marilyn Roddy, who was running for mayor of Knoxville at the time, flipped and announced she was running for the seat. I knew that if everything fell into place in the right way that I could do this job. I knew I wouldn't mind the campaign. I love campaigning! I started when I was four years old with my dad. I realized I could bring a lot of different skills to the table and do a good job. When everything actually fell into place, I knew what I needed to do.

The campaign wasn't easy. It was a special election paired with the city mayor's race. It's hard to get people to vote even when there's a presidential year. You can imagine how hard it was with such a small election. But we put together a really effective campaign. I had a campaign manager but I teased him and told him Daddy was really running it from heaven. My campaign workers actually had a hard time getting me to act like the candidate. I had coordinated special events for so many years, doing all the planning, financial reports, etc., for Sertoma. I would start working on all the fine details and my key coordinators would have to say, "Just relax, we'll take care of it."

**TT&C: You are a very active legislator and have sponsored or co-sponsored a lot of bills. What is your leadership approach in regard to bringing legislation forth?**

**BDM:** I'm not one who has an agenda or who says I have to create legislation that fits that agenda. I'm more of a problem solver. Sometimes there are issues you didn't even realize existed. When I first came to the legislature, I knew I could do the work and I thought my business and budgeting experience would help. What I didn't really realize is that through all my previous community work — and my work with Sertoma — that I really had become a voice for vulnerable citizens. It's the kind of advocacy that comes in a lot of different forms and flavors — not just for folks with intellectual disabilities. It's for people with mental illness, children in custody, and seniors in nursing homes. It's for the people with different kinds of disabilities living in the community.

Whether I carry the bill or help translate the bill, I feel like I've been able to bring everyday experience to the table. That's one thing about our legislature now. Years ago you had a majority of lawyers. We are getting less that way now. We have pharmacists, farmers, doctors, nurses and more. I am the only social service provider/business woman in the General Assembly. I continue to realize how helpful and important the combination of social service skills and business skills are. You can have your idealistic advocate or provider who knows they need something but because you also have to balance a budget and report to people it can be very difficult. You have to understand that there's not an unlimited supply. You have to determine what you can do with the amount of money you've got. If you're advocating for a specific issue, you need to think about what its return on investment is going to be.

**TT&C: Can you give examples of past, recent or present legislation that represents your leadership style?**

**BDM:** One of the first bills I worked on like this was the pawn shop bill (SB-3397). The Knoxville chief of police brought it to me. Everyone thought it would never pass, but we ended up passing it unanimously. [This bill requires pawn shops to photograph jewelry, coins and precious metals.]

The second bill that comes to mind is the sexual assault privacy bill (SB-2254) two years ago. [The legislation requires the district attorney general to inform victims of their right to privacy. Nothing in the bill can be used to deny access to the public part of this file as long as the personal information is redacted.] There was some controversy in the press with this bill, but I was pretty determined to bring everyone together to work on it. I felt we could get it to the point where it wasn't so problematic. I tried to accommodate the major concerns and negotiate and mediate in good faith, and the bill passed.

I'm at work on perhaps my hardest one now. It's a piece of legislation about the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses. [Tennessee is one of 13 states that restrict the practice of advanced practice registered nurses, which include nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists. Advocates of the bill believe the requirements for doctors to be involved in the day-to-day management of this skilled group is expensive and unnecessary. Those against it, including the Tennessee Medical Association, say it's necessary.]

I have taken the lead to try to get parties on both sides together, and they have moved closer. They realize that the present requirements for supervision for nurse practitioners aren't working. But one group (the nurses) feel like they should be able to practice to the full scope of their training. Of course, they would operate under parameters and they would collaborate professionally when needed. The doctors say they need to be a part of an official collaborative team. We have put together a 19-member task force with equal representation of doctors and nurses on it. The plan is to let the task force do the work over summer and fall.

**TT&C: Some of your constituents have called some of your sponsored bills "life changing." Can you tell us about a couple of them?**

**BDM:** There's the "Mabry Kate Webb Act," (SB-44) from last year. [This bill was named after a 10-month-old infant who died from a rare disorder called Krabbe disease. The passage of the bill means that Tennessee won't have to wait for a federal government decision before screening babies for specific genetic and metabolic disorders.] These babies are born seemingly normal and in about six months they start showing symptoms. It takes a pretty good while to diagnose Krabbe disease, and there's no treatment after it presents itself. It's somewhat like ALS in a baby. Ultimately, the baby has to go on oxygen, and the disease is fatal. We passed legislation that made it so the Tennessee Genetic Advisory Board does not have to wait on Washington in order to test. If our board thinks there's reliable testing and treatment they will move ahead without a decision from Washington. This is a heart-breaking disease, and it's an example of my belief that if you can save even

one person's life it's worthwhile.

I sponsored the legislation that created the Three Stars of Tennessee award. Tennessee now honors any police officer, first responder, firefighter or emergency personnel killed in the line of duty or has a career ending injury. In some cases we honor their next of kin. I based the award on a similar award in Texas. Families have said to me, "We go through this terrible experience, and then it seems like we're forgotten. This award means so much to us." Every single member of the General Assembly signed on as a co-sponsor. We've given the award twice now.

**TT&C: You essentially live in two cities now, Knoxville and Nashville. How is your family adjusting to it all?**

**BDM:** Morton and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary this June. He is a retired software developer. He has gotten really involved with the Seven Islands State Birding Park in Knoxville and is an avid birder. He and I volunteer for nonprofits together. We do computerized checkout at the charitable auctions. When you tell nonprofits you're efficient, it has a tendency to mushroom into something bigger. At our peak, we were helping about 69 nonprofit organizations a year. Now we've narrowed it down to about 40. It's a fun thing to do.

My husband is very supportive. It's a pretty big sacrifice (to be the spouse of a legislator). It takes a lot of give and take. If he wasn't so easy going and helpful, I don't think I could do this. My oldest daughter Courtney is 37. She's a dancer and choreographer. She taught for years in Knoxville. She's taken a year off to be near my younger daughter, Kristen, and my grandbaby Bailey, who's three-and-a-half. We just celebrated Christmas in Austin, Texas. It's the first

Christmas we have spent away from Knoxville.

**TT&C: You are juggling two high-profile careers as a state senator and as the executive director of Knoxville's Sertoma Center. You've already explained a bit about how the two roles are complementary in terms of advocating for vulnerable citizens. Can you tell us more about Sertoma Center?**

**BDM:** We were founded in 1961 by members of the Sertoma Club and an area pediatrician. The Sertoma Center is an independent non-profit (separate from the Knoxville Sertoma Club) that serves adults with intellectual disabilities. We took the Sertoma name in honor of our founder. It's an acronym for service to mankind. We serve about 120 folks with intellectual disabilities. A lot of them are over 50 and aging. Many weren't expected to live beyond their teens. One fellow passed away recently who was in his 80s. We have a couple residents who are in hospice. We conduct vocational and life skills training. We have a major therapeutic recreational program that makes it possible for them to go on trips. They've gone to Nashville and to Disney World. They go to the Smoky Mountains frequently. We have a large residential program with 29 residential locations in Knoxville, a staff of about 200 people, and a budget of \$8 million. I have been at Sertoma for 23 years this September. I started out doing public relations and fundraising, and then moved on to the director's position 17 years ago.

Many of the folks in our residential program either have no family or come from indigent families. We have become their total life support. We've changed our services as their needs have changed. When I started, we had a lot less staff and more people to serve. But they were younger, and we didn't need as much support staff. Now, we act in more of a caregiving role. I've got one RN on staff and about 20 LPNs. Some residents are on oxygen and some of them have a lot more physical needs. But because of the quality of care — and the quality of life that they all have — they are all living longer lives. Our type of work presents a lot of challenges but it's very rewarding. The people we serve are like most people. They want friendship and respect. I will probably work a few more years there because there are still a few more things I want to get done.

**TT&C: What are some of the biggest challenges we're facing as a state?**

**BDM:** I think the biggest challenge is the health of our citizens. You've got the folks who are uninsured; the ones who are overusing emergency rooms, and the ones with crippling issues such as mental illness. Our addiction problems are very serious, especially in East Tennessee. Some can get treatment but a lot can't. If you wait until all these health related issues are at a critical stage, it costs a whole lot more than providing preventative services and care. TennCare already takes up about one-third of the budget. We are 43rd in health in the country. It's pretty clear that we haven't found enough solutions.

Tennessee is a great place to live. We have a lot of good news. We are operating soundly and balancing our budget, we're making record gains in education. We're recruiting businesses and jobs. I obviously can't wave that magic wand to change everything overnight. But if I can make a difference in one person's life, I've had a successful day.