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June 11- 14 Gatlinburg Convention Center

## **Annual Conference lineup** to feature CMFO workshops

The aging demographic, new federal purchasing laws, and overtime regulations are some of the handful of workshop sessions scheduled as part of the Certified Municipal Finance Officers training program planned for the TML Annual Confer-

Slated for June 11-14 in Gatlinburg, MTAS consultants will present workshops during the conference that are eligible for CPE credits for Certified Municipal Finance Officers.

Beginning on Saturday, June 11, Brad Harris, MTAS finance consultant, will present a session on New Federal Purchasing Laws. State and local governments have until June 30, 2016, to be compliant with the new federal grant requirements. New regulations tighten the strings considerably and this session will take a look at where changes may need

On Sunday, Pat Hardy, MTAS management consultant, will offer two workshops on The Aging Demographic: What is it and How Can Cities Prepare? This session will review the coming "age wave" demographic that all cities are facing. As the baby See CMFO on Page 4

BY LISA SORONEN

Executive Director

State Local Legal Center

Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that

it—rather than a federal district

court—has jurisdiction to decide

whether the Clean Water Rule, clar-

ifying the scope of the "waters of the

United States (WOTUS)," exceeds

the Environmental Protection Agen-

sumed it had jurisdiction and issued

a temporary nationwide stay of the

rule. The WOTUS rule defines "wa-

ters of the United States," according

to the EPA, "through increased use

of bright-line boundaries" to make

"the process of identifying waters

protected under the Clean Water

In October, the Sixth Circuit as-

cy's (EPA) authority.

In a 2-1 decision the Sixth

### Schedule At-A-Glance SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Park Vista Hotel

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

CMFO Workshop 10 - 11 am 11 am - 5 pm Registration Exhibit Hall Opens 11 am - 5 pm 11:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch CMFO Workshop 1:15 - 2:15 pm 1:30 - 2:15 pm District Meetings 2:30 - 3:45 pm Opening Session 4 - 5 pm Exhibit Hall Extravaganza Host City Reception

6 - 8:30 pm Monday, June 13

Sixth Circuit Court rules it has

jurisdiction to decide WOTUS

Breakfast 8 - 8:30 AM 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 Pool Party 6 - 11pm Tuesday, June 14 8 - 10 AM

Awards **BREAKFAST** 

Act easier to understand, more pre-

dictable and consistent with the law

and peer reviewed science, while

protecting the streams and wetlands

that form the foundation of our na-

rule concluding it was likely that a

number of the definitions were at

odds with Rapanos v. United States

(2006) and the distance limitations

in the final rule weren't a "logical

outgrowth" of the proposed rule, in

violation of the Administrative Pro-

relevant to this case, EPA actions

"approving or promulgating any .

. . other limitation" on discharges

or "issuing or denying any permit"

are reviewable by a federal court of

See WOTUS on Page 7

Per the Clean Water Act, as

The Sixth Circuit stayed the

tion's water resources."

cedures Act.

## Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey to retire from state legislature following 24 years of service

After 24 years of service in the state legislature, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, R-Blountville, announced his decision not to seek re-election after his term in the state Senate expires in January 2017.

Ramsey announced he would not be seeking re-election on the Senate floor "I have always been known as a straight-shooter who gets right to the point," he said. "Today is no exception. I stand before you today to announce that I will not be seeking another four-year term to the state Senate... I have said many times, I truly am 'living the dream.' I have never meant that phrase as much as I mean it right now. I am living the dream."

First elected to the state legislature in 1993, Ramsey spent four years in the state House and 20 years in the state Senate, 10 of which he has spent as lieutenant governor and Speaker of the Senate. Ramsey became the first Republican Senate Speaker elected to the Tennessee Senate in 140 years, when he assumed his role in 2007 and in 2009, became the longest serving Republican Senate Speaker in Tennessee

While the decision to leave office was not easy, Ramsey said



Considered to be one of the most influential lawmakers in the state's history, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey announces departure from Legislature.

he looks forward to spending more time with his four grandsons and new granddaughter, who was born the same day he announced his decision not to seek re-election.

'After a lot of prayer and many sleepless nights, I have determined that I simply cannot commit to another four years in office," he said.

"I am ready to take (politics and state government) off the table and commit a lot more time to...my growing family. This has not been an easy decision. I love the state Senate. I love being Lt. Governor. And I consider each and every one of you a true friend. I want to thank the people of my district for allowing me to serve the past 24 years. I especially want to thank the members of this body for allowing me to serve as your leader." See RAMSEY on Page 3

## Rural Economic Opportunity Act to provide infrastructure money for TN rural counties

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A plan by Gov. Bill Haslam to boost economic development in rural communities received unanimous approval from the House and is now headed to the Senate's Finance Committee.

The Rural Economic Opportunity Act of 2016 has received praise from lawmakers in rural areas as well as House Speaker Beth Harwell, R-Nashville, and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Collierville, who is sponsoring the Senate version of the bill. House Bill 2570 passed the House 97-0 on March 21, while its Senate counterpart, SB 2538, is in the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee.

Amy New, assistant commissioner for rural development with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, recently addressed municipal leaders about the act's potential during the Tennessee Municipal League Legislative Conference in Nashville. New's position was created last year

to help rural areas attain the same economic achievement more urban areas in the state have earned in recent years.

While Tennessee has more employed individuals than ever before and has been named the "State of the Year" for economic development two years in a row, New said many rural areas in the state still struggle with issues like poverty, unemployment rate and per capita income.

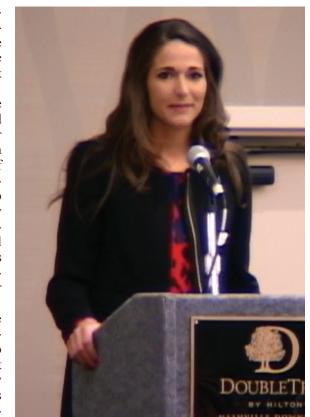
The goal of the Rural Economic Opportunity Act is to change that. The act will provide money to help rural counties build the sites and infrastructure they need to market themselves to businesses with \$10 million for this fund allocated for the 2016-

17 fiscal year. New said this part of the act is called the

Propelling Economic Fund. "I think it will take more money than that to invest in our rural communities, but we have to show them they are getting a return on their investment, that we aren't just throwing money at the problem," New said. "I'm excited about this program."

The second part of the act restructures counties into a three-tier system for business-tax credits given to new or expanding businesses when they hire set numbers of workers. Under the current structure, businesses in Tier 3 counties – typically more rural counties – have to create 25 jobs to quality for business-tax credits, but the new bill would change that.

"The current legislation requires



TDECDAssistant Commissioner for Rural Development Amy New addresses city officials during the TML Legislative Conference and updates them on key initiatives to improve rural economic development opportunities.

a business to create 25 jobs, which is not very small business friendly," New said. "Some companies may only be able to create four or five jobs. It may take them 10 years to create that many jobs. It also adds the Tier Four, which is 10 jobs over five years instead of 25 jobs over five years. In our Tier Three, it is 20 jobs over five years."

New said the act will be a success as long as rural communities are willing to work with TDECD. "We want to be a team, the whole state," New said. "To do that, we have to know what is going on. Communication and leadership are key."

To learn more about the Rural Economic Opportunity Act and other grant opportunities through TDECD, visit www.tn.gov/ecd.

## 1912 map discovered at Paris City Hall

BY KATE COIL

Renovations to Paris City Hall led to the discovery of a unique artifact from the city's history.

Construction crews were working on the city hall when they discovered something unique in the ceiling tiles – a map of the city dating back to 1912.

"We had a minor renovation project at city hall and during that process, the construction crew discovered some maps that had been stored in another room and had inadvertently been dislodged," said Mike Brown, building inspector for the city of Paris. "We realized that somewhere in years passed that the fire marshal and fire department had these plans and had stored them in the ceiling of an adjacent room in the mid-1970s. It was one of those out of sight, out of mind things."

The most interesting of the finds was map of the city drawn in 1912.

"It had been placed on a linen backing and rolled up on a wooden dowel. Coincidentally, when I took this job five years ago, I was going through old plans and had found a paper copy of a map made in 1912. It was the same map. The one I found was a copy of this original. We thought the copy hanging in my office was the only one."

Some of the other maps in the cache dated from the 1960s including a floor plan of city hall and a map See MAP on Page 2



Photo by Glenn Tanner/Paris Post-Intelligencer

Paris Building Inspector Mike Brown unfurls a cloth map of the city from 1912. The map was found in the ceiling of a city building and has since been sent to Nashville for further preservation efforts. It is believed to be the oldest known city map.



The FHWA estimates that each \$1 spent on road, highway and bridge improvements results in an average benefit of \$5.20 in the form of reduced vehicle maintenance costs, reduced delays, reduced fuel consumption, improved safety, reduced road and bridge maintenance costs, and reduced emissions as a result of improved traffic flow.

Source: A new study released by The Road Information Program, or TRIP, a national transportation research firm.

### **NEWS ACROSS** TENNESSEE



### **BLOUNTVILLE**

Agero officials will locate a new call center in Blountville, creating 585 jobs and investing \$3.5 million in the local community. The company will be remodelling an existing facility in the city to accommodate their new employees. The facility will be operational starting April 25. The roadside assistance company has more than 40 years of experience in helping drivers nation-wide with emergency assistance on the roadways. Agero responds to over 8 million requests annually and resolves emergency situations as quickly and safely as possible. The call center will deal with calls from vehicle owners and will act on behalf of the vehicle manufacturers and insurance providers that offer roadside assistance through Agero. Another roadside assistance agency, Allied Dispatch, announced it would be coming to nearby Johnson City in January.

### **DYERSBURG**

Develey Mustard & Condiments Corporation will locate its first North American production facility in Dyersburg, investing \$20 million in the new operation and creating 150 jobs over the next five years. Renovations on the 100,000 square foot Dyersburg facility, located at 2630 Ford Hudson Rd., will begin in April and are expected to be complete by the end of the year. Develey will build out the interior of the facility according to its manufacturing processes, bring in new equipment and construct a driveway and parking lot for employees and trucking needs. Develey will offer local branded products as well as private label products. Headquartered in Unterhaching, Germany, Develey is one of the leading producers of mustards, dressings and sauces in Europe, exporting to more than 50 countries worldwide. Develey is the exclusive distributor of international brands such as Tabasco, Kikkoman, Patak's, Del Monte and Gatorade in several countries.

### **ELIZABETHTON**

After opening in September, national supply chain management company Fidelitone announced it is looking to expand operations and create more jobs in the Elizabethton area. The company presently has around 150 employees and wants to increase that number to between 200 and 250 over the next several months. Fidelitone provides warehouse, order fulfillment and value-added product services for a variety of companies that operate mail order or online shopping businesses. The growth of business may also lead to basic site improvements including creating an additional 100 spaces in the parking lot and adding about 100,000 square feet onto the main building.

### FRANKLIN

The city of Franklin recently received Tier III status from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as part of the state's benchmarking program. The certification is effective for five years as part of the Department of Economic and Community Development 3-Star Program. According to the TDEC Recreation Educational Services Division, benchmarking is a process used in management and particularly strategic management, in which organizations evaluate various aspects of their processes in relation to best practice with the goal of increasing efficiency and quality of products and services, while reducing costs. This allows

### TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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organizations to develop plans on how to adopt such best practice, usually with the aim of increasing some aspect of performance. Additionally, city officials and members of the Cumberland River Compact will be working together for several Harpeth River clean-up efforts beginning in April. Funding for this project was made available from a \$55,000 Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Special Litter Reduction Grant. The city is providing \$11,000 toward the project. Half of the grant funding was used in 2013-2014 to promote and market the city's Blue Bag curbside recycling program. The Cumberland River Compact is organizing efforts to remove trash and debris from our waterways. Volunteers will canoe the downtown Franklin section of the Harpeth River and remove litter. Bulky items will be tagged and removed at a later date if possible. Stream clean-ups for Liberty Creek and Sharp Branch will also take place this spring.

### **GALLATIN**

The population of Gallatin has increased by more than 4,000 people since 2010, according to a recent special census undertaken by the city. The census set the current population of Gallatin at 34,487, which is a 14 percent growth rate. Mayor Paige Brown said the city was hoping for a 15 percent growth rate since 2010. The increase in population could mean an increase in tax dollars from the state. The city currently receives \$116 in tax revenue from the state for each resident. The increase in population could mean a total of \$488,244 in additional annual revenue for the city, totaling nearly \$2.5 million in the next five years. The additional revenue generated by the special census would be equivalent to the amount raised from a 5-cent property tax increase, according to the Gallatin Economic Development Agency. Gallatin's current property tax rate is 99 cents for every \$100 of taxable property.

### **JACKSON**

The city of Jackson just received an upgraded ISO Public Protect Classification of 2 following an inspection by the Insurance Services Offices in December. The city's prior rating was at a 3, with 1 being the best possible score and 10 being the lowest. The survey included evaluation of the fire department, water supply and fire alarm communication systems. The Jackson Fire Department partnered with the City of Jackson Central dispatch and Jackson Energy Authority for the evaluation. ISO is an independent organization which evaluates the quality of a community's fire protection service. It does so by using a Public Protection Classification system incorporating standards developed by the National Fire Protection association and the American Water Works association. ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process of insurance companies

### KNOXVILLE

Knoxville has completed new intersection improvements to promote safety for bike riders and announced plans for at least five more such intersections around the city. The \$1,800 intersection has bright green paint which was thermoplastically coated or melted onto the intersection lanes. The color is meant to alert drivers to look out for cyclists and guide cyclists to the safest routes in intersections. The intersection at Council Place and the Gay Street Bridge was part of a \$14,000 project to re-stripe Sevier Avenue with bike lanes from the bridge to the James White Parkway. The Sevier Avenue bike lane will offer cyclists an easier commute from downtown to the Urban Wilderness and is aimed at setting the tone for businesses moving into the redevelopment corridor along the South Waterfront. Other intersections slated to be upgraded include Blount Avenue and Chapman Highway; Maplewood Drive and Island Home Avenue at the River's Edge apartment complex currently under construction; Central Street and Broadway, Central Street and Baxter Avenue, and Central Street and Bernard Avenue. The future green lanes at the intersections on Central will be part of the city's streetscape improvements along that corridor. The city's first green lane went in last year at University Commons

Way and Joe Johnson Drive and its success prompted the construction of additional lanes.

### **LEBANON**

The city of Lebanon has completed a special census and found an increase to the community's population of more than 6,500 residents since the 2010 federal census count. The Northwest Tennessee Development District recently verified the results of the census, which put Lebanon's population at 32,732. City officials estimate the change in population will bring the city about \$785,000 in state funds annually.

### **NASHVILLE**

CKE Restaurants – the parent company of Hardee's and several other restaurant chains - has announced it will be consolidating its corporate offices in the Greater Nashville area. The company will be moving operations from Carpinteria, Calif., and St. Louis, Mo., sometime next year. While the exact location of the new corporate headquarters has not been confirmed, developers said the company has been looking at leasing spaces round Nashville and near the Cool Springs area. CKE's move to the Nashville area comes as more than 90 percent of the company's restaurants are now franchise-owned after a re-franchising initiative. In addition to Hardees, CKE operates restaurants including Carl's Jr., Green Burrito, and Red Burrito with more than 3,330 restaurant locations in 42 states and 28 countries.

### **NASHVILLE**

Nashville's Opry Mills shopping mall will soon be home to a Madame Tussauds wax museum featuring the iconic figures of the country music industry. The museum will open in spring 2017 at the mall and features wax figures customers can "touch, see, feel and photograph figures of their favorite musicians." The roster of figurines will include Underwood, Stevie Wonder, Johnny Cash and about 45 others. The Nashville museum will be the seventh U.S. museum for Madame Tussauds, which has 22 locations worldwide. The original Madame Tussauds was opened in London in 1835 by French wax sculptress Marie Tussaud who had made wax figures for the crowned heads of France and death masks during the French Revolution before escaping to England.

### **NOLENSVILLE**

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 Nolensville Alderman Larry Felts, who expressed concerns about mounting traffic issues in the community. Nolensville has consulting engineers that are looking at the town's master thoroughfare plan, which includes a list of 24 improvements to road intersections and roadways. Several of the proposed projects involve road widening and additional connectors. Suggestions made to help improve transportation locally 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.

### **TULLAHOMA**

Construction has begun to expand the city of Tullahoma's greenway by approximately 900 feet, the first step in a long-term plan to encourage residents to be more active. The new extension begins at the greenway's north end entrance on Cedar Lane. The estimated cost of the project is \$30,000 and will be funded in part by grant funds from the State of Tennessee Health Department's 2013 Project Diabetes, said Brooks. The expansion will be the first portion of the Parks Master Greenway Plan that will extend the greenway to William Northern Boulevard. The full master plan or the project includes extending the greenway to the Beechcraft Heritage Museum, which would allow non-motorized transit throughout the city. The project also includes installation of outdoor exercise equipment like abdominal twists, a bench press, a shoulder wheel, a rowing machine, an elliptical and a leg press.

## Rocky Top cuts ribbon on highly anticipated museum



Local football players, residents and officials from the city of Rocky Top, Anderson County, State Rep. State Rep. John Ragan and State Sen. Randy McNally, both R-Oak Ridge, help cut the ribbon on the Coal Creek Miners Museum. (Photo by Russel Langley/The Oak Ridger.)

Officials in Rocky Top cut the ribbon on a new museum 30 years in the making on March 18.

The Coal Creek Miners Museum brought out local residents, city officials, county leaders and state legislators to 201 S. Main Street. Plans for the museum began during the Tennessee Homecoming 1986 celebration as a way to honor the coal miners who helped shape Rocky Top and Anderson County.

The Anderson County Commission purchased the former Bank of America building for the museum in downtown Rocky Top and donated it to the city for use as a museum in 2013. Project volunteers worked to clean up the building and the city was awarded a PlanET Community Enhancement Project grant to help design exhibits and the look of the new museum.

The museum pays special attention to important events in local mining history including the Coal Creek War, the Fraterville Mine Disaster and the Cross Mountain Mine Disaster.

The Fraterville Disaster has earned the reputation of being the worst mine disaster in the South. The explosion

on May 19, 1902, killed 216 miners and remains the worst mining disaster in Tennessee history.

On Dec. 9, 1911, the Cross Mountain Mine Disaster occurred when a mine explosion in neighboring Biceville killed 84 miners and was also the first major rescue effort of trapped miners carried out by the Bureau of Mines.

The Coal Creek War was a series of labor disputes between mine owners and workers named for the town, which was then called Coal Creek. It changed its name to Lake City in 1936 after the construction of the nearby Norris Dam. The name was changed to Rocky Top in 2014 after the famous country and University of Tennessee fight song.

Rocky Top Mayor Mike Lovely said the museum is a perfect way to honor Rocky Top's people and the community.

'The history of our town will live on for generations to come," Lovely told *The Oak Ridger*.

The museum has plans to expand in the future, adding more exhibits and information to its 4,310-squarefoot facility.

## Rogersville receives new additions to police fleet



The Rogersville Police Department recently added a pair of new Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles to its fleet. The purchase of the two all-wheel drive vehicles, which are based on the popular Ford Explorer sport-utility model, was approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen last July. RPD officers drove to Nashville on March 2 to pick up the vehicles. With the addition of the two new cruisers, all of the RPD's front-line vehicles are now all-wheel-drive models, greatly enhancing the department's ability to operate in the snow and ice of Hawkins County winters. (Photo by Bill Jones. Rogersville Review staff writer/ photographer.)

## 1912 map discovered in Paris

MAP from Page 1

of sewer lines in the city, which has since been handed over to the utility department for safekeeping.

Brown said the workers brought him the maps because they knew he kept several city maps in his office.

"The one thing significant on this map -- and I've never seen it on another one -is the lettering and all the titling blocks on the plan are positioned where you can read them," he said. "The north arrow points to the left instead of the top of the page. It's also neat to look at a town you grew up in in the eyes of someone from over a 100 years ago."

The map shows what has and hasn't changed in the city in the past 100 years.

"The five block area downtown remains unchanged because they were set up on a typical block type layout," he said. "In 1912, there is nothing indicated as being a state of federal highway. Everything is listed as the local street names. The main thoroughfares in and out of town evolved when those highways did

come in and out of town. You see streets you know and recognize have different names. Streets that are now the main thoroughfares were not the main thoroughfares."

It is also apparent some modern-day city codes and ordinances were not in effect when the map was drawn.

"Things that were done 100 years ago don't apply in today's world because of the increase and use of vehicular traffic," he said. "Back then, you had more people that walked or used a horse and buggy than drove. This map probably has zero inside the corporate limits outlined hat provided parking lots of any kind. In today's world, that's one of our biggest zoning requirement. I don't know there were even building codes during that point at time."

The map has since been handed over to the Henry County Archives, who plan to scan and digitize the map then sent it to officials in Nashville for further preservation efforts. Once the map is framed, it will be sent back to the archives and displayed.

## Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey to retire from Tennessee General Assembly

Dedication, love of family large part of decision not to seek re-election

Following Ramsey's announcement, accolades poured in from across the state, praising his work in the legislature.

"Lt. Gov. Ramsey has been an outstanding leader for Tennessee, and I will truly miss working with him on a daily basis. Ron is smart and effective, and he has been passionate about serving Tennessee and his district. I appreciate his 24 years of service in the General Assembly, and I will miss him."

### - Gov. Bill Haslam

"There is no stronger leader or more effective legislature in the Tennessee General Assembly than Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey," Alexander said. "While he may be stepping aside next year, I hope and fully expect to see him active in Tennessee's public life in the coming years."

### – U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander

"Ron Ramsey has served our state honorably for nearly a quarter of a century. I am thankful for his leadership and wish him all the best." — U.S. Sen. Bob Corker

"I have served alongside Ron Ramsey for many years, and I have the utmost respect for him. He dedicated his time in public service to making Tennessee a great state. He often says that it matters who governs, and indeed it does—Tennessee has had a great leader in Ron Ramsey. I know he will enjoy being able to spend more time with Sindy and with his precious grandchildren."

### – House Speaker Beth Harwell

"Ron Ramsey has spent the better part of his lifetime fighting for conservative principles and serving our great state, and Tennessee is lucky to have had his leadership. There's no doubt Ron was a trailblazer for the conservative movement in Tennessee, and we owe our strong Republican majority to his hard work and dedication. While I'm sad to see him retire, I know he'll enjoy spending more time with his family. Ron Ramsev is a true statesman who I am lucky to call a friend, and I wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.'

### - U.S. Rep. Phil Roe

"Ron Ramsey's been a great senator, as well as speaker and lieutenant governor. And he's doing it right. He's got his priorities straight and he made that clear and decided it's time to move on. We'll miss him. We really will."

### - Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris

"Thank you for all you have done for the Senate, the Republican Senate Caucus, and Tennessee. I have served under three speakers and by an order of magnitude you are the greatest! May God bless you and the Ramsey family for the sacrifices that you all have made to make Tennessee the greatest of all states."

### - Senate Finance Chairman Randy McNally

"Ron Ramsey is a true statesman and, really, a role model on authenticity in public life. He demonstrated that again today in how he announced his retirement. He set out a list of priorities and we would be lucky to be as smart, self-aware, authentic, and courageous enough to be able to do the same someday. We would all also be lucky to have even a portion of the blessings that Ramsey has had. He deserves a long-round of congratulations."

### - Senate Minority Leader Lee Harris

"Ron Ramsey went from being a junior member of the minority party in the House to leader of a supermajority in the state Senate in his 20 years in the General Assembly. That's a testament to how strong a leader he has been. During my time in the legislature, we've had a strong and open relationship. Even when we've disagreed, we've done so as colleagues and as friends. And while it might surprise some folks to hear it, I'm going to miss him."

### - Senate Democratic Caucus Chairman Jeff Yarbro

"The state of Tennessee is much better since Ron Ramsey came our way. I always enjoyed his visits to Cleveland and good old homespun



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey has served 24 years in the Tennessee Legislature with 10 years as Speaker of the Senate.



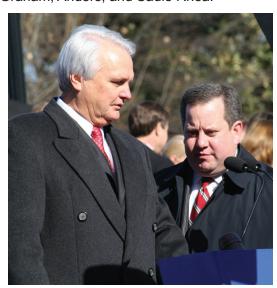
The Ramseys have three daughters, three sons-in-law and five grand-children: Parker, Briggs, Graham, Anders, and Sadie Rhea.



Lt. Gov. Ramsey with his wife Sindy



Lt. Gov. Ramsey and Sen. Randy McNally



Ramsey with Chief Clerk Russell Humphrey during Gov. Bill Haslam's first inauguration.



Lt. Gov. Ramsey, Sen. Bo Watson, and Sen. Mark Norris



Lt. Gov. Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly.

conversation. Governor Ramsey is a straight shooter and never forgot his roots. TACIR appointments rotate among the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the Lt. Governor. Governor Ramsey reappointed me two or three times and for that I will be eternally grateful. I will miss his leadership as will his constituents and all of Tennessee. I wish him well as he returns to his well deserved private life."

### - Mayor Tom Rowland Cleveland

"Thank you for your service to our state and especially to northeast Tennessee. I understand your decision and respect it, but we are losing a great warrior for our region. I wish you well. God bless."

### - Mayor Doris Hensley Erwin

"Thankyou Lt. Gov. Ramsey for your service to the great State of Tennessee. Tennessee has benefited greatly with your leadership. Wishing you the best for your future plans."

### - Mayor Dale R. Kelley Huntingdon

"As president of the Tennessee Municipal League, I have always appreciated your willingness to work with municipal governments on key issues that are so vital to our state. Thank you for your service and I wish you well."

### - Mayor Curtis Hayes Livingston

"Since I have been at TML, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey has been great to work with — even at time when we did not totally agree on an issue. He will be taking with him a lot of legislative history and wisdom. I wish him a lot of happiness and success in this next phase of his life. There is nothing better than watching your grand-children grow and develop into the future leaders of our communities and state. I know you will teach them well.

- Margaret Mahery TML Executive Director



Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Ramsey, and TDOT Commissioner John Schroer



Above, Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald, Lt. Gov. Ramsey, and Bartlett Alderman W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant during a TML Legislative Conference

At right, Lt. Gov. Ramsey and TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery





## **PEOPLE**



**Buddy Billings** has been selected as the interim fire chief for the city of Collierville. Billings has been with the Collierville Fire Department for more than



**Buddy Billings** 

37 years and has served as chief of fire prevention for 22 of those years. His responsibilities in that position include managing the day-to-day operations of the fire marshal's office, code inspection, investigation and public education.

**DeAnn Bogus** has been hired as the new director of the city of Knoxville's Plans Review and Inspections Department. Bogus has been employed with



DeAnn Bogus

Bechtel Power Corp., since 2008, working in Knoxville and Spring City on behalf of the international engineering and construction company. Prior to her engineering time with Bechtel, she served the city of Lenoir City as a certified building inspector and chief deputy clerk, overseeing accounting and financial records of all funds, including reconciliation of bank statements and other documents. The Knoxville Plans Review and Inspections Department ensures quality development and neighborhood safety and integrity through plans review, permits, building inspections and other regulatory activities. The department is made up of 42 inspectors, codes enforcement officers, and administration

Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner was named as the 'Person of the Year'by the Collierville Chamber of Commerce during their annual



Stan Joyner

awards ceremony. Rev. Jeffrey Marx of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church presented the award on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, describing Joyner as a capable leader with a financially prudent approach to government. He also praised Joyner's accessibility to citizens and relationship building within and beyond the city. Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris also presented a resolution from the Tennessee Legislature honoring Joyner for the accomplishment. A Collierville native, Joyner was first elected mayor in 2008 and first elected to the Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1999. He also served on the city's planning commission, employee retirement plan commission and pension committee during that time. He received his bachelor's in education from Memphis State University in 1972.

Julius Johnson, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, has announced his retirement beginning at the end of April.



Julius Johnson

Johnson has led the department since the start of the administration in 2011 and was Haslam's first commissioner appointment. Johnson joined the administration after serving 37 years at the Tennessee Farm Bureau, 15 of those years as the chief administrative officer. Johnson has served on the University of

Tennessee Agriculture Development Board, the Maury County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Maury County United Way Board of Directors, the Maury County Vision 2020 Board of Directors and as president of the Maury County University of Tennessee Alumni Board. A native of Forbus, he has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Mike Justice has been selected as the new police chief of Lebanon after serving as the interim chief for the department. Justice was chosen



Mike Justice

from 48 applicants for the position after meetings with the Lebanon City Council, city department heads and community stakeholders. Justice has served 25 years with the Lebanon Police Department and also serves as a Wilson County Commissioner. During his tenure with the Lebanon Police Department, Justice has held a variety of positions including serving as director of Emergency Services for the department. He was named interim chief in 2015 after previous interim chief Mike VanHook stepped down to reassume his role as captain and oversee the department's drug unit.

Jim, Kerr, Jr., has been named as the new transportation director for the city of Murfreesboro, succeeding Dana Richardson who retired



Jim Kerr Jr.

from the position in January after 31 years of service. Kerr previously served as senior vice president of Wiser Consultants Civil Engineering and began his new role with the city March 21. He brings more than 29 years of experience in project and contract management of state and federally-funded road projects, including several projects for the city itself. Prior to joining Wiser in 1997, Kerr was the traffic coordinator for the city for 11 years. While working as an assistant traffic coordinator for Arnold's Electric while attending MTSU, Kerr worked part-time as an assistant traffic coordinator for the city of Murfreesboro from 1985-7 before becoming a full-time traffic coordinator. A lifelong Rutherford County resident, he graduated from MTSU with a bachelor's degree in computer technology in 1987.

Hendersonville Alderman Rosa Long died Feb. 28, 2016, at the Hendersonville Medical Center at the age of 73. Long had been hospitalized at



Rosa Long

St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville earlier in the year, but had planned to return to the city board meetings in March. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack, himself a Hendersonville alderman who died while in office in December 2012 from complications following surgery. Rosa Long was appointed to the board in January 2013 to fill the rest of her husband's four-year term, and was elected to the spot in November 2014. Before that, she served as Ward 1 Alderman from 1996 to 2000.

Jon McFarland will be sworn in as the new mayor of Trimble after former mayor Donna Switzer announced her resignation at a special called Board of Mayor and Aldermen

meeting. Switzer had been serving as the town's interim mayor, but said she had to resign after she and her husband decided to purchase a home outside of the town. McFarland had been serving as vice mayor and alderman for the town. He was approved unanimously by the board to step in as mayor and said it was an honor to serve on the board. McFarland is a life-long Trimble resident and said one of his goals in the new position is to review the town's ordinances to make them more up-to-date.

Betty Modrall, long-time Columbia city recorder, died March 16 at Maury Regional Hospital at the age of 84. Modrall started her work with



**Betty Modrall** 

the city of Columbia on June 11, 1956, and became city clerk in 1970. Modrall was Columbia's longest-serving employee, having served nearly 60 years with the city. Born in Memphis, Modrall grew up in Mt. Pleasant and graduated from the city's Hay Long High School. She then attended and graduated from the Columbia Business College. Before coming to work for the city, Modrall was employed at Ragland Wholesale Grocery in Columbia and served as a payroll clerk for W.M. White Construction Company. Retired employees of the city of Columbia served as honorary pallbearers at her funeral on March 19.

Brandon Rogers has been unanimously confirmed as the new parks director for the city of Hendersonville by the city's Board of Mayor and Al-



**Brandon Rogers** 

dermen. He has been serving as Hendersonville's interim parks director since September after the retirement of Dave LeMarbe. Before that, he worked as the city's parks manager for seven years. Before coming to Hendersonville, Rogers was the recreation superintendent for the city of White House from January 2004 to January 2008. A native of Scotts Hill,, Rogers graduated from Scotts Hill High School in 1997. He earned a bachelor's degree in sports management with a minor in business from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, which he graduated from in 2003.

Clinton Police Chief Rick Scarbrough has been appointed to serve on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chief's



Rick Scarbrough

of Police (IACP). The association serves as the professional voice of law enforcement and addresses issues confronting law enforcement through advocacy programs and research, as well as training and other professional services. As part of the Executive Committee, Chief Scarbrough will provide valuable expertise and help guide the future of IACP and the law enforcement profession. The IACP has 25,000 members from the U.S. and 20 foreign countries. Scarbrough has 26 years of experience in law enforcement and has spent 20 of those with the city of Clinton. He was chosen as the the East Tennessee Chief of the Year for 2014. He has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in organizational management from Tusculum College.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

They're graduating from college,



starting new jobs, getting married and having kids. But one life goal that's eluding a lot of Millennials is homeownership, according to a new NerdWallet analysis. It's not that young people don't want to own homes. In fact, most Millennials would like to buy a home but haven't yet done so because they think they can't afford it. Millennials want the stability and freedom that homeownership affords, but they worry they won't qualify for an affordable loan. In its analysis, personal finance website NerdWallet looked at a number of surveys and data from government agencies and Fannie Mae to examine commonly held beliefs about the decline in homeownership among younger first-time buyers. Millennials — those born from 1981 to 1997 — are expected to form some 20 million households by 2025. Yet, 57 percent of young renters cited financial reasons for not buying a home. Those reasons included poor credit, high down payment costs, a low monthly income and too much existing debt as the main obstacles. But even facing these perceived roadblocks, young renters in that same survey said they were considering buying homes, and 49 percent said their next move would likely be into a home they own. Home affordability could also be a roadblock to Millennials as interest rates climb and the median price of existing homes keeps rising. In February, that price rose 4.4 percent to \$210,800 year over year, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Women are leading the charge in business creation, according to newly released data. A recent study by the University of California's **Center for Economic Forecasting** and Development found that more than two-thirds of businesses in the U.S. are owned by women. The 2014 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report from American Express stated that there are approximately 9.1 million women-owned

businesses in the United States, which is a 68 percent increase since 1997. The U.S. Census Bureau also reported that the number of businesses owned by women continued to grow by 26.8 percent, even during the Great Recession with 9.9 million or roughly 36 percent of businesses in the U.S. owned by women in 2012. Despite their growing numbers, women-owned businesses are typically small businesses and only generate 12 percent in national revenue.

A new study from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports the number of Americans lifted out of poverty by government programs has increased ten**fold in the past 50 years.** The study was set to mark the anniversary of when President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the "War on Poverty" in 1964. The impact of the safety net on child poverty has also grown substantially, reducing the number of children who do not have resources to meet their basic needs to around 8 million since the 1960s. These safety nets also played a crucial role in reducing poverty rates during the Great Recession, the report found. In 2012 alone, programs like tax credits, SNAP benefits, Social Security, SSI and TANF helped cut poverty in half. High poverty rates among children and adults who did not finish high school are still of major concern.

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative has made \$65.8 million in grants available to coal communities to help with worker advancement and diversifying local economies. The POWER grants will be administered through the Appalachian Regional Commission and Economic Development Administration. The program is aimed at areas where coal has been the main economic driver to help them strengthen their workforce and diversify the economy. More info is available at www.arc.gov/ power or www.eda.gov/power.

## \$500 million available in 2016 TIGER Grants

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has announced \$500 million will be made available for transportation projects across the country under an eighth round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. Applications are due April 29, 2016.

Like the first seven rounds, FY 2016 TIGER discretionary grants will fund capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

The 2016 TIGER grant program will focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for communities, both urban and rural. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, does not provide dedicated funding for the planning, preparation, or design of capital projects; however, these activities may be funded as part of an overall construction project.

Since 2009, TIGER has provided nearly \$4.6 billion to 381 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including 134 projects to support rural and tribal communities. Overall, the department has received more than 6,700 applications requesting more than \$134 billion for transportation projects across the country. The TIGER grant program supports innovative projects, including multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects. These federal funds leverage money from private sector partners, states, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, ports, and transit agencies. The 2015 TIGER round alone is leveraging \$500 million in federal investment to support \$1.4 billion in overall transportation investments.

TIGER funding is provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, signed by President Obama on Dec. 18, 2015. Applications are due April 29, 2016.

See more at: <a href="https://www.trans-">https://www.trans-</a> portation.gov/tiger#sthash.7MKk-8pEJ.dpuf

### TML Conference to offer CMFO credits

CMFO from Page 1

boomers retire and seniors are more active what do they expect from their

And on Monday, June 13, Richard Stokes, MTAS Human Resource Consultant, will offer a workshop on Overtime Regulations. New regulations are scheduled to be released in July by the Department of Labor

that will affect overtime for all employers. The rules would increase the salary threshold causing more employees to be eligible for overtime compensation The session will explore the changes to the overtime rules, the impact on local governments and potential plans of action to address the issue.

All CMFO workshops are open to all conference attendees.

As in the past, MTAS will also offer the Elected Officials Academy Level II program on Friday and Saturday, June 10-11, as a pre-conference event. EOA sessions will be held at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg.

To register for the EOA, please visit the MTAS Solution Point training registration system or contact P.J. Snodgrass at (865) 974-9858, pj@utk.edu or Doug Brown at (865)974.9140, Doug.Brown@tennessee.edu

For more information about the TML Annual Conference and to register, go to www.TML1.org.

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## STATE BRIEFS

An April groundbreaking is set for the new Tennessee State Museum. State officials received approval from Metro Nashville government for the conceptual design of a long-discussed new Tennessee State Museum, putting the project on course for an April 6 groundbreaking. If all goes according to plan, the new state museum in North Nashville will open in 2018 as Gov. Bill Haslam finishes his final year in office.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation released its 2015 'Crime on Campus' report. The annual study compiles crime data submitted to TBI by the state's colleges and universities through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS). Among the report's findings:

- Crime reported by Tennessee colleges and universities decreased by 7 percent from 2014 to 2015.
- 29 percent of all 2015 offenses reported were categorized as larceny/theft.
- Assault offenses increased slightly, by 1.4 percent, between 2014 and 2015.
  The overall category of sex
- The overall category of sex offenses-forcible increased by 26.6 percent in 2015, which includes an increase in the number of reported rapes from 51 in 2014 to 56 in 2015.

The TBI strongly discourages the comparison of one institution's statistics to another. The factors impacting crime vary from community to community and rudimentary comparisons will most likely result in inaccurate and generalized conclusions of the relative safety of one campus over another. The full 'Crime on Campus' report, along with similar studies dating back to 2001, is available online for review at <a href="http://tn.gov/tbi/article/recent-publications">http://tn.gov/tbi/article/recent-publications</a>.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced that the unemployment rate in Tennessee is currently at its lowest since August 2007. In fact, all 95 counties experienced a decline in their unemployment rate from January 2015 to January 2016. Tennessee's unemployment rate declined to 4.9 percent in February 2016, matching the nation's unemployment rate for February. Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate has declined by 1.1 percentage points, from 6 percent in February 2015 to 4.9 percent in February 2016. The nation's unemployment rate has declined by 0.6 percentage points during this time period. The report also shows a 3.66 percent growth in Tennessee's private sector jobs from February 2015 to February 2016, an increase of 89,200 net new private sector jobs across the state. From January 2015 through January 2016, Tennessee had the second largest percent increase in private sector jobs in the nation (3.84 percent), and the largest percent increase in the Southeast. See more at: http://www.tnecd.com/ blog/74/tennessee-unemploymentrate-at-an-all-time-low#sthash.jfOjVWZK.dpuf

## TNECD now accepting applications for Tourism Enhancement Grant

Grants to assist communities with tourism infrastructure assets

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced applications for the Tourism Enhancement Grant are now available for counties or cities to enhance or create new tourism infrastructure to increase economic impact.

All interested local governments must submit their completed applications by April 18, 2016.

"Tourism development is economic development. In many of our communities, tourism is the most important driver in the economy," TNECD Commissioner Randy Boyd said. "With this grant, communities will be able to invest in key assets, from docks to pavilions to signage. We will work in partnership with the Department of Tourist Development

to ensure that we help communities invest wisely and in ways that will get them the maximum return on this investment."

The goal of the Tourism Enhancement Grant is for cities or counties to improve and create local tourism infrastructure assets, such as wayfinding signage, stages, boat ramps, scenic pull-offs and public restrooms to improve their tourism economic impact. This grant will be available for up to \$50,000 with a match requirement based on economic status. The grant is also eligible for up to \$20,000 for counties or cities who have a desire to develop a tourism asset plan.

Applications and additional information regarding the grant can be found at <u>tn.gov/TourismGrant</u>.

### Welcome centers include new music feature

Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Kevin Triplett announced important improvements to Tennessee's 14 Welcome Centers, including a new music feature highlighting a more than 140 song playlist of Tennessee music. The state's welcome centers attract more than 13 million visitors annually, who will now be greeted with "The Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee." The announcement was made at the I-40 Shelby County Welcome Center in Memphis

"Our welcome centers offer an outstanding opportunity to make an authentic first impression to the millions of people from around the world who choose Tennessee as their travel destination," said Triplett. "As we continue to grow as the global music destination with unparalleled scenic beauty, amazing attractions, and important history, we felt it was time to turn up the volume on the welcome center experience."

Several new improvements have been incorporated with the most noteworthy being the implementation of the actual "Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee." With a ceremonial 5-foot by 3-foot giant radio, Commissioner Triplett turned up the volume to broadcast music at all 14 welcome centers simultaneously.

The playlist features songs by Tennessee artists, songs recorded in Tennessee, and songs about Tennessee, representing each of the genres of music born here: blues, bluegrass, country, gospel, rock 'n' roll, and soul. Guests will hear the 'Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee' from the moment they arrive to the parking area until the moment they depart.

Additional steps to take the



State Welcome Centers now include a new music feature highlighting a playlist of more than 140 songs of Tennessee music.

welcome center experience to a new level include implementing several technology updates like free Wi-Fi and providing iPads to the welcome center staff. Sustainability is always an area of continued improvement as well, as all 14 centers maintain green certifications with energy efficient lighting, insulation and weather stripping, rain barrels for landscaping use, recycling areas, and continued education for welcome center staff.

New signage is also a significant addition reflecting Tennessee's new marketing campaign, "The Soundtrack of America, Made in Tennessee." The signage offers a perfect photo-op for guests and includes the state's social media handle @ tnvacation and hashtag (#madeintn), encouraging travelers to share their Made in Tennessee experience throughout their visit.

Accompanying the recent launch of the 2016 Official Tennessee Vacation Guide, each center also has a

life-size replica of Tennessee native and international entertainment icon Dolly Parton, creating an additional photo opportunity. Parton graced the cover resulting in record-breaking numbers year-over-year for guide requests online and in print.

Tennessee Welcome Centers host more than 13 million visitors annually and are located primarily along the interstate highway system. The centers are constructed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation and operated by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Tourism is currently the second largest of Tennessee's industries, with an economic impact of \$17.7 billion, a 6.3 percent increase over the previous year and an all-time high for the state. Tourism generates 152,900 jobs for Tennesseans and produces \$1.5 billion in state and local sales tax revenue. Travel to Tennessee recently topped 100 million, achieving 101.3 million person stays, a first in Tennessee history.

# State year-to-date revenues \$439 million more than budgeted estimate

Tennessee tax revenues exceeded the state's budgeted estimates for the month of February. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall February revenues were \$818.2 million, which is \$20.0 million more than the state budgeted.

"February's sales tax growth rate was the lowest we've seen in the past year, but receipts still managed to come in a little over the budgeted estimate," Martin said. "Franchise and Excise taxes recorded negative growth for the month, but were marginally higher than the budgeted estimate for the month.

"Typically, more than half of our annual corporate revenues are realized in the months of April through June, so we'll be watching corporate taxes closely through the remainder of the fiscal year."

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were more than the budgeted estimate in the amount of \$11.8 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$8.2 million more than the estimates.

Sales taxes were \$8.6 million more than the estimate for February and 3.6 percent more than February of last year. For seven months, revenues are \$226.2 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months was 6.96 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$0.2 million higher than the budgeted estimate in February, and the growth rate over the same month last year was negative 0.84 percent. For seven months, revenues are \$141.1 million more than the estimate and the year-to-date growth rate is 1.4 percent. However, adjusting for an unexpected one-time payment received last year, the underlying growth rate is 19.55 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel reve-

nues for February increased by 3.58 percent compared to February 2015 and were \$5.2 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$67.5 million. For seven months revenues have exceeded estimates by \$19.9 million. Tobacco taxes were \$0.8 million less than the February budgeted estimate of \$19.5 million. For seven months they are \$8.4 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were \$1.2 million more than the February estimate. On a year-to-date basis revenues are \$9.3 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege taxes were \$2.3 million more than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through February, revenues are \$14.9 million more than the estimate. Business taxes were \$2.3 million more than the February estimate. For seven months revenues are \$2.9 million more than the budgeted

All other taxes exceeded estimates by a net of \$1 million.

Year-to-date revenues for seven months were \$439 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$407.1 million more than budgeted estimates and the four other funds \$31.9 million.

See more at: https://www.tn.gov/finance/news/

## State ridesharing laws regulate services

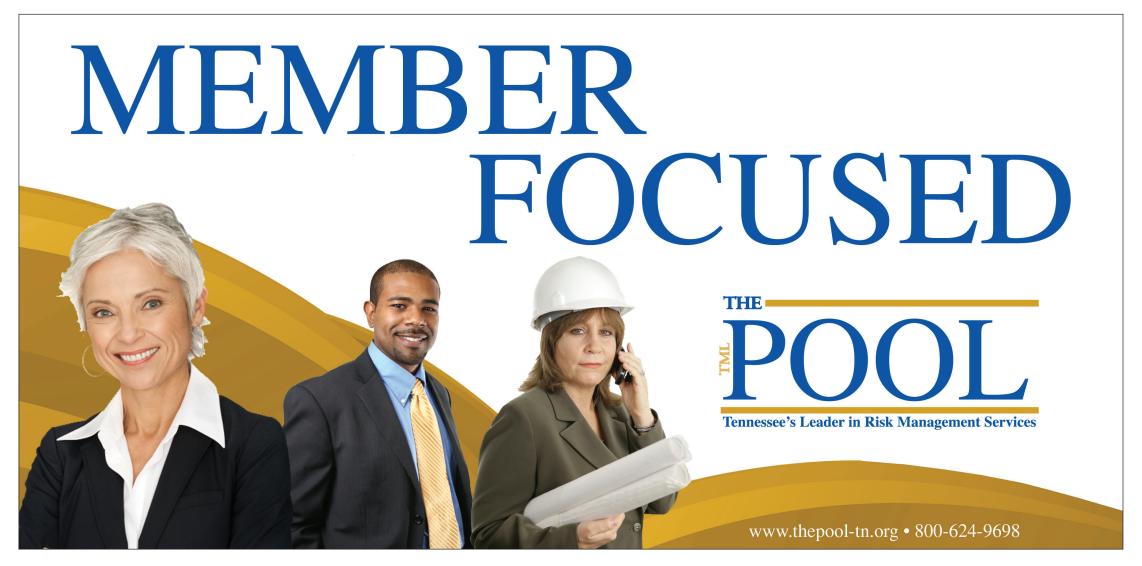
The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) reminds consumers to be aware of new state regulations governing ridesharing networks and their drivers.

Tennessee's ridesharing legislation was enacted to eliminate both consumer and regulator questions regarding these increasingly popular services while providing appropriate guidance for the ridesharing companies, their drivers, and riders. The regulations took effect Jan. 1, 2016.

All ridesharing companies and/ or their drivers operating in Tennessee must follow these regulations:

- Drivers must maintain primary auto coverage that recognizes the driver as a Transportation Network Company (TNC) driver.
- When logged on to the app but not engaged in a prearranged ride, the driver must have primary auto liability insurance of at least 50/100/25.
- When the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride, driver must have primary auto liability insurance for death, bodily injury, and property.
- If an accident occurs and the driver does not have coverage, the company is required to provide coverage.
- Drivers must carry proof of coverage and are prohibited from transacting their business in cash.
- The TNC must provide a picture of the driver and license plate
- Maintain two years of records.

For more information, contact our Consumer Insurance Services Division at (615) 741-3805.





## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Carole Graves, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: cgraves@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

#### 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. 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, 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 posses 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, stormwater, 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 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

### 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. 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 <u>www.cityofwhitehouse.com</u> 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. Starting compensation: \$14.50 - \$17.66 per hour or \$30,160.00 - \$36,732.80 per year DOE. Application Deadline: Open until filled. EOE.

#### POLICE CHIEF GREENFIELD

The city of Greenfield is accepting resumes for the position of Police Chief. A job description and benefits package are available upon request. Compensation DOQ, the city of Greenfield participates in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Resumes may be submitted to: Dana Deem, MTAS Management Consultant, 605 Airways Blvd, Suite 109, Jackson, TN. 38301, Dana.deem@tennessee.edu Deadline for submission is May 13, 2016.

### POLICE OFFICER

LEWISBURG. The city of Lewisburg is accepting applications for police officers through April 15, 2016. Certified applicants preferred. Applications may be obtained at Lewisburg City Hall, 131 East Church Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For a copy of job description or application questions please contact Pam Davis, city recorder at 931-359-1544 or pam. davis@lewisburgtn.gov. The city of Lewisburg is a EOE and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST OAK RIDGE. The city of Oak Ridge

is currently seeking applicants for

a public affairs specialist. Primary responsibilities include: Coordinates media requests, press releases, website content, social media and assists city departments with communications requests. Assists with development and implementation of communications and social media policies. Attends some scheduled city meetings; provides information regarding city activities; gathers information and assists when City action is needed or desired. Researches policy issues and prepares newsletters and reports. Provides administrative support to Information Services staff, including preparation of payroll. Participates in special committees as directed. Participates in emergency response training exercises and related activities. On occasion, must be able to work after normal business hours and on weekends. Performs other related duties as assigned. Bachelor's degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or related field; two years administrative, communication and/ or public affairs experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of journalistic principles and practices as they relate to writing and editing public information materials and professional correspondence. Strong written and oral communication skills, as well as a solid knowledge of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Ability to manage multiple projects at the same time and meet deadlines. Proficiency in standard office and graphic design software. Knowledge of city policies and procedures. Skill in evaluating problems and proposing solutions. Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with associate personnel, other City employees and the general public. Must possess Tennessee Driver's license. Must pass background/security check. Individuals interested in this position must have a completed application form on file in the Personnel Department by 12 noon on Friday, April 29, 2016. Salary range (\$40,830 - \$51,033 per year. The city of Oak Ridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SOMERVILLE. The town of Somerville is now accepting applications and resumes for a public works director. The public works director is responsible for managing and directing the GIS, Gas, Water, Wastewater, Lagoon, Solid Waste and Streets Departments as well as the Cemetery and Utility Billing. Duties include establishing gas rates, managing current projects, designing new projects by working

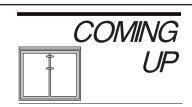
with engineers and architects, designing and creating specifications for smaller projects, budgeting, administering and managing utility projects, purchasing, employee scheduling and relations, coordinating all departments and presenting ideas and projects to the board for approval. Familiarity with GIS, AMI Meter Reading, and Microsoft Office is a must. Applicants must have at least five years public utility management experience. A bachelor's degree in a related field is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Interested applicants may send a resume to rturner@somervilletn. gov or mail it to Town of Somerville, 13085 N. Main St., Somerville, TN 38068. A more detailed job description is available on our website at www. somervilletn.org. We will be accepting applications and/or resumes for this position through April 29, 2016.

### 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@cityofathenstn.com EOE.

### SENIOR PLANNER

MARYVILLE. The city of Maryville is seeking an experienced professional to fill the position of Senior Planner. Responsible for managing the planning program of the city; this position will assist with the effort to update the city's land use plan and zoning ordinance. Reports to Director of Development Services. Master's degree in planning, public administration or a related field or equivalent; AICP certification and supervisory experience required. Hiring range: \$61,376 - \$80,527 DOE plus an excellent benefits package. Deadline to apply: Friday, April 15. Applications are available at the City of Maryville Municipal Center, Human Resources, 400 W. Broadway or on our website www.maryvillegov.com). Nepotism policy prohibits hiring relatives of City employees. EOE. Maryville is a progressive city of approximately 30,000 residents, and is located 15 miles south of Knoxville. Marvville has received widespread recognition for its local school system, its parks and recreational facilities, and its overall quality of life. The city has a diverse economic base, including manufacturing, healthcare, retail and office, and education and government. It is also the home of Maryville College. Maryville is the county seat of Blount County, and approximately one-fourth of the land area in the county lies within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



**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. For more information, contact Mike Walker at Walker@TNCMA.org.

**April 20-22 Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders Spring Conference** 

**Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro.** Preventing fraud, cybersecurity, budgeting, changes in FLSA, and a legislative update are among the topics to be discussed. For a complete agenda or to register go to: <a href="https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/">https://tamcar.wildapricot.org/</a> event-1948552

### May 18 - 21 2016 Women In Municipal **Government Summer Conference**

**Knoxville Convention Center** The meeting will include sessions that offer creative solutions for local leaders about women in business, handling the political media, coping with gridlock in Washington, DC, women's health issues, corporate giving, and the future of metropolitan planning organizations and grassroots influences. All NLC members and colleagues with an interest in women and family issues in their communities are all welcome to attend. For more information or to register, go to www.NLC.org

## **UT-MTAS APRIL MAP CLASSES**

### CUSTOMER SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT

This course is designed to assist participants in developing or fine tuning customer service skills. Highlights will include identifying the customers that each of us serve, defining elements of positive customer service skills, analyzing barriers to delivering customer service, and how to overcome those barriers.

**Target Audience:** All Municipal Employees

### **Dates/Locations/Times:**

- **April 5: Memphis** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT **April 6: Jackson**
- 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. CDT
- April 7: Franklin 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT
- **April 13: Knoxville**
- 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. EDT
- **April 14: Collegedale** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT

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



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



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## Williamson County job growth among highest nationwide

According to the most recent report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and U.S. Department of Labor, Williamson County had the highest percentage of job growth compared to other large counties in the nation with an astounding 6.8 percent increase in job creation. That figure is more than three times higher than the national job growth rate of 1.9 percent. Many counties in the state

also experienced job growth well above the national average.

"We are excited to see job growth throughout the entire state of Tennessee," Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips said. "These numbers show that Tennessee is on the right track with nearly three million new jobs created over the last year."

In Williamson County, the larg-

est employment increase occurred in professional and business services, which gained 2,538 jobs during 2015, an 8.8 percent increase from the previous year.

Job growth in 2015 was strong in many counties across Tennessee. Shelby County saw the largest number of new jobs, followed by Williamson, Hamilton, Knox, and Rutherford counties.

In Tennessee from September

Employment in Large Counties					
September 2015 Employment		Increase in Employment September 2014-15		Percent increase in Employment September 2014-15	
Tennessee	2,847,811	Tennessee	72611	Tennessee	2.6
Shelby	483,636	Shelby	7,464	Williamson	6.8
Davidson	458,719	Williamson	7,437	Sevier	6.1
Knox	232,924	Hamilton	6,727	Sumner	5.7
Hamilton	194,842	Knox	5,301	Putnam	5.7
Rutherford	117,267	Rutherford	4,415	Wilson	5.1
Williamson	116,821	Sumner	2,740	Montgomery	4.9
Sullivan	68,723	Sevier	2,619	Blount	4.6
Washington	60,841	Montgomery	2,366	Rutherford	3.9
Madison	56,911	Blount	2,105	Hamilton	3.6
Montgomery	50,747	Putnam	1,875	Hamblen	3.3

Data from 2014 and 2015 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

2014 to September 2015, employment increased in 19 of the 20 largest Tennessee counties (counties with 25,000 or more jobs in 2014) creating a total of more than 2.7 million jobs throughout the state. Tennessee as a whole grew 2.6 percent over

the year, also above the national job growth rate.

The Tennessee average weekly wage increased 3.5 percent over the year, growing to \$865 a week in the third quarter of 2015. Davidson County had the largest over-the-year percentage increase in average

weekly wages with a gain of \$63 or 6.5 percent. Within Davidson County, an average weekly wage gain of \$128, or 13.5 percent, in management of companies and enterprises made the largest contribution to the county's increase in weekly wages.

# Sixth Circuit Court rules it has jurisdiction over WOTUS decision

**WOTUS** *from Page 1* appeals.

Judge McKeague noted that the WOTUS rule is definitional; it doesn't directly impose discharge limits or directly cause permits to be issued or denied. Nevertheless, he concluded that the Sixth Circuit has jurisdiction reasoning that "[o]ver the last 35 years . . . courts, including the Supreme Court and the Sixth Circuit, have favored a "functional" approach over a "formalistic" one in construing these provisions."

Concurring Judge Griffin also found appeals court jurisdiction concluding he was constrained by a Sixth Circuit case from 2009 *National Cotton Council v. EPA*, defining "issuing or denying any

permit" to include anything merely relating to permitting.

Dissenting Judge Keith argued that Judge Griffin read National Cotton too broadly and that it only applies to rules that "regulate" or "govern" the permitting process.

The coalition of states and other organizations suing EPA are likely to seek en banc review (ask all the judges in the Sixth Circuit to rehear and decide this case). If they don't seek en banc review or petition the Supreme Court to review the decision on jurisdiction, the Sixth Circuit will next decide whether to issue a permanent stay of the WOTUS rule.

Challenges to the WOTUS rule have been filed in federal district and appeals courts throughout the

country. While a number of district courts have ruled they don't have jurisdiction to decide the merits of the challenge to the WOTUS rule, a district court in North Dakota ruled it did and issued a stay of the rule. The Eleventh

Circuit had put ruling on jurisdiction on hold pending the Sixth Circuit decision.

It seems likely that the Supreme Court will ultimately decide either or both the questions of which court has jurisdiction and whether the EPA had authority to issue this rule. Justice Scalia was well-known for his hostility towards the EPA; so, the fate of the WOTUS rule ultimately may well rest in the hands of a currently unknown Supreme Court Justice.



## TENNESSEE

April 1-2: Jackson

Blues Hog BBQ and Music Festival held at the West Tennessee Farmers Market in Downtown Jackson. The festival will feature a Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned competition with up to 100 teams competing for the top prize. The event will also feature music acts with West Tennessee roots. For more information go to: <a href="http://blueshogb-bqandmusicfest.com/festival-information/">http://blueshogb-bqandmusicfest.com/festival-information/</a>

### April 14 - 16. Clarksville

Rivers & Spires. Held in historic downtown Clarksville, the festival draws more 38,000 people over three days. From country to jazz, international performers to children's dance groups this festival has every possible form of entertainment. For more information, go to http://www.riversandspires.com/

### April 28 – 30: Greeneville

The 24th annual Greeneville-Greene County Library Book Sale. Located in historic downtown Greeneville, more than 100,000 books will be for sale including current books, textbooks, and vintage finds. Proceeds from the sale go directly back into library for new books. Hours of operation and pricing are as follows:April 28, 2pm-8pm: hardbacks \$2, paperbacks \$1. April 29, 10am-8pm: hardbacks \$1, paperbacks \$.50 April 30, 8am-2pm: bag of books \$2\_406 N. Irish Street, Greeneville, TN 37745. More information can be found on the library's facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> GreenevilleGreene-County-Library -Book-Sale-184344778271585/ #greenevillebooksale

### May 21: Wartburg

Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival Don't miss out on the one of a kind event. The festival highlights the beautiful mountain laurel and its fairyland trails of color throughout Morgan County. The kickoff for the month long festival is May 21 at the Court House Square in Wartburg from 10 to 4 (EST) Activities for all ages planned. Guided walks, mountain and road biking, antique car show, quilt exhibits, food and craft vendors. KidsZone area featuring Tepee storytelling, radio control car racing course, climbing wall and nature safety instruction and practice. For more information visit <a href="http://">http://</a> www.tennesseemountainlaurelfestival.com/

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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.

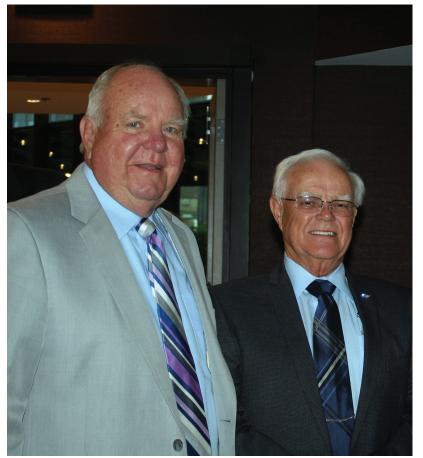
## City leaders attend TML Legislative Conference in Nashville



Bartlett Alderman Bobby Simmons and Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk



Franklin Alderman Pearl Bransford, Franklin Alderman Ann Peterson, McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore, and Franklin Alderman Margaret Martin.



Morristown Councilmember Tommy Pedigo and Sparta Alderman Hoyt Jones



Sevierville's Alderman Wayne Helton, Alderman Jim McGill, City Administrator Russell Treadway and Mayor Bryan Atchley



 $La Follette\,City\,Administrator\,Jimmy\,Jeffries\,and\,Vice\,Mayor\,Joe\,Bolinger$ 



Coopertown's Building Commissioner Vicky Bumgardner, Alderman Glen Guyor, City Recorder Kathy Smith, and Mayor Sam Childs



Kingsport's delegation included, left to right: Public Relations Director Heather Cook, City Manager Jeff Fleming, Alderman Colette George, Alderman Tommy Olterman, Vice Mayor Mike McIntire, Assistant City Manager Chris McCartt, Mayor John Clark, Alderman Michele Mitchell, City Attorney Mike Billingsley, and Alderman Darrell Duncan.

## City leaders attend TML Legislative Conference in Nashville



Jackson Councilmember Johnny Dodd and Milan Alderwomen Tammy Wade



Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright and Paris City Commissioner Sam Tharpe



Spring Hill City Administrator Victor Lay, Waynesboro City Manager John Hickman, Savannah Assistant City Manager Seth Sumner and Savannah City Manager Garry Welch



Bartlett Vice Mayor Jack Young and Mayor Keith McDonald



Collegedale City Commissioner Debbie Baker, Fairview Mayor Patti Carroll and Fairview City Manager Wayne Hall



East Ridge's Donna Cagle, Councilmember Jacky Cagle, Councilmember Denny Manning, and Shirley Manning



City officials representing Manchester at the conference included City Attorney Gerald Ewell Jr., Alderman Russell Bryan, Alderman Cheryl Swan, Finance Director Bridget Anderson, Citizen Liasion Terry Dendy, Executive Administrative Assistant Joy Ballard and Mayor Lonnie J. Norman.

## Thrive 2055 works with communities to build on arts, heritage

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Three Tennessee cities have been selected to participate in a regional economic development program aimed at boosting the economic future of communities in southeastern Tennessee, northeastern Alabama and northwestern Georgia.

Cleveland, Ducktown, and South Pittsburg were all selected to participate in the Thriving Communities Initiative, a volunteer-driven, public-private initiative working to engage local businesses, non-profits, government representatives, and citizens from the 16-County region of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia in economic development. The program, known locally as Thrive 2055, works with cities to create and execute a project.

#### **DUCKTOWN**

Ducktown Mayor James Talley said his city had already been working on projects for its downtown and community improvement when Thrive 2055 announced it was seeking applicants for the program. Talley said the program has helped the city better brand itself and work with the community.

"If we have learned anything, it's that community involvement is the main thing for these types of projects," he said. "Our community has been very supportive of this project. Like all communities, we have tried to plan and work through the process, but the hardest thing is finding funding for it. Money has to be spent on other necessities, but this gives us the opportunity to put things in place."

The funds were awarded by Thrive 2055, in partnership with the Lyndhurst Foundation, the Southeast Tennessee Development District, and ArtsBuild. Community selections were based on four criteria: community need, community impact, strength and professional diversity of the proposed team and probability of success. The course will be facilitated by Bridge Innovate, a Chattanooga firm that specializes in the emerging discipline of design thinking, a creative visioning process with tangible goals.

Upon successful completion of the course, each participating community is eligible to receive up to \$20,000 from the Lyndhurst Foundation to implement the project local leadership began working on during the three-month program.

Talley said Ducktown's project is focused on its mining heritage as well as the ecotourism provided by the surrounding Ocoee River and Cherokee National Forest.

"We are partnering with the Ducktown Basin Museum to develop and improve our tourist basis," he said. "We had a lot of discussion and through the classes with Bridge Innovation, Lyndhurst and the Thrive 2055, we worked through our assets to see what was a good starting point for us."

Ducktown is already starting on a streetscape project and roadscape project for its downtown area, and the city was accepted into the Tennessee Main Streets program last year. The Ducktown Basin Museum already highlights the area's history of copper production and the Burra Burra Mine site.

"We would like to put in place a long-range redevelopment plan our community can work from as a base," he said. "We are working on putting together stepping stones to work through over the next couple of years. We are blessed in that we have assets such as the tourist area, the mining heritage and the culture of the Appalachians"

The city is also hoping to provide new development on the former Kimsey Junior College site, Talley said. Constructed in 1933, the building was never used as a junior college but was the home of Ducktown High School between 1938 and 1956 as well as Ducktown Elementary School between 1938 and 2006.

Additionally, Talley said the city is looking into developing more ecotourism ventures using its natural resources.

"We have the Tanasi Trail system already in place in the Cherokee National Forest," he said. "We are adding some 30 miles of biking and walking trails to that over the next couple of years. That project is part of land reclamation. Those projects are a large part of our envi-



South Pittsburg's Princess Theater pictured in 1947, above, and in the present day, below. The contacts and resources provided through the Thrive 2055 initiative are helping city officials and local volunteers restore the historic movie house to its former glory. Originally constructed in 1921, the first film shown at the theater starred South Pittsburg native and silent screen comedienne Jobyna Ralston.

ronmental story and our ecotourism base. We believe that would help the community as well as make the area a tourist destination rather than just a day trip."

### **CLEVELAND**

Meanwhile, the city of Cleveland is working on an arts project to help draw visitors downtown. Cleveland senior planner Corey Divel has been working on behalf of the city with the Thrive 2055 initiative, and said the city is looking to combine downtown heritage, the arts and tourism together as part of the project they are developing called "Back Alley Galleries."

"We are taking our alleys downtown and turning them into places to explore," Divel said. "Rather than do a large-scale mural project, this helps keep the character of our downtown. The concept is utilizing doors and hanging them in the alleys and making them interactive. They may look like they lead into the building or have a lamppost, bench or potted plant beside them. Behind the door is a painting like what the building looked like or how it looks now or more abstract artwork."

Divel said the aim of the project is to encourage more people to explore downtown Cleveland and see what it has to offer.

"It fits with the character of the neighborhood, but encourages them to come downtown," he said. "It also gets people to walk around downtown, get exercise, look for the different doors, explore downtown and walk by the different businesses. We even talked about a scavenger hunt or geo caches at each door. We have a university that has grown south and is now right up against downtown, so we are hoping it will bring them downtown and bring some of that youthfulness and creativity they have."

Main Street Cleveland is sponsoring the project, and Divel said a local arts group has also expressed interest in participating in the project. City officials and those working with the Thrive 2055 initiative on Cleveland's behalf are hoping the gallery project will be a starting point for other downtown revitalization efforts.

Cleveland Planning Director Greg Thomas said the initiative has also provided a great opportunity for the city to meet, collaborate with and learn from other cities in the region.

"This has been an important planning pro-

cess looking at regionally significant resources, issues, and opportunities across a 16 county area covering portions of three states," Thomas said. "It has been a great opportunity to interact with and learn from many talented people around the region who are passionate for the good of their communities and for leveraging the best from regional resources like our highways, river systems, cultural resources, and economic growth that spreads its benefits across political boundaries."

The program has also put the city in contact with professionals who specialize in development and cultural projects.

"Working with a talented consultant team and interacting with our counterparts in other area communities, we are working to bring about economic development and community enrichment through a Cleveland-based arts project that we believe can be a centerpiece for downtown redevelopment," Thomas said.

### SOUTH PITTSBURG

For the city of South Pittsburg, the Princess Theater has been the focus of the Thriving Communities Initiative. The theater was opened in 1921 as the Imperial Theatre, and the first movie shown here was "Tank Town Follies" starring South Pittsburg native Jobyna Ralston. The theater was renamed the Palace in 1929 and then finally the Princess in 1934. It closed for the first time in 1963 and then operated on and off as a movie theater and church before fear of the building's collapse prompted local residents to save the structure.

Wendy Barrett, a market consultant with Imagelation Creations, is working with the city on the project and her company holds the lease on the theatre. Barrett said many South Pittsburg residents have personal connections to the Princess.

"Most citizens have memories of watching movies there," Barrett said. "We get grandparents all the time pointing to seats and telling their grandchildren 'that's where I met your grandmother' or talking about how they would pay 50 cents for a seat, popcorn and a Coke and sit in the balcony all day. This is such an important place for our community. Citizens have done a massive renovation to the Princess – I mean gutted the building – over a 10 year period. The theater is actually a multi-functional theater."

Barrett said the workshops she and others with the Princess project have participated in through Bridge Innovation and the Thrive 2055 initiative have been "incredible." The hope is the Princess' restoration will help revive the rest of downtown.

"Thrive has provided a think tank to hear the vision, hear the ideas and work them," she said. "They looked at a one-year vision, a three-year vision and a five-year vision. We have lots of empty, beautiful buildings in South Pittsburg. We have a beautiful community, but it's being underutilized. We want to change that."

Barrett said the initiative has helped them identify ways to find funds for the structural and equipment needs the theater has. She said the access to resources provided by those involved in Thrive has been monumental for the project. Officials with the initiative have helped point South Pittsburg officials toward other communities that have restored their own movie theaters.

The Princess has also provided an anchor for other arts programs downtown, such as concerts and exhibits. Barrett said the city works to engage local residents and school groups through the theater and other downtown activities. Barrett said goals for the Princess project include future renovations and providing rooms for performers who will grace the stage there.

The initiative has also brought communities from around the region closer together. Barrett said all of the communities involved have been supportive of each other throughout the process.

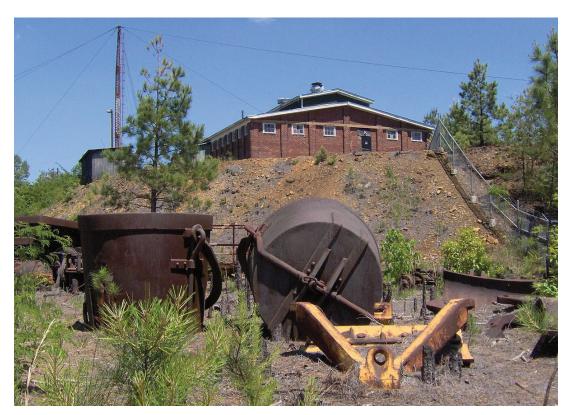
"The camaraderie, the sharing of ideas and the encouragement that has come out of this has been incredible," she said. "It's not been competitive. It has been about how we can work together, to send people to what you are doing and you can send folks to us. That's always refreshing."

In addition to the Tennessee cities chosen for the project, the municipalities of Chatsworth, Cohutta, Dalton, and Rossville in Georgia as well as Fort Payne, Ala., were all selected to participate in the Thrive 2055 program.

"We are thrilled at the overwhelming response received by communities interested in leveraging their arts and culture for heightened prosperity," said Bridgett Massengill, executive director of Thrive 2055. "The participants see this as a way to learn what resources are available and collaborate with neighboring towns across the region with successful projects and a common love for their communities and the arts."

Kathleen Nolte, program officer for the Lyndhurst Foundation, said arts and culture projects have long proven themselves to be important parts of positive economic change.

"We are truly excited by the positive response of communities who understand the potential of the arts to create vibrancy in their towns," Nolte said. "Arts and culture-based projects can bring communities together in really powerful ways."





Jill Barnett fills out a response form about the Back Alley Gallery project in downtown Cleveland, next to one of the doors being used to exhibit the gallery concept. City officials are looking into options such as geo caches or scavenger hunts to help promote interest in the project. (Photo by Joyanna Love, *Cleveland Daily Banner*).



The Burra Burra Mine, above, was a major mine site in Tennessee's Copper Basin and an important source of jobs for residents of Ducktown and other surrounding communities. It produced copper until 1987. Today, the mine site and equipment left abandoned there are part of the Ducktown Basin Museum.

The Ducktown Basin Museum, left, explores local history and the region's copper industry. City officials are using the Thriving Communities Initiative to help develop ecotourism based around the mine site and surrounding Cherokee National Forest. The city is also exploring potential uses for Kimsey Junior College, a building constructed in 1933 and used as a high school and elementary school until its closure in 2006.