



Gov. Bill Lee to speak at TML Legislative Conference

The Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to announce that Gov. Bill Lee will address our membership during TML's 2020 Legislative Conference.

He is scheduled to speak the morning of Tuesday, March 17, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Nashville.

Several other state leaders will join us including House Speaker Cameron Sexton, Senate State and Local Chairman Steve Dickerson, and House Local Chair John Crawford.

Also on the agenda are Comptroller Justin Wilson, TBI Director David Rausch, and TDOT Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer Paul Degges, who will update us on key issues taking place within their departments. We will also hear from the U.S. Census Bureau who will provide information on some on-line tools that are available to help each community with the count.

The two-day conference is an excellent opportunity to hear state leaders address the municipal is-



Gov. Bill Lee

sues currently being debated in the Tennessee General Assembly. The schedule also allows ample time to attend House and Senate floor sessions at the Capitol and committee hearings taking place at the Cordell Hull Building.

It's not too late to register. The online registration form can be found at: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TML1/2020TMLLegislativeConference>. Contact Sylvia Harris at sharris@tml1.org with any questions.

A prescription for a financially healthy city

BY JUSTIN P. WILSON
TN Comptroller of the Treasury

Financially responsible cities handle their money in the same way – the others botch up their finances in their own creative ways.

A city takes money from its citizens in the form of taxes and fees. In exchange, it provides essential services and improves quality of life. A well-governed city does this effectively and efficiently; making tough decisions to help its citizens prosper and enjoy their lives. Others stumble along. They choose what is convenient or politically popular that day and ignore the consequences of these decisions as they let the city slowly crumble.

At the Tennessee Comptroller's Office – with our responsibility to oversee city finances – we see both kinds. We've also developed clear guidance that we're providing to local governments across the state.

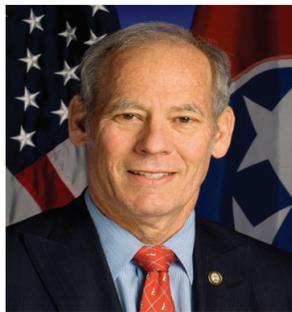
So what do we see in the budget in a well-governed city?

First, and most important, there is cash available to pay its bills when due. Sounds simple, but it's cold hard cash – not receivables, fund balances, anticipated revenue, promises, or expected receipts. Only cash buys groceries for your family or, likewise, pays salaries for city employees. The budget must contain adequate revenues, along with cash on hand, to fund the government throughout the year, and have plans in place to get more cash if something goes wrong, as it invariably will.

Next, the budget is structurally balanced. This means the money a city knows is coming in every year as recurring revenue (property taxes, sales taxes, wheel taxes) equals or exceeds the money a city spends each year as recurring expenses (salaries, debt payments, utilities).

If a government relies on revenue that doesn't always occur – like selling real estate or deferring necessary repairs – to meet ongoing expenses, it's effectively selling the furniture in its house to keep the heat on. You should use one-time revenue (non-recurring) for one-time expenses like capital investments, or just save it as reserves.

A sound budget plans for the unexpected. Stuff happens. Cutting it close is like getting on an airplane for a 3,000 mile trip with enough fuel for a 3,010 mile journey. This is why reserves are important. They should be built up in good times and available for use when needed. If a city does not have adequate reserves – and unfortunately many do not – RIGHT NOW is an excellent time to start. Seriously, if you don't, you're no better than a squirrel that doesn't put away some nuts in the



Justin P. Wilson

In an effort to help local governments prepare a more structurally balanced budget, the Comptroller's office has added a new resource page to its website: [Seven Keys to a Fiscally Well-Managed Government](http://www.tncot.cc/7keys). For more information visit www.tncot.cc/7keys

summer for a cold winter. And who wants to be a squirrel with no nuts?

Tomorrow is coming and the promises you made must be kept: debt payments, pension payments, and benefits for retired employees. If not provided for, these can become huge liabilities that can crowd out even the most essential services. But with careful planning and faithfully making regular payments toward these future obligations, these promises will be kept.

Even more goes into a well-thought-out budget: realistic forecasting, contingency spending plans, and multi-year financial planning. The budget is not some once-a-year-political-pie-in-the-sky-placeholder. It's a contract with your voters; and to be truly effective, it should look well beyond one year.

The governing bodies of Tennessee's cities have awesome responsibilities. Each must decide what level of services the city will provide for its citizens, and then be willing to raise the money to pay for them. No matter how much money is available, there are always two constants – worthy needs that cannot be met, and taxes that seem too high. There is no magic answer about what the level of service or what the proper level of taxes should be. That decision is ultimately up to the elected officials, and officials who refuse to make tough decisions necessary for a sound budget shirk the reason they were elected, and jeopardize their cities' future.

Tennessee's economy is booming, particularly in its urban areas, so there is no better time to get our cities' finances in order. Our citizens expect nothing less.

Municipalities lend support as tornado recovery efforts continue

By KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Communities across Tennessee are banding together after a series of tornados and severe weather events occurred.

The National Weather Service reported preliminary surveys indicated an EF-2 tornado with winds of 125 miles per hour hit Benton and Carroll counties.

A second tornado also trailed more than 50 miles across Davidson, Wilson, and Smith counties, starting as an EF-2 tornado with winds between 125 and 130 miles per hour hit portions of North Nashville including the Germantown neighborhood and John C. Tune Airport. The storm turned into an EF-3 storm with winds between 136 and 140 miles per hour as it hit East Nashville and an EF-3 storm with winds between 160 and 165 miles per hour hit the Donelson area of the city.

The tornado continued through the city of Mt. Juliet with winds between 155 and 160 miles per hour then on to Lebanon and ended near Gordonsville.

A third tornado struck Cookeville and other communities in Putnam County. The National Weather Service determined an EF-4 tornado with peak winds of 175 miles per hour struck Cookeville.

As a result of the storms, 25 Tennesseans were confirmed dead by the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

A total of 18 were killed in Putnam County, one of whom was an employee of the city of Cookeville.



The famed "I Believe In Nashville" mural remains standing in East Nashville even though the business to which it is attached, the Basement East, was destroyed. The mural became a symbol of the city and Tennessee's spirit of recovery following the storms.

Additionally, two were reported dead in Nashville, two in Mt. Juliet, two in Lebanon, and one in Camden.

After the storm, 88 people were treated for injuries at Cookeville Regional Medical Center and 150 treated at hospitals in Nashville. Initially, 77 people were reported missing in Putnam County in the storm's wake. It took three days before all were accounted for.

Gov. Bill Lee described the event as both "heartbreaking" and "incredible" in its magnitude and response.

"I am proud of the response that has been made from our officials, from TEMA, from Metro Nashville, and from the other counties affected," Lee said. "The officials and

boots on the ground first responders have been inspiring... I have visited with folks who are helping their neighbors left and right all throughout this state. In the worst of circumstances the best of people come out and that is what we are seeing in Tennessee."

Nashville Mayor John Cooper thanked the governor and state agencies for their quick response to the city's needs. He also thanked the more than 5,000 individuals and numerous local companies who signed up to volunteer with recovery efforts.

"My administration is committed to matching the courage and strength of spirit shown by the tornado," See **RECOVERY** on Page 5

Helicopter aquatic rescue team brings together Nashville FD, THP, and Army National Guard

By KATE COIL

The Nashville Fire Department is teaming up with the Tennessee Army National Guard (TANG) and Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) to create two new helicopter technical rescue teams that can be deployed statewide.

The Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (TN-HART) and current Helicopter Technical Rescue Team will be staffed by members of each of the three agencies. TN-HART will be used to deploy into the "harshest environments" and help citizens in need across Tennessee.

Nashville Fire Department Special Ops Captain Michael Armstead said the idea was first proposed by officials with the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) as part of ongoing partnerships the agency has with the Nashville Fire Department.

"We have been working with Tennessee Highway Patrol for six years now, and have a partnership with them going back to the 1970s that was more unofficial," Armstead said. "About a year and a half ago, we started looking into the possibility of a helicopter rescue team with THP. Some of our friends in the Army National Guard heard what we were doing and offered to help with training, financing the team, and so forth. It has turned into a combined project."

NFD will be supplying two fire fighters teams to work alongside THP and Army National Guard officials.

"The teams will consist of two special ops companies here with the Nashville Fire Department, Station 12 and Station 22," Armstead said. "Our Station 12 is more well-rounded special operations company in that they do HazMat/CBRNe and technical rescue programs while Station 22 is specifically a swift water and water rescue group. With the TN-HART team, the aircraft will be managed by the Army Guard. Once the program is at 100% there will be five aircrafts dedicated to the TN-HART mission from TANG. They will provide the pilot and the crew to help assist us in rescue efforts. With the Highway Patrol, they have a trooper who flies the helicopter who has a crew chief that is another state trooper. Two of



Members of the Nashville Fire Department and Tennessee Army National Guard (TANG) train as part of the new Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (TN-HART) that will be used in emergency situations across the state.

our rescuers will also be on board with that team. Everybody talking and working together makes it a lot smoother transition into a bona fide team."

Armstead said the HART team will be based out of the National Guard location near the Nashville Airport.

"Both of Station 12 and Station 22 are located within less than five minutes from where the helicopters are at Nashville International Airport and the State Highway Patrol has an office there as well across the street from TANG," Armstead said. "You couldn't have planned it better. It's like it's been waiting to happen."

The partnership also has other benefits for all three agencies involved.

"Putting people through this type of training costs a lot of money, and we've been able to get this training through the Army Guard for free," Armstead said. "When we get the training and all the certifications through them, we won't have to do the same with Highway Patrol. It will save both the fire department and highway patrol resources."

There are numerous situations for which the team could

be deployed ranging from difficult-to-reach accident sites to major natural disasters.

"You don't have to look back more than a few years to see the floods that Nashville had. We could have used this tool a lot during that time," Armstead said. "We weren't able to get boats into places to rescue people, and so some people were stranded for a while. Just for the Nashville area alone that would be a great help. Just as recently as last year we had a logger at the north end of Davidson County who was pinned. It wasn't a critical situation, but he was trapped. We had to hike in to rescue him. If you do your duty and diligence, you are going to prepare for the eventual earthquake on the New Madrid Fault. Without this program, we might have relied on other states to come to our aid. With this program, we can be a lead on this. We expect bridges between here and Memphis to be compromised in a situation like that. We can be deployed in natural disasters. There are also incidents with flash flooding."

One of team's greatest assets is to get into places that other types of transport might not be able to safely negotiate.

See **HART** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ATOKA

The town of Atoka was ranked one of America's 50 Best Cities to Live by financial news and commentary website 24/7 Wall Street. The town received its ranking due to its 6.7% increase in population over the past five years, its median household income of \$91,228, and its five-year average unemployment rate of 2%. The town's strong job market, average income being above the national average, and low crime rate were also factors in it making the list.

BRENTWOOD

One of the last remaining farms in Brentwood is on track to become the newest municipal park. The owners of Windy Hill, located off Old Smyrna Road, are in talks with city officials to turn 52 acres of the property into a passive city park for a purchase price of \$5.2 million. The remaining 38 acres of the property – including a historic home built in 1825, private pond, and outbuildings – will be placed into a conservation easement ensuring the protection of all 90 acres of land. Family members wanted the city to turn the property into a park rather than allow it to be developed commercially. Brentwood would fence and landscape the property until such a time as a park can be developed.

CHATTANOOGA

The city of Chattanooga is looking to make municipal data more transparent through a new website. The ChatData website was released in conjunction with National Open Data Day and will include data sets from the city ranging from assessments of employees eligible for retirement or the traffic at a given intersection, to purchasing and contract information. The publicly-accessible website will include an "open checkbook" that will serve as a register of expenditures by the city. The city will also be holding workshops to help sure both municipal employees and citizens are trained in how to access and interpret the available information.

CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen Chattanooga will hire 600 more employees as part of an \$800 million expansion to increase the assembly of SUVs at the factory. Higher sales of the seven-seat Atlas SUV coupled with the assembly of the new five-seat Atlas Cross Sport SUV have led the German-based company's sales, bolstering production needs. The Chattanooga plant is also preparing to build the new battery-powered SUV with a roll out planned for 2022. At present, Chattanooga's Volkswagen plant employs 3,800 workers and the new hires will push the company well over 4,000 employees. Starting wages for new employees will be \$19 an hour with much of the new hires joining second and third shifts.

CHURCH HILL

The city of Church Hill has approved the construction of a new splash pad for the city's Derrick Park. The Church Hill Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously to approve a \$280,590 bid from Vortex Aquatic Systems to install a flow-through splash pad at the park as part of a major redesign. The splash pad is expected to be complete by early June. Water flow at the splash pad will only be activated on a button-timer system that will save water. Other construction projects planned for Derrick Park include the addition of new playground equipment compliant with

the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the relocation of some existing playground equipment closer to the parking area and restrooms. Plans have also been discussed for new shelters, increased parking, and the addition of a bandstand.

COLUMBIA

Columbia Mayor Chaz Molder has created a new Litter Task Force to demonstrate the contribution of consolidated and sustainable waste management for local citizens as well as promoting keeping the city litter-free. The goal of the task force is to educate the public about correct disposal of trash as well as come up with creative solutions for litter abatement and city beautification. The committee will include City Council Member Tony Greene, Public Works Director Jeff DeWire, Assistant Police Chief Jeremy Alsop, and four volunteer citizens.

CLEVELAND

The city of Cleveland has partnered with Life Force Air Medical, a part of the AirMedCare Network, to provide life-saving emergency airlift services to municipal residents. Anyone living inside of Bradley County is eligible for the service, which is made possible by a contract with the company and the city. Cleveland residents insured at the time of flight will have no out-of-pocket expenses for utilizing the program and may be picked up anywhere in the country. There is also a discounted rate available for those city residents without insurance at the time of the flight.

FAYETTEVILLE

Five buildings in downtown Fayetteville will soon receive updates, thanks to funds generated from the 2019 Slawburger Festival hosted by FLC Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and Fayetteville Main Street. The "Revitalization and Beautification" Grant seeks to encourage building owners and tenants to invest in properties located within the Fayetteville Main Street district. The intent is to stimulate building improvements while being mindful of the historical significance and uniqueness of this district. Recipients of the 2019 grant include Lawson's Department Store, Lincoln County Warrior Exhibit, Loft at Market + Main, Maximum Promotional & Printing, and The Local Café. Recipients of the grant contribute a minimum of 50% of the total cost of the renovation project. With the \$10,000 allocation from grant program, downtown Fayetteville could see a total of \$20,000 in reinvestment.

GALLATIN

A new kayak launch will make it easier and safer for visitors and residents to enjoy the waters of Liberty Branch. A coordinated effort between the city of Gallatin, Gallatin Morning Rotary Club, and Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association helped create the new launch at Gallatin's Rotary Park at Liberty Branch. The new launch in Gallatin is the 26th such project the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association has been involved in with communities across Middle Tennessee since 2006. Gallatin's Rotary Park began as a parcel of land leased to the city by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2014. The Gallatin Morning Rotary Club worked to open the park and, along with the city, have future projects planned for the area including pavilions, picnic tables, and grills.

GATLINBURG

The Gatlinburg Utilities Department has begun a new water meter improvement project designed to replace approximately 2,500 of the city's 3,300 active water meters. The city will be working with contractor Vanguard Utility Service to upgrade meters to a more advanced technology. This will better impact the local environment and help the city accurately and efficiently serve the needs of cities. The meters operate on a wireless communication system that makes data obtained more efficient. It also allows for faster and more accurate responses to customers. It will also eliminate the dependence on fossil fuels for meter-reading activities. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May.

LENOIR CITY

The second phase of improvements to Lenoir City's Central Park will soon begin, adding a splash pad and new pavilion to the facility. The city received a \$500,000 grant with a 50% local match from the Local Parks and Recreation Fund in August 2018 to finance improvements to the \$1 million project. Small donations and contributions to help match the grant have been filtering in since. A groundbreaking is planned for spring and construction is anticipated to be finished by Labor Day. The city is still considering themes for the splash pad and is working with architectural firm Michael Brady Inc. to determine final design. City officials hope the park will help attract more visitors to the downtown area.

MT. JULIET

Mt. Juliet's Town Center Greenway will soon connect to the Music City Star train station. The Regional Transportation Board (RTA) awarded the city with an up-to-\$2.1 million contract to Mutual Contractors to extend the station's parking lot and to extend the Mt. Juliet greenway path from Mt. Juliet Road to the train platform. The greenway will serve both as a walking path to connect commuters to the train station and as the area's trailhead for the local greenway. This will in turn connect the train station to the bicycle park on Fourth Avenue and South Greenhill Road.

MCEWEN

Accurate Energetic Systems (AES), LLC, will expand its operations in McEwen, investing approximately \$9.7 million and creating 80 jobs. The company will modernize and expand its Tennessee operations at its current 1,300-acre site that features a full lab and test range. Founded in 1980, AES develops, manufactures and supplies a wide range of explosives for the defense, aerospace, mining, oil and gas industries.

NEWPORT

Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen has accepted a lease agreement between the city and Walters State Community College, moving toward establishing a campus of the college in Newport's Tanner Building. The city has been hoping to establish a new campus for several years and new space in the Tanner Building recently became available, thanks in part to renovations to the building made by the city through an Appalachian Regional Commission grant. Officials lauded the project as one that would not only bring more opportunity and economic development to Newport but also to surrounding areas of Cocke County.

OAK RIDGE

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (TVSFPE) presented the Oak Ridge Fire Department with a \$7,500 contribution for the Side-by-Side Fire Sprinkler Demo burn trailer that was provided by the National Fire Sprinkler Association. After each fire demonstration, repairs must be made to each cell and the side without the sprinkler system must also be refurbished. The fire department will use the contribution to go towards rebuilding and buying supplies for the trailer. This fire education prop emphasizes the importance of working smoke alarms, fire sprinkler systems, closing interior doors, and much more. The trailer was provided in partnership with the National Fire Sprinkler Association. The National Fire Sprinkler Association is the "voice" of the fire sprinkler system and advocate of protecting lives and property. For more information on the National Fire Sprinkler Association, visit their website at nfsa.org

WATERTOWN

The town of Watertown will soon have a new playground at the Three Forks Community Park. A group from the class of Leadership Wilson donated the remaining \$87,415 needed to finance the park. Other funds were raised through an anonymous \$8,200 donations and more than \$3,000 raised in donation boxes around downtown Watertown. Playground equipment will be installed at the park in mid-

Collierville celebrates town's 150th anniversary



From left to right, Collierville Parks and Recreation Director Greg Clark, Mayor Stan Joyner, and Town Administrator James Lewellen help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the town's incorporation. Citizens gathered on Feb. 17 to celebrate the town's incorporation in 1870, paying tribute to major moments in the town's history from the Civil War to the yellow fever epidemic to the local railroads that were travelled by World War II soldiers on their way to the front and back home again.

Winchester Fire Department opens new city fire station



From right to left, Fireman Terry Derryberry, Fireman Jason Montgomery, and Fire Chief Gary Greeson show off Winchester's new Fire Station No. 1. The \$2.5 million facility has been six years in the making and was open to the public on March 1, the same day as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Winchester's first full-time fire department. The fire department previously operated out of a station at city hall. The new facility has 8,900 square feet of space – more than double the previous station – and has bay doors making it easier to move firetrucks. The new location also provides more centralized coverage for the entire city.

Brentwood residents bid happy retirement to K9 Lexie



Citizens of Brentwood gathered to thank K9 Officer Lexie for her service to the city at a retirement party held at the John P. Holt Library. Lexie has been partnered with Brentwood Police Officer Steve Holder since 2012 and previously served with Detective Mike Brady. Lexie will spend her retirement with Holder and his family. Lexie's position will be succeeded by K9 Officer Pax who completed training at the end of January 2020.

Six cities receive Convention South Readers' Choice Awards

Six municipal tourism agencies have been selected as recipients of *ConventionSouth* magazine's annual Readers' Choice Awards.

The winners were featured in the 2019 December Annual Awards issue published by the meeting industry magazine

The Chattanooga Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Gatlinburg

Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism, Sevierville Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Visit Franklin, and Visit Knoxville were all among the tourism entities honored in the publication.

Greeneville's General Morgan Inn and Conference Center was also given an honorable mention in the awards.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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Helicopter aquatic rescue team brings together Nashville FD, THP, and Army National Guard



Members of one of the TN-HART teams after a training exercise. The two teams will be used to tackle emergency situations in locations often difficult to navigate by traditional means.

HART from Page 1

“With the Appalachian Trail, both federal and state parks, and places like that we could use services like this. We can fly from Nashville and be in those areas in an hour,” Armstead said. “The HART program is a state deployable asset. The governor signed off on it, and if other states have a need, they can request to use the team from TEMA through EMAC process. We could be deployed anywhere in Tennessee, and anywhere in the U.S. and or territories. Tennessee is surrounded by eight states, so geographically speaking we can do a lot of good with just our location alone for our neighbors.”

For Armstead, the best part of the program is the cooperation between different levels of government and government agencies.

“Personally, I am excited that we have all these heads of government coming together to make this

work,” he said. “We have Gov. Bill Lee, Tennessee Adjutant Gen. Jeff Holmes, Tennessee Highway Patrol Col. Dereck Stewart, Commissioner of Safety Jeff Long, TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan, Nashville Mayor John Cooper, and Nashville Fire Department Director-Chief William Swann all on board. All these people with all their busy schedules felt this was important to work on. I am proud we were able to have all those people participate and agree this is a good thing not just for Tennessee but the country. In today’s world of tight budgets for everybody, we can all pitch in a little and get a great product that helps the citizens of Tennessee. That is priority one over everything. Everyone believes and agrees with that mission. It is good to utilize all the resources we have at our fingertips and put this product together to help the citizens of our states and other states as well.”

TML awards CMFOs scholarship funds

Five Certified Municipal Finance Officers (CMFO) have been awarded scholarship funds from the Tennessee Municipal League to help offset training expenses.

Marsha Marshall, Kingston city clerk; Michelle Kelley, Kingston finance director; Jeannie Anderson, Niota city recorder; Stacy Harbin, Rutledge finance director; and Robin Ruiz, Tazewell city recorder; will all receive \$400 for reimbursement for course fees and travel-related expenses incurred while maintaining certification in the required program.

All of the recipients are current with their training hours according to the Office of the Comptroller and paid their own way without being reimbursed by their city employer.

In order to become a CMFO, city finance employees are required to complete an 11-course curriculum designed to ensure competence in the handling of municipal funds and the protection of public moneys. Courses include internal control and audit, government accounting, and payroll, benefits, and pensions. The 11 courses are completed in sequence, with an exam after each course. After completing the curriculum and achieving a passing grade on each exam, candidates are eligible to receive CMFO certification.

The money for the scholarship funds was raised through the first annual Tennessee Municipal League CMFO Golf Outing organized during TML’s Annual Conference in Memphis June 2019. The second annual golf tournament is planned for the upcoming conference in Chattanooga on Sunday, June 28.



Marsha Marshall
Kingston City Clerk



Michelle Kelley
Kingston Finance Director



Jeannie Anderson
Niota City Recorder



Stacy Harbin
Rutledge Finance Director

In addition to the golf tournament, TML plans to offer several conference sessions that will meet the continuing education requirements for CMFO training. Workshop sessions will begin on Saturday, June 27, and continue through Monday, June 29.

More information on CMFO workshops and how to register for the golf outing will be distributed later this month with other annual conference materials.

TML will open the scholarship application process to CMFO’s in late 2020 for the next set of awards.



Robin Ruiz
Tazewell City Recorder

Hometowns of Tennessee’s three presidents highlighted in new trail

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A new historical trail aims to highlight the lives, careers, and hometowns of the three U.S. presidents from Tennessee.

The Tennessee Presidential Trail officially opened on Presidents’ Day, connecting sites in Columbia, Greeneville, and Nashville related to Presidents Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. Sites on the trail include the James K. Polk Home and Museum in Columbia, the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Cemetery in Greeneville, and three Nashville locations: Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage, the Tennessee State Museum, and the Tennessee State Capitol.

The trail was spearheaded by Columbia Tourism and Marketing Director Kellye Murphy, working in partnership with officials from the two other presidential home sites and the state museum.

“This has been a project in the making since I came to work with the city of Columbia in 2017,” Murphy said. “When I came here, I was totally in awe of our amazing downtown, and I was especially excited to see that Columbia was the home of President James K. Polk. We are fortunate to have such rich presidential history right here in Columbia. It just made sense to share that history statewide. I thought why not approach our other two presidential homes – Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage and the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Cemetery – about that. The folks with both sites were very receptive. It just took time to build. We couldn’t help but bring in but bring in the other two key partners: the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Capitol.”

David Foster, superintendent of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville, said he and the National Park Service were excited to partner with the other sites for the trail.

“When Kellye Murphy first broached the idea with us and the other sites, we were obviously excited to do anything we can to highlight our towns and our sites,” Foster said. “It’s important to be able to tell these stories. The presidential trail just helps connect people. Someone may come to the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site who didn’t know that the homes of Andrew Johnson and James K. Polk are just four hours away. It’s a way we can educate



Residences of Tennessee’s three presidents are now part of the new Tennessee Presidential Trail, a new historic trail that highlights the lives and careers of the three men from Tennessee elected to the nation’s highest office. **Top Left:** The Hermitage in Nashville was the home of President Andrew Jackson from 1804 until his death at the home in 1845. **Bottom Left:** The James K. Polk House and Museum in Columbia was constructed in 1816 by Samuel Polk and was the residence of his son, 11th president James K. Polk, for six years. After the home owned by Polk and his wife Sarah Childress Polk in Nashville was demolished, many of the items owned by the president were donated to the museum in Columbia, his hometown. **Bottom Right:** The Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Cemetery in Greeneville includes two of the 17th president’s homes, his tailor shop, and the cemetery where Johnson, his wife First Lady Eliza McCordle Johnson, and their family members are buried.

people about all the sites.”

Murphy said the trail is a way to both guide visitors on a unique travel experience.

“Trails are really popular right now, and what better way to experience Tennessee’s presidential history,” she said. “We packaged it and created a fully immersed experience for people who came to the state. We have to think about it from a visitor’s perspective. Having three presidents who called this state home is impressive, and people who are truly interested in presidential history would consider this trail very significant and take it on. The trail is to inspire travel.”

Ashley Howell, executive director of the Tennessee State Museum, said the museum will be working closely with the three homes. Visitors can also see artifacts related to all three presidents at the museum, including a famous 1817 painting of Jackson.

“Tennessee has a rich presidential history, and we encourage residents and tourists to take advantage of the many resources available right here in Tennessee to learn more about that history,” Howell said. “The State Museum, the State Capitol and the three historic sites on the Presidential Trail make for a remarkable start on that journey.”

Visitors coming to the presidential sites will also be encouraged to check out the three presidential hometowns. Two of the presidential homes are within the area’s downtown with Polk’s home adjacent to downtown Columbia and the Johnson historic site located a block from Main Street in Greeneville.

“Our goal is to have people come to Columbia,” Murphy said. “They are here for a presidential experience, and while they are here we want them to visit downtown.

We want them to fall in love and come back for other events. There is so much they can do in the area. If they go beyond Columbia, that’s great too. We want to attract more people to the state. Each of the homes keep the experience fresh and has rotating exhibits. You can absolutely come back to each place and see something new.”

Amy Rose, public relations manager with Greeneville, said the trail gives visitors a chance to learn more about the town’s most famous resident. Johnson’s first political offices included serving as an alderman and mayor of Greeneville.

“We welcome visitors along this new trail to our presidential town where they can learn more about Andrew Johnson’s childhood, education, work as a tailor, and the numerous political offices he held,” Rose said. “It’s a fascinating story.”

Foster said a lot of visitor’s

come to the town because they want to explore Johnson’s legacy and end up getting to see the downtown as well.

“Johnson started his political career here and went on to hold basically every political office from alderman through president,” Foster said. “There are only 45 folks in history that have held the office of president. It is a big deal. It’s an anchor for the community and a draw for tourism. I work for the federal government, but I know the town of Greeneville and the folks here take pride in his legacy. We average about 55,000 visitors a year. For us, it’s great to partner both with the town of Greeneville and the other two sites.”

The trail also brings together officials who work in similar historical fields and oversee similar museums. Murphy said the trail has served to help staffers at each site connect with each other and engage in cross-promotion.

“They all talk the same language, and have a lot of the same challenges in terms of marketing themselves and their marketing budget,” she said. “One of the challenges for us was how to market the Polk home on a limited budget. We are able to do that by bringing them together with the other two sites. There is power in numbers, and all the sites can have a greater voice marketing themselves as a whole.”

Foster said it is valuable to connect with fellow professionals.

“It’s a learning experience for all of us to see what the other sites are doing,” he said. “Sometimes we see something they are doing and think it would work well for us. It’s a great networking piece for us. We are looking forward to the continued collaborations, sharing of ideas, and highlighting events each site has coming up. I really think it shows Tennessee’s rich history, and its rich history of leadership.”

Ultimately, Murphy said the goal is to grow the trail and find new ways to showcase Tennessee’s presidential history.

“We want to continue to promote the trail and find new and exciting ways to promote the trail,” she said. “We are finding other ways to work together, including discounted rates and promotions. The future is wide open for this particular project.”

To learn more about the Tennessee Presidential Trail, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TNPresidentialTrail.





PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ed Carter, executive director for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has announced that he will retire effective May 31. Carter took on his role as head of the TWRA in 2009, but began his career with the state in 1972. Over the years, he has held positions in TWRA's divisions of law enforcement, information, and education as well as serving as TWRA Region II assistant manager and the organization's first chief of the boating division when it was formed in 1990. Carter is one of only two executive directors to helm TWRA since its creation in 1978.



Ed Carter

Law School and as a field representative for former U.S. Rep. Lincoln Davis. Hickman holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt University and a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. She obtained her municipal clerk certification from the state of Tennessee in 2017.



Mary Beth Hickman

II. Sandy earned her certification as a Tennessee Municipal Clerk and Recorder in 2017 from the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders.

Robert Rayburn, event coordinator for the city of La Vergne, has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Southeast Festival and Events Association (SFEA). Rayburn was voted in by members of the board at the annual conference at Muscle Shoals, Alabama on Feb. 25. Twelve members serve on the SFEA Board of Directors. Board members are selected by a nomination committee before the board makes a final determination by voting.



Robert Rayburn

Fannie Holmes has retired after 30 years of service to the state of Tennessee. Holmes began her career in 1971 with the Tennessee Department of Education's ISSD, which merged with the state's Department of Finance and Administration the following year. In 1983, she left the state briefly to develop the computer operation division for the private company ENVOY, returning to the state when the company moved to Florida. Holmes then began work as a manager in revenue processing in the State Department of Revenue. In her retirement, Holmes plans to teach classes at her alma mater, Tennessee State University.



Fannie Holmes

Gary Edwards, longtime alderman and former vice mayor of Erwin, has resigned from the Erwin Board of Mayor and Aldermen for health reasons. Edwards has served for more than 20 years on the board and tendered his resignation effective Feb. 21. In the meantime, Alderman Gary Chandler will fill in his role as the town's representative on the Erwin Utilities Board of Control.



Gary Edwards

Matt Garland has been selected as the new economic development specialist for the city of Bristol. Garland most recently served as the president and CEO of the Greene County Partnership in Greeneville, a position he held for four years. Prior to that, he served with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for nearly a decade, working primarily in Northeast Tennessee. Garland holds both a bachelor's degree and master's of public management from East Tennessee State University.



Matt Garland

Sandy Johnson, deputy clerk for the city of Oak Ridge, has received the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). A Kentucky native, Johnson has lived in Oak Ridge since 1987 and has worked for the city for the past 20 years, beginning her career in the police records division. She transferred to the city clerk's office in 2003 where she has served as an administrative assistant and deputy clerk



Sandy Johnson

Steve Simon has retired as city administrator of Adamsville after nine years with the city. While his last official date as a city employee was in December 2019, Simon is continuing to serve the city on a consultant basis until a permanent replacement can be found for the position.



Steve Simon

Dale Welch, a longtime alderman with the city of Monterey, has resigned his seat due to health-related issues and planned move out of his current district. Welch's remaining term will be filled by recently retired Cultural Administrator Julie Bohannon. Welch has served both on the Monterey Board of Alderman and on the Putnam County Commission for a combined 38 years. Welch also served as Putnam County historian and was instrumental in the opening and operation of the Monterey Depot Museum.



Dale Welch

Mary Beth Hickman, city clerk for the city of Oak Ridge, has received her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Hickman has served as Oak Ridge's city clerk since February 2016. Before she came to the city, she served as a faculty assistant for Vanderbilt



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MTAS welcomes new staff

The University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is welcoming four new staff members to serve in a variety of positions aiding municipalities across Tennessee.

Betsy Cunningham and Peter Voss have been hired as new human resource consultant. John Eskew has been selected as a new municipal court specialist. Yolanda Dillard will serve as a new training consultant.

Cunningham will be based out of the Knoxville office and will cover East Tennessee. She has served in management and leadership positions in human resources management in both the private and public sector, including working at the city of Alcoa and Blount County government.

She also worked for Trinity Benefit Advisors, US Foods, and Massey Electric. Cunningham holds a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Dillard will work out of the Memphis office and will serve municipalities across West Tennessee. Dillard most recently served as associate director of employer partnership for the University of Tennessee Memphis.

Before that, she was a key leader with the small minority and women-owned business incubator MMBC Continuum. Dillard is retired from the U.S. Air Force and Tennessee Air National Guard where she served as a civil engineer officer, information systems officer, executive officer, and systems and network engineer.

Dillard holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University and a master's of business administration from Union University.

Eskew will be based at the Nashville office but will serve all municipal court clerks throughout the state of Tennessee. He comes to MTAS from the city of Clarksville where he served as a risk manager and assistant human resources director as well as an attorney in the city attorney's office.

Eskew holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Voss will be based in the Jackson office and will serve municipalities in West Tennessee. Voss comes to MTAS from the city of Hendersonville where he served as the human resources director. Before that, he served as the director of personnel for the city of Bartlett for 33 years.



Betsy Cunningham



Yolanda Dillard



John Eskew



Peter Voss

He has also served as president, secretary, and treasurer of the Tennessee Personnel Management Association (TPMA). Voss has a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in personnel administration from the University of Memphis.

No loan is too large or too small



Etowah recently closed a \$1 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a new city hall. Etowah has used TMBF loan programs 21 times since 1997. Seated L to R: Mayor Burke Garwood and City Manager Tina Tuggle. Standing L to R: Finance Director Alison Bull, and Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative.



East Ridge recently financed a \$132,748 note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to purchase police cars. The city has used TMBF programs 16 times since 1992. Seated: Mayor Brian Williams. Standing L to R: Steve Queener, TMBF Marketing Representative; Chris Dorsey, City Manager; and Diane Qualls, Finance Director.

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STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee's business filings increased in the final quarter of 2019 and year-over-year, according to a report released by Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office. The Tennessee Quarterly Business and Economic Indicators report for the fourth quarter of 2019 showed that there were 10,604 new business filings representing a 7.8% increase over the same quarter in 2018. Initial filings have now seen positive year-over-year growth in 33 consecutive quarters. New filings from domestic nonprofit corporations saw the strongest year-over-year gains, increasing by 13.3%. According to the report, Tennessee's unemployment rate remains at a record low of 3.3% and is 0.3% points below the national average. Nonfarm employment in Tennessee expanded by 1.6% in December, representing an increase of 49,200 jobs compared to December 2018.

State tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates by \$130M

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Stuart McWhorter announced that overall January state tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates.

Revenues for January totaled \$1.55 billion, which is \$129.4 million more than budgeted and 11.86% greater than revenues received in January 2019.

"January sales tax revenues, reflecting consumer spending that occurred during December, remain strong and represent 34 consecutive months of positive growth," McWhorter said. "The second quarter adjusted growth rate from sales activity was 6.14% compared to last year, driven by solid performances in retail and manufacturing sales. Corporate tax revenues also continue to outperform budgeted estimates, exceeding expectations for the month by 23.8%."

"The economic growth we have experienced in these first six months puts the state in a good position to fund the current and upcoming fiscal years. The year-to-date total tax collections are currently outpacing estimates by 6.48%, which signals a promising finish for the 2020 fiscal year. Nevertheless, we will continue to closely monitor our monthly receipts, being mindful that economic conditions may change."

On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were greater than the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$105.7 million while the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$23.7 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$72 million more than the estimate for January and the growth rate was 11.11%. However, after adjusting for a very large one-time payment, the underlying growth rate from sales tax compared to last year was 9.02%. For six months, revenues are \$195.5 million higher than estimated. The year-to-date growth rate for six months is 6.64%.

Franchise and excise tax revenues were \$46.3 million more than

More than 6,000 acres have been added to the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. The 6,229-acre parcel known as the Lone Star property will support wildlife habitat, native ecology, and additional public recreation opportunities for the park, which bears the name of Tennessee State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. The property was purchased by the Conservation Fund in 2019 and held until the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) could acquire it for the park. The land was officially transferred on Feb. 20, 2020, to TDEC, who will use the property to develop a segment of Cumberland Trail to connect the Ozone Falls State Natural Area. When finished, the Cumberland Trail will extend more than 300 miles from its northern terminus at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park to the southern terminus at the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

the January budgeted estimate. The growth rate compared to January 2019 was 20.09 percent. Year-to-date franchise and excise tax revenues for the first six months of this year are 18.82% and \$198.1 million more than estimated.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for January increased by 3.46% compared to January 2019 and were \$1.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$105.5 million. For six months, revenues are more than estimates by \$29.7 million.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$2.9 million more than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis exceed estimates by \$8 million.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$200,000 more than the budgeted estimate of \$19.3 million, and for six months they are \$2.9 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax revenues were \$7.3 million more than the January estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through January, revenues are \$28.8 million more than the estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$700,000 more than the January estimate. For six months revenues are \$7.4 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Hall income tax revenues were \$800,000 less than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes exceeded estimates by a net of \$2.2 million.

Year-to-date revenues for six months were \$480.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$398 million in revenues more than estimates, and the four other funds totaled \$82.5 million more than year-to-date estimates.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2019-2020 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation and adopted by the second session of the 111th General Assembly in April 2019.

Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2019 legislative session. Estimates are available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

TDEC schedules regional workshops for upcoming parks grants

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will host three workshops across the state in the coming weeks to assist communities interested in parks and recreation grant applications with the department.

The 2020 grant cycle has been announced for the Local Parks and Recreation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program.

"These grant programs promote quality of life and economic activity for communities across our great state," Jim Bryson, deputy commissioner of Parks and Conservation for TDEC, said. "We provide grants to fund local improvements, and we want to assist local leaders with the application process by holding these valuable workshops." TDEC's Division of Recre-

ation Educational Services will host the workshops in Jackson on March 24, Farragut on March 25, and Shelbyville on April 1, to help communities in the grant application process.

Grants covered during the workshop will include:

- **Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF)** grants provide funding to local government agencies to purchase land for parks, natural areas, greenways and land for recreational facilities. Funds also may be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas and greenways.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** grants provide matching grants to local and state government agencies for the acquisition and

Municipalities lend support as tornado recovery efforts continue

RECOVERY from Page 1 do survivors I met with this morning, who serve as an example to us all," Cooper said. "With solidarity, we begin the path forward to recovery."

Cities including Columbia, Spring Hill, and Franklin dispatched emergency officials to Nashville to aid in recovery efforts.

The Nashville Fire Department reported at least 40 structures collapsed around the city. Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson said for now that all city officers will be working 12-hour shifts with no time-off as the recovery process continues.

An estimated 40,000 people in the Nashville area lost power as a result of the storms with power outages stretching as far north as Pegram and Ashland City.

Mayor Cooper has already signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency in Nashville to help streamline the acquisition and distribution of supplies and services needed in the storm's aftermath.

About 100 homes and businesses across Putnam County were damaged, and many were reduced to rubble. One of the hardest hit areas were the highly-populated subdivisions just west of Cookeville.

Putnam County Mayor Randy Porter declared a state of emergency to facilitate resources being brought to the area. Porter said the tornado followed the path of Highway 70 in the western end of Putnam County leaving many roads impassable.

Cookeville Mayor Ricky Shelton toured the damage as recovery efforts continued. About 1,000 people in the city were without power after the storms.

"This is an absolutely tragic and devastating day for our city and county," Shelton said. "Our first ask is for prayers for our families, community and responders that are out there and have been out there almost 10 hours searching and rescuing and working through that."

Shelton said the city set up a helpline for missing persons and established three shelters for the displaced in the community.

"It is a massive undertaking and all the employees of the city and county have responded," Shelton said. "We have received mutual aid from other agencies. We are still searching and trying to find the missing."

Officials with both the city and county spent the days after the storms going door-to-door searching for injured or trapped residents. Drones were also used to survey damage and help search for possible survivors.

Despite the devastation, Shelton said Tennessee's volunteer spirit was apparent.

"We've been amazed at the outpouring of love and support we've seen and we are very thankful. The area is devastated," Shelton said. "We have tractor-trailer loads of water and all kinds of things coming in."

Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville cancelled classes both Tuesday and Wednesday following the storms with students urged to use the time to help the local community.

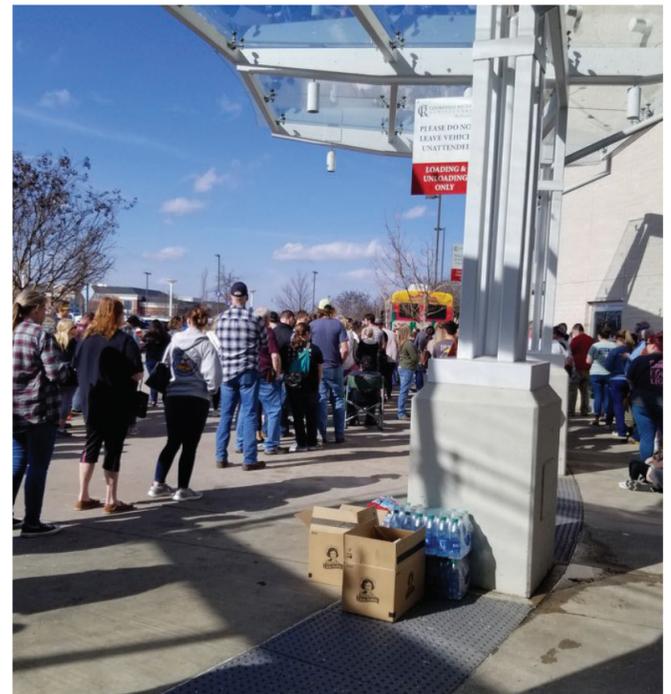
The most severely damaged areas of the city of Mt. Juliet were placed under a curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Several streets remained closed.

Capt. Tyler Chandler, public information officer for the Mt. Juliet Police Department, said officials with the Wilson County Emergency Management and Mt. Juliet Fire Department are doing damage assess-

development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** grants provide matching grants to state, local, and federal government agencies as well as 501c3 organizations as long as the land developed is publicly owned. RTP funds may be used for trail development, trail head support facilities, acquisition of land for recreational trails or corridors, non-routine maintenance and restoration of existing trails.

Those interested in applying for the 2020 grant cycle are encouraged to attend a workshop, as grant application criteria has changed and applications will be accepted via the TDEC Grant Management System only.



People line up to donate blood and other needed supplies at Cookeville Regional Hospital. The Cookeville area was among one of the hardest hit in the state.

ments throughout the community.

Chandler said the city's public works department has also received help from numerous other cities in their cleanup efforts.

"Officials with LaVergne, Brentwood, Franklin, and even some private companies are now out in the city working very hard to clear up the major debris. We appreciate the support from all our surrounding cities to help us with everything they are doing."

In addition to debris and power outages, Chandler said there were some sewer issues reported in areas most impacted by the storm.

"Our folks are working very hard and it's all hands on deck for the city," he said. "We are putting our city back to normal as best we can. We appreciate the volunteer spirit everyone has. We have a volunteer portal set up for volunteers and donations."

The city of Lebanon reported damage to some parks and recreation facilities. The city's Baird Park was closed due to a lack of power.

"The main thing is no injuries to anyone and the fields can and will be rebuilt," read a statement on the Lebanon Department of Parks and Recreation Facebook page. "Thankfully, it wasn't a night of practice or games. Be patient with us as the process to rebuild will take some time."

Thousands were left without power in Lebanon as the result of the storm with more than 70 power lines downed in the city's South Hartman corridor with power restoration taking several days. Lebanon City Public Works employees worked overtime to help pick up debris throughout the city.

Sgt. P.J. Hardy, public information officer with the Lebanon Police Department, said in addition to state officials, police departments and public works personnel from Brentwood, Franklin, Gallatin, Hendersonville, Portland as well as Sumner County and Tennessee State Park rangers came out to help Lebanon in its time of need.

"We would like to thank many of surrounding agencies who have reached out and sent support," Hardy said. "They have sent officers and other personnel to help out. We thank all of these agencies from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate their support and assistance. In addition to agencies, a lot of folks have come out with food donations and

water. Many citizens came in and dropped off food and refreshments. We are super appreciative of that."

Tennessee Sens. Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn issued a joint statement about the incident and said they would be working to secure disaster funds for the state.

"Our hearts go out to the Tennessee families who were hurt by the severe tornadoes last night," the statement said. "We are going to do everything we can to work with Gov. Bill Lee, mayors, and others to make sure that federal assistance is available."

The Tennessee Department of Emergency Management (TEMA) put in place a Crisis Cleanup Help Line for those who need help with cleanup and debris removal. Services are offered for free and the line is staffed 24/7. The Crisis Cleanup Help Line is a coordinated effort to help Tennessee tornado survivors between the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Volunteer Tennessee and the Crisis Cleanup organization.

TEMA also worked with Airbnb to provide no-cost accommodation to storm survivors who needed a place to stay. Tornado survivors can visit www.airbnb.com/tn/tornado20 to find and book urgent, temporary accommodations in Airbnb's Open Homes program.

Officials with TEMA also encouraged those who want to help to give financial donations to those in need.

"Cash can be used immediately in response to a crisis, and allows disaster relief organizations to purchase exactly what is needed, when it's needed," a statement on the TEMA website said. "Cash gives relief organizations the means to procure supplies near the affected area, which cuts down on transportation time and cost. Monetary contributions also support local economies and ensure that businesses can operate when relief supplies diminish."

Those who want to help are encouraged to give to the Tennessee Region of the American Red Cross and Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

Those in the Nashville area who want to volunteer can contact Hands on Nashville while those who want to volunteer in other areas impacted by the disaster can visit the Tennessee Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (TN VOAD).



To guarantee a seat, those interested should register individually for the grant application workshop they will attend or contact Hannah Smith at 615-532-0752. Each session has limited space.

For more information on individual workshops or to register, visit www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/res-recreation-educational-services/res-recreation-educational-services-grants0.html



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

ASSISTANT PLANNING DIRECTOR

COOKEVILLE. The Cookeville Planning Department is now accepting applications for assistant planning director. Responsibilities include assisting in the management of the planning department, which includes planning, zoning, subdivision regulations, and related areas. Assists in reviewing site plans, proposals, subdivision plats, rezoning requests, variance requests, annexation proposals, street construction; represents the city and the department before all boards and commissions; must possess required knowledge and abilities normally acquired through an M.A. in urban planning or related discipline and 4 years of city or regional planning related experience or an equivalent of education and experience. Must possess a valid TN driver's license. AICP Certification required or obtain within one year of hire date. Pay range \$58,718 - \$88,088 DOE Applications/resumes must be submitted online at www.cookeville-tn.gov. Position open until filled. EOE.

BUILDING/ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET The city of Mt. Juliet is currently accepting applications for a building/electrical inspector in the building and codes Department. Applications must be filled electronically and are available at our city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. The city will accept electronic applications until the position is filled. Salary \$17.89/hr. and tops out at year three \$25.83/hr. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

FINANCE OFFICER (CMFO)

DECHERD. The city of Decherd is accepting applications for finance officer. Position reports to the city administrator. Starting salary is dependent on qualifications. Two year plus degree and five years of related experience preferred. Education at an accredited college, business school or technical institute in office administration or a related field may be substituted for the required experience on a year-for-year basis up to one year. Must be willing to obtain a Certified Municipal Finance Officer certification within 18 months of date off hire. Knowledge and skills required in areas of finance (government finance experience preferred), purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll and accountings preferred. Experience with QSI operating system is beneficial. A valid driver's license is required. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age to apply. Applicants must be able to pass a background check and drug screen. Applications in addition to resumes if available will be accepted at Decherd City Hall, 1301 W. Main St., Decherd, TN. between March 2 - 16, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please apply in person, no phone calls regarding the position will be accepted. All applicants must fill out an application in full. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is accepting applications for the position of human resources coordinator. The position will be a full-time position with benefits. Application and job description may be picked up at the Municipal Building or online at www.fayettevilletn.com. Applications will

be accepted through March 11. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is currently seeking applications for a human resource director. The city serves a citizen population of approximately 12,000 and employs approximately 200 full time, part-time, and seasonal employees. The governing body is comprised of a mayor, vice mayor, and six aldermen; the city management team reports to the mayor. The position of human resource director will report directly to the mayor and will be responsible for providing full-scope human resource services to fellow department heads, employees, and elected officials. Typical duties will include: development and administration of various technical phases of the city's personnel program, including policy development and administration; risk management; benefits administration; recruitment, selection, and placement; position classification and pay; employee relations programs, performance management, employee development, and workforce diversity; and providing advice to city management and personnel. The successful candidate will be a self-starter with a change-agent mindset and will be adept at collaboration with individuals on various levels of responsibility. The ideal candidate will have: three or more years of experience in an exempt level role in human resources in a comparably sized organization; local government experience is strongly preferred, but not required; strong change-agent mindset, and strong understanding of state and federal employment laws; a bachelor's degree in human resources, business, public policy, or comparable, from an accredited college or university - or equivalent experience; and strongly prefer one or more of the following certifications: PHR/SPHR, IPMA-CP/SCP. The city provides a comprehensive benefits package, including contribution toward the employee's portion of premiums for health, dental, and vision insurance; State of TN retirement participation (TCRS); life insurance; paid vacation leave; paid sick leave; paid holidays; and voluntary supplemental benefits packages. pay range is \$59,911 - \$95,702 (reference salary \$77,806) DOE. Click here for an application: <http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-1234355/City-Of-Portland-Employment-Application>. Email résumé, along with a cover letter and to: hjohnson@cityofportlandtn.gov. This position is open until filled. EOE.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of parks and recreation director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The director is primarily responsible for planning, directing, organizing, and administering the city's parks programs, including special events and other activities. Coordinates the maintenance and improvements of leisure facilities. Participates in the long-range planning of parks and recreational facilities and guides plan development. Updates boards and commissions on the status of programs and facilities, as appropriate. Supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance. Procures funding for recreation and parks facilities and programs from a variety of sources, including grants, donations and fund-raising activities. Hires employees under contracts with the city and monitors activities for contract compliance; coordinates activities and trains volunteers, staff, officials, instructors, and other personnel associated with recreation and parks programs; seeks public input on parks and recreational facilities, programs, and associated activities. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; three to five years of related experience and a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration or related field. Must have CPRP certification or obtain it within 12 months. Competitive salary

and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

PERMIT TECHNICIAN

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton has an opening for a full-time permit technician. Must obtain ICC Certification within two years of hire. Duties will include (but are not limited to) handling phone calls, emails, and customer service at the window, scheduling inspections, issuing permits and processing payments, record maintenance, and responding to public requests for service and resident's concerns. Working knowledge of local ordinances, legislation, rules and regulations is desired. Computer proficiency and excellent communication skills are a must. High school diploma or equivalent and valid driver's license is required. Priority will be given to applicants with current background in office environments in building or related trades. Background check will be conducted. Hourly wages will be commensurate with experience. Medical and retirement benefit package is provided. Applications may be obtained at the Piperton Administrative Office at 3725 Hwy 196 Suite B, or at www.pipertontn.com/jobs. Return application and resume to tjohnson@pipertontn.com. EOE

PLANNING DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of planning director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support services under the general supervision of the city manager. The planning director is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and directing all planning and land development for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: advising and making staff recommendations to city boards, commissions and departments on planning and land development issues including interpretation, revision, implementation and enforcement of regulations and ordinances and the creation and implementation of development and growth plans; directs implementation of sign ordinance, zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, design guidelines, comprehensive plan and related plans and policies; provides strategic direction in short and long-range planning and growth management; researches, prepares and implements technical and operational studies, reports and projects; supervises staff with responsibility for employment-related decisions or recommendations that include hiring, disciplining, training, and evaluating performance; develops and implements the departmental operating budget and monitors costs to maintain budget integrity; evaluates and revises tracking procedures for development projects; makes presentations to boards, commissions, volunteers and other community groups. Successful applicants will possess the proven ability to maintain effective working relationships with the public, city officials, and other employees and the ability to prepare and present accurate reports to the governing body; five to seven years of progressive planning experience and a bachelor's degree with a focus in Planning and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification required. Competitive salary and benefits offered. For more information and for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

POLICE DISPATCHER

SHELBYVILLE. The Shelbyville Police Department will be accepting applications for full-time police dispatcher. Applicants must be 18 years of age and high school graduate or equivalent. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN, 37160, and will be accepted until position is filled. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up at city hall or download from the city website: www.shelbyvilletn.org. EOE/drug free workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen.

POLICE OFFICER

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is currently accepting applications for police officer. Applicants must have a high school diploma and must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Applicants must be a citizen of the U.S., at least 21 years of age and meet the physical,

psychological and criminal records and other standards for the assignment as established by the city of Fairview Police Department. Current Tennessee P.O.S.T. certification is preferred but not required. Starting salary is \$34,632 DOE with an excellent benefits package. Full job description and applications available at www.fairview-tn.org.

POLICE OFFICER.

PIPERTON. The city of Piperton Police Department is accepting applications for full time officers. Information may be found on the city web site at <http://tn-piperton.civicplus.com/jobs.aspx>. EOE.

PROJECT MANAGER / CIVIL PLANS REVIEWER

MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is seeking a full-time project manager/civil plans reviewer to assist the director and deputy director of public works and engineering in a variety of functions related to development services, general engineering, construction plans review, and the publication of manuals, specifications for the city of Mt. Juliet. Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. Must hold a valid TN driver's license. Excellent benefits and TCRS Retirement; Salary DOQ. Detailed job descriptions and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available at the city's website, www.mtjuliet-tn.gov. This position will be open until filled. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call (615) 754-2552. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

STORMWATER COORDINATOR

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield is accepting applications for a stormwater coordinator with Springfield Public Works Department from Feb. 17-March 20. Essential responsibilities include providing leadership and technical guidance for implementation of the stormwater program to maintain compliance with the city of Springfield MS4 permit. The employee must perform difficult professional and technical duties in administration of the stormwater management program. Graduation from a standard high school with a minimum of two years of college level courses in engineering, environmental sciences or a related field; at least one year of increasingly responsible engineering or environmental sciences experience in stormwater management programs; experience developing and implementing watershed planning that includes floodplain management, stream valley

protection and restoration, TMDL implementation, low impact development and use of non-structural best management practices and stormwater control measures. Must have a TDEC Level I & II certification or ability to obtain both within one year of employment. Salary range \$50,627 - \$69,618. Applications can be submitted online at the following website: www.springfield-tn.org. City of Springfield Personnel Department, 405 North Main Street, P.O. Box 788, Springfield, TN. 37172. AA/EOE.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

NOLENVILLE. The town of Nolensville (pop. 11,097) is seeking an energetic, proactive, local government professional to be their next town administrator. The town, comprising an area of 9.5 square miles, is located 18 miles southeast of downtown Nashville in high growth Williamson County. The town administrator is appointed by and reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen comprised of a mayor and four aldermen elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The town has a \$10.99M budget with 33 full-time and part-time employees serving the community. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to municipal management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of 10 years of progressively increasing professional experience with a municipality. Salary range \$100K - \$120K, DOQ. This is an exceptional opportunity to guide the future of a growing community while retaining the small town character, scenic value, and ecological quality of the community. Position profile is available at www.nolensvilletn.gov. Send cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the Nolensville Town Recorder, Montique Luster at mluster@nolensvilletn.gov. Preliminary deadline for applications will occur on Friday, April 3, 2020. Please direct questions to Montique Luster.

TOWN PLANNER

THOMPSON'S STATION. Long tenured town planner has accepted a private sector position. Accordingly, the town of Thompson's Station is accepting applications for the position of town planner. Bachelor's degree required, related experience and AICP is a plus. Interested parties should apply through the town website, <https://www.thompsons-station.com/jobs.aspx>. Resumes may also be sent to the Town of Thompson's Station, Attn: Steve Banks, 1550 Thompson's Station Road, W. Thompson's Station, TN 37179. Open until filled. Salary DOQ and attractive benefit package.

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Top ways to expand equitable economic development in your city

BY COURTNEY COFFIN
NLC Staff

For cities, remaining competitive in today's changing economic and demographic environment can seem like a formidable task. Many city leaders are grappling with maintaining a focus on equity and economic inclusion, particularly in communities of color where far too many residents struggle to gain economic ground.

City-led economic development strategies continue to be powerful tools in reducing economic inequality for many individuals but there is no one-size fits all approach. These types of investments must be deployed equitably to ensure sustainable growth for all residents.

Identify large-scale development projects coming into the city and ensure they will provide sufficient training and employment opportunities for all residents.

City leaders can play a critical role in bridging residents, developers and local workforce development agencies to design effective training strategies and address employment barriers for residents. This type of broad-based, inclusive strategy will ensure these projects generate employment and training opportunities for residents in traditionally underserved communities, especially for people of color and immigrants.

The city of Atlanta created the Western Future Fund (WFF) in partnership with the Arthur M. Blank Foundation in 2014 to serve as a catalyst for corporate and philanthropic support for improving the health, education and welfare of residents in the historic westside of Atlanta during the construction of the new football and soccer stadium. The WFF addresses equity and social justice issues associated with development projects through job training for residents in construction, culinary arts, education, office operation and information technology, while also attracting new investments and jobs.

Help entrepreneurs in low-income neighborhoods grow their businesses.

Cities can help residents in low-income neighborhoods access traditional capital and business services by helping them navigate through the technical aspects of launching or growing their businesses. To address inequity in business ownership within a city, strategies can include directing entrepreneurship assistance outreach efforts to distressed areas in the city and leveraging city funds to support small business loan programs that provide below-market rate capital to small businesses.

The city of Rochester, NY, targets early stage entrepreneurs in low-income and underserved areas through a microloan program, Kiva, and also offers a revolving loan fund program targeted to manufacturers seeking to hire local city workers.

Support worker-cooperatives

and other employee-owned businesses.

Cities can take steps to encourage the growth of worker cooperatives and other forms of employee-owned businesses. These enterprises have multiple benefits for cities by helping residents build assets through ownership, generating business growth and new jobs, and encouraging private businesses to align hiring and wage policies with city requirements.

The city of Boston launched an initiative in 2016 to support and grow worker cooperatives in the city by offering them on-site consulting and business-related workshops. The city also made loan applications more accessible to cooperatives, including loans through a fund designated for low-income and minority entrepreneurs.

Utilize asset mapping tools to assess the location of opportunities and support services in the city and identify areas of high need.

An asset mapping process can help a city better understand its resources and gaps by plotting the locations of community resources, such as areas of growth, workforce development services, supportive services for workers and vocational training. Through this process, city leaders can better understand geographic gaps between community assets and areas of high unemployment.

Please refer to the full Task Force report entitled, "Keeping the American Dream Alive: Expanding Economic Mobility and Opportunity in America's Cities," to learn more about how cities can implement these strategies.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



America is 3.3 million housing units short of where it needs to be according to a recent report by public government-sponsored enterprise Freddie Mac. New housing supply has not kept up with rising demand with the housing shortage increasing by about 300,000 units each year. Oregon is the state with the biggest housing needs followed by Colorado, Florida, California, Minnesota, and Texas. More than half of all states in the country have a housing shortage. Officials said the roots in the housing shortage are from

the housing crash and financial crisis more than a decade ago. Many homebuilding companies were wiped out, and immigrants that made up about a quarter of the construction workforce prior to the crash left the U.S. and, in large part, haven't returned. As more job seekers come into states, the housing shortage actually worsens for those areas.

Spending on construction projects in the U.S. rose to 1.8% in January, the strongest monthly rise in nearly two years. Spending on home construction jumped to 2.1% with single-family home

construction seeing the biggest rise at 2.7%. Nonresidential construction was up 0.8% in January with spending in the category that includes shopping centers and religious centers showing some of the biggest gains. Spending on government building projects 2.6% with spending by state and local governments rising 2% to an all-time high while spending by the federal government was up 9.9% to the highest level since May 2012. After six quarters of declining activity, residential construction has grown at solid rates for the past two quarters. Economists expect that growth to continue this year.

MTAS Continuing Education Classes

INTRODUCTION TO GRANT WRITING

This class is a broad overview of the grant writing process and focuses on how and where to find available grants and how to write a grant proposal.

Dates/Locations/Times:

March 10 Jackson
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CDT
April 7 Knoxville
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EDT
May 6 Franklin
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. CDT

Target Audience: All Municipal Employees
Credits: 3 CPE

To register for a course go to the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu and select training calendar under the "Training" tab. You can pay upon registering with a credit card or request an invoice.

Program Information:

Sarah Curtis, (615) 253-6385
sarah.curtis@tennessee.edu

Registration Information:

Doug Brown, (865) 974-9140
doug.brown@tennessee.edu



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

March 19-21: Clarksville
59th Annual Mid-South Jazz Festival

Spearheaded by the Clarksville Community Concert Association, the 59th Annual Mid-South Jazz Festival will feature headliners Messenger Legacy. The band is an elite line-up for alumni members of all ages from Art Blakely's famed Jazz Messengers. For more information, visit <http://clarksvillemusic.org>.

March 20-21: Linden
12th Annual Blooming Arts Festival

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

March 21: Bell Buckle
Daffodil Day

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

March 27-28: Savannah
Tennessee River BBQ Battle and Music Fest

The Kansas City Barbeque Society sanctioned cook-off will feature professional cooking teams from across the country competing for cash prizes. Friday night activities will include live music and Saturday brings a Kids Que and more live music, games, and food. Attendees will have the opportunity to taste BBQ cooked by the professional cooks in the People's Choice Contest. More information on the event or sponsorship information can be found at www.tnriverbbqbattle.com

March 28: Jackson

10th Annual Motor Mania Car Show

The 10th Annual Thomas Media Motor Mania Car Show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jackson Fairgrounds Park. Regular admission tickets are \$5 while kids under 5 are free. This year's event includes face painting, jumpers and slides, a petting zoo, and monster trucks. The car show features categories including custom, classic, hot rods, exotics, imports, motorcycles and more. Visitors will also have a chance to vote for their favorite cars on a variety of contests. Visit www.wyn1069.com/motormanial/ for more info.

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Ed Stewart, ChFC, CLU, CFP
Financial Advisor



Community and Rural Development
Best Practices Series

Asset Enhancement – Workforce Development
TCAT Livingston – Jackson County

New TCAT Livingston facility offers more training courses, dual enrollment to adults, high school students

TNECD Asset Enhancement Grant (AEG) is used to prepare the new facility.

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES
jones-bridget consulting group

Jackson County is located on the Cumberland Plateau on the Kentucky border. Blessed with natural beauty and abundant natural resources, the county provides a high quality of life and outdoor recreation opportunities. However, the county is isolated from employment and higher education opportunities.

In 2018, Jackson County was designated a distressed county with a 7.2% unemployment and 25% poverty rate. With an 86% high school graduation rate and a post-secondary attainment rate of less than 9% for a bachelor's degree or higher, the need for local access to workforce training in high-demand occupations was clear.

Jackson County has been served by the TCAT Livingston campus and dual enrollment courses at the local high school, but there were not any other opportunities for adults to receive training locally. The county's large employers needed workers to fill technology-based openings in Jackson County and the Upper Cumberland Region.

Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative is one of the leading employers in the region and a telephone and broadband provider. Company officials are involved in economic development and have led the conversation on workforce training needs and opportunities. Twin Lakes currently partners with the TCAT to provide IT training for their employees and was a willing partner to explore opportunities to locate training in high-demand fields in Jackson County. Training for lineman is only offered at one other location in East Tennessee or in Georgia and Kentucky. The ability for individuals to receive this training in Jackson County would be an asset to many employers in the region.

ASSET-BASED DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

In 2017, Jackson County participated in TNECD-sponsored Asset-Based Planning. During this process, county officials and economic development leaders identified assets and priorities to move them out of the distressed county classification. Workforce development was identified as the highest priority during the strategic planning session facilitated by the UT Center for Industrial Services.

The top goal identified was to develop post-secondary education-

al and training programs locally to improve educational attainment and strengthen skills of the workforce. The corresponding short-term goal was to pursue the opportunity to locate a TCAT satellite campus in Jackson County in collaboration with the school system and the Tennessee Board of Regents. Both goals aligned with needs of local employers for technically trained workers.

TCAT LIVINGSTON JACKSON COUNTY

TCAT Livingston already provided dual enrollment training in Health Sciences. The program had been successful in creating a pipeline of trained healthcare workers. Building on this success, county leaders developed a project to provide both high school students and adults the opportunity to pursue training in two more areas. Based on the job market and the needs of employers, powerline construction/maintenance and information technology were top fields of growth and need in the Upper Cumberland region.

In 2017, school system and county leaders purchased an available golf course property and club house located just behind the high school that was suitable to house the TCAT.

As a distressed community, additional local funding was not available for the facility upgrades. Community leaders worked with TCAT Livingston administrators to determine the needed updates and worked with county leaders to apply for a TNECD Asset Enhancement Grant (AEG) to prepare the new facility. In the spring of 2018, the county received \$50,000 for the project. As an additional benefit, most of the work could be completed by TCAT Livingston building trades students giving them real-world experience.

In May 2018, TCAT Livingston and the Jackson County school system signed a memorandum of agreement that outlined the TCAT roles and responsibilities for operation and confirmed the offering of the two new programs. In August 2018, the IT program opened with high school secondary students enrolling first as part of their high school schedules. In January 2019, both high school and adult students will be able to enroll on a regular TCAT schedule in the IT program and adults in the lineman training program at this rural county's first higher education center.



The top goal identified in Jackson County was to develop post-secondary educational and training programs locally to improve educational attainment and strengthen skills of the workforce. In 2017, the Jackson County school system and county leaders purchased an available golf course property and club house located just behind the high school that was suitable to house the TCAT. Community leaders worked with TCAT Livingston administrators to determine the needed updates and worked with county leaders to apply for a TNECD Asset Enhancement Grant (AEG) to prepare the new facility. In the spring of 2018, the county received \$50,000 for the project. As an additional benefit, most of the work could be completed by TCAT Livingston building trades students giving them real world experience.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The economic impact of this project will be the increased availability of a trained workforce. Jackson County residents will be able to increase their potential earnings with the skills they obtain from locally available TCAT training programs. By empowering Jackson County residents with in-demand skills, this project is intended to lower the county's 7.2% unemployment rate, increase per-capita income levels, and lower the poverty rate. Success will be measured by the completion and placement of individuals who receive the training provided at the facility. First year enrollment and completion projections include

Fall 2018 High School Dual Enrollment <i>(Information Technology Program)</i>	18
2019 Full-time Adult Enrollment <i>(Information Technology Program)</i>	10
2019 High School Dual Enrollment Program <i>(Information Technology)</i>	18
2019 Full-time Adult Program Enrollment <i>(Information Technology and Powerline Construction/Maintenance)</i>	30
2019 Certificates/Diplomas to be Awarded	20
2019 Cooperative/Work-Based Learning Placements	8
Participating Employers <i>(Information Technology Program)</i>	4

TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING*

*state and federal grants, local contributions	\$335,000
Jackson County School System Funding <i>(building purchase)</i>	\$200,000
TCAT Livingston Funding <i>(instructional materials, classroom and lab equipment, faculty salaries)</i>	\$80,000
TCAT Livingston In-kind Contributions <i>(building and construction upgrades)</i>	\$5,000
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development AEG Grant <i>(building upgrades and HVAC equipment purchase)</i>	\$50,000

PROJECT LEADERS AND PARTNERS

Tennessee College of Applied Technology at Livingston
Jackson County Government
Jackson County School System
Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative
Tennessee Board of Regents
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
For more project information visit TCAT Livingston, <https://tcatlivingston.edu/>

TNECD ASSET-BASED PLANNING PROGRAM

The Asset-Based Planning program was developed through the Rural Task Force to assist distressed counties with strategic planning and development of short-term goals that would address the causes of distress: unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. TNECD and the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service worked with the communities to develop action-oriented goals based on the communities' assets. Following that process, TNECD wanted to ensure that the communities had the resources to accomplish their goals and created the Asset Enhancement Grant provided through the Governor's Rural Task Force and Tennessee Rural Economic Opportunity Act.

For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development, www.tn.gov/content/tn/ecd



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