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Autumn in the Great Smoky Mountains is a beautiful time of year. The mountains and valleys are painted with stunning colors that light up the Smokies. By mid-October, the Great Smoky Mountains are about a week away from peak color of the lower elevations. However, the valleys and higher elevations are at a peak. By late October, the peak colors are very impressive – from low to high elevations. Generally speaking, it is not unusual to see autumn color last through mid-November.

Cities celebrate passage of bipartisan America's Water Infrastructure Act

Congress has approved major water infrastructure legislation that authorizes \$3.7 billion for new Army Corps of Engineers civil-works projects and \$4.4 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency drinking-water program.

Final congressional approval for the America's Water Infrastructure Act came on Oct. 10, when the Senate passed the measure by an overwhelming 99-1 vote.

The National League of Cities commends Congress for the passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act with broad biparti-

san support. This comprehensive legislation represents an important investment in American communities and infrastructure, and it could not have come at a better time.

"Local governments currently fund 95 to 98 percent of all water and wastewater infrastructure investment, and cities and their leaders have long called for a renewed federal partnership to help communities upgrade their drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and improve stormwater management," said NLC President See WATER on Page 7



State to provide grants with VW settlement money

BY KATE COIL

The state of Tennessee is putting more than \$45.7 million from a federal Volkswagen lawsuit to use by financing cleaner transportation technology across the state.

Tennessee was one of the states to benefit from the Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Clearinghouse authorized by the U.S. Department of Justice and Environmental Protection Agency as part of a civil complaint alleging the company installed software that altered its emission controls, allowing Volkswagen vehicles to exceed federal emissions regulations without detection.

"The goal of this plan is to reduce air pollutants that negatively impact our environment and public health," Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Shari Meghreblian said in a statement. "We look forward to supporting projects in our state that will ultimately lead to an enhanced quality of life for Tennesseans."

Through the state's environmental mitigation trust (EMT), the state is aiming to provide grant funds for local governments, school systems, and businesses to finance cleaner transport. Grants are particularly aimed at economically distressed areas and geographic areas that have high levels of air pollutants.

Applicants for funds can be a government entity or a non-government entity with a physical presence in the state.

Based on rate of emissions in the state, approximately 60 percent of funds will be awarded to projects using buses, 15 percent for local freight trucks, 15 percent for light-duty zero-emission vehicle supply equipment, and 10 percent for local freight trucks and port drayage trucks.

Funds can be used to replace older diesel engines with alternative fuel engines or replacing older diesel vehicles and equipment.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will also host workshops throughout the state and/or via webinar in order to provide the public with information regarding the proposal process, program and project eligibility, timelines for implementation, and reporting requirements.

For more information on the program, visit www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/energy/state-energy-office--seo-/tennessee-and-the-volkswagen-die-sel-settlement/beneficiary-mitigation-plan.html.

Municipal officials must learn new rules of social media interaction

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

With its use becoming ubiquitous, more and more municipalities and municipal officials are using social media to reach out to citizens, announce upcoming events and meeting, assist in criminal investigations, alert users to emergency situations, and even livestream council meetings.

However, the benefits of social media also come with a cost with many government entities and officials finding themselves in trouble for their use of platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and others.

Elisha Hodge, a legal consultant with UT-MTAS, said many government officials are not aware that social media postings and even emails can be subject to public records laws and actions such as blocking users or deleting posts can be seen as violations of open records acts and even the First Amendment.

"It doesn't matter what level the employee when it comes to matters of public record," she said. "If the content included on a social media site or the social media site itself was made in connection with the transaction of government business, the content is public record."

The internet really began to emerge as a political force during the 2005 presidential campaigns. By 2008, many politicians had discovered platforms like YouTube allowed them to public campaign materials for free rather than paying for spots on TV. A wide variety of social media platforms had come into play by 2012 with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and mobile apps being used by elected officials, city administrators,



While social media is changing the way government officials interact with citizens, rules are also changing on if social media posts constitute public records, whether officials can block users from seeing their posts, or if public officials can have personal accounts.

police and fire departments, and other government agencies to keep in contact with the public.

In her book New Media and Political Campaigns, author Diana Owen reported that the internet not only allows constituents and politicians to engage in new ways but also is taking a larger share of the voting audience – particularly younger voters. While most voters still get the bulk of their information from television (67 percent in the 2012 presidential election and 45 percent in the 2014 midterms) the number of voters who turn to the web for information on elections is on the increase (47 percent in the 2012 presidential election and 37 percent in the 2014 midterms).

Of course, the advantages of online citizen engagement come with consequences. In addition to security threats and the occasional online scandal, social media can be murky waters for officials – both elected and non-elected – to navigate, especially when it comes to interacting with the public.

While some officials have

argued they have a right to post whatever they want on "personal accounts," the line gets blurry when officials use these accounts to disseminate government information or state political opinions

on issues.

"There aren't any bright line rules for when an account set up and being used by a municipal official is a personal account versus a government account being used for official business," Hodge said. "This is especially true when the information disseminated is primarily government-related business. Officials need to be mindful that with these types of accounts, blocking someone or deleting posts and comments could be a First Amendment violation."

The rules are more clear when the account was set up by the municipality itself or to conduct city business.

"When an account is set up by a municipal employee or official at the request of the municipality or a department head and the account is used solely to disseminate city or See SOCIAL MEDIA on Page 3

Why is IT security so important for municipal governments?

BY SANDY REESER

VC3 Chief Executive Officer

Be it at the federal, state or local level, all governments are in possession of valuable data. Their data assets range from citizen data such as social security and credit card numbers, to confidential or classified information. Due to the type of data collected, it's not surprising that governments are often the target of cyberattacks.

Common cyber threats to municipal governments

Arguably, municipal governments are the government closest to the public, delivering a range of services critical to residents. So not only are municipal governments in control of data that may be the targets of cyberattacks; getting affected by a virus could result in key municipal services shutting down.

The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) lists the following as the leading cyber threats faced by local governments in the United States.

Malware

Malware is malicious code designed to cause damage to a computer, electronic device, server or network. Malware can include viruses, ransomware, spyware and adware.

For most kinds of malware to have an impact, they must first be delivered to and installed on the host platform.

Phishing

Phishing is a common method of delivering malware. It manifests in different ways but ultimately attempts to trick the end-user into unwittingly installing malware onto their devices.

This is often done by delivering fake web pages purporting as



Not only are municipal governments in control of data that may be the targets of cyberattacks; getting affected by a virus could result in key municipal services shutting down.

a familiar service, such as a financial institution, to the end-user. These fake pages could be delivered through pop-up ads, emails, messages and social media sharing. They can also be delivered through prior malware loaded onto the end-user's device.

Spear Phishing

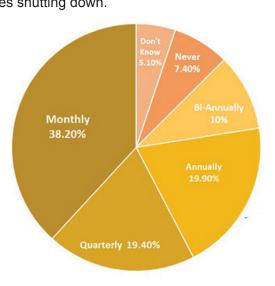
In spear phishing, cyber attackers attempt to steal sensitive data from a specific victim. For example, a cyber attacker

could craft an email masquerading as a message from a coworker, friend or service provider of the end-user, thus tricking the end-user into giving information they otherwise wouldn't.

According to NASCIO, municipalities view email and web pages as the most worrisome methods for delivering malware.

Lost or stolen devices

While lost or stolen devices



are a problem, the problem is made worse by inadequate security measures and an organization's overly flexible access control policies.

These problems could be overcome by putting organizational policies in place requiring complex pins for access to devices and restricting access to certain sensitive apps or data on mobile devices. In addition, policies and processes should be in place enabling lost See IT on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRISTOL

The cities of Bristol, Tenn., and Bristol, Va., have jointly won a national award for planning for State Street. The American Planning Association named State Street as one of the 15 Great Places in America through its Great Places program, which annually recognizes streets, neighborhoods and public spaces for demonstrating exceptional character, quality and planning, according to the statement announcing this year's winners. APA officials cited the cooperation of two different cities, counties, sets of legislatures and governors to redevelop and revitalize the State Street corridor along with the dedication of the planning departments of both cities to work with residents, landowners, and the local Main Street Group as well as each other.

CLEVELAND

The city of Cleveland has received \$8,910 from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as part of ongoing development of a new city park. The Cleveland City Council and city's Shade Tree Board accepted the funds from a Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program grant administered through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry. The city will provide \$8,910 in matching funds for a total of \$17,820 to plant tree canopies and increase shade coverage at the new park behind Blythe-Bower Elementary School. Planting is expected to begin in November with development of the park ongoing. Plans for the park include a soccer field, small and large dog parks, open spaces, and a pavilion.

COLUMBIA

The city of Columbia has saved more than \$6 million as part of strategic planning to help the city be more financially secure as the area experiences rapid growth. The city has saved \$6,092,400 in the past year, according to City Manager Tony Massey. Much of the savings have come from having city workers do projects that previously would have been put out to bid. Grants and public-private partnerships have also helped finance important projects while still saving the city money. With the city's annual budget of approximately \$33 million, Massey said the \$6 million in savings is the equivalent of a one-time property tax increase of 87 cents.

COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville marked its largest month financially for building permits this year, thanks largely in part to new construction at Tennessee Technological University. The city issued 29 permits in August to a tune of \$82.5 million, approximately \$66.4 million of which came from the construction of a new science building at the Tennessee Tech campus. Previously, March had been the most profitable month for building permits with a total of \$63 million in permits issued, including \$43 million for a new recreational center also being built at Tennessee Tech. So far this year, the city has issued more than 360 building permits for an estimated cost of more than \$200 million.

GALLATIN

The city of Gallatin has received a \$1.5 million federal grant that will allow the city to fully staff the new fire station on Nicholas Lane when it opens next year. The department received a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY

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(SAFER) grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which will finance the hiring of 15 new firefighters. The funding will be used to pay 75 percent of the salary and benefits for the firefighters in their first two years and 35 percent by the third

GATLINBURG

Senior civil and environmental students from the University of Tennessee will be designing the next leg of the Gatlinburg Greenway system as part of a design project for their capstone course. The route stretches along Glades Road from the East Parkway for approximately three miles. The first phase of the project will stretch to the intersection with Buckhorn Road. Fiver senior students will be working on the project under Jenny Retherford, a professor at UT. Officials with the non-profit Gatlinburg Greenway Project said the involvement of students allows the non-profit to move forward with the project without having to raise the funds needed to hire an engineering firm.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville's Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project was named a state award recipient by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association at the organization's annual conference held in Kingsport. The \$25 million project sought to improve safety for all users, increase economic investments, and provide vibrancy along Cumberland Avenue from Alcoa Highway to 16th Street. A road diet including medians, designated turning lanes, wider sidewalks, a furnishing zone and stamped asphalt crosswalks were used to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety. Knoxville Police Department records show that the project's improvements to Cumberland Avenue have yielded an estimated 40 percent reduction in vehicle collisions along the half-mile corridor. Finished on time and under budget, the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Project has led to approximately \$190 million private investment in six private developments, which also brought approximately 1,400 new residents to the corridor.

MCKENZIE

Pottery Direct International, Inc., plans to invest \$8 million and create approximately 40 jobs in the next three years by establishing its first production operations in McKenzie. The ceramic flowerpot manufacturer is an international company with offices in China, Europe, and North America where it develops, imports, and produces ceramics. Pottery Direct will locate in a vacant industrial building at 1373 Airport Road. The ceramics company will invest in facility upgrades and plans to be operational in McKenzie in the fourth quarter of 2019.

MT. JULIET

The Mt. Juliet City Commission has approved funds and an ordinance permitting the city's police department to purchase a solar camera tower. The tower consists of four cameras that can be monitored by the department's dispatch center or remotely by officers on patrol. The equipment will cost \$29,990 and funds will be withdrawn from the city's general fund to pay for it. The camera tower had been budgeted for the 2017-18 fiscal year, but bids on the items were not received before the close of the fiscal year.

In addition, the commission also approved \$7,500 for the department to train a new K-9 handler for the department.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation according to a recent survey by financial planning website Wallet Hub. Murfreesboro ranked 13 on the list of fastest growing cities in the nation, earning a sociodemographics rank of 15 and a jobs and economy rank of 26. The city was also ranked eighth on the list of midsized cities in terms of growth. The rankings were compiled based on a variety of factors including population growth, growth of college-educated population, growth of working-age population, job growth, ratio of full-time to part-time jobs, median household income growth, poverty rate decrease, unemployment rate decrease, increase in number of businesses, and building permit activity.

NASHVILLE

The Nashville International Airport has been rated one of the best airports in the country by customers, according to a recent survey conducted by J.D. Power. The 2018 North America Airport Satisfaction study ranked airports on five factors including checkin, food and retail, accessibility, terminal facilities, and baggage claim and divided the results into mega airports, large airports, and medium-sized airports. Nashville as the fourth best large-airport in the nation, scoring 802 out of a possible 1000. The Portland Airport, Dallas Love Field, and John Wayne Airport in Santa Anna, Calif., were the top three picks in the category. Nashville ranked fourth in the same study last year earning high marks for accessibility, ease of check-in and baggage claim, security check, food and retail, and its terminal facilities.

NEWBERN

The Newbern Police Department has received a Fatal Vision anti-DUI education kit to help with the department's highway safety program. The kit is valued at \$850 and was given to the department by department Safety Coordinator Danny Tippit after attending the Tennessee Life Savers Conference in Murfreesboro. The kit will be used in educational programs at local schools, civic organizations, and community events to simulate the effects of drunkenness and communicate the dangers of drunk driving to residents. The kit will be used along with high-visibility enforcement and other educational programs.

OAK RIDGE

The city of Oak Ridge's Electrical Department (CORED) has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Line USA Utility at the annual Trees and Utilities Conference in Omaha, Neb. This marks the fourth-consecutive year CORED has been selected as a Tree Line USA Utility, exemplifying the Arbor Day Foundation's five core standards: quality tree care, annual worker training, tree planting and public education, a tree-based energy conservation program, and an annual Arbor Day celebration. The Tree Line USA program exists to recognize best practices in public and private utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens.

Two Tennessee cities ranked "Best Places to Live in America"

Two Tennessee cites were ranked among of the best places to live in America through a survey conducted jointly by The National Association of Realtors and *Money* magazines.

The city of Franklin was ranked sixth and city of Murfreesboro 19 on the list of top 50 communities across the U.S.

Franklin's ranking was based on factors including low unemployment, median income, high job growth, short commutes, and its two highly ranked school districts. The city's breweries, unique restaurants, downtown businesses and annual events like Pumpkinfest also increased its rank.

The city of Murfreesboro

also earned high marks for its fast-growing population, increase in jobs, commute, and high school graduation rate.

Murfreesboro's colorful downtown square as well as its local celebrations, such as Jazzfest, also earned it high recommendations.

The list comprised of cities with a population of 50,000 or greater that had less than double the national crime risk, more than 85 percent of the state's median household income, and did not include cities with a lack of ethnic diversity. The list was then narrowed down based on factors such as economic health, cost of living, diversity, public education, income, crime, ease of living, and amenities.

Eagle Scout project honors Gallatin's fallen officers



Officers with the Gallatin Police Department joined 17-year-old Reese Nicholson at Triple Creek Park for the dedication of a memorial to the city's fallen officers. The high school senior is a member of the Boy Scouts of American Troop 425 and organized a contest among fellow students to select the design for the memorial, raised funds to erect the memorial, and received donations to help create it. Nicholson said he wanted to create an Eagle Scout project that would still be there decades in the future to show his children and grandchildren.

Oak Ridge dedicates new pavilion for friendship bell



The city of Oak Ridge recently dedicated the newly-constructed peace pavilion to house the friendship bell gifted to the city to celebrate international friendship with Japan. The bell was originally erected to honor the city's 50th anniversary. Future plans for the pavilion at A.K. Bissell park include a Japanese-style garden featuring raked gravel, as well as dogwood, ginkgo, maple, and cherry trees. From left: First Place Finish Construction CEO Laurel Patrick, Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Director John Hetrick, historian D. Ray Smith, architect Ziad Demian, Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Chairman Alan Tatum, local resident Shigeko Uppuluri, UT-ORNL Governor's chair Uday Vaidya, Ram Auppuluri, City Manager Mark Watson, Mayor Warren Gooch, Japanese Consul-General Hiroyuki Kobayashi, and International Friendship Bell Citizens Advisory Committee co-chair

Historic planes fly in to Morristown Airport



The city of Morristown recently held its Airport Annual Fly-In and Cruise at the Morristown Airport. The highlight of the event included a P-47 Thunderbolt and a P-51 Mustang brought in from the Tennessee Museum of Aviation in Pigeon Forge. Sponsors of the event included the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1494. In addition to the various planes on display, muscle cars, trucks, and even a monster truck were on display for visitors. Plane and helicopter rides were also offered.

Mary's Magical Place opens in Hendersonville



The city of Hendersonville has opened its first inclusive playground Mary's Magical Place – at the city's Veterans Park. The playground was named after Hendersonville teenager Mary McAuley who died from complications of cerebral palsy in 2015. McAuley's parents spent three years fundraising for the playground, which features surfacing for wheelchairs and play equipment for both children in wheel chairs and geared towards those with sensory issues or on the autism spectrum.

Municipal officials must learn rules of social media interactions

SOCIAL MEDIA from Page 1 town business - there is case law that sets out the parameters for blocking other users and deleting posts and comments on these types of accounts," Hodge said. "The rules related to blocking users and deleting comments and posts are much more concrete when the account is a municipal account and that the sole purpose of that account is interaction with the public."

Many municipalities have begun setting out social media policies for employees to follow while legal debates have ensued over whether or not social media profiles belonging to government entities, municipal employees, or elected officials have the right to delete comments or block interactions with other users.

Judges have continually ruled that elected officials cannot block followers on Twitter citing access to information on elected officials as a constitutional right. Suits have been filed by constituents who were blocked by officials including a former mayor of San Mateo, Calif., a county official from Virginia, a member of the Minneapolis City Council, a Washington state senator, and perhaps most famously President Donald Trump.

According to the courts, the First Amendment protects not only the right to free speech on social media but also the right for social media to be used to petition officials to redress grievances.

"A lot of the recent court cases on this issue relate to users being blocked by governmental entities or officials for being critical of something a government department, official, or employee has done," Hodge said. "Removing a user's comment or post because the person is criticizing some government action is not advisable. The courts frown upon that, and more often than not, hold that conduct constitutes a First Amendment violation. Even if a user is critical of everything that a department or governing body is doing, and there is no other issue with the post or comment aside from the critical content, the post or comment should not be removed or deleted. Other content such as obscenities and language that is discriminatory is less problematic to take off or remove.'

However, social media platforms are developing ways for users to still allow others to see their content without having any interaction with them personally. Twitter allows users to "mute"

and "unfollow" other users, which prevents the first user from seeing anything the second user posts but still allows the second user access to the first users' posts.

Judges have ruled that officials may use technology to mute or unfollow online harassers or "trolls," but those individuals must still be able to access statements politicians put on social media.

Deleting comments posted by citizens on social media can also have legal consequences. As a general rule, Hodge said comments should only be deleted if they are abusive, threatening, sexually explicit, obscene, discriminatory, or that contain commercial advertising or links to third party sites.

"Before any user's comment or post is removed or deleted, the city attorney should be contacted." Hodge said. "The city attorney can review the post or comment, the applicable case law, and then advise the official or employee on how to proceed. The cases on these issues are very fact specific so the city attorney definitely needs to be involved before any content is removed."

While many government websites and social media accounts set out disclaimers warning that they reserve the right to delete or remove comments, not all of these policies will hold up in court.

"A lot depends on what a municipality's disclaimer says, what the municipality's social media policy says, and how they are applied," Hodge said. "It is important to not only have a disclaimer, but to also have a tab on the page that takes users directly to the municipality's social media policy. Both the disclaimer and the policy should be reviewed and approved by the city attorney before anyone is allowed to comment or post on the municipality's social media account. A municipality's expectations of those posting or commenting on the social media account and the consequences for not meeting those expectations should be clearly enumerated so that no one has a question about what will and will not be deleted or removed."

Some social media also permits users to prohibit commenting on their sites and only use social media to put out information rather than receive it. Of course, comments have to be prohibited for all users, not just some.

Because the rules for how government entities and officials can moderate their online presence are PHONE 2 ARE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS ACTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA? We already know that 100% of Congress has a social media presence. But what about the state and local level? The average state legislature has: 58% of all members of all members Let's break that down by individual chamber of state houses Looking state-by-state, some have a bigger online presence than others: Facebook Texas has 100% of California has 99% of their Senate and 91% their House and 95% of of their House on their Senate on Twitter. Facebook. Other notable states: Other top states: California has 93% of Texas has 95% of their Senate and 92% their Senate of their House Pennsylvania has 94% Michigan has 95% of of their Senate their Senate Ohio has 94% of New Jersey has 95%

As the use of social media by government officials and agencies grows, the rules are changing on how government-run social media accounts and those owned by public officials can interact with constituents.

often difficult to navigate, Hodge said it is important municipalities create specific social media policies and make sure all users or moderators understand the rules.

of their Senate

their Senate

Hawaii has 92% of

"Again, I think it is essential that all municipalities that have a social media presence also have a social media policy," she said. "Additionally, a municipality should follow and adhere to its policy. If a municipality does not have a written policy about what is acceptable and is not acceptable on its social media accounts, I do not

think that the municipality should be deleting anything. A municipality can develop its own social media policy or use the template that MTAS staff developed. A municipality can adopt the template outright or can adopt the portions of the policy that meets the needs of the city."

their Senate

Colorado has 94%

of their Senate

When setting these policies, Hodge said cities also need to think about the platform they are using, the purpose of the account, and who will be allowed to use the

Why is IT security so important

for municipal governments?

"From an administrative standpoint, when an account is set up, municipal staff need to determine who the administrator of the account will be and whether there should be multiple administrators," she said. "There also needs to be some discussion about what the permissions on the account will be. Additionally, the administrators need to be cognizant of the fact that some of the content on the accounts may be subject to the municipality's records retention schedule. So, some thought needs to be put into how that content will be captured and maintained."

Hodge said following the simple rule of thinking before posting can also save a lot of trouble in the

"Officials need to know that the comments that they tweet or post on social media could trigger the open meetings act. Both employees and officials need to be mindful of the fact that tweets and posts could be subject to the public records act, regardless of whether the account is personal or for official municipal business," she said. "Of paramount importance, in my opinion, municipalities need to ensure that all employees and officials – both elected and appointed - are aware of the municipality's social media policy, receive a copy of the policy, are trained on the policy, and sign an acknowledgment of such that is maintained by the municipality.'

Additionally, municipalities should not use social media as their single platform for announcing things like upcoming meetings, events, or open hiring positions. Hodge said it is easy to forget that not everyone has access to or uses social media.

"Municipal staff has to remember that not everyone is on social media," she said. "There are a lot of municipalities that are interested in publishing public meeting notices on social media, which is fine and one way to advertise. But, it should not by the only way that meetings and events are advertised."

Despite the hazards, Hodge said social media is a great tool for municipal governments when used correctly.

"Social media can be a great tool for sharing accurate, important information quickly," she said.

For more information on government use of social media and crafting social media policies, visit www.mtas.tennessee.edu/ reference/social-media-tool-gov-<u>ernment.</u>

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Distributed denial of service Denial-of-service (DoS) attacks aim to make a website or web-based service such as an online payment portal for utility services unavailable to end-users by overloading the website with too much traffic. In other words, DoS attacks aim to crowd-out legitimate traffic.

or stolen devices to be wiped

remotely of all data or removing

access from a lost device to an

organization's apps and data.

IT from Page 1

Distributed DoS (i.e. DDoS) attacks aim for the same goal, but by leveraging multiple web-traffic sources. Not only are DDoS attacks more difficult to trace, but they're also more difficult to stop because of the multiple attack vectors being used against the target.

How are municipal governments faring against cyber

According to Accenture, "the majority of government executives are confident" in their existing cybersecurity strategies for protecting client data and privacy, employee data and privacy and confidential organizational information."

However, the same report, published in 2017, outlines that substantially fewer government executives are confident about their organizations' ability to "monitor, identify and measure breaches," with only a third of them being confident. But this isn't to say that local governments aren't making an effort.

A study of 411 municipalities published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in 2017 reports that only 7.4 percent of local governments do not conduct regular cyber security scans and penetration tests of their IT systems, while nearly 40 percent are engaged in monthly tests.

Cybersecurity scanning and tests in local government IT systems (Data Source: ICMA)

Likewise, nearly 60 percent of the surveyed local governments stated that they had increased their technology spending for cybersecurity since 2011, with 23.1 percent stating that their investment has "increased greatly." Thus, concrete steps are taken.

However, the lack of capacity for monitoring IT systems and, in turn, preventing breaches is a concerning issue. According to Microsoft, it takes organizations as many as 200 days to detect a breach. In that period of uncertainty, cyber attackers could have expanded their illicit access and, potentially, stolen data assets.

Despite the difficulties involved in strengthening municipal cyber security systems, Accenture noted that 40 percent of state and local government respondents made cybersecurity their "top priority" for their respective orga-

Moreover, an Accenture study of 3,500 U.S. citizens found that 30 percent of respondents had been victims of cyber crime. In other words, the public understands the importance of municipal governmental cyber security efforts.

According to this study, 74 percent of respondents "lack confidence in government's ability to keep their data private and secure" and that 66 percent of them are "willing to sacrifice convenience for increased data security." These inconveniences may be having to answer additional questions or the use of biometrics.

Thus, cybersecurity adoption at the municipal level is a matter of time, investment and access to the right technology and expertise to ensure key municipal services continue to be delivered effectively and on time.





PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Randal Baskin has been selected as the new chief of police for the city of Munford. Baskin is a 23-year veteran of



Randal Baskin

the Munford Police Department and has served in various positions with the agency, including as a certified firearms instructor, SWAT Team leader, and training officer. He holds an associate's degree in criminal justice from Dyersburg State Community College and has also graduated from numerous training and leadership courses, including the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Chandell Carr has been selected by Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland to serve as a deputy chief operating officer for the city. A 13-year veteran of municipal government, Carr will work with Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen on dayto-day service delivery, resource allocation, budgeting, and policy development for all of the city's divisions, among other duties. Carr has most recently served as the equity, diversion and inclusivity officer for the city's Division of Human Resources. She holds a law degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

James T. "Tommy" Castle has been appointed assistant fire chief for the city of Bristol. A 29-



Tommy Castle

year veteran of the fire department, Castle most recently served as a battalion chief. He was hired in 1989 as a firefighter/EMT and has since worked his way up the ranks including serving as lieutenant and captain. He also served as a shift commander after being promoted to battalion chief in 2010. He has extensive experience as a fire services instructor and holds certifications in advanced EMT, hazardous materials, fire inspection, specialty rescue disciplines, incident command, and task force leadership.

Brittany Fleenor has been selected as the Secretary III for the Bristol Public Works Department, taking over



Brittany Fleenor

from Velma Witte who joined the city manager's office earlier this year as executive secretary. Her duties with the public works department will include generating complex correspondence, manuals, and reports. She will be responsible for maintaining databases for several different divisions within the department. Fleenor joined the city in 2016 as an office manager in the department of community relations.

Lawrence E. Hall Jr., former member of the Metro Nashville City Council, has been tapped by Mayor Da-



Lawrence Hall

vid Briley to head the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement for the city of Nashville. As director, Hall will work closely to appreciate the needs of neighborhoods across the city and to drive strategic partnerships with community leaders, stakeholders and residents. Hall, who represented District 5 in East Nashville from 1999 to 2003, is joining the administration from Meharry Medical College. Most recently, Hall held the position of vice president of External Affairs and Business Development at the college as well as interim vice president of External Affairs, assistant vice president of External Affairs and director of State Governmental Affairs. Previously, Hall worked as

a research analysis and liaison to the House State and Local Government Committee at the Tennessee General Assembly. A Nashville native, Hall holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Trevecca Nazarene University and a master's in public administration from Tennessee State University.

Jeff Johnson, vice mayor of Dunalp, died suddenly from an allergic reaction to a bee sting at his home



Jeff Johnson

on Oct. 8, 2018, at the age of 46. Johnson had been a member of the Dunlap City Commission for more than a decade. When he was first elected in 2007 he became one of the youngest elected officials in city history at the age of 35. Johnson had served as the city's vice mayor since September 2012. In addition to his work on the Dunlap City Commission, Johnson was employed as the chief lending officer of Mountain Valley Bank.

Marilyn Lloyd, former U.S. Representative for Tennessee's 3rd District, has died at the age of 89. Lloyd rep-



Marilyn Lloyd

resented the Chattanooga area for 20 years and was the first woman elected as a Tennessee congressional representative to serve a full term. She was first elected to Congress in 1974 after her husband Mort Lloyd was killed in a plane crash shortly after winning a primary election. She returned to Congress 10 more times before deciding not to run for re-election in 1994. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, she co-sponsored a bill that would become the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

David Mc-Glamery has been appointed an assistant fire chief for administration by the city of Bristol Fire Department.

A 14-year



David McGlamery

veteran of the department, Mc-Glamery served most recently as a captain. He began his career as a firefighter/EMT in 2004 and since has served as a sergeant, lieutenant, and captain as well as the department's accreditation manager. He holds several certifications for fire instruction, inspection, hazardous materials, and advanced EMT. He also has experience in public education, fire investigations, and department administration.

Russ Peterson is retiring from the Brentwood Fire Department after 31 years of service, most recently as division chief, and has taken up the mantle of Brentwood's emergency management coordinator. Peterson began working with the department as a firefighter in 1987, working his way up as an engineer and

lieutenant.



Russ Peterson

Before coming to work for the city of Brentwood, he was a firefighter in the city of Huber Heights, Ohio, and then as a fire engineer and EMT for Knoxville. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Tennessee, a master's degree in engineering technology from Middle Tennessee State University, and numerous certifications in emergency management, disaster preparedness, hazardous materials management, and physical sciences. He has also served as an adjunct instructor for Jacksonville State University.

Melissa B. Roberson has been named the interim transit director for the city of Knoxville, replacing Dawn Distler who re-



Melissa Roberson

cently left the city for a position in Akron, Ohio. Roberson previously served as a chief administrative officer for Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) and has 35 years' experience in transit. Roberson holds a degree in political science from the University of Memphis and a master's in public administration from the University of Tennessee. She joined KAT as an intern during her studies at UT in 1982.

William Swann has been selected as the new director chief of the NashvilleFire Department, becoming the



William Swann

first African-American director chief in the department. Swann previously became the first African-American deputy director in Nashville history when he was selected as the department's deputy director. Swann worked his way up through the department, beginning as a firefighter and serving as training academy instructor, director of the Office of Emergency Management, and fire director. He also served with the U.S. Army for five years and is a Gulf War veteran. Swann holds a bachelor's degree in management and human relations from Trevecca Nazarene University.

James Taube has been selected as the new captain of the Munford Police Department following the promo-



James Taube

tion of the previous captain, Randal Baskin, to chief of police.

DiPietro steps aside, **Boyd takes reins at UT**

University of Tennessee System President Joe DiPietro has announced his retirement effective Feb. 14, 2019, and UT officials have tapped former state Economic and Community Development Director gubernatorial candidate Randy Boyd to serve in the interim.

DiPietro has been president of the UT system since 2011 and will step down from active employment on Nov. 21, using the remainder of his vacation time until his official retirement in February. The 25th president of the system, DiPietro cited several changes in leadership coming, including the UT Board of Trustees, Tennessee General Assembly and governor, as reasons for deciding to retire.

"I am very proud of all we have accomplished together, which would not have been possible without the important efforts of our talented faculty, students, staff and administrators and the steadfast support of the Board of Trustees," DiPietro said in the release. "The University is well positioned for success — we are coming off a record-breaking year in research funding as well as private fundraising, and we have a committed group of chancellors and system administrators to move the University forward."

UT Board of Trustees Chairman John Compton, in a statement in the release, praised DiPietro for his time as president.

"We should all be thankful for Joe's leadership," Compton said. "He and the former Board of Trustees accomplished a great deal together. All stakeholders in the University system have been wellserved by his tireless commitment to continual improvement across all of our campuses."

Randy Boyd, a Knoxville-based businessman and philanthropist, was selected to serve as interim president of the UT system, which includes the flagship campus at Knoxville as well as institutions in Memphis, Chattanooga, and

"I am truly honored and hum-



Joe DiPietro



Randy Boyd

bled to have the opportunity to serve my alma mater, University of Tennessee, and our great state," Boyd said. "[I am] looking forward to listening and learning about how we can accelerate the positive momentum across all of our campuses and throughout the UT system."

In addition to serving as the state's economic development chief under Gov. Bill Haslam, Boyd helped shape the governor's Tennessee Promise program. Haslam has offered his support of Boyd serving as the new UT president.

Boyd is also the founder of \$400-million company Radio Systems Corp., and his been a prominent supporter of UT dating back to his own time at the university.

Taube has served with the department since 2004, starting as a reserve officer before he was hired as a patrolman in 2005. He was later promoted to sergeant in 2013 and has served as a member of the department's SWAT Team. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Ralph Van Brocklin, a commissioner for the city of Johnson City, died unexpectedly on Sept. 8 at the age of Van Brocklin



63. A native of Salinas, Calif., Van Brocklin studied pre-medicine at UCLA and then attended the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1981. After a one-year residency at UC San Francisco, he began a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Tennessee Memphis. After his residency ended, he moved to Johnson

City where he served on the Johnson City Board of Education from 2007 to 2011. He was elected to the city commission initially in 2011. He served as the city's mayor from 2013 to 2015 and led numerous initiatives during his time in office.

Kyle Veazy has been selected as a deputy chief operating officer for the city of Memphis by Mayor Jim Strick-



Kyle Veazy

land. In his new role, Veazy will work with Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen to deliver longterm priority projects, coordinate the city's role in economic development initiatives, and oversee performance improvement opportunities, among other duties. He joined the administration in 2016 after an 11-year journalism career, most recently as an editor at The Commercial Appeal. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Mississippi.

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Water and Wastewater Systems

STATE BRIEFS

Tennessee's median income increased 5.8 percent in 2017, making it the fastest growing median income in the Southeast and fifth fastest in the nation. The average Tennessee household income was \$51,340 in 2017, according to data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Chattanooga area experienced the highest income growth of the state's metropolitan areas with an 8 percent growth rate. The median household income for Chattanooga in 2017 was \$50,250. The Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin area was the second highest in the state and ranked 12th in the nation with a growth rate of 6.5 percent and a median income of \$63,939. Families in Knoxville saw a 4 percent increase while the Memphis area saw a 2.4 percent increase.

Tennessee's unemployment rate remained near historic levels despite the first slight increase in months. The preliminary seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for August was 3.6 percent – a 0.1 percent increase from July. Prior to this, the state's unemployment rate had remained at 3.5 percent for three consecutive months and has been at or near record-low levels for more than a year. The seasonally-adjusted rate has been at 4 percent or less since April 2017 with an all-time low of 3.3 percent in September 2017.

Tennessee ranks fifth in the nation for the number of women

murdered by men, according to a study recently released by the Violence Policy Center. The state has been within the top 10 list of most violent states for women for the past nine years. Of the 65 women killed by men in 2016, 95 percent knew their killers and upwards of 60 percent were or had been the wife, girlfriend, or domestic partner of the person who killed them. Women were also disproportionately killed with firearms to any other weapon. Approximately 81 percent of the murders were not committed along with another crime while 74 percent were the end result of an argument between the victim and the offender. The average age of a woman killed by a current or former partner in Tennessee is 36. The study, When Men Murder Women, uses information from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report to rank states.

Tennessee has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation, according to a new study. The state ranks eight out of 50 in infant deaths. On average, 7.4 of every 1,000 children born in the state do not make it to their first birthday. The national average is 5.8 deaths out of every 1,000 live births. Obesity, substance abuse, and high rates of women who smoke while pregnant are contributing factors to the state's high infant mortality rate. The state also has a higher than normal rate of premature births with 11.3 percent of all births in the state continued premature.

State reports revenues higher than anticipated for August

Tennessee revenues were more than the budgeted estimates for the first month of the state's fiscal year.

Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin recently reported that overall August revenues were \$1.05 billion, which is \$71.5 million more than August 2017, and \$34.4 million more than the budgeted estimates. The growth rate for all taxes in August was 7.29 percent.

"August revenues have exceeded expectations and demonstrate the continued strength of the Tennessee economy," Martin said. "Sale and use tax receipts, reflecting July consumer sales activity, motor vehicle registration and business tax receipts all posted growth that contributed to the state outperforming its budgeted estimate. However, franchise and excise taxes and gross receipts fell short of their respected estimates and offset some of the positive advancement."

August numbers are a positive start to Fiscal Year 2019. Given that Tennessee is in one of the longest economic expansions in history.

On an accrual basis, August is the first month in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

General fund revenues were \$14.4 million more than the August estimate. The four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$20 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$18.3 million more than the estimate for August. The August growth rate

was positive 6.11 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$4.5 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$37.4 million. Gasoline and motor fuel revenues increased by 9.19 percent from August of 2017, and were \$5.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$96.2 million.

Business tax revenues were \$4.9 million more than the August estimate of \$4.9 million. Tobacco tax revenues for the month were less than budgeted estimates by \$1 million.

Privilege tax revenues for August were \$900,000 more than the estimate. Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$11.8 million more than the August estimate.

Gross Receipts tax revenues for August were \$2.6 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$13.4 million. All other tax revenues exceeded budgeted estimates by a net of \$1.3 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2018-2019 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of Nov. 27, 2017, and adopted by the second session of the 110th General Assembly in May 2018.

Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2018 session of the General Assembly.

These estimates are available on the state's website at https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa/fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html.

Six cities receive downtown facade grants from state

More than \$550,000 in Façade Improvement Grants have been approved to assist six Tennessee municipalities with downtown improvements.

Façade Improvement Grants come from Tennessee's federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

"With the assistance of the Façade Improvement Grants, each community will be able to renovate its downtown districts, which will help promote future economic growth," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "I congratulate the six communities selected for this round and look forward to seeing them continue to succeed in our state."

The grants are used to improve commercial buildings in downtown districts in Tennessee Main Street and Tennessee Downtowns communities. Grants can support new awnings and signs, painting, windows, doors, brick repair and other upgrades.

"The Façade Improvement

Grants are great assets for communities looking for opportunities to enhance their downtown districts," TNEDC Commissioner Bob Rolfe said. "I applaud these six recipients for taking the initiative to invest in themselves to make their communities a better place for their citizens to live and work."

The 2018 Façade Improvement grantees are:

- Carthage \$97,751
- Greeneville \$100,000 • Linden – \$100,000
- McMinnville \$56,630
- Sweetwater \$100,000Union City \$100,000

Four of the six grantees are accredited Tennessee Main Street communities, and three have completed the Tennessee Downtowns program. Each is required

improvement programs.

This is the sixth annual round of Façade Improvement Grants.

to provide a 25 percent match for

the funds and administer the façade

New conference center to be built at Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bell Buckle



Fire service members from the mid-south region attended the groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured above are Columbia Fire Chief Ty Cobb, Lewisburg Fire Chief Larry Williams, Gov. Bill Haslam, and Lawrenceburg Fire Chief Jay Moore.

Earlier this month, Gov. Bill Haslam, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak and other state dignitaries broke ground on a new \$5.7 million conference center at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy.

The Academy helps train and educate more than 15,000 fire and codes students each year and is

a nationally recognized leader in fire service and codes enforcement education

When complete, the 19,000-square-foot conference center will provide additional meeting space to hold large classes, conferences, and graduations.

Haslam announced in 2017 that he was putting the money for the conference center in his budget request.

The new conference center will allow Tennessee to keep pace with the growing need for fire training and continue to help make the Academy a leader in fire training education.

Located in Bell Buckle, the school is named for the late Clarence "Pete" Phillips, who served as Bedford County's state representative for three decades and who was a key backer of the project.

State Attorney Generals want FCC action on blocking illegal robocalls

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III, along with a bipartisan coalition of 34 attorneys general, is calling on the Federal Communications Commission to create new rules to allow telephone service providers to block more illegal robocalls being made to unsuspecting consumers in Tennessee and across the country.

The formal comment to the FCC explains that scammers using illegal robocalls have found ways to evade a call blocking order entered last year by the FCC. Scammers disguise their identities, making it difficult for law enforcement to bring them to

justice. They also use a technique that allows calls – no matter where they originate – to appear to be from a phone number with the same local area code as the consumer. It's called "neighbor spoofing" and has been a trend for some time in robocalls, where the company or scammer on the other end makes it look like they are using a local number

The added authority sought by the attorneys general will allow service providers to use new technology to detect and block illegal spoofed calls- even those coming from what are otherwise legitimate phone numbers. Service providers will be ready to launch this new authentication method in 2019.

The initiative for which the attorneys general seek FCC approval concerns illegal robocalls- which are made to consumers regardless of whether they sign up for do-not-call lists

To date, the FCC has not issued a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning additional provider-initiated call blocking. The attorneys general anticipate that further requests for comments will take place on this subject.

For a copy of the comment click here: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/pr/2018/pr18-28-comments.pdf

Tennessee state parks receive national accreditation for dedication, commitment



Tennessee State Parks has been named one of only two state park systems in the country to receive accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The announcement was made official at the National Recreation and Park Association's annual conference in Indianapolis last month. CAPRA accreditation assures park visitors, policy makers, department staff and taxpayers that a parks system has the operational capacity to deliver high-quality programs, services and facilities. There are more than 160 accredited park and recreation agencies in the United States. Only one other parks system in Tennessee has received accreditation – the city of Germantown in Shelby County.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CITY CLERK. BROWNSVILLE. The city of Brownsville is seeking applications for a city clerk. The position is responsible for the financial activities of the city related to budgeting, accounting, purchasing, tax collections, etc. They are also responsible for a broad range of administrative and support-related functions such as human resources management. The city clerk must be able to record minutes and maintain records of the proceedings of the governing body and other meetings. They also need extensive education or background in accounting, budgeting, and reconciliation of bank statements; must be knowledgeable in preparing and overseeing annual budgets. The city clerk is responsible for issuance of licenses and maintaining records related to such; must have extensive knowledge of the principles and practices of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and modern municipal accounting, budgeting and finance; a bachelor of business administration in accounting, finance, or closely related field required: a master's degree is a plus, but not required; a CPA and/or Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation is highly preferred. Experience must include five to seven years of progressively responsible managerial positions in accounting and financial management along with prior municipal experience and a letter of recommendation from a reputable CPA/auditing firm is a plus. The city clerk must operate an office computer and a variety of word processing and other software applications; operate a variety of records management systems, including Local Government Corporation Software. The salary is a minimum of \$55,000 per year depending on professional experience and qualifications with a benefits package. Interested applicants should email a cover letter and résumé (showing years and months of current and prior employment dates) and six work-related references to: contact us@brownsvilletn.gov by Nov. 28. For additional information, visit www. brownsvilletn.gov. The city of Brownsville is an equal opportunity employer.

DIGITAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to assist upper management in directing and planning the digital services library programs. This position requires a master's degree from an American Library Association accredited college with major course work in library science; supplemented by three (3) years previous experience and/or training in adult library services, literature and reference resource; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must have the flexibility to work evenings and weekends to meet required staffing levels of the library. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is \$38,425 - \$42,312 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an official Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for equipment operator. This position includes driving and operating trucks, tractors and other equipment. Driving and maneuvering the vehicle constitute the majority of the work required to complete tasks for various maintenance, upkeep and/ or construction projects. Equipment in this classification does not involve the operation of additional mechanisms other than those that are moderately simple and routine. This classification is reserved for those positions in which operation of included equipment is the primary function of the job. Requires High school diploma or GED, supplemented by vocational/ technical training in vehicle operation, equipment operation and work in area of assignment; supplemented by one year of previous experience and/or training involving vehicle operation, job related equipment operation, and work in area of assignment; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with Class "A" or "B" endorsement. Salary is \$31,200 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original Town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under the Employment Opportunities tab, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of finance and human resources director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of administrative and support

services under the general supervision of the city manager. The finance and human resources director is primarily responsible for all financial, accounting and human resources operations for the city of Lakeland. Duties include: planning, organizing, and directing fiscal affairs including but not limited to the areas of accounting, operational and capital budgeting, financial reporting, revenue collection, and other financial activities; preparing and reviewing financial statements; reconciliation of accounts; preparation of annual state and federal reports; administering grant-funded programs; assisting with annual audit; administering insurance benefits; assisting in recruitment and training of employees; developing and maintaining personnel rules and regulations, personnel records and other personnel related duties. This employee is also responsible for the supervision and oversight of the centralized purchasing system, accounts payable, asset management, and payroll. 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 experience in accounting, finance, and/ or human resources management; and a bachelor's degree with a focus in accounting or finance and/or CMFO designation (CPA preferred). Competitive salary and $benefits\, of fered.\, For more\, information\, and$ for a complete job description, please visit www.lakelandtn.gov/jobs

FIRE CHIEF LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a fire chief. Salary range is \$78,222.00 -\$90,639.00 annually. The purpose of this job is to perform administrative, managerial, technical and operational functions associated with overseeing activities of the Fire & Rescue Department. Duties and responsibilities include planning. coordinating and directing all aspects of department operations; responding to and directing major emergencies; developing departmental budget and controlling expenditures; and supervising assigned employees. Job qualifications include a high school diploma; associates degree in fire science or related field is preferred. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have 10 years of experience of a wide and progressively responsible nature in Emergency Services; must have four years of experience in fire operations, administration and supervision at a command level. Must be knowledgeable of federal, state and local laws, codes and regulations including the International Fire Code and ISO requirements. Experience to include knowledge of Incident Command Theory. Must possess a working knowledge of Fire CAD/RMS and P25 Communications operations and standards. Must have Tennessee State Fire Officer II Certification or equivalent, as well as Tennessee State EMT Certification. Must possess a driver license valid in the state of Tennessee and maintenance of the same as a condition of continued employment. Visit the city's website, www.lavergnetn.gov, to review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position. The city of La Vergne is a EOE/drug-free workplace. All candidates selected for any job opening must pass a physical exam and a drug screen before starting the job.

FIREFIGHTER COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an opening for a firefighter. This position is to perform entry level firefighting and basic level emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town's fire department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations. Must possess High School diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain Firefighter I Certification as issued by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education; Firefighter II Certification preferred. Must possess and maintain Advanced EMT license as issued by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment. Must possess and maintain valid driver's license with appropriate endorsements as issued by the state of residency. Must successfully pass the Town of Collierville pre-employment verification and the state of Tennessee Advanced Emergency Medical Technician requirements. Must not have been convicted of a felony. Must not have been convicted of a Class A or Class B misdemeanor within 36 months of hire. Veterans must possess an 'Honorable' discharge from any Military Service. Must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence east of the Mississippi River within a distance no greater than 30 miles from the town's corporate limits. Town of Collierville employees must not be on any departmental disciplinary probation. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Must attach copies of current certifications and licenses with your application. Applicants must meet 'minimum entry requirements' that are listed separately in each application packet. Valid motor vehicle operator's license (to drive fire apparatus) at the time of hire. Salary is \$36,374 annually with excellent benefits package. To apply, you must submit a special firefighter application. Firefighter applications are available to download at

www.collierville.com or you may obtain

one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE

INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill is seeking a new infrastructure director (ft, exempt). Plans, organizes, directs the water and wastewater treatment plants; water distribution, sewer collection, MS4/ stormwater, and streets/maintenance divisions. Conducts studies, makes reports; prepares, presents and administers annual fiscal budget items related to above listed departments. Prepares/implements capital improvements program. Bachelor's degree in engineering required; TN PE licensure required. TNDL required. 10+ years' experience water or wastewater system maintenance or construction, hydraulic engineering, civil engineering or municipal engineering, of which some experience having been in an increasingly responsible administrative or supervisory capacity preferred, but not required. 80K-95K DOE. Applications/resumes Must be submitted online at: www. springhilltn.org/Jobs.aspx. Questions to staylor@springhilltn.org. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Applications will be considered on basis of qualifications, experience, and suitability for position without regards to race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The city of Spring Hill is an EEO/AA/Title VI Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

IT TECHNICIAN

EAST RIDGE. The city of East Ridge is currently seeking a full time IT technician. In this position the IT Technician will diagnose computer problems and perform tests on computer equipment and programs; responsible for installing, maintaining, and repairing computers and networks, teaching other employees' computer related programs and ensuring that adequate IT infrastructure is in place and is used to its maximum capabilities. Other duties include hardware setup, install and configure software and various drivers, install networks and manage components, manage security options and software on computers as well as networks to maintain protection from cyber attacks; troubleshoot system failures and provide solutions to restore functionality, order computer parts, and being the main point of contact for employees who experience computer operations issues. Experience with different types of computers including hardware and software, operating systems, computer programing, internet applications, and IT security. Must have excellent communication skills. Associate degree in computer science preferred or technical certification in computer science along with three (3) years experience. . Please send resume and cover letter to Trish Perry, Human Resources Manager, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412, or tperry@eastridgetn.gov. Closing date Oct. 19, 2018. EOE/Drug-free workplace.

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 CHIEF

RIPLEY. The city of Ripley (est. population 8,500) is seeking resumes for the position of chief of police. Under the general direction of the mayor and city governing body, the chief of police is responsible for planning, directing, implementing and evaluating the activities of the Police Department. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, recruitment and selection of personnel, succession planning, formulation of policies and procedures, and preparation of an annual budget. The ideal candidate must be P.O.S.T. certified and preferably, a graduate from a college or university with major course experience in police administration or related field; candidate must have five years of experience in law enforcement administration. Any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the person with the knowledge and abilities required to perform the job may substitute for the above, at the discretion of the city. Consideration will be given for FBI National Academy and/or Southern Police Institutes and FBI Leeds graduate. Salary will be \$57,491.20. Position will also include a comprehensive benefit package. Other requirements include: must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license; must reside within Lauderdale County, or move into Lauderdale County within 90 days of employment; must meet annual P.O.S.T. in-service requirements; must have completed P.O.S.T. Law Enforcement Management and Administration training; evidence of continuing professional development; must have good moral character as determined by a thorough background investigation; must be able to meet the physical standards of law enforcement personnel, as determined by a city designated physician; must be able to pass a post-offer physical fitness testing assessment, as determined by a city designated provider; and must be able to pass a psychological exam, as determined by a city designated psychologist. A complete job description is available upon request. Resume and cover letter to be returned to the address below. Resumes will be accepted until 4:00 p.m., Oct. 31, 2018. Ripley City Hall, 110 S Washington Street, Ripley, TN 38063 Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. EOE

POLICE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

JACKSON. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) seeks applications for a Police Management Consultant in its Jackson office. MTAS is an agency of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and provides professional services to Tennessee cities, state government, and municipal government related associations. The police management consultant provides professional advice, technical assistance and information on a wide range of police management issues to Tennessee municipal officials and their staffs. Examples include: consulting: facilitating strategic planning sessions; conducting staffing and organizational studies; making personnel recruitment and selection recommendations; and developing and instructing technical classes. The position is located in the Jackson. Memphis or Nashville office. Requires a bachelor's degree in criminal justice or in a related field. A master's degree in criminal justice or related field of study is preferred. Requires at least five years employment in state or local law enforcement as a police chief or senior administrative officer. Prefer experience in training needs analysis, lesson plan development, and presentation. Tennessee experience preferred. This position requires: practical knowledge of the problems faced by city officials; knowledge of state laws and accepted best practices in police procedures; ability to independently plan and process projects, questions, training, etc.; use of managerial, analytical, conceptual, and interpersonal skills on a daily basis in identifying a specific city's problem and providing the advice and assistance to solve the problem; high level of cognitive or intuitive skills are necessary to fully understand, design, and implement successful solutions to municipal problems; ability to multi-task and prioritize when reacting to numerous and competing requests for assistance from agency customers; ability to work with very little direct supervision; and strong written and oral communications skills. Prefer ability to communicate effectively with city officials with varying levels of experience and ability. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver's license and insurance. This position requires extensive travel with overnight stays to municipalities across the state to deliver on-site consultation and training. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically and attach a cover letter, resume and three references with contact information. Please apply at: https://ut.taleo.net/ careersection/ut_system/jobdetail.ftl?job=18000001EI&tz=GMT-04%3A00. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/ AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

PUBLIC UTILITIES MANAGER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to provide highly responsible, administrative, and professional work in the direction, organization, and management of the town of Collierville's Public Utilities. Requires a bachelor's degree with major course work in civil engineering, environmental engineering or a closely related field; supplemented by six years progressively responsible experience in public utilities administrative functions, of which at least two must have been in a supervisory capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Wastewater treatment, water treatment, water distribution and wastewater collection licenses as issued by the state of Tennessee are beneficial. Must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. Salary is DOQ with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an official town of Collierville Application. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Com-

pleted applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. EOE.

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City

STAFF ATTORNEY

is seeking its next staff attorney. This is a high-level, visible management position reporting directly to the city manager. The staff attorney advises and represents the city commission, city manager, and city departments in all settings where legal advice is needed or requested. Will collaborate with outside counsel in various matters related to city goals and objectives. Must demonstrate an exemplary customer service approach to internal and external stakeholders and have a strong commitment to public service. The next staff attorney should possess the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to: advocate on behalf of the city in a wide variety of settings, including negotiations, dispute resolutions, mediations, trials, hearings, and administrative processes to resolve disputes or legal actions; prepare and draft ordinances, resolutions, administrative policies, contracts and other legal documents and instruments; review such documents and offers opinions as to legal acceptability when presented to the city for consideration; review and analyze proposed contracts, insurance policies, and other legal documents affecting the city; consult, brief, and make presentations to city administration and the city commission; prepare a variety of reports, correspondence and documents on questions of law and legal procedure as directed by the city manager; timely and appropriately respond to inquiries from the public and media about public information and municipal regulations and procedures: strategize and maintain effective relationships with outside legal counsel and city staff; prepare a variety of reports, correspondence and documents on questions of law and legal procedure as directed and approved by the city manager: monitor changes and trends in legislation covering civil law, municipal regulations, and real property and risk management issues; evaluates legislative impact on city operations, and recommends operational, procedural and policy improvements; interpret laws, rulings and regulations for city officials and staff; confer with colleagues with specialty in area of law to establish and verify basis for legal proceedings; and maintain absolute confidentiality of work-related issues and city information; performs other duties as required or assigned. Juris Doctor Degree from a school of law accredited by the American Bar Association is required. Must be currently licensed to practice law in Tennessee, as well as admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. At least five to seven years of relevant municipal experience, including but not limited to constitutional law, land use development, public finance, risk management, and public contract evaluation. Strong written and oral advocacy skills are a key competency for this position. Johnson City, with a population of approximately 65,000, offers an affordable cost of living, no state income tax and outstanding schools, parks, sports and fitness facilities. Johnson City is the home of East Tennessee State University, which has a current enrollment of approximately 14,000 students. The city operates under the commission-manager form of government with a city manager appointed by a five-member city commission. Applications will be received online at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range begins at \$65,478 and tops at \$100,006. The city offers an attractive benefit package that includes health, life, long-term disability, and a 401a retirement plan. Voluntary benefit plans such as dental, specific disease, and short-term disability are also available. To apply from the main web page please follow the steps below: Select department and divisions, Human Resources, Current job openings. EEO.

WATER PLANT OPERATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a water plant operator. The position performs skilled trades work in the installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of town water system facilities including wells, pump stations, water towers, the distribution system, water hydrants, and water meters. Must have a high school diploma or GED with concentration in a vocational program; supplemented by three years' previous experience and/or training involving water system maintenance, at least one year of which must have been operating experience in a Grade II Water Treatment Plant; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be in compliance with TDEC Rule 0400-49-01 and remain in compliance throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. This is a Grade II Water Treatment Facility. The work of this job requires sufficient physical strength, stamina, and ability to pass a work related physical proficiency test and pre-employment examination. The work is physically demanding, may require lifting heavy objects, and may require working in inclement weather. Work environment at times could involve toxic or caustic chemicals, risk of electrical shock or work around moving parts. Salary is \$32,425 - \$55,584 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. To apply for this position, you must submit an original town of Collierville application. Applications are available to download at www. collierville.com, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office located at 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Completed applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

Tennessee Municipal League 2018-2019 Officers and Directors

Wallace Cartwright Mayor, Shelbyville VICE PRESIDENTS

Jill Holland Mayor, McKenzie Mike Werner Mayor, Gatlinburg Ken Moore Mayor, Franklin

DIRECTORS Jimmy Alexander Mayor, Nolensville Andy Berke Mayor, Chattanooga

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City Administrator, Morristown (District 2) John Clark Mayor, Kingsport

Vance Coleman Mayor, Medina **Richard Driver** Mayor, Lafayette (District 5)

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Mayor, Henderson **Christa Martin** Vice Mayor, Columbia **Lonnie Norman** Mayor, Manchester Madeline Rogero

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Mary Ann Tremblay Vice Mayor, Three Way PAST PRESIDENTS

Bo Perkinson (2017) Councilman, Athens John Holden (2016) Mayor, Dyersburg Curtis Hayes (2015) Mayor, Livingston Tom Rowland (2014) Mayor, Cleveland Dale Kelley (2013) Mayor, Huntingdon Ken Wilber (2012) Mayor, Portland Kay Senter (2011) Morristown Vice Mayor Sam Tharpe (2010) Commissioner, Paris TommyPedigo(2009)Councilman,Morristown Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS Ted Rodgers, Collegedale (TCMA)

TMLAFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

(Ex-Officio Directors) TN Assn. of Air Carrier Airports

TN Building Officials Assn. TN Assn. of Chiefs of Police

TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders TN Government Finance Officers Assn.

TN Fire Chiefs Assn.

TN Fire Safety Inspectors

TN Assn. of Floodplain Management TN Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth.

TN Municipal Attorneys Assn.

TN Municipal Judges Conference

TN Chapter, American Public Works

TN Recreation and Parks Assn.

TN Chapter, American Planning TN Personnel Management Assn.

TN Assn. of Public Purchasing

TN Section, Institute of Transport TN Public Transportation Assoc.

Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools TN Renewable Energy & Economic

Development Council TN Urban Forestry Council TN Stormwater Assn

TML SPONSORS

4 STAR SPONSOR First Tennessee Bank 3 STAR SPONSOR

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Entegrity Master Meter, Inc. VC3

Voya Financial Advisors

Waste Management Inc. of Tennessee 1 STAR SPONSOR Charter Communications Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc. J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers Local Govt. Corporation Mattern & Craig, Inc. NORESCO McGill Associates, P.A. Pavement Restorations, Inc. Republic Services Smith Seckman Reid Tennessee 811 TLM Associates, Inc. Utility Service Co., Inc. Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.

Waste Industries USA, Inc. TML STAFF

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Sylvia Harris, Conference Planning Director John Holloway, Government Relations Debbie Kluth, Marketing Director /

Member Services Kevin Krushenski, Legislative Research

Denise Paige, Government Relations

Congress passes bipartisan **America's Water Infrastructure Act**

WATER from Page 1

Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas.

"The America's Water Infrastructure Act is crucial to building, maintaining and improving our nation's levees, dams, ports, harbors and inland waterways, and will help reduce the backlog of authorized infrastructure projects lacking funding for completion."

This AWIA legislation makes important improvements to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, which is responsible for flood control, navigation and other activities related to water resources and infrastructure.

AWIA also addresses the ongoing need to improve and maintain the nation's water infrastructure and authorizes projects that impact ports, mainland waterways, dams, irrigation systems and water storage that will help to ensure American goods are able to be efficiently shipped from coast-to-coast and around the

America's Water Infrastructure Act will:

- Authorize federal funding for water infrastructure projects, which leverages billions in water infrastructure spending;
- Expand water storage capa-
- Include billions of dollars in deauthorizations and reduce the deficit; Assist local communities
- in complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act by upgrading aging drinking water, wastewater and irrigation systems;
- Reduce flooding risks for rural, western, and coastal communities;

- Ensure that America maintains the competitiveness of our coastal and inland ports, and maintain the navigability of our inland waterways;
- Create a new framework to allow for more Army Corps projects to be budgeted with increased local stakeholder input and expanded transpar-
- Authorize or reauthorize important water infrastructure programs and projects; and
- Address significant water infrastructure needs in tribal communities.

Read the text of America's Water Infrastructure Act here https:// www.epw.senate.gov/public/ cache/files/d/2/d201e85df110-4359-9ee0-08f2374a7fca/37A0437761A487B5E-A517EDC8C753198.s3021-americas-water-infrastructure-act.pdf

why. New data shows younger

TENNESSEE **FESTIVALS**

Oct. 19-20: Crossville Crossville Oktoberfest

Continuous entertainment is provided by three German Polka bands. Two floors are provided for your dancing pleasure. German dinners are available consisting of bratwurst, knackwurst, Weisswurst, chicken schnitzel or pork schnitzel with sides of sauerkraut, spaetzle and red cabbage. Desserts of cheesecake or German chocolate cake are also provided. For more info, visit http:// crossvilleoktoberfest.com.

Oct. 20 - 21: Bean Station

22nd Annual Harvest Pride Days

Featuring arts, handmade crafts, homemade food items, food vendors, tricycle race, kids games, money machine, and Adopt-A-Pet Humane Society booth. For more information, contact Barbara Wolfe at bwolfe@townofbeanstation.com, or call 865-993-3177

Oct 27: Tullahoma

Oktoberfest

This yearly German inspired beer festival is a local hit, held at Tullahoma's South Jackson Civic Center. The festival features many food vendors, authentic German food, a children's garden, and for the grownups a beer garden. Plus traditional Oktoberfest games, costume contest, even a dachshund contest and much, much more. For more info, visit www.southjackson.org.

Oct. 27: Jackson

Jackson Brewfest

The 10th Annual Jackson Brewfest is coming to the Jackson Fairgrounds. This is a 21-and-up-only event. Enjoy dozens of unlimited samples of the finest craft beers from around the world and right here in West Tennessee. Shop local vendors, enjoy delicious food, games & afternoon entertainment. For more info, visit www.visitjacksontn.com.

Oct. 27-28: Morristown

43rd Annual Mountain Makins **Festival**

Held at the Rose Center for the Arts, this award-winning festival celebrates the very best of Appalachian culture, from crafts to music. In 2016 it was selected as the Best Festival in the Southeast by the Southeast Festivals and Events Association. If you're looking for something to do on a beautiful Smoky Mountain fall weekend that includes great entertainment, lots of yummy homecooked food, children's activities, and a first-class arts and crafts show, then spend the weekend at the Mountain Makins Festival in Morrristown. For more info, visit www.rosecenter. org/#!mountain-makins/c1e6o

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The U.S. economy added 134,000 jobs in September - well below expectations but still with record low unemployment. The national unemployment rate fell to 3.7 percent, the lowest level since December 1969. While economists initially estimated 184,000 new jobs would be created in September, they noted that there were 87,000 more jobs created in July and August than predicted. If job creation continues at its current pace, economists predict unemployment will fall to the low 3-percent range by this time next year.

Suicide deaths among younger veterans are increasing, despite an overall decline in the

number of veteran suicide deaths. The Department of Veterans Affairs reported the group of veterans between ages 18 and 34 were the age group cohort to see an increase in the amount of suicides. While suicide rates among the remaining age groups are declining, veterans age 55 and older have the largest number of suicide deaths overall, making up 58.1 percent of veteran suicide deaths. The rate of suicide among veterans is 1.5 percent higher than among non-veterans and approximately 70 percent of veteran suicides are committed with firearms, compared to 48 percent of suicides overall.

America's divorce rate has plummeted and researchers said Millenials are the reason

couples – particularly members of Generation X and Millenials – are divorcing at lower rates than Baby Boomers. The U.S. divorce rate has dropped 18 percent since 2008. According to researchers, Baby Boomers tended to marry young, divorce, and then remarry. Many Boomers are even continuing to end marriages at older ages with divorce rates tripling for the over 65 set. However, younger generations are choosing to remain unmarried longer, tying the knot after they have achieved educational goals and financial stability. While the marriage rate has also fallen, researchers suggest that this fact combined with the decreasing divorce rate means Americans are entering into marriages that are more likely to last.

UT-MTAS OCTOBER MAP CLASSES

UTILITY BOARD TRAINING - MODULE C

Utility Board Member Training is pursuant to state law (Public Chapter No. 118) requiring municipal utility board members to receive training. MTAS offers a total of 12 hours of training over three sessions. Module C provides training on Water and Wastewater Regulations & Challenges and Policy Making.

Credits: 4 CPE

Dates/Locations/Times Oct 23 Johnson City

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT Oct 24 Knoxville 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT

Oct 25 Cookeville 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT Oct 30 Nashville

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT Oct 31 Jackson

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT

THE UNIVERSITY of IENNESSEE UT Advisory Service

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Tullahoma closed a \$7 million fixed-rate loan for several public works infrastructure improvement projects within the city. The city first borrowed through the TMBF variable rate loan program in 1986 and has used various TMBF programs 23 times since then. Pictured standing are: Sue Wilson, finance director; Linda Mooningham, TMBF marketing director; and Rosemary Golden, city recorder. Seated is Mayor Lane Curlee.

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



The city of Bartlett recently closed a \$1.35 million note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance equipment for various city departments. It marked the city's ninth note issued through TMBF's alternative loan program. Seated are Mayor A. Keith McDonald and Dick Phebus, finance director. Standing are Stefanie McGee, city clerk; and Tommy Green, TMBF representative.





Community and Rural Development **Best Practices Series - Infrastructure**

Whitwell, Jasper, Marion County partner to improve Valley View Industrial Park

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES

Project Consultant jones-bridget consulting group

The city of Whitwell is located on Highway 28 South in the southwestern Sequatchie Valley of Marion County approximately 11 miles north of Interstate 24 and 24 miles from metropolitan Chattanooga. Whitwell city leaders have continually worked to create jobs and improve quality of life for the community. Provision of utility services to existing and future businesses was paramount in accelerating economic growth, particularly sewer service at the north end of the county.

Since 2013, the city has been home to Prologue, LLC, a manufacturer of green fire logs that utilizes renewable resources including leaves and wood bio-mass inputs. The current facility commenced operations in a 7,500 square foot building at the Valley View Business and Industrial Park. The owner, a native son of Whitwell, had invested more than \$2 million into the Prologue operation that initially had five employees with plans in place to increase employment to 34 employees. Sewer services were needed to enhance the company's ability for expansion and allow for the development of the industrial park.

Innovated Tool & Die was originally created in the 1970's in northern Virginia. In 1984, the Whitwell native and Prologue owner purchased Innovated Tool & Die company and oversaw its successful expansion. The owner announced plans to locate a southern subsidiary of the metal fabrication business and bring an additional 64 new jobs to his home community and the Valley View Business and Industrial Park, but the operations were also dependent on the availability of sewer

Whitwell city officials saw the opportunity to partner with nearby Jasper and Marion County to extend of the sewer system. sewer service to the industrial park.

With the assistance of Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETDD) and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD), a strategy was set to leverage local matching investments and sewer treatment capacity with federal funding to complete the project.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Whitwell not only paired Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and USDA Rural Development funding; they also created a partnership with nearby Jasper who had sewer capacity and willingness to serve the park and industries. Marion County joined both municipalities to provide matching funds for the ARC grant. All three local governments would see the benefits from the industrial growth, and their willingness to collaborate and position the project for funding.

COLLABORATIVE FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

In 2016, Whitwell received \$160,000 in ARC funding (49 percent of the total project cost) to supply adequate sewer treatment services to current and future industrial park consumers. Marion County provided \$125,850 in matching funds for the ARC grant, and USDA Rural Development provided \$40,000 in Community Facilities Grant funding to Whitwell that completed funding requirements for the project. Jasper agreed to provide sewer treatment service through its existing plant that allowed the community to complete the project within six to eight months to provide services in a relatively short timeframe for the industrial customers. Upon completion, all sewer improvements would be owned and maintained by the town of Jasper the operator

TNECD INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS -APPLACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Adequate infrastructure is a fundamental component of successful economic and community development. The mission of the Appalachian Regional Commission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia. TNECD serves as the lead agency in administering Tennessee's ARC funding and programs. Through ARC, TNECD is able to assist in the award of grants each year for economic and community development projects in the 52 counties in middle and east Tennessee served by ARC.

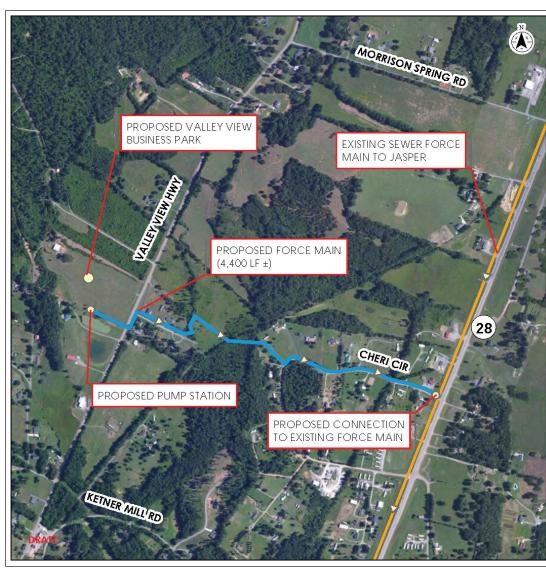
For more information visit TNECD Community and Rural Development.

The TNECD Best Practice Toolkit Series is a growing resource of project descriptions that highlight success stories across Tennessee. Featuring projects that have been funded by TNECD Community and Rural Development and Rural Task Force partner programs, the series fulfills Tennessee Rural Task Force recommendations to highlight success stories and show other communities how they can be replicated.



Above: Since 2013, Whitwell has been home to Prologue, LLC, a manufacturer of green fire logs that utilizes renewable resources including leaves and wood bio-mass inputs. The current facility commenced operations in a 7,500-square-foot building at the Valley View Business and Industrial Park.

Below: Whitwell city officials saw the opportunity to partner with nearby Jasper and Marion County to extend sewer service to the industrial park. (Image provided by Stantec Engineering)



ECONOMIC IMPACT

The city of Whitwell, town of Jasper, and Marion County partnered to assist Innovated Tool and Die with its planned location; Prologue, LLC, with its expansion; and the industrial park with other marketable property.

Project results include: Direct Jobs Reta *Prologue LLC Direct New Jobs Created* *Southern Innovated over a 5 year period Projected New Future Jobs to be Created* 202 *Industrial Park capacity for additional industrial and commercial locations over a five-year period

Projected New Direct Industrial Investment * \$6,000,000+

*Southern Innovated

PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL SEWER LINE EXTENSION FUNDING* \$325,850 *Projections for federal grants and local funding Appalachian Regional Commission \$160,000 Whitwell USDA Rural Development Communities Facilities Grant \$40,000 Marion County Match

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS City of Whitwell

Town of Jasper Marion County Government Appalachian Regional Commission USDA Rural Development Southeast Tennessee Development District

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

