

East Tennessee Development District

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This Newsletter is available online! ETDD would like to begin sending our newsletter to email addresses. If you would like to be included in our email list for our newsletter, please email Christie Burt at cburt@etdd.org or go to our website at www.etdd.org to sign up.

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*Happy Holidays
May the Joys of the Season
Lead the way
To a bright and prosperous
New Year!*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During the last quarter, four economic development grant applications were submitted.

The State of Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) is providing a \$764,500 FastTrack Industrial Development Program (FIDP) grant to the City of Clinton in order partially pay for wastewater line improvements needed for the expansion of Eagle Bend Manufacturing. In order to increase their auto part manufacturing capacity, Eagle Bend Manufacturing is expanding by 157,099 square feet. The expansion will result in 127 new jobs and \$54 million in private investment.

Another FIDP grant, in the amount of \$200,000, was approved for the City of Clinton in order to partially pay for a rail spur for Dura-Line Corporation. The expansion will result in the creation of 67 jobs and \$24 million in private investment.

A FIDP Economic Development grant was submitted by Monroe County for HAVCO Wood Products in order to assist with funding for a building expansion. HAVCO is located in the Niles Ferry Industrial Park in Vonore. The project is expected to create 73 new jobs and result in private investment of over \$12 million.

A Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant application was submitted by Tellico Reservoir Development Agency (TRDA) in order to develop a Master Plan for the Tellico Corporate Peninsula, located in Loudon County. The property is owned by TRDA and the main developable portion of the property consists of approximately 400 acres. The Master Plan will provide information and recommendations related to access, infrastructure, and a conceptual layout. It will provide an excellent tool for TRDA to market the property.

PINI (TACIR)

We are continuing to collect infrastructure needs from all counties, cities, and utility districts within our sixteen county district. We are meeting with schools officials and concurrently entering the school updates. The General Inventory surveys have already begun and TDOT data collection will begin in early December.

Infrastructure projects for the purpose of this survey include any needed public improvement over \$50,000 in

these categories: transportation, utilities, education (facilities), health, safety, welfare, culture, economic development, and various public facilities. In cooperation with the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), development districts from across the state participate in the survey. The deadline for this year's survey is March 31, 2016.

If you have not yet been contacted, please be aware that I will contact you soon and ask you to provide infrastructure project information and updates. It is very important that all needs are reported and that information is accurate. After all the surveys have been collected, TACIR publishes a lengthy summary that details infrastructure needs for all of Tennessee. The report is presented to the governor and state legislators for use as a planning tool and a funding decision-making tool. For further information you may contact me, Mollie Childress by phone at (865)273-6003 or by e-mail at mechildress@etdd.org.

GRANT INFORMATION

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The State of Tennessee recently announced the award of CDBG grants to communities across the State. Congratulations to the following ETDD communities that received funding:

1. Anderson County – Waterline extension
2. Campbell County – Fire Truck purchase
3. Jefferson County – Waterline extension
4. Monroe County – Waterline extension
5. Norris – Wastewater collection system rehabilitation
6. Rockwood – Housing rehabilitation

Applications for the 2016 CDBG grant program are due in Nashville on February 26, 2016. ETDD is assisting the following communities with the preparation of their applications:

1. Jefferson City – Wastewater System
2. Loudon County – Fire Truck
3. Rocky Top – Water System
4. Hamblen County – Fire Truck
5. White Pine – Wastewater System
6. Parrottsville – Wastewater System
7. Roane County – Ambulance
8. Union County – Waterline Extension
9. Cumberland Gap – Water System

Grants (Continued) / Solid Waste

10. Madisonville – Wastewater System
11. Claiborne County – Waterline Extension
12. Harrogate – Wastewater System Extension
13. New Market - Housing

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

ARC pre-applications are now being accepted with final submittal no later than January 15, 2016. ETDD staff is currently assisting the following communities with the preparation of pre-applications:

1. City of Rocky Top – Coal Town Museum
2. Madisonville – Water Tank
3. Claiborne County – Waterline Extension
4. Jellico – Road Improvements to Hospital
5. Scott County – O & W Bridge improvements
6. Hamblen County – Sewer Line Extension
7. Campbell County – Industrial Infrastructure Work
8. Sweetwater – Technology improvements at High School.

FEMA Fire Fighters Grant Program

The FY 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Application Period opened Monday, December 7, 2015 at 8 A.M. EST and closes on Friday, January 15, 2016 at 5 PM EST. A total of \$306 million dollars will be available. The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Such equipment can be SCBA, protective gear, firefighting tools, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. Fire trucks can also be applied for under this grant.

TDEC Solid Waste Grant Programs

ETDD staff provided extensive assistance to communities wishing to apply for TDEC Solid Waste grants. Applications to the Used Oil Grant program were prepared for Campbell County, Dandridge, Friendsville, Goodwill Industries, Morgan County, Newport, Norris, Russellville Utility, Sunbright and Union County. Applications to the Waste Reduction Grant Program were prepared for Campbell County, Scott County and Union County.

TDEC Clean Tennessee Energy Grant

The Clean Tennessee Energy Grant is set to open up their grant application process with one more round of funding.

This will be the last scheduled round of funding for this grant program. The deadline for submittal is January 29, 2016.

Miscellaneous Grants

1. ETDD staff is currently working with the City of Rocky Top on the close-out of a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.
2. ETDD Staff is assisting Claiborne County and Campbell County in administering THDA monies that are available due to the recent tornado that damaged houses in the region.
3. ETDD Staff is assisting Claiborne County with a CDBG disaster grant for road repairs.

ETDD staff continues to assist agencies in our region with environmental assessments in accordance to grant guidelines.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REGISTER WITH SAMS.GOV OR YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS.

TDEC Solid Waste Annual Reports

In early 2015, ETDD staff worked closely with eight counties in completing their solid waste annual reports. ETDD assisted Campbell, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Loudon, Morgan, Scott and Union counties with the submission of their final report to TDEC. For those counties that are doing their own reports in 2016, please keep in mind that under the planning section it is critical that all of your wants and needs are listed. As grants become available, the TDEC staff will be looking at these reports to see if the items requested for grant funding are listed in the report. If not, then the community will not be selected for possible award of the grant. These reports are also the only way that you can show the State that you have reached your 25% waste reduction goal. List all of your public and private recycling and waste diversion efforts in your region. The State will modify some of the numbers as they see fit.

Congratulations!! All of the ETDD communities met the 25% waste reduction goal for the 2015 Annual Progress Reporting period. ETDD staff can attend any of your solid waste board meetings to go over items of interest and give you updates from the State anytime throughout the year. Call Mitch Loomis at 865-273-6003.

HOUSING

ETDD will receive an allocation in July 2016 from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency for the Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly. This allocation will be used to address repairs for houses across the 16-county region. The program provides grants for home repairs in households where the applicant is at least 60 years of age and who meets ownership and income requirements. In 2016, the age requirement will be waived for disabled residents so that additional clients in need of repairs can be assisted. ETDD works with local non-profits and organizations who coordinate construction activities and qualify the homeowners. The program has provided a great deal of assistance in our area, but there is an ongoing need to locate funding that will assist low-income homeowners with housing repairs. ETDD maintains a list of local housing partners and assistance programs that can be accessed through the Housing page of our website, or by contacting us directly with specific needs.

THDA will be partnering with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in 2016 to provide additional housing grants to residents in need of housing repairs. Program details are still being finalized, but under a plan proposed by THDA, Governor Haslam has agreed to commit \$500,000 of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding to the pilot program. THDA will match the State's pledge with \$1 million of its own funds in order to launch the program in early 2016. The joint program will help patch roofs, fix wiring, update plumbing, and make other repairs for Appalachian families who cannot afford to bring their homes up to code on their own.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Federal Preservation Grant applications are now being accepted by the Tennessee Historical Commission. Applications are due **January 29, 2016**, with contracts typically executed the following October. Funds are available due to provisions made in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which grants the Secretary of the Interior the authority to provide grants which promote a wide range of preservation initiatives. Grants are 60% of the project cost and require a 40% local match; they are administered on a reimbursable basis.

The federal grants can be used for a variety of preservation activities, and projects typically fall into one of two categories: Survey and Planning or Acquisition and Development. Survey projects which aim to document local historic resources is a priority for the

State. These projects should identify and record historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant to Tennessee's history and built before 1965, with the intent to nominate resources to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) where possible. Development of design guidelines is also an eligible expense when planning for a local historic district. Planning projects can also encompass activities ranging from public education and outreach to local preservation studies. Pre-development planning, such as an architectural or engineering study as part of a planned historic building restoration, can also qualify for grants under this program. There are several instances where a phased, multi-year approach can allow grant funds to assist with the completion of a large project.

Acquisition and Development projects typically address historic restoration activities. Repairs and restoration activities must follow *the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, a document published by the National Park Service that offers guidance on technical preservation issues. The Tennessee Historical Commission must review and approve all proposed work under this category, and property owners are required to execute a preservation agreement or covenant that helps to ensure maintenance and limited public access. The term of the covenant is proportional to the grant amount. While all NRHP-listed buildings are eligible to receive these grants, projects sponsored by local government, public interest groups or non-profit organizations and/or for properties of public use are generally considered more competitive than projects proposed for private residential or commercial property.

Certified Local Governments (CLGs) have access to federal preservation grant money set aside for projects in communities who are part of this program. CLGs can use grants to address several individual action items as part of a more comprehensive approach in their community, including projects like: design guideline development/updates, survey of historic properties, "bricks and mortar" activities, preservation education projects (i.e. brochures), or training for Historic Zoning Commissioners. The CLG program is a federal and state partnership that allows local communities to take decisive steps towards protecting their unique historic resources. Local governments can apply to be "certified" upon the passing of a local historic preservation ordinance and enacting design review in historic districts with the appointment of a historic zoning commission. ETDD and THC staff partner to assist these communities in our region and provide ongoing technical assistance and training opportunities.

RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RPO)

The South and North Rural Planning Organizations, RPOs, will be involved in reviewing and scoring applications received for TDOT's Multimodal Access Funding grants and Community Transportation Planning grants. All applications for these two grant programs must be submitted to ETDD's RPO Coordinator on or before December 18, 2015. Grant review committees will then review and score the applications. The grant applications and grant review committee scores will be presented to Technical Committee and Executive Board meetings for review and final scoring.

RPO meeting are scheduled as follows:

- East Tennessee South RPO Technical Committee: January 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- East Tennessee North RPO Technical Committee: January 8, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- East Tennessee South RPO Executive Board: January 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- East Tennessee North RPO Executive Board: January 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

The RPO meetings will be held at the TDOT Region 1 Headquarters Auditorium located at 7345 Region Lane in Knoxville. Additional information regarding these meetings will be mailed to membership prior to the meetings.

The East Tennessee Development District staff serves as Coordinator for the East Tennessee South Rural Planning Organization, and the East Tennessee North Rural Planning Organization. We work closely with the Tennessee Department of Transportation on transportation planning issues. One of the roles of the RPO Coordinator is to communicate with and coordinate with organizations in the region involved in transportation planning. We are available to consult with local agencies on transportation planning issues and to participate in local government meetings when major transportation issues are on the agenda.

The East Tennessee Development District website contains the most up-to-date information on the two RPO's. The web site includes the most up to date TDOT Project Status Reports that provide a description and status of all TDOT projects in each county within the RPO. The link to this website is <http://www.ETDD.org/services/community-development/transportation/>.

PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE

Staff with the planning advisory service has started working on a series of new training sessions for the New Year. The first session will be scheduled for March 29 and 31 and will be held in Jefferson City and Knoxville at night. This two session seminar will be conducted by the Tennessee department of Transportation and will focus on what makes a good road. The locations have yet to be determined. Flyers will be sent to local governments once the final arrangements have been made.

ETDD is also working with Plan ET for training workshops for early April. These will be daytime sessions and will have a variety of subjects. Also, a third session is being considered which will focus on design for a healthy community. This will illustrate how planning can assist local governments in creating facilities such as greenways and parks for citizen participation.

ETHICS FORM DUE

Per State Law, Tennessee Code Annotated section 8-50-501a parts 20 and 21, planning commissioners are required to file yearly ethics forms with the Tennessee Ethics Commission by **January 31, 2016**. Failure to do so may result in a substantial fine up to \$10,000. Forms may be obtained on line at <https://apps.tn.gov/conflict/>.

The Planning Advisory Service also has these forms. These forms may be filed online or mailed to Tennessee Ethics Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 104, Nashville, TN 37243. If you have any questions, you may call or email the Tennessee Ethics Commission at (615) 741-7959 or e-mail at ethics.counsel@state.tn.us. Or, you may call the ETDD planning advisory service at 865-233-7202. If you are a member of a city council or county commission as well as a planning commission, you may file one form for both positions. Please do not forget to file the ETHICS form!

SIGN CONTENT

A recent Supreme Court case (Reed et al. v. Town of Gilbert Arizona) further defined the application of the First Amendment protection of free speech and the regulation of signage. In this case, the town requires permits for all signs except those on its exempt list. The Supreme Court Opinion focuses on three of these exempt signs: ideological signs, political signs and temporary directional signs. Ideological signs were the least restricted of these signs (only regulated to a 20 square foot maximum size); Political signs were limited to the time

period near an election and a 32 square foot maximum; and temporary directional signs were limited to a maximum of six square feet, four signs per property, could only be placed 12 hours before an event, and had to be removed one hour after the event. This challenge began with a church being cited for placing signs early and removing them late. The church claimed that the regulations were violating their First Amendment right to free speech.

During the court proceedings and subsequent appeals, the town was unable to justify their regulations based on aesthetics or public safety. The non-content regulatory mechanisms (size, location, material, lighting, etc.) were not being applied evenhandedly nor logically. The example given in the Supreme Court Opinion was “If a sign informs its reader of the time and place a book club will discuss John Locke’s Two Treatises of Government that sign will be treated differently from a sign expressing the view that one should vote for one of Locke’s followers in an upcoming election, and both signs will be treated differently from a sign expressing an ideological view rooted in Locke’s theory of government”. This illustrates that the content of the sign is used to determine which regulations were applicable.

Because of this ruling, communities may want to review their sign ordinances to be sure they only regulate the physical aspects of the sign (size, location, material, lighting, etc.) and not the message, content, or idea being communicated by the sign.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS **(GIS)**

It was a busy quarter for grants, and GIS produced 69 maps/illustrations in support of our ETDD communities. Forty-two maps were created for CDBG environmental reviews alone. Each review required topo maps, airport radius maps, and flood illustrations of project target areas using FEMA FIRMettes. Maps were also created for a multimodal transportation grant in Gatlinburg and a Community Transportation Planning Grant for Wartburg. For the Wartburg map, GIS staff digitized existing sidewalks and created a map showing pedestrian and bicycle destinations. Other grants for which maps were created included National Register of Historic Places nominations, EDA grants, and a CDBG storm damage grant.

Progress was made this quarter on some ongoing projects. For the city of Baneberry, GIS staff created a new fire district map, a topographic map of the city limits, and progress continues on a new zoning map. Staff also

worked toward updating the Clinton corporate limits data and zoning map, and work continues on the Gatlinburg land use and related maps. GIS staff also supported industrial recruitment efforts in one community with three maps showing area recreation opportunities, schools, airports, other industries, and major transportation routes.

REMINDER: In accordance with the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act of 2006, all planning commission members are required to submit their “Disclosure Statement of Interest” to the Tennessee Ethics Commission by January 31, 2015.

AREAWIDE DEVELOPMENT **CORPORATION** **SBA 504 News**

Each year SBA reviews certain fees payable to SBA by 7(a) lenders, Certified Development Companies (CDC’s) and borrowers. This review is to determine if adjustments are necessary to cover the estimated subsidy costs of the 7(a) and 504 loan programs. On September 28, 2015, SBA announced that for fiscal year 2016 that the one – time (“up front”) guaranty fee that SBA is authorized to charge 504 borrowers would be reduced from 0.5% to zero. This represents a savings to the borrower upfront of one half of one percent on the gross debenture amount. Furthermore, SBA has reduced the ongoing SBA guarantee fee assessed on the outstanding loan balance per annum from 0.9375% to 0.914% for fiscal year 2016. These changes are only applicable to loans approved on or after October 1, 2015. These fee reductions/eliminations for fiscal year 2016 will make the SBA 504 loan program more attractive to borrowers. ADC currently has 5 applications in process, collectively the borrowers will save (subject to loan approval) \$32,340 on the upfront guaranty fee alone!

SBA debenture rates remain attractive on both the 20 year and 10 year debentures. On November 16, 2015, 389 twenty-year debentures funded totaling \$282,747,000 and 31 ten-year debentures totaling \$22,147,000 funded nationwide by SBA. The 20 year debenture full term funding rate was 5.237% and the 10 year full term funding rate was 4.7290%.

RURAL TASKFORCE UPDATE

On August 17, 2015, Governor Haslam announced the creation of a new Rural Task Force to bring resources together from a wide range of organizations to advance rural communities and economic development throughout Tennessee. The Task Force will develop and adopt an

initial three year strategic plan that will include a comprehensive vision for rural development. In order to do this, the taskforce will map existing assets, convene issues forums, and engage stakeholders to identify gaps, opportunities and partnerships. Ultimately, the taskforce will organize working groups to design and implement highly effective programming to address key issues that impact rural life.

The Rural Task Force has been holding public input sessions to allow stakeholders across the state to present ideas for building a stronger rural Tennessee. Individuals or groups wishing to present must submit an application and include presentation materials, such as handouts and PowerPoint slides. Presentations will be limited to 5 minutes per organization. The next opportunity to present will be on January 19, 2016 from 2:00-4:00pm CST at the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington Agricultural Center. Please consult the TN ECD website for sign-up instructions.

FALL “STEPPIN OUT” CHALLENGE

As a continued part of our wellness program, we participated in a “Steppin’ Out” exercise challenge. This was our fourth exercise challenge and our second “Steppin’ Out” challenge with a company goal and tiered milestones.

We began our fall challenge on September 28th and ended on November 20th. This challenge had four tiers of milestones to shoot for in that eight weeks of 160k, 240k, 320k and 640k and an overall company goal that was five percent higher than our previous challenge. Our employees met and exceeded the challenge walking a total of 6,146,796 steps. That’s the equivalent of 3,074 miles or walking almost all the way to the North Pole! We had three employees meet the top tier challenge and twelve employees meet the third tier in eight weeks. We are very proud of our employees for “Steppin’ Out” and making wellness a priority. Great job!

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ETDD Remembers Charles Killion

Mr. Charles Killion, longtime Rutledge Mayor, passed away on October 29th at Ridgeview Terrace. He was 80 years old. Mr. Killion was elected as a Rutledge Alderman in 1974 and served several terms in that capacity. In 1985 Mr. Killion was elected as Mayor and served until 2005 except for a brief two year hiatus in the early 1990s. Mr.

Killion is credited with being one of the founders of the Rutledge Volunteer Fire Department and was granted a lifetime membership in the department in recognition of his service, support and dedication. Mayor Killion was a true local leader and he will be missed by all.

Mayor Mike Werner Elected to TML Board

Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner was elected to serve on the Tennessee Municipal League’s Board of Directors at the recent TML conference in Nashville. In his role as a Director, Mayor Werner will assist with the development of legislative priorities for the TML and will also develop policy priorities for the organization. TML is a non-profit association of cities and towns in Tennessee. Congratulations to Mayor Werner!

Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche Elected to NLC Board

Farragut Vice Mayor and Alderwoman Dot LaMarche was elected to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities (NLC) at the recent NLC conference in Nashville. NLC Board members play a key role in directing the organization’s policy development and advocacy efforts. Congratulations to Vice Mayor LaMarche!

ETDD Remembers Philip Trauernicht

ETDD was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Philip Trauernicht of Nashville. Mr. Trauernicht passed away on November 14th after a brief illness. He was 59 years old. Mr. Trauernicht served the people of the State of Tennessee as a Senior Advisor for Grants and Loans within the Tennessee Department of Community and Economic Development. Mr. Trauernicht’s service and dedication in that position resulted in the creation of thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars of new investment across the State. Known for his unwavering fairness and honesty, Mr. Trauernicht was an outstanding public servant and will be missed by all who knew him. ETDD extends our condolences to all of his family and friends.



“Or current resident”

This newsletter was funded in part through grants from the State of Tennessee, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and other federal, state, and local sources. Materials from the ETDD Newsletter may be freely reprinted with proper crediting of the source.

Calendar of Events

January 2016

- 1 New Year’s Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 14 HOME Program workshop, Maryville, Blount County Library
- 18 Martin Luther King Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 19 East Tennessee Regional Council of Fire Chiefs meeting, Alcoa FD
- 27-28 Association of Tennessee Valley Governments meeting, Chattanooga, TN

February 2016

- 8 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 15 Presidents Day Holiday, ETDD offices closed

March 2016

- 8 ETDD & ETHRA Annual Business Meetings, Rothchilds Conference Center
- 14-15 TML Legislative Conference, Nashville Doubletree Hotel
- 24 TDDA Legislative Breakfast, Nashville Downtown Sheraton Hotel
- 25 Good Friday Holiday, ETDD offices closed
- 28-29 TDDA Annual Conference, Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro
- 29-30 USDA Rural Development Annual Conference, Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro

April 2016

- 3-4 DDAA Annual Conference, Arlington, VA
- 4-6 NADO Legislative Conference, Arlington, VA
- 12 ETDD Executive Committee & ETHRA Policy Council Meetings, ETHRA Offices
- 19 East Tennessee Regional Council of Fire Chiefs meeting, Location TBD
- 27-29 TDDA Retreat, Paris Landing State Park