To everything there is a season........

It is said in Tennessee there are only two seasons: Tomato and Football. I can see where that would seem the case for many Tennesseans. But, for TPHA members the year seems to move through a rhythm of seasons that has come to be our unique way of sharing our successes and marking our course as we move to protect, promote and improve the lives of those in our state.

The spring is Grand Division Meeting season for sure. We had three successful meetings that saw much higher attendance and participation than the recent past. Once again I wish to thank the VPs, Executive Director Doris Spain, Leslie Meehan and all the TDH staff and partners who worked so hard to make these meetings come to fruition. Perhaps we have started a new tradition with the community forum format. Please continue to share your ideas and feedback.

Now it is officially TPHA Annual Conference season! I know the season is upon us because the entire program line up, including every workshop, panel, speaker, reception, activity and section meeting has been completed and the registration brochures are on their way (Continued on Page 2)
Primary Prevention initiative and moderate a panel of experts who will share successful strategies for effecting meaningful change at the community level. Dr. Consuelo Wilkins will introduce us to cutting edge precision medicine and the vital importance of community engagement and involving underrepresented groups. For our closing session on Friday morning, Reggie Cajayon, will inspire us with “Say What,” scalable success strategies for youth-led tobacco prevention programming.

You should have received your registration brochure. If not, it is available on our website at www.tnpublichealth.org. Scan your brochure for exciting new content and speakers on a wide range of workshop topics this year—we truly have something for everyone from leadership for public health nurses, updates on prenatal dental health, Tennessee’s opioid epidemic, challenges of aging, Metro and Rural Innovation Projects, Tennessee’s SIM Population Health Improvement Plan, and other sessions on cutting edge topics like digital technology in public health and the latest in online safety strategies for kids and their parents. Discover new initiatives like the Sycamore Institute, Tennessee’s new bipartisan public policy institute and the Building Strong Brains, ACEs Initiative that focuses on the science underpinning the need to create nurturing environments for kids. And don’t miss Go Baby Go or Layla the Rehab Lab if you need a dose of inspiration and a reminder that miracles still happen every day.

The red carpet will literally be rolled out for Fun & Fitness on Thursday evening where participants are invited to wear their “Academy award-winning” attire. Trivia, a scavenger hunt, and dancing are just some of the activities planned as teams compete for this year’s coveted Spirit Stick.

Online registration is now open at http://www.tnpublichealth.org and hotel accommodations may be made through the website or by calling the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin at (615) 261-6100.
Shown below are recommended changes to By-Laws for 2016 that have been approved by the TPHA Board of Directors and will be presented for approval to the General Membership at the business meeting on September 14.

**Proposal 1. Article II, Section 5**

**Present Wording:**
All resolutions and proceedings of the meetings shall be entered in proper books by the Executive Director. He/She shall issue all notices of meetings and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of Secretary. He/She shall keep a register of the members of the Association.

**Proposed Change:**
Modify to “…..pertaining to the office of the Executive Director.”

**Rationale:**
TPHA does not have an office of Secretary

**Proposal 2. Article V, Section 2i**

**Present Wording:**
The Nominations and Election Committee shall be composed of five members from the membership-at-large. This committee shall present a double slate of officers to the membership at least ninety (90) days prior to the Annual Meeting. At least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting, any ten (10) Active or Life Members of the Association may present to the Executive Director of the Association a resolution nominating one or more officers and these nominations shall be included when the ballot of the election is presented. Only Active and Life Members shall be eligible for nomination. Consent of nominees must be obtained by the Nominations and Election Committee and by those presenting nominating resolutions. The ballot of nominees as determined by the Nominations and Election Committee shall be sent to all Active, Life and Student Members in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Proposed Change:**
Modify to…..of at least five members…..

**Rationale:**
Committee has needed more than 5 people to get the job done.

**Proposal 3. Article V, Section 2j**

**Present Wording:**
The Scholarship Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the President with geographic and programmatic representation to serve for one year. One of the five members shall be appointed Chair. An additional Screening Committee composed of the Chair from each section will serve for one year. The Section Chair may appoint a Section member to serve in his place on the Screening Committee.

**Proposed Change:**
The Scholarship Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members with geographic and programmatic representation to serve for one year. The President will name the Chair who will select the remaining members. The Scholarship Committee will be responsible for accepting and scoring the applications. The Board of Directors must approve the Scholarship Committee recommendations prior to notification being sent to the winners.

**Rationale:**
A better way to choose committee members, a more manageable committee make-up; Screening Committee is unnecessary.
An Affair To Remember!
Submitted by Angie Faulkner and Emily Darnell

Come dressed to impress and be in the Entourage for your region as you make The Grand entrance onto the red carpet that will be rolled out just for TPHA Fun and Fitness stars attendees.

The Fashion Police are out in full force! Dress like your favorite celebrity or in your best formal attire that you went Good Will Hunting to find—make it fun but NOT expensive. Go all out with outrageous outfits like Derek Zoolander...your region will receive points if you place in the top 3!

If you’re Clueless, then you’ll need to be Brave, use your Basic Instinct and study up on a bunch of useless knowledge and facts—you want to be Smarter Than A Fifth Grader to earn points for your region in the Trivia Night competition! Tables will be setup for each region so get ready to compete for points. The Mexican restaurant rules apply...no cell phones will be allowed!

So You Think You Can Dance? Channel your inner Travolta in Saturday Night Fever and get ready to dance and socialize the night away, or be a Lone Ranger and sit back and laugh in a corner as your fellow attendees vie for the unofficial title of King or Queen of the dance floor. Some of Tennessee’s finest DJs who have been to the School of Rock will be spinning The Sound of Music and making sure everyone is having a Wicked good time.

Always be ready for that Easy Money shot by the Paparazzi! Earn points for your region by posting photos throughout the conference to The Social Network of Facebook and Instagram with your region’s approved hashtag. Keep it classy and post IG-worthy photos!

Get ready for The Interview! Test your interviewing skills to find the scavenger hunt clues. You must visit each poster presenter and talk with them to gain as many points as possible so that you can Stomp the competition. Don’t be Shy People about this meet and greet and get Live On The Red Carpet as soon as possible since this competition’s points will be counted by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Trust us, this Fun and Fitness is As Good As It Gets and you won’t want to miss it because it will be Gone With The Wind after Thursday night!
RESOLUTION
OF THE
TENNESSEE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
REGARDING
INCREASING THE SALE AGE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO 21

WHEREAS, According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 80 percent of adult smokers smoked their first cigarette before they turned 18, and 95 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21; and,

WHEREAS, the developing brains of young people are particularly susceptible to the addictive properties of nicotine, and tobacco industry documents show that those who start smoking by the age of 18 are almost twice as likely to become lifetime smokers as those who start after they turn 21; and,

WHEREAS, Increasing the tobacco sales age to 21 will help counter the efforts by the tobacco companies to target young people at a critical time when many move from experimenting with tobacco to regular smoking; and,

WHEREAS, Research shows that children and adolescents often turn to older friends and classmates as sources of cigarettes and raising the tobacco age to 21 would reduce the likelihood that a high school student will be able to legally purchase tobacco products for other students and underage friends; and,

WHEREAS, A March 2015 report by the Institute of Medicine strongly concluded that raising the tobacco sale age to 21 will have a substantial positive impact on public health and save lives; and,

WHEREAS, The same study found that raising the tobacco sale age will significantly reduce the number of adolescents and young adults who start smoking, reduce smoking-caused deaths and immediately improve the health of adolescents, young adults and young mothers who would be deterred from smoking; and,

WHEREAS, The same IOM study predicts that if the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products was raised to 21, over time, the adult smoking rate would decline by about 12 percent and smoking-related deaths would decline by ten percent; and,

WHEREAS, On May 4, 2016, California became the second state in the U.S., joining Hawaii, to raise the tobacco sale age to 21; and,

WHEREAS, At least 170 localities in 13 states have also raised the tobacco age to 21, including New York City, Chicago, Cleveland and both Kansas Cities and statewide legislation to do so is also being considered in several other states; and,

WHEREAS, Three-quarters of U.S. adults favor raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products to 21, including seven in ten smokers; and,

WHEREAS, About 580 young persons under the age of 18 become regular smokers each day and one in three will eventually die as a result;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tennessee Public Health Association strongly recommends we work with the Tennessee General Assembly to protect our children from the dangers of tobacco use at an early age by enacting legislation that increases the age for the sale of tobacco to 21 years in Tennessee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to members of the Tennessee General Assembly and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Association.


3 *Estimated Change in Industry Trend Following Federal Excise Tax Increase*, LEGACY TOBACCO DOCUMENTS LIBRARY (Sept. 10, 1982), at 2, http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/tid/tib23d00;jsessionid=211D4CCF0DBD25F9DC2C9BB025239484.tobacco03


7 Brian A. King et al., *Attitudes Toward Raising the Minimum Age of Sale for Tobacco Among U.S. Adults*, 49 (4) AM. J. PREVENTATIVE MED. 583, 583 (2015).

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**FACT SUMMIT**

*Tennessee Teens Work to Free State From Tobacco and Nicotine Addiction at FACT Summit*  
(Excerpted from TDH news release)

More than 400 teens from across Tennessee gathered at the Sevierville Convention Center Jul. 17-19, 2016 to take part in the Tennessee Department of Health’s first-ever FACT Summit, a statewide tobacco prevention conference for youth. “FACT” stands for “Free and Clear Tennessee,” envisioning a state free of tobacco and nicotine addiction where everyone enjoys clear air. The FACT Summit provided a forum for participants representing 51 Tennessee counties to create a youth-led movement of peer-to-peer education and advocacy for prevention of tobacco and nicotine addiction across Tennessee.

Participants received training and learned strategies from both nationally-recognized experts and their Tennessee peers for implementing effective tobacco and nicotine addiction prevention activities in their own communities.

Teen participants in the FACT Summit have named their new movement “TNSTRONG,” which stands for “Tennessee Stop Tobacco and Revolutionize Our New Generation”. FACT Summit participants have been challenged and empowered through participation in the summit to continue their advocacy for tobacco and nicotine addiction prevention when they return home. They elected their first group of Teen Tobacco-Free Ambassadors, who will now serve in leading their peers in prevention activities across the state and organizing the summit for next year.

Partners in the FACT Summit included Healthier Tennessee, the Center for Tobacco Products, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Truth Initiative®, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Tips from Former Smokers campaign and the Shelby County Health Department. The FACT Summit and Teen Ambassador Program are modeled on successful peer-to-peer tobacco and nicotine addiction prevention efforts in other states including Texas and Mississippi. The FACT Summit was provided at no cost to participants with funding from the Tennessee Tobacco Settlement. TDH tobacco prevention and health education staff members also received training at the FACT Summit to support ongoing youth tobacco and nicotine addiction prevention activities in their communities.
**REGионаl REPORTS**

**ChattanoOga/HamiltOn County Region**  
Submitted by: Monica Baker, Highway Safety Coordinator

Teams from Chattanooga and Knoxville participated in the CDC’s Walkability Action Institute in April, which was co-sponsored by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD).

Only 10 teams were selected nationwide to participate in the inaugural course, and the three day event included walk audits, intensive trainings, and the development of a pedestrian action plan that teams are responsible for implementing. Teams were required to include a representative from a planning agency, an elected official, a public health representative, and an engineer.

The Chattanooga team is pictured at the right, and included the Chattanooga- Hamilton County Health Department’s Highway Safety Coordinator Monica Baker (seated), CARTA representative Annie Powell (seated), City Engineer Tony Madewell, Regional Planning Agency’s Senior Multimodal Transportation Planner Cortney Geary, City Councilman Larry Grohn.

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**East Tenneessee Region**  
Submitted by: Laura Conner, Morgan County Director

A partnership was broadened between the Morgan County Health Department, Morgan County Schools/Coordinated School Health and the Skills USA Students at the Morgan County Career and Technical Center as a result of Tobacco Settlement funds. These students designed and constructed a 10 foot tall rooster named “Mr. Steelfeathers” out of smokeless tobacco cans along with a sign stating, “Tobacco addiction is nothing to crow about!” Students also utilized the Michigan Model Curriculum as the basis for their accompanying educational campaign. The students, along with Mr. Steelfeathers, made numerous appearances throughout the county including visits to each school, many athletic events and other community activities, always helping to spread the word about the harmful effects of tobacco use. Last fall, the students entered the regional Skills USA Competition held at the TVA & I Fair in Knoxville where they were crowned champions. They then advanced to the state competition in Chattanooga and again brought home Gold Medals. After winning this competition, they qualified to participate in Nationals held in June in Lexington, Kentucky. Among a field of over 6,000 contestants, the Morgan County Team was once again crowned champions! In addition to the gold medals awarded at this event, they also received another very prestigious recognition; they were presented with the President’s Volunteer Service Award for Families and Groups. This award is issued by the

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President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States to recognize the best in the American spirit and to encourage all Americans to improve their communities through volunteer service and civic participation. Student participants include Emily Clark, Dalton Hammet, Levi Watkins, Jessica Baker, Trenton Brown, Hailey York and their faculty sponsor Welding Teacher Mr. Tim Steelman.

We are all incredibly proud of this group of students and their teacher for all they have accomplished, for the way they have represented the community and for the positive message they are sending to their peers. We believe that being a student at the Morgan County Career and Technical Center and being Number 1 is something to crow about!

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE REGION

“Addressing Emergency Preparedness in African American Communities”
Christen Minnick, Assessment and Planning Coordinator

Friendship Baptist Church was founded in 1916 by eight African American soldiers looking for a place to worship in Johnson City, Tennessee. The church was moved to various locations and found its final place in 1978 on Main Street. Since that time several sister churches have been formed and serve the faith needs of many African Americans in the Johnson City/Washington County area. In 2000 Friendship formed a health ministry. Friendship’s focus on ministry and community health has allowed its members to work alongside health department staff for numerous years for many health initiatives. The health ministry team considered introducing emergency preparedness into their church after seeing the increasing number of natural and man-made disasters in the United States. The Readys has been successful in other populations in Northeast Tennessee. Taking this project to minority populations would ensure they would learn about emergencies, make a personalized plan for family and emergency responders, build on a go-kit for emergency situations, and discover resource links in the Johnson City/Washington County area.

Representatives from Friendship met with Northeast Regional Health Office staff in July 2015 to discuss the opportunity of applying for Community and Faith-Based Organizations funding offered through the Tennessee Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination. Margaret Davis, Friendship’s Health Ministry Team Coordinator and Kristen Spencer, Friendship member and Office Manager at the Northeast Regional Health Office, agreed presenting The Readys in workshop settings for their congregation members would be the best way to reach this population about personalized emergency plans. Melissa Taylor, RN, Nurse Consultant for the Northeast Emergency Preparedness Program, and Christen Minnick, Assessment and Planning Coordinator for Northeast, assisted Mrs. Davis in gathering data, preparing the grant application, and planning for The Readys workshops for September 2015-July 2016. Funding was awarded to Friendship Baptist to achieve goals, provide deliverables, and conduct activities in partnership with Northeast Emergency Preparedness Program.

- Project Goal: The Readys would be provided through workshop setting to reach at least 200 African Americans
- Deliverable: Each participant would leave with a personalized emergency plan and initial go-kit
- Activities: Friendship’s Health Ministry team will host The Readys at their annual community health event

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At Carver Recreation. Other churches such as Thankful Baptist, Grace Temple, Bethel Christian Church, and Philippi Baptist would be included.

At the end of the grant cycle the team was able to reach 73 African American citizens with The Readys training. All had a completed emergency plan and a started go-kit purchased with grant funds. Barriers included having to reschedule the Carver Recreation event, weather, and lack of engagement. In the future the team would overcome these barriers through better planning during warmer seasons and including more marketing to increase participation. Survey results from the participants were all positive. Most stated they had never considered emergency planning until The Readys workshop.

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SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE REGION

Outstanding Work in Southeast
Submitted by: Amanda Goodhard, Assessment and Planning Coordinator

Recently the Southeast region has recognized some of the hard-working staff that continues to help the region live up to the mission of protecting, promoting, and improving the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. While many of those recognized have very different jobs, their contributions show that every member of the department is vital to making a difference in the region.

The School Based Dental Prevention Program team in Southeast was awarded the Excellence in Improvement Award after placing 30,139 sealants in the 2016 fiscal year. The team, which delivers these services right in the schools, has steadily increased the number of students they serve each year; in 2014 they placed 10,673 sealants and in 2015 they placed 19,929 sealants. By placing permission forms in the first day/week of school packets at schools throughout the region, the team saw a 56% increase in the number of forms returned this year. In addition to providing sealants for students, the team also provides oral health education, dental screenings, and referrals for children with unmet dental needs.

The Community Development team was awarded the Excellence in Promotion Award and is supervised by Beth Delaney and includes Joyce Clem, Jan Frechette, and Brittany Hopkins. They have promoted health and helped prevent diseases in their communities by developing long term community partnerships. Their contributions are countless but include acquiring grants to build walking tracks, sponsoring marathons, holding health promotion events at schools, and coordinating health councils to continually strengthen community ties.

In many organizations there is that one person who has limitless energy, a positive attitude, and holds everyone together; in the Southeast Regional Office that person is Cornelia Johnson. During her time at the regional office, Cornelia has set the standard for teamwork and leadership. In addition to her normal job duties, she steps in to help any and every employee who needs assistance whether she’s making copies, filling in for someone (Continued on Page 10)
on maternity leave, or working longer hours to make sure things were organized during office relocation so that when everyone came back there was a smoother transition.

Again, although each award winner serves in a very different role than the next, what they do impacts the region’s ability to best serve our communities and our patients. These award winners not only show what it means to have a passion for public health but that each person plays a role in the achieving our mission.

Shelby County Health Department Response to Imported Human Zika Case

Ture Carlson, MS, REHS, Entomologist, Shelby County Health Department, Vector Control
Amy Trimm, MPH, Larvicide Supervisor – Shelby County Health Department, Vector Control
Tyler Zerwekh, DrPH, REHS, Administrator – Shelby County Health Department, Environmental Health Services Bureau

Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) Vector Control was notified at about 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 of a Zika PCR positive test result in a person returning from travel to a country with active Zika Virus transmission. Epidemiology gave Vector Control the address of the individual, when his symptoms started, his travel history, and the information about the test results. Due to the fact the individual had returned to Shelby County with active Zika Virus in his blood, which can be infectious to mosquitoes, the Zika Action Plan (ZAP) was initiated.

BG Sentinel traps baited with carbon dioxide and ovitraps were placed the afternoon of June 15. Two BG Sentinel traps and four oviposition traps were placed within the treatment area (600 foot radius). BG Sentinel traps collected on June 16 did not contain any mosquitoes most likely due to severe weather that passed through the area at about sunset on June 15. BG collections on June 17 collected eight different species. Trap A, which was located closest to the address contained seven mosquitoes (see Table 1). Trap B, which was further from the address, contained 14 mosquitoes (see Table 1). Aedes aegypti was not observed or collected at either location, but Aedes albopictus, which is considered a potential vector of Zika Virus, was. Ovitraps placed at the site were allowed to stay in place until June 20.

While inspectors were onsite a female Aedes albopictus was observed depositing an egg in the trap (see Figure 1). Ovitraps are used to collect the eggs from mosquito species that prefer to lay eggs in small containers. A total of four ovitraps were placed within the treatment area and they collected a total of 173 Aedes (stegomyia) eggs in six days (see Table 2). Ovitraps were placed at the site to stay in place until June 20.

Along with mosquito trapping, inspections of neighboring properties were conducted in order to try and remove known egg laying locations of Aedes albopictus. The addresses were mapped by TDH and SCHD Vector Control on June 15 to try and identify the area of potential mosquito transmission. TDH used a 200 yd (600 ft) radius that included 90 addresses and Vector Control used a 200 m (650 ft) radius that included 353 addresses. Both of the address lists generated mainly contained properties located within an apartment or condominium complex. On June 16 Vector Control inspected 74 of the 90 TDH addresses and 318 of the 353 Vector Control addresses. More inspections were performed on June 20 with the 16 remaining properties from the TDH list and 35 missing properties from the Vector Control list being completed.

Aedes albopictus was collected from various sites within the infected individual’s apartment complex. During the inspections two tires, an outdoor deep fryer, several pieces of trash, and numerous corrugated gutter drains contained larvae. Trash was removed and tires were treated with larvicide in order to prevent the larvae away.

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from developing. The apartment complex’s largest problem is the number of partially buried corrugated gutter drains which cannot be inspected, drained, or treated properly. Due to this finding some adulticiding was performed at the complex in order to try and temporarily reduce the adult *Aedes albopictus* population. Vehicle mounted ULV’s were capable of getting very close to a large number of the drains, but most likely this will have a very limited impact on the adult mosquito population. Adulticiding was performed on June 16 and again on June 20. The breakdown of the properties on Vector Control list is as follows: 353 properties listed and of those 36 are single resident properties, 85 are condominiums, and 232 apartments. All of the common areas around the 317 apartments and condominiums were easily inspected and a few items were found to contain mosquito larvae. Of the 36 single family residences only eight were fully inspected. Of those eight inspected properties, containers and other potential places for larvae to be found were only observed at three properties. Larvae were only found at one location which was a fire pit. Overall the single family residences appeared well maintained and only two individuals mentioned being bothered by mosquitoes and that occurred typically in the evening. Only front yard partial inspections or no inspection occurred at 28 of the single family residences. Of the 28 residences, 25 had no one at home to allow entry and the remaining three denied entry.

Subsequent epidemiological and mosquito control surveillance activities determined no additional or local transmission of Zika cases from the previously identified imported case. This response highlights the coordination and rapid response capabilities between Epidemiology and Vector Control as it relates to minimizing and preventing local transmission of Zika positive cases. It also underlines the importance of timely and efficacious diagnostic confirmation of a human Zika case to rapidly respond and minimizing additional local transmission of human Zika cases.

**Timeline**

- 6/9/16 – Individual returns from Dominican Republic
- 6/12/16 – Individual develops symptoms and is now able to infect mosquitoes
- 6/15/16 – 11:00 a.m. SCHD Vector Control is notified and given details of the case
- 6/15/16 – 1:30 p.m. SCHD VC starts setting traps and checking around address for mosquito larvae and egg laying locations
- 6/16/16 – 10:30 a.m. BG Sentinel traps collected
- 6/16/16 – 11:00 – 2:30 p.m. property inspections performed
- 6/16/16 – 9:19 – 9:30 p.m. area adulticided
- 6/17/16 – 11:00 a.m. BG Sentinel traps collected
- 6/19/16 – If any mosquitoes took a blood meal from the individual on 6/12/16 it is possible they can now transmit Zika virus to other individuals.
- 6/20/16 – Individual should no longer be able to infect mosquitoes.
- 6/20/16 – Ovitraps collected.
- 6/20/16 – 10:42 – 10:44 p.m. area adulticided.
- 7/2/16 – Most likely date that all possibly infected mosquitoes should be dead by
- 7/12/16 – Most likely the latest date that a human case could develop a zika related illness.

**WEST TENNESSEE REGION**

*Tipton County Health Council partnered with the Covington City government officials to establish “voluntary tobacco free zones” in outdoor spaces.

Written and submitted by: Regional Health Promotion Coordinator Chanda Freeman*

As people enjoy the health benefits of tobacco free air indoors, it is only natural to want to enjoy those same benefits in outdoor areas, especially those where families gather and children play. These areas include outdoor workplaces, restaurant and bar patios, service lines, waiting areas, public events like county fairs and farmer’s markets, as well as parks, beaches, and other recreation areas.

In response to increased public demand for tobacco free spaces and scientific based information on the
health hazards associated with tobacco smoke exposure, even in close-quarter outdoor areas, many communities with tobacco free indoor air policies, have expanded those policies to include outdoor public places. The Tipton County Health Council is working to encourage municipalities in the county to be champions for smoke free public spaces by volunteering to clear the air. As a result of their continuous efforts, Covington city officials have established “voluntary tobacco free zones” for city parks and recreation facilities.

According to the National Cancer Institute, the strongest, most comprehensive smoke free laws have typically originated at the local level as local smoke-free policy efforts are generally met with greater success than federal or state initiatives. Local smoke-free policy initiatives also typically engage communities in an intensive process of public education and debate. This process raises public awareness regarding the health risks that secondhand smoke exposure poses to nonsmokers, increases public support for policy measures that provide protections from these risks, and changes public attitudes and norms regarding the social acceptability of smoking. These changes, in turn, lay the groundwork for successfully enacting and implementing the proposed policy, which reinforces and accelerates these changes in the norm.

On April 12, 2016, Tipton County Health Council members presented an overview of “Knock Tobacco Out of the Park” to the Covington Board of Aldermen. “Knock Tobacco Out of the Park” is a campaign, promoted by Tobacco-Free Kids, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society, American Dental Association, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Medical Association, Legacy, Oral Health America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to ban tobacco use in ballparks. Following the presentation the board of Aldermen held a brief discussion about the dangers associated with secondhand smoke exposure, and the need and importance of including Electronic Nicotine Delivery System devices (ENDS i.e. E-cigarettes) and chewing tobacco in the resolution. The Board of Aldermen made a motion for the Mayor of Covington to move forward with passing the resolution, and updating the city’s personnel tobacco policy to include E-cigarettes. On April 25, 2016 the resolution was presented to and approved by the Covington City Council. Tennessee Department of Health Tobacco Settlement Funds will be utilized to provide benches, trash bins and “tobacco-free” signage in designated parks and recreation outdoor facilities. The Tipton County Health Council plans continue in their efforts to expand “voluntary tobacco free zone” policies to other municipalities in the county.

Pictured front row from L to R: Public Health Educator Nikka Sorrells, Covington City Mayor Justin Hanson, and Tipton County Health Council Chair Mary Jones. Back row from L to R: Tipton County Health Director Matt McDaniel, Tipton County Health Council Vice Chair Robin Racine.

MID CUMBERLAND REGION
Submitted by: Vanessa Watkins, County Director

Robertson County Officially declared a Soda Free Summer for June and July. A Proclamation was given by the County Mayor encouraging all Robertson County residents to be soda free for the summer.

The Robertson County Health Department launched its Soda Free Summer campaign on June 1st to encourage children and adults to choose water and reduce or eliminate sugary drinks from their diets. The pledge consisted of participants remaining soda free for 60 days. Participants that
completed the program were invited to a celebration at the YMCA on July 30th. Each participant was eligible to win healthy living prizes (ex. bicycles and helmets, basketballs, fitbits, etc).

In February, the Dental PPI Team began presenting to the children at the schools about the harmful effects of sugary drinks. “We see rampant caries every day in our clinic due to kids drinking sodas and other sugary drinks,” said Dr. Jodi Nuss, DMD.

Interested participants were able to sign up for the challenge at the Robertson County Dental Clinic and on the on-line website: www.sodafreetn.org which was developed specifically for the campaign. Drinking just one or more sugary drink per day increases your risk of developing type 2 diabetes. By cutting back consumption of just one can of soda per day, adults and children can reduce their calorie intake by approximately 150 calories and reduce their risk of not only tooth decay but obesity, obesity-related illnesses and diabetes.

Together with partners and sponsors, The Dental PPI team hosted the pool party celebration for 114 of 268 participants that signed up for the challenge.

Rutherford County gets S.M.A.R.T about Prenatal Smoking Cessation and Secondhand Smoke

Submitted by: Cindy Chafin, Interim Director and Project Director, MTSU Center for Health and Human Services

Rutherford County Health Department has been diligently working to address prenatal smoking and secondhand smoke with WIC moms by focusing on provider education. Late fall 2014 the health department, partnering with MTSU Center for Health and Human Services, began addressing prenatal smoking and secondhand smoke with WIC patients through the S.M.A.R.T. Moms project (Smart Mothers Are Resisting Tobacco), an evidenced-based and “Rising Star” program of Tennessee Department of Health, which focuses on provider education.

S.M.A.R.T. Moms focuses on educating providers to effectively help their pregnant patients quit smoking and to avoid secondhand smoke. The program was developed and piloted in Tennessee with MTSU Center for Health and Human Services implementing the activities in all 95 Tennessee counties and their WIC clinics during 2002-2006. Over 13,000 women in WIC clinics throughout Tennessee participated in the piloted S.M.A.R.T. Moms project and 327 WIC staff was trained in addition to presentations to 17,924 health care professionals through grand rounds, annual meetings and conferences, and group presentations.

Going into the second full year of implementation in Rutherford County, S.M.A.R.T. Moms is proving to be a S.M.A.R.T. investment! Based on birth data of 143 women who have given birth since enrolling in the program, the county has saved an estimated $198,165 when comparing observed birth outcomes for low birth weight with expected birth outcomes using Tennessee hospital discharge data for babies who are born low birthweight as compared to those who are not.

In addition to dollars saved, many patients have their own “success stories” which they frequently share with WIC staff. Patricia smoked 2 packs of cigarettes a day before she got pregnant, decreased to a ½ pack during pregnancy, and now she has completely stopped smoking cigarettes. Patricia states “it is very nice that MTSU – and the health department - have given time and thought to mothers that need and want help to stop smoking. It is an everyday struggle and their incentives, the diaper bag and the pack of diapers, are very helpful. This program has really helped me continue to do the right thing, by quitting smoking, for the health of my baby.” Before Rachael was pregnant, she smoked 10-15 cigarettes a day. When she found out she was having another baby she lowered her smoking to 4 cigarettes a day on here own. Rachael stated that she just could not get rid of the 4 she was smoking daily and says that the S.M.A.R.T. moms program gave her encouragement, techniques from the handbook, and the accountability to stop smoking. Today Rachael is non-smoking and very happy that she quit.

Way to go, Rutherford County, for being S.M.A.R.T.! For further information on S.M.A.R.T. Moms, visit
www.smartmomstn.com. With the exception of patient self-help guides which can be purchased at a nominal cost through the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the program materials are free and the program can be implemented with nominal costs. Incentives are completely optional, though do enhance program participation. Online training is free, with CMEs and CEUs is also available through a partnership with Marshall University’s Joan C. Edwards school of medicine through the 2017 year.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Healthier Hickman Collaborates with Governor’s Foundation to Produce “Small Starts” Promotion Video
Submitted by Sarah Russell, Public Health County Director, Hickman County Health Department

Hickman County was the first in the State to receive a $5,000 Healthier Tennessee Communities Grant from the Governor’s Foundation for Health and Wellness. The Hickman County Wellness Committee members visited workplaces and places of worship, presenting information on the benefits of wellness programs and introduced “Small Starts” tools. “Small Starts” is an on-line program that includes several activities from which a worksite, church or individual may choose to build their own plan for success. It provides low-cost ways for getting more exercise, choosing healthier foods and cutting out tobacco use.

Through the committees’ work with “Small Starts” and other ongoing physical activity, healthy eating and nutrition education, and tobacco education efforts which reached all residents in the county, Hickman County received the “Healthier TN Community” award from Governor Bill Haslam during a special recognition ceremony at the State Capitol in June. Wellness Committee members along with County Mayor Shaun Lawson and City Mayor Gary Jacobs gladly accepted the designation for the county. In addition to this event, the Governor’s Foundation chose Hickman County to be the site of a video shoot highlighting the work of the committee. The video includes testimonials from Plant Manager Sandra Thornton with Southeastern Pant, Faith-Based Nurse Sarah Hinson with the Fairfield Church of Christ, and Ms. Jessica Wallace’s Kindergarten Class at East Hickman Elementary dancing with “GoNoodle.” Also featured sharing about the ease of navigating the “Small Starts” tools are Hickman County Health Department Health Educator Teresa Gregory, Public Health Office Supervisor Terra Allen and U T Extension Agent Autumn Dabbs. The video will be used as a recruitment tool for counties and cities across the State and will be available for viewing on the Foundation website. It will make its debut at the Healthier Tennessee Communities Conference in Murfreesboro August 16 and will be made available on the Foundation website http://healthiertn.com/ Stay tuned!

Shown at left: At the video shoot plant Manager Sandra Thornton was one of those interviewed by Senior Director of Community Relations Jennings Ragan with the Governor’s Foundation for Health and Wellness. She discussed how their “Small Starts” include regular breaks for stretching, walking and organized exercise. Healthier options are being offered in the vending machines and healthy foods are being introduced at employee meal get-togethers and celebrations. Free nicotine patches are also offered for employees who want to quit tobacco use. Thornton says, “Our employees have really taken ownership of the program and are leading all the efforts.”
DATES TO REMEMBER

Tennessee Public Health Association
Annual Educational Conference
“Accelerating Our Culture of Health”
September 14-16, 2016
Cool Springs Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Franklin, TN

American Public Health Association
144th Annual Meeting & Exposition
"Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health"
October 29—November 2, 2016
Denver, CO

Rural Health Association of Tennessee
RHAT 2016 Conference
"Celebrating the Power of Rural Health"
November 16—18, 2016
Music Road Hotel and Convention Center
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee