

# Business & Real Estate

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## Leadership Franklin class selected *20 leaders to spend months studying, sharing*

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The 14th class of Leadership Franklin is preparing to begin its year of study, with a class of 20 community leaders.

Leadership Franklin is a non-profit community leadership organization, serving the community and educating leaders in Franklin and Williamson County.

The organization, which is funded primarily by business, individual and alumni contributions, takes participants through a series of classes (one each month for eight months). Each class is aimed at presenting and analyzing a particularly important segment of the city and/or county, including the areas of history, government, business, law enforcement, media, education and quality of life.

Each year the leadership class is divided into four different groups, who work to produce a class project. Projects will be revealed and discussed on graduation day. The establishment of Franklin Tomorrow is an example of one such project.

Selected for this year's program were Adam Ballash, Selisa Beeler, Gary Bell, Neil Buffington, Beverly Burger, Greg Caesar, Rita Dozier, Deborah Faulkner, Ruth Ann Ford, Al Gregory Jr., Hugh Harris, Bob Higgins, Daryl Hill, Derwin Jackson, Jennifer Krahenbill, Stephen "Bubba" Miller, David Rahinsky, Jay Sheridan, Eric Stuckey, and Joe Walker.

Ballash is development manager for Boyle Investment Company. In this role he is responsible for the development and construction of Boyle Nashville's mixed-use real estate investment portfolio, from project to completion.

Ballash has lived in Williamson County for three years. His community activities have included Christ Community Church, Franklin Sustainability Task Force, Urban Land Institute, Harpeth River Watershed Association, and the

Nashville Home Builders Association.

Achieving his B.S. in Civil Engineering and a Certificate of Emphasis in Environmental Engineering from UK, he also received his Juris Doctorate from Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville. He is an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoys snow skiing, golfing, mountain biking, trout fishing and backpacking.

Beeler has lived in Williamson County for eight years and is vice president of private banking with First Tennessee. In this position she provides full-service banking and acts as a financial advisor by educating the customer about financial strategies, financial planning and investments. She attended the University of Tennessee and has 34 years of banking experience, achieving the Tower of Excellence Award in Banking and the Golden Circle Award for performance with First Tennessee Bank.

She enjoys fitness, gardening, snow skiing and traveling. Through the years she has contributed to her community through involvement with the Franklin Noon Rotary Club, Brentwood Women in Business, Brentwood Baptist Church, the Heritage Foundation, and BNI.

Bell has lived in Williamson County for 12 years and has served his community through involvement in various organizations. He has provided leadership to New Hope Academy by serving on their board of directors, served as a basketball coach with the YMCA, and attends and teaches at Strong Tower Bible Church.

Bell is a senior financial advisor/principal with Ronald Blue and Co., LLC. He serves as a financial planner and investment manager to roughly 60 clients.

Bell has a B.S. in Business Administration from Presbyterian



BALLASH

BEELER

BELL

BUFFINGTON

BURGER



CAESAR

DOZIER

FAULKNER

FORD

GREGORY



HARRIS

HIGGINS

HILL

JACKSON

KRAHENBILL



MILLER

RAHINSKY

SHERIDAN

STUCKEY

WALKER

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# Business

## Leadership Franklin

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College and a Master of Accountancy, with a concentration in tax, from the University of Georgia. He is a former Certified Public Accountant and a current Certified Financial Planner. While at Presbyterian College, where he graduated *Jum Laude*, he played basketball for four years, and served as co-captain his senior year.

Buffington has lived in Williamson County for almost three years. He is the assistant general manager and food and beverage director for Embassy Suites, Nashville South @ Cool Springs, a 250-suite hotel with 15,000 square feet of meeting space. He has been with the company for over 10 years, and has been the recipient of the Pinnacle Award for numerous years.

Buffington has a B.S. in Hospitality and Restaurant Administration from Missouri State University. Before moving to the area, he was involved with the March of Dimes in West Virginia, serving as the vice chair of the Board of Directors.

Burger has a degree in Journalism from Kent State University. She has many interests including reading, gardening, golf, the arts, writing, cooking, bow hunting, missions, people and politics. She serves as an alumnus, Ward I, for the city of Franklin.

Burger is the owner/manager of The Burger Group LLC, a company providing marketing consulting services.

During her six years of residence in Williamson County, Burger has been extremely community-service oriented. In addition to serving as an elected official, she has been involved with the Republican Women of Williamson County, Christ Presbyterian Church, BRIDGES of Williamson County, The Heritage Foundation, and the International Association of Home Staging Professionals. Her work with these organizations has earned her numerous awards and recognition.

Caesar is an advanced technology specialist with Advanced Biohealing Inc. In this capacity, he promotes the use of advanced living human tissue for the treatment of non-healing diabetic foot wounds, with the ultimate goal of reducing amputations. Greg graduated from The University of Memphis, and received his MBA from The University of South Alabama. He has also pursued additional training in areas relating to his career.

Caesar enjoys running, cycling and participation in all "kid-friendly" outdoor activities! He is also a private pilot.

Caesar has lived in Williamson County for two years and has become active in the Williamson County Young Republicans, University of Memphis Alumni, and various activities and groups through the Holy Family Catholic Church.

Dozier has lived in Williamson County for 23 years. Dozier serves as executive director for the Williamson County Literacy Council and as a GED teacher for Williamson County Schools.

Dozier is active in the Optimist Club, Family Resource Center, Community Advisory Council, and Brentwood Baptist Church, serving in various roles. She also enjoys reading, writing, and vegetable gardening.

She received her degree in English and Secondary Education re-certification from Belmont University. Additional courses in Reading and Spanish were taken at both Belmont and Trevecca.

Faulkner serves as the Inspector General for the State of Tennessee. She leads a law enforcement agency that is responsible for investigating and prosecuting health care fraud or abuse, regarding the TennCare and CoverTN programs.

Faulkner has lived in Williamson County for 1 1/2 years. She is currently a member of the Carnton Plantation Board of Directors and serves as the Prevention Task Force Chair for BRIDGES of Williamson County. She has also served on boards for Senior Citizens, YWCA, and Susan G. Komen.

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis, her Master's from MTSU, and her doctorate from Vanderbilt University. She serves as an adjunct faculty member for Cumberland University, TSU, and Trevecca. She enjoys fly fishing, gardening, home decorating, walking and reading.

Faulkner has been inducted into the Academy for Women of Achievement, received the Senior Citizen's Harriet Foley Leadership Award, CABLE's Molly Todd Award & Spirit of Leadership Award; the Girl Scout Volunteer Award & Spirit Award; and was an ATHE-NA award winner.

Ford is an associate dean with Belmont University, supervising over 140 graduate students, plus faculty and staff. With a doctorate focusing on leadership and policy studies, Ford has a Master's in Biomedical Sciences — Rehabilitation Services and a B.S. in Occupational Therapy. Her research has been conducted in older adults and aging issues.

Ford has lived in Williamson County for four years and is active in Rotary, Franklin First United Methodist Church, local downtown Franklin events, and more. She enjoys hiking, biking, canoeing, reading and gardening.

Ford has received both professional, service and educational awards. Gregory has lived in Williamson County for 30 years! As the assistant vice president and manager of Cadence Bank, N.A., he is involved with commercial lending, business development and community banking.

He has many community interests. Gregory currently serves as board chair for the Franklin Housing Authority, president-elect of the Franklin Lions Club, and is active in the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, the Heritage Foundation and teaches finance at Franklin High School. He has a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and also serves as an instructor.

Gregory graduated from Franklin High School, Columbia State Community College and has continued his education within the Tennessee Bankers Association. He has been selected for both a Williamson County Impact Award and was a member of the Williamson County 25 in 2007. He was chosen as an instructor for the Tennessee Governor's School for Business Students and was appointed state colonel by Gov. Ned Ray McWherter.

Harris serves as the headmaster of Franklin Christian Academy, and has lived in Williamson County for 18 years. In this role he is responsible for all day-to-day functions of an independent private Christian school encompassing grades 5-12.

He serves as the president of the Middle TN Athletic Coalition (MTAC), and is also involved with Servant Group International, Christ Community Church and Strong Tower Bible Church. Harris has led trips to Northern Iraq to train teachers in western English-speaking schools. He also has led the growth of participation in school sports from middle schools and high schools in MTAC from six to 18 schools.

Harris graduated from Baylor University with an accounting degree and has a Master's in Education Administration from TSU. He enjoys all sports, especially golf and basketball, travel, reading and cooking.

Higgins is president & CEO of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon Inc., a 375-person engineering and architectural firm that provides services across the country from 10 offices in the southeast.

He has lived in Williamson County for 13 years. He has served on various community boards and committees, both in Tennessee and former residence in Kentucky, including the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and the Cham-

ber of Commerce. Higgins was also awarded the Horizon Award in his former Leadership Franklin class of Simpson County, Ky.

Higgins received his B.S. in Engineering from Vanderbilt University, and is a licensed professional engineer in both Tennessee and Kentucky. He also served four years in the U.S. Air Force and is a Desert Storm veteran.

Hill serves as the program director for GAP Community Development Resources Inc. He works to educate homebuyers to assist them in becoming a well-informed consumer, as well as provides foreclosure prevention counseling. He is involved with the Franklin Housing Authority and Hard Bargain/Mt. Hope Redevelopment Agency.

Hill received a B.S. degree in managerial economics from the University of California at Davis, and has continued his professional development through training in loss mitigation, post-purchase and mortgage lending.

Serving as the Executive

Director for the Franklin Housing Authority, Derwin is responsible for overseeing the day to day operations of 297 units of public housing as well as providing social and educational programs.

Jackson has lived in Williamson County for 1 1/2 years. He has been involved with the City's Affordable Housing Commission as well as volunteered for the UCRF Organization. He loves both playing and refereeing basketball, reading and spending time with his family.

Jackson has a B.S. degree in Accounting, a Master's degree in Public Administration, and a Public Housing Certification from Rutgers University.

Krahenbill has called Williamson County home for 21 years. Serving as the executive director of Waves Inc., she provides leadership and overall management for a wide range of services for young children who are experiencing delays in development as well as for adults with mental retardation and other disabilities.

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### Sudoku Puzzle #1548-M

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