

Fire Prevention Week Oct 7-13



See special inside section.

Training requirements needed for firefighters

BY REP. CHARLES CURTISS

The National Fire Protection Agency has updated its annual survey of fire-related deaths. It might surprise you that Tennessee reported the fifth most fire deaths, as a percentage of total population, of any state. However, as a former firefighter and over 30 years involvement in fire fighting issues, this unfortunate fact doesn't strike me as a revelation. Tennessee is an all too familiar occupant of the top five list, remaining among the five worst states for nearly 30 years.

As surprising as it may be to some to learn that Tennessee has held this unacceptable position for so long, the more shocking and outrageous fact is that there is not a single state law that requires any of the nearly 34,000 firefighters in Tennessee to complete any firefighting training. That's right, the state requires an individual to complete training and obtain a license before they may drive a car, wire your house, fix a leaky sink or even cut your hair, but a firefighter is not required by law to complete any formal training before he or she fights a fire.

Over the years, there have been many initiatives that have attempted to pinpoint some of the related causes of fire deaths, such as the amount of smokers in a state, the percentage of the population residing in rural areas, the climate, and even the percentage of adults with less than 12 years of education. Some of these related causes have influenced fire death rates more than others, but one connection is very clear: the amount of training firefighters receive correlates directly to the amount of fire deaths in a state. Obviously, there must be



Rep. Curtiss

some dramatic changes made in this area if we are to significantly reduce the number of fire-related deaths in this state.

I believe one such change would be to begin to require mandatory training of all firefighters. Senator Ketron, himself, a fellow volunteer firefighter, and I have introduced legislation that would require all new firefighters to successfully complete a minimum of 16 hours of basic firefighter training before they may respond to calls. We do not suggest that enacting this minimum requirement will solve all or even most of our problems related to fire deaths, but it will save the lives of some victims and firefighters alike.

I do not want to suggest either that every firefighter in Tennessee is out there fighting fires without adequate training because to do so would be a great disservice to the fine reputations of the many well-trained, volunteer, full-time and career firefighters who routinely put their lives on the line. In fact, the

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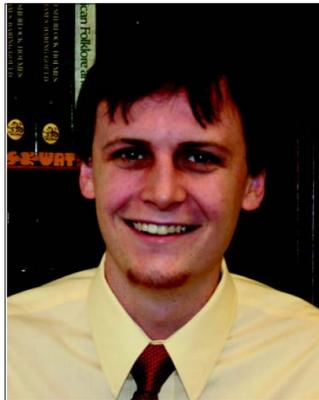
Mark Barrett joins TML staff

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

On Sept. 4, Mark Barrett started working at the Tennessee Municipal League as a legislative analyst. He replaces Tish Womack who retired this summer. Barrett, who graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in May, also completed a five-month internship in the General Assembly in May working with Rep. Kent Coleman who shared an office with Reps. Rob Briley and Janis Sontany.

"Mark comes to us recommended for his energetic and effective work with the legislature where he proved himself bright, helpful, and eager to work with elected officials and staff," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director. "We look forward to having Mark on the TML team."

Barrett grew up in Madeira, a suburb in north Cincinnati, where he graduated from Madeira High in 2002, attended Sinclair Community College for three quarters and transferred to MTSU in July 2003. He was drawn by that school's recording industry major but got his degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in political science and mass communications and a minor in religious studies. A hard worker,



Mark Barrett

he supported his educational endeavors working after school every year from 1998 through 2006 as a server in the food industry.

A political science professor, who had served in the internship program, told him that he would learn more about politics as an intern than he'd ever learn in the course he was teaching. Besides, he would earn the 12 credits he needed to graduate by serving those five months.

After graduation, he applied for an open position with TML and was delighted when he was chosen to work where he would have the opportunity to continue his new interest in state and local government.

TACIR to study future water supply challenges

BY TACIR STAFF

The first eight months of 2007, with little more than half the normal amount of rainfall, have been the driest January to August on record for Tennessee. In fact, Tennessee received less than normal rainfall for 19 of the last 24 months. To compound the problem, August 2007 was the hottest month on record for the state, with 15 triple-digit days in Middle Tennessee and as many as 17 in parts of West Tennessee.

The National Climatic Data Center characterizes the state as having "much above normal" temperatures for the year so far; only six states outrank it in that respect, all western and mountain states. As a result of these prolonged hot and dry conditions, most of Tennessee, like most of the southeast, is experiencing an exceptional drought; the entire state is in a severe drought or worse.

The effects of the drought are being felt all across the state. Middle Tennessee has been the driest of the state's four climate divisions with only 53 percent of the normal rainfall

for January through August, but even East Tennessee, which has been closest to normal has only received 61 percent of its normal rainfall for the first eight months of this year. And it is estimated that we would need anywhere from 18 to 36 inches of rain over the next three months to alleviate the current drought conditions—well in excess of the amount of rainfall the state typically experiences this time of year. While the U.S. *Seasonal Drought Outlook* holds some promise for improvement through December, the likelihood of getting enough rain to reach normal for the year is slim for most of the state, and it's slim to none for Middle Tennessee.

It is hard to open a newspaper, watch or listen to any newscast, without seeing or hearing about the effects of the current drought. Water utilities across the state have called for voluntary restrictions, and restrictions have been mandatory in some areas. Whether they rely on surface water or groundwater, water supply managers are facing unusual challenges as they try to meet an

array of competing needs, from domestic consumption to agricultural and industrial use. Now electric utilities are feeling the pinch, as well, with TVA raising rates because water levels have been too low to produce the usual amount of hydroelectric power.

Growing water needs

This year's exceptional drought raises important questions about the state's ability to ensure an adequate and reliable water supply to meet the needs of a growing population and economy, and it has implications for how the state and local governments need to manage growth and development. Tennessee's 2000 population of nearly 5.7 million people is expected to reach 7.6 million by 2025, an increase of 33 percent. As the population and economy continue to expand, demands on the state's water supply will only increase. The water needs of this expanding population must be balanced against the needs of agriculture, maintaining an acceptable level of water quality in our streams and lakes, generating hydroelectric power, and providing

See **WATER** on Page 10

Fall enrollment surges at state's colleges, universities

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Like anticipated guests, record numbers of students set off spikes in fall enrollment figures at most of Tennessee's colleges and universities in comparison to 2006 figures.

"This marks our fourth consecutive year of record enrollment," said East Tennessee State University President Paul E. Stanton, Jr.

ETSU exceeded the 13,000 mark for the first time in its 96-year history, while Jackson State Community College saw the largest enrollment in its 40 years. Other schools reporting an increase include The University of Tennessee at Martin, Union, Lambuth, Lane, Bethel, Tennessee Tech, UT Chattanooga, and Middle Tennessee State University and private institutions such as Belmont and Lipscomb University. Technical schools have reported an increase as well. Tennessee Technology Center at Newbern posted a 9 percent increase for the fall term.

"We can attribute much of our growth to the quality and breadth of our academic programming," Stanton said, adding that ETSU's enrollment at its Kingsport location is up more than 20 percent. Jackson State is offering more online studies and holding classes at the Tennessee Technology Centers throughout West Tennessee, Belmont is opening a new school of pharmacy, while more diversity in degree offerings and classes for working individuals is driving enrollment skyward at Lipscomb.

However, aggressive recruitment efforts and competitive offerings are only part of the equation in a state strongly committed to educa-



ETSU exceeded the 13,000 mark for the first time in its 96-year history.

tion initiatives. During his 2007 State of the State address, Gov. Phil Bredesen opted to maintain education as a No. 1 priority, investing new money into Tennessee's classrooms at a time when many states were cutting their educational funding.

"Too many kids are falling through the cracks, particularly at the high school level," Bredesen remarked at a 2005 CEO summit on math and science education. "For every 100 students who enter the 9th grade in Tennessee, only 34 go on to college. And of those 34, just 14 graduate with a degree within six years. For me, both as Governor and as a plain old citizen...that is absolutely unacceptable."

"Governor Bredesen has

charged the state Department of Education with initiating and expanding many programs that prepare more graduates to enroll in college," said Education Commissioner Lana Seivers.

"He has expanded the Governor's Schools from eight to twelve universities and every student now receives six hours of college credit. Direct access to college credits for high school course work through dual enrollment programs and strong articulation agreements with community colleges, technology centers, and universities have resulted in students obtaining simultaneous college and high school credit. Enrollment in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate

See **COLLEGES** on Page 10

Tennessee wins gold medal award for excellence in parks management

State parks system named nation's best

The Tennessee State Parks System has been named the best state parks system in the country by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association.

The 2007 Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in the state parks category was presented to Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke at NRPA's annual conference in Indianapolis last month.

"This award affirms the steps we're taking to protect special places and to offer a wide range of recreational opportunities to both Tennesseans and visitors to our state alike," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "I'm particularly pleased to see Commissioner Fyke and his dedicated team of parks professionals receive this recognition, and I urge all Tennesseans to get out and take advantage of our award-winning parks system."



Tennessee boasts 54 state parks and 77 natural areas with a wide range of recreational offerings from camping to golfing.

Tennessee has 54 state parks and 77 natural areas with a wide range of recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, swim-

ming, golf, boating, whitewater rafting and more. The state parks system includes resort parks with inns, con-

See **PARKS** on Page 7

Special Fire Prevention Section

Wildfires constant concern for State Forestry Division

The impacts of drought are being felt across the state. Dwindling water supplies, livestock forage, and wildfire related issues have taken center stage at many levels of government. These problems have emerged seemingly out of nowhere. However, the wildfire issue is a constant concern for the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) and local fire departments. TDF has the privilege of working with fire departments, local, county, state, and federal agencies throughout the state to carry out its mission of prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires.

State Forester Steve Scott places the prevention program as a high priority. To be effective, fire prevention requires the cooperation of the general public, other agencies and government officials - especially during exceptional drought years like this one. TDF minimizes wildfire due to debris burning by issuing permits when conditions are safe to burn— about 450,000 permits are issued annually. Arson, the other leading cause of wildfires, is minimized through aggressive law enforcement and by soliciting cooperation from citizens through an Arson Hotline at 1-800-762-3017 and by offering a cash reward.

On average, TDF responds to

about 3,000 wildfires a year that burn about 30,000 acres. However, this is not an average year. Because of the drought situation, TDF has already controlled over a year's worth of wildfires that have burned 1.5 times the normal acreage—and we have not yet entered the typical fall fire season. Historic drought conditions like we have now may be the precursor of serious fire activity in the fall.

Local fire departments are an essential part of the fire partnership. To reduce the potential for many homes and structures to be lost this fall, TDF is encouraging fire departments and local and county government officials to ask their citizens to employ "firewise" principles around their homes. In many instances, homes employing firewise principles have been spared during wildfires.

Firewise is based on the premise that homeowners are primarily responsible for their structure's safety, but other disciplines (planners, builders, architects, etc) and government officials share some responsibility, too. Firewise emphasizes that all those with responsibility work together to minimize home losses. Wildfire losses can be reduced to near zero when wildfire is considered in regulations governing devel-



Because of the drought situation, the Tennessee Division of Forestry is concerned more than ever about wildfires. On average, TDF responds to about 3,000 wildfires a year that burn about 30,000 acres.

opment, community design, choice of building materials, and by homeowners employing simple maintenance practices such as keeping brush and leaves away from the house.

TDF is interested in working

with city and county managers, planners, etc. to implement this program. Visit www.BurnSafeTN.org and www.Firewise.org for more information.

Fire department, local and county government officials seeking

assistance (including free literature) with any of these programs, may contact Resource Protection Unit Leader John Kirksey at www.John.Kirksey@state.tn.us or telephone 615-837-5425.

Cities promote fire prevention through educational programs

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

"Don't Give Fire a Place to Start"; "Fire Hurts"; "Learn Not to Burn"; "Use Candles with Care" - Whatever the theme from years gone by, Fire Prevention Week continues to unite firefighters across the nation in their ultimate objective; educating and protecting citizens of all ages through innovative fire safety and prevention programs.

Filled with scheduled speakers, activities, and valuable safety tips, 2007's Fire Prevention Week "Practice Your Escape Plan!" sheds light on fire safety programs operational in Tennessee, which serve as model education projects.

In 2000, the Fayetteville Fire Department restructured an actual three-bedroom home where children and adults train with seasoned fire

professionals on how to escape a burning building. The house is equipped with special heating units attached to the back of the bedroom doors and smoke machines that fill the house with dense, non-toxic smoke. Activated from a control room, the bedroom doors inside the house heat up as well as fire officers observe through a one-way mirror or night thermal imaging goggles as visitors attempt to exit the building.

"It is a great tool for people to get a live grasp about what to expect during a house fire," said Fayetteville Fire Prevention Officer Jason McCormick.

"It's very similar to the real deal and some people freak out during the demonstration."

Since its inception, 3,989 visitors have toured the structure, some visiting from outside Tennessee.

In 2006, Fayetteville was pre-

sented with the Municipal Achievement Award for Excellence in Fire Protection by the Tennessee Municipal League due to efforts such as the Fire Safety House as well as other achievements.

A smoke detector in every home has been the goal of the Murfreesboro Fire Department, which was instrumental in developing a comprehensive program, Project SAFE, to place smoke detectors in every home in the community willing to accept them.

During the Project SAFE visits, firefighters asked if the resident had a working smoke detector. If no alarm was present, department personnel installed one at no charge. If the resident wasn't home at the time of the visit, firefighters left a door hanger with a phone number to call. The resident also received a magnet with fire safety tips.



Dyersburg firemen visit schools to promote fire safety

Murfreesboro was among the first Tennessee cities to initiate the program at a cost of approximately \$12,500.

The Knoxville Fire Department fosters a unique partnership with local journalists with a fire education program geared specifically for members of the media.

The intensive training academy called the "Certified Fire Journalist Media Academy" allows journalists to achieve a greater and safer understanding of the emergencies to which firefighters respond.

The academy is a full training workshop, with both classroom and activity participation. Members of the media are loaned protective gear and receive certification allowing the graduates inside fire lines to photograph and report closer to the action on both fire and medical emergencies.

The training program includes: Fire Ground Operations, Fire Behavior, Fire Suppression, Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Helicopter, Trench and Mountain Rescue, Emergency Vehicle Driving, Emergency Medical Services, the Flash Over/Back Draft Chamber, and Stress Management.

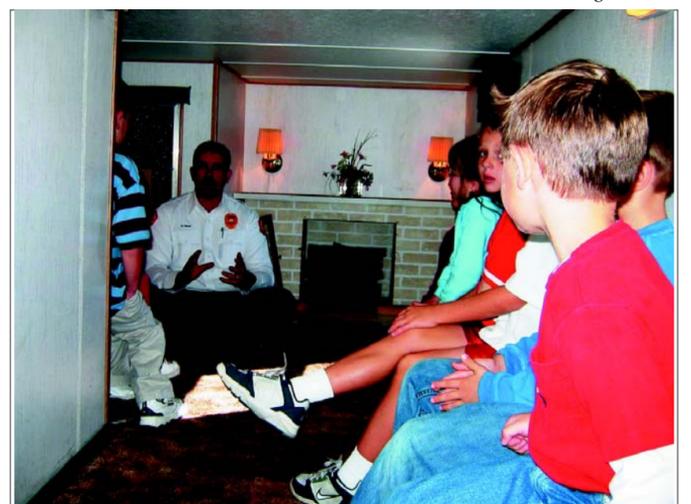
Journalists are explained the basics of standard operating procedures of fire ground command, as well as the rules governing their

scene privileges. The Knoxville Fire Department holds the media academy on an annual basis.

The Johnson City Fire Prevention Division is a very diverse group. Fire Marshals are involved in many activities to promote fire prevention, including teaching fire safety classes, conducting inspections of both new and existing buildings, and visiting schools and daycares. One project is the *Buzzly Bee* fire safety program for schools and daycares. The program is a series of kid-friendly educational videos introduced in the classroom to involve teachers, students and parents. It is designed to capture the imagination of children, while reinforcing their ability to make good choices. The programs teach children to play and stay safe, develop good character traits and love and respect our country.

Brentwood was one of 70 communities in the United States and Canada selected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as the recipient of the 1996 Learn Not To Burn Champion Award. This landmark project is a proactive attempt to implement the Learn Not To Burn fire safety education programs into day care centers and primary school classrooms.

The NFPA supplied materials See **EDUCATION** on Page 11



Brentwood firefighters use a fire safety house to show school-aged children how to escape from a fire

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Salute to Firefighters & Fire Prevention Week

– October 7 - 13, 2007 –

The History Behind Fire Prevention Week

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 9th, 1871. This tragic conflagration killed 300 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 structures.

The Fire Marshals Association of North America (FMANA) decided that the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. So on October 9th, 1911, FMANA sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day.

In 1920, President Woodrow

Wilson issued the First National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. And, every year since 1925, the president of the United States has signed the proclamation pronouncing the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which October 9th falls as a national observance.

For over 80 years, the nonprofit NFPA has officially sponsored and selected the theme for national commemoration of Fire Prevention Week, using the event to increase awareness of the dangers of fire.

This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, with the theme "Practice Your Escape Plan."

Fire training regs needed

TRAINING from Page 1

overwhelming majority of Tennessee's cities with full-time and career firefighters participate in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education. Participants in this program are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training annually. Therefore, while the state may not require training, the firefighters serving these cities are obligated to complete a meaningful requirement.

If, in fact, the firefighters serving in Tennessee's cities are required to complete training, then one may wonder why Senator Ketron and I are so concerned about incorporating mandatory training into our state's laws.

While it is true that a full-time, career firefighter serving in a city that participates in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education is required to complete annual training, this requirement only applies to approximately 20 percent of the firefighters in the state. Today, there are approximately 27,000 firefighters in this state who are part-time, volunteer or serving in a department that is not participating in the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education. As a result, nearly 80 percent of the firefighters serving in Tennessee are not required to receive any formal training from a certified firefighting instructor.

I'm not saying that volunteer firefighters do not receive any training because most participate in some type of training. However, this is most frequently on the job training conducted by other volunteers within the department. While we

have many outstanding volunteers in this state, the training is not always as comprehensive as I believe is necessary.

My suggestion that our state laws are deficient or that volunteers are not receiving adequate training is not a reflection of the individual volunteer. While fire fighting may not be the sole vocation of a volunteer, it requires no less a commitment of time and energy and a volunteer's exposure to personal risk is the same as a full-time firefighter.

I am convinced that volunteers, like their full time brethren, are committed to the job and would welcome additional training opportunities. Unfortunately, there are impediments that serve as a barrier to volunteers who seek more training. Since many volunteers are employed full-time in another profession, they must use their vacation time or forfeit pay to attend training. This is far different from the incentives that I'm thankful are afforded full-time firefighters. Under current statutes, career and full-time firefighters who receive training continue to collect their full salary for the duration. In addition to their salary, full-time firefighters receive a bonus of \$650 upon completion of training. Volunteer firefighters are not compensated for their training and must instead bear the financial burden of course hours, travel, lodging, and any other necessary expense involved.

Senator Ketron and I are sponsoring legislation offering volunteers incentives and benefits comparable to full-time firefighters. Our legislation would remove the potential woes associated with missing work for training and allow firefighters to achieve the best results from their training experience.



This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, with the theme "Practice Your Escape Plan."

UT agencies study state fire deaths

BY GARY WEST
MTAS Fire Consultant

The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service organizations including both the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) has launched a study of Tennessee Fire Deaths in an effort to identify ways to reduce the state fire death rate in the future. Fire management consultants from both organizations are spearheading the project with assistance from research and GIS specialists also from both organizations.

The interest in reducing the state's fire death rate isn't new and has been a concern of state and local officials for many years. Several studies and prevention initiatives has been conducted by the State Fire Marshal's Office to address this problem although Tennessee continues to rank in the top five for highest number of civilian fire deaths per million population. The problem spreads throughout the South with several neighboring states also topping the list.

This new study of fire deaths in Tennessee is combining several different data sources into a single data base and is expected to provide additional information not identified in previous studies. Data sources will not only include fire department incident reports from fire departments across the state but also other social-economic related sources. Partnering with the State Fire Marshal's Office and

several other prevention agencies, it is expected that additional solutions can be determined.

Civilian Fire Deaths in the U.S.

According to a 2006 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,642,500 fires. These fires resulted in 3,245 civilian fire fatalities, 16,400 civilian fire injuries and an estimated \$11,307,000,000 in direct property loss. There was a civilian fire death every 162 minutes and a civilian fire injury every 32 minutes in 2006. Home fires caused 2,580, or 80%, of the civilian fire deaths. About 80% of all fire deaths occurred in the home and 445 civilians died in highway vehicle fires. A total of 85 civilians died in nonresidential structure fires.

This sounds like a problem that

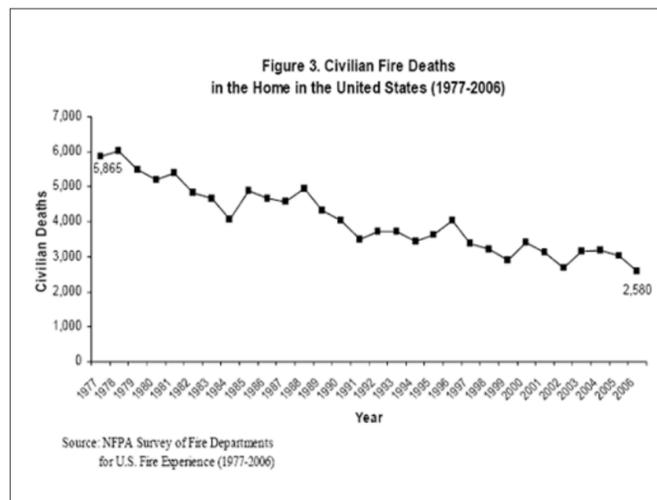
is spiraling out of control; however, many achievements have been made to reduce the fire death numbers in homes from 5,865 in 1977 to 2,580 in 2006. This 44 percent drop represents many accomplishments made through legislative action, improved fire codes and public education efforts. The chart below shows this trend.

Previous national research has shown that most fire deaths occur in the home and many could have been prevented if there had been working smoke alarms on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas. Every household should practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room, unobstructed and easy-to-use exits, a meeting place outside, and a posted emergency number for

See DEATHS on Page 8

Establish Minimum Training Requirements for Firefighters SB 1793 (Ketron) / HB 1560 (Curtiss)

Any full-time, part-time, or volunteer firefighter hired or accepted as a firefighter on or after July 1, 2007, must have completed a minimum of 16 hours of initial training in firefighting procedures and techniques before being allowed to actively fight a fire; and within 36 months after completing the initial training, the firefighter must have completed the 84-hour basic training course offered at the Tennessee fire service and codes enforcement academy, or an equivalent course. Any current firefighters with at least five years of service is exempt from the training requirement.



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Special Fire Prevention Section

Hamilton County agencies form fire investigators task force

The volunteer and municipal fire departments of Hamilton County along with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Red Bank Police Department and Soddy-Daisy Police Department have formed a Fire/Arson Investigators task force. The task force was formed to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires.

The task force consists of investigators from the Red Bank Fire Department, the Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department, Tri Community Volunteer Fire Department, Walden's Ridge Emergency Services, and the Soddy-Daisy Volunteer Fire Department.

The investigators have received intensive training provided by the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy as well as continuing education, which takes place at the bi-monthly

meeting. Several of the members are certified fire investigators through the International Association of Arson Investigators and the National Association of Fire Investigators.

The task force is available to all fire departments within the county and have assisted with several investigations in the recent past.

Assistant Chief Jimmie Burnett of the Red Bank Fire Department is the training director and conducts the critiques that occur when the task force is deployed. Burnett believes that continuing education is a must for all investigators due to the changing trends within the fire investigation field. He has scheduled several advanced training programs for the upcoming year.

Presently the task force consists of more than 40 members, which makes them available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for call out.

Shelby County fire officials form Juvenile Fire Program

The fire departments within Shelby County have come together to discuss ways to deal with juvenile fire problems that affects all communities.

Fire marshals, and fire investigators from Shelby County, Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown, Memphis, and Millington Fire Departments, have met to discuss their individual concerns and to work together to agree upon a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program modeled after the program established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The intervention program is designed to teach children about the damaging consequences of playing with fire.

As an informal working group, these individuals will meet quarterly to talk about building strategies to

strengthen community involvement, including law enforcement, Juvenile Court, families of juvenile offenders, and intervention practices.

The goal of this program is to establish a formal process that involves the juvenile, parent or guardian, and the appropriate authorities, in solving the behavior issues that may lead to destructive behavior.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that more than 45 percent of all children between the ages of five and seven have played with matches and lighters. Most of the fires started by children in this age group are set out of curiosity. Intervention at the curiosity stage of fire setting can teach the proper and safe use of fire and help prevent destructive tendencies that could develop into acts of delinquency and violence.



Largest graduating class in fire academy history

The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy graduated its largest class in history with state Fire Marshal and Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Leslie A. Newman delivering the commencement address to the class of 25 recruit firefighters on Friday, Aug. 31, 2007.

Recruits endured blistering heat while performing a variety of training exercises. From victim rescue, to hazardous fuel spills and a live fire, recruits are presented with a variety of life and death scenarios. Unique to this class, are four students who have no affiliation with a fire department, but a strong drive to become a firefighter. Participants were from the Columbia, Cookeville, Covington, Germantown, Loudon, Manchester, McMinnville, Smyrna, Maury County Rural, and Wilson County EMA fire departments; and from the Lascassas, Marlow, and Mullins Cove volunteer fire departments.

Millington trains citizens response team

The Millington Fire Department offers an important training program to the citizens of the community to help prepare them for any type of disaster.

CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team Training) helps prepare citizens to deal with a natural disaster, before, during and after.

"Every community is faced with possible disasters. The Millington community is no exception," says Fire Chief Charles Carter.

He explains that during a disaster often public services are lost in an emergency, such as ambulance service, general transportation, telephones may or may not work, sanitation (sewers and garbage collection), little or no food available after

runs on stores, little or no hardware supplies after runs on stores, and no radio or TV.

With CERT training, citizens will be able to:

- identify the problem areas,
- establish CERT teams and organize volunteers,
- deploy the teams; and
- report status to the Fire Dept.

The CERT course is free and is a 16-hour class that teaches the participants:

- disaster preparedness (supplies and disaster kits)
- fire suppression (small fires, how to shut off utilities)
- medical first aid (bleeding, opening airways)
- medical triage (how to set up for

treatment, supplies needed)

- light search and rescue (evacuation if necessary)
- disaster psychology (how to cope with the disaster) and team organization
- hazardous materials (how to recognize hazardous materials) and
- terrorism (types of terrorist events and how they will effect the community and how to prepare for them)

The Millington Fire Department encourages all citizens, civic groups, church groups, city workers, employees of business and industry as well as city administrators to take advantage of this invaluable training opportunity.

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Special Fire Prevention Section

America's fire problem is a national tragedy; Fire Team USA works to offer alternatives

As a member of Fire Team USA, a grass roots initiative to mobilize the community and involve all stakeholders in an effort to reduce fire deaths, Shane Ray, Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Chief, recently presented a workshop in Washington, D.C. on finding new approaches to solve a nationwide tragedy.

"The numbers are staggering. The problem will not go away. And this problem needs a new approach," says Ray. "For too long we have responded to these horrifying statistics with our standard answers. When are we going to realize that they are not working?"

During his 'Chief's Perspective' of the Fire Team USA National Workshop series, Ray offers alternative deployment options that focus on risk reduction and proactive fire protection choices through stricter building codes and mandatory sprinklers in new buildings. He emphasizes that the problem is more than statistics—they are people that have died in vain if community leaders don't figure out how to use the statistics to think differently.

"We are experts at reciting the standard reactive solutions - buy more fire trucks, build more fire stations, respond faster, etc." explains Chief Ray. "But each and every one of those solutions places the burden on the occupant, the citizen, the people who are dying. When are we as a fire service going to realize that the real solution is going to take more than that?"

He also highlights the current growth trends and what impact they have on a community. More than 1.4 million new homes are expected to be built in 2007. "Our hope lies in building those homes safer through stronger codes and enforcement, not in responding after the 911 call."

Fire Team USA believes that the solution involves key stakeholders and that it is the community's problem to identify its unique solution. The fire chief must lead the community team, which also includes the public policy maker, building official, fire marshal, and water purveyor. Fire Team USA encourages these stakeholder to participate together and learn the facts so that they can decide on a

proactive plan of action.

"The solution has been around for over 100 years, available in residential occupancies for over 30 years and the solution is fire sprinklers," adds Vickie Pritchett, Fire Team USA project manager and former Economic and Community Development director of Cheatham County.

"Fire sprinklers are a missing part of the solution that takes the burden off the entire community by controlling the fire before it reaches flashover," Chief Ray said. "The purpose of NFPA 13D is to prevent flashover." He goes on to say, "if fire sprinklers prevent flashover won't that reduce the number of civilian and firefighter deaths?"

Pritchett's segment in Fire Team USA focuses on how to mobilize the community and involve all stakeholders. Growth projections allow communities to know what is anticipated and strategic planning needs to include fire protection as one of the key quality of life areas of focus. It is important for each community to know their numbers and to use the projected growth rate to determine how many new home starts are coming to their area. Local public policy makers have the ability to make the decisions that can ensure future tragic stories are never written.

"Two municipalities in Cheatham County passed sprinkler legislation in 2001, with the entire county following in 2006," explains Pritchett. "Growth has not stopped in our county, builders have supported the fire sprinkler addition to the new home construction requirements and are even highlighting the fire sprinkler system as a value-added sales feature. More communities need to realize that they can do something to address the tragic fire death statistics through their planning and local decisions."

Many people term Fire Team USA as a grassroots initiative because it involves the team of leaders from the participating community, and it allows the facts to speak for themselves. Resources are available that can help community leaders understand how to make the proactive fire protection choice for their



Tommy White, Sevierville; Shane Ray, Pleasant View; Wayne Waggoner, Andersonville; Vickie Pritchett, Pleasant View; Karl Karleiber, Knoxville; and Kevin Lauer, CTAS

community. All links are available through www.fireteamusa.com. Fire Team USA is a federal FIRE Act Grant awarded to the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association. The project began in 2005 as Fire Team Tennessee, and now is in its third year of delivery, taking the message to states across the United States.

"I encourage every fire official in America to reflect on the numbers and to take action," concludes Chief Ray. "We have tried our old

approaches for too long, and they are not as effective as they could be. The time is now for us to fight for stronger codes and enforcement as well as fire sprinkler systems. It is time to change the way we approach fire protection in the community."

For more information on Fire Team USA, call 615-533-0305, check out the web site at www.fireteamusa.com or email FireTeamUSA@aol.com.

The Tennessee Municipal League and Tennessee Cities Salute Tennessee's Fallen Firefighters

In memory of the members of the fire service who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

2007

M L Hopper, Tennessee Division of Forestry
Shane Daughette, Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department

2006

Jeffrey A. Bowman, Chattanooga Fire Department
Garry Tanner, Pleasantville Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Mark Stanley, Tennessee Division of Forestry

2005

David O'Conner, Memphis Fire Department
Wendell Jeffrey, Memphis Fire Department
Jerry Wayne Hooper, Department of Forestry

2004

Grady "Roy" Austin, Henderson County Fire Department
Ed Stallings, Carthage Volunteer Fire Department

2003

Samuel Lee Green, Shelby County Fire Department
Jason Lee Ellis, Loretto Fire Department
Trent A. Kirk, Memphis Fire Department
Charles Zachary, Memphis Fire Department

2002

Jason Kevin Jackson Hampton, Almadale Volunteer Fire Department
Dennis L. Harris, Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department
Richard A. Majors, Nashville Fire Department
Thomas S. Murray, Jefferson City Fire Department
Robert Glen Poore, Briceville Volunteer Fire Department

2001

Debra Sinar, White Pine Volunteer Fire Department
Hairold "Bear" Strode, Tennessee Division of Forestry

2000

William Blakemore, Memphis Fire Department
Javier Lerma, Memphis Fire Department

1998

Larry Joe King, Sr., Maury City Fire Department
Paul Satterfield, Nashville Fire Department

1997

Scott M. Berry, Bradley Co. Volunteer Fire Department
Tracy D. Floyd, Winchester Fire Department
William Thomas Wilson, Pinecrest Volunteer Fire Department

1996

W. Clark Derryberry, Mt Pleasant Fire Department

1995

Corey Berggren, Knoxville Volunteer Rescue
Henry Frizzell, Department of Forestry
Wilbur Pinnell, Winchester Fire Department
Gene Schubert, Harriman Fire Department
Ronnie Wilson, Department of Forestry

1994

William E. Bridges, Memphis Fire Department
Edward L. Freeman, Memphis Fire Department
Michael L. Mathis, Memphis Fire Department
Dwight E. Smith, Memphis Fire Department

1993

Mark R. Hinson, Sr., Paris Landing Volunteer Fire Department

1992

Joseph A. Boswell, Memphis Fire & EMS
James D. Hill, Memphis Fire & EMS

1991

James T. Swindle, Sumner County Volunteer Fire Department

1990

Robbie Davis, Newmansville Volunteer Fire Department

1989

Eddie D. Diviney, Nashville Fire Department
David A. McCollum, Bradley County Fire Department
David Ellis Pratt, Flat Creek Volunteer Fire Department

1988

Charles J. Berry, Kingsport Fire Department
George Harold Carathers, Sr., Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department

Alex J. Sparks, Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department

1987

Robert O. Binkley, Nashville Fire Department
Bobby Gene Blackley, Memphis Fire Department
James Clayton George, Shelbyville Fire Department

1986

Robert K. Bell, Department of Forestry
Carl A. Bettis, Jr., Chattanooga Fire Department

1985

James L. Craig, Memphis Fire & EMS

1984

Milton A. Densford, Memphis Fire Department
Willis D. Fry, Sweetwater Fire Department
Jimmy R. Kennedy, Sweetwater Fire Department

1983

Thomas Girdley, Crossville Fire Department

1982

Ricky L. Hitchcox, Dunlap Volunteer Fire Department
J. Wendell Organ, Lebanon-Wilson County Civil Defense
Charles H. Vinson, Memphis Fire Department

1981

Earl R. Harrison, Clarksville Fire Department
Archie C. Reed, Cheatham County Fire Department
William H. Shields, Department of Forestry

1978

Melvin Matlock, Waverly Fire Department
Wilbur York, Waverly Fire Department

1965

Frank Howell, Columbia Fire Department



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At Fifth Third, we believe in strengthening communities by creating opportunities.

We salute Tennessee firefighters who work to protect their communities and provide safe opportunities for a secure quality of life.



Special Fire Prevention Section

Fairview firefighters ready with Basic Life Support certification

BY MIKE COOPER
Fairview Fire Chief

They're rarely thought about until you need them, but firefighters at the Fairview Fire Department are not sitting around waiting on the alarm to sound to better serve the community. They are busy improving their skills. Their continuing-education recently included training and certification under the Basic Life Support (BLS) Program.

Fairview Fire Department began its Basic Life Support Program at midnight February 1, while most of the city slept. Prior to that date, fire department personnel had been classified as "First Responders."

First Responders provide the minimum level of care, such as airway management, applying bandages and giving oxygen until more skilled medical help arrives.

Basic Life Support is definitive care using Intravenous Therapy and certain drugs on injured or sick patients in addition to the First Responder level of care.

The Fairview Fire Department is currently the only volunteer department in Williamson County to provide a BLS level of care when responding to a medical call, house fire or even an accident scene.

Captain Sharon Yates spearheaded the development of the program and drew up all of the specifications for the equipment. Captain Yates is also employed full-time by the Williamson County Emergency Medical Service.

With the initial projected cost of entering the program was estimated at \$11,000 and the actual cost at kick-off was less than half that.

As for supplies required to treat

patients and restocking, the ambulance service will replace any supplies used on patients by the firefighters, meaning the cost of the supplies is a one-time expenditure. Five of Fairview's six career firefighters are now certified in BLS. The sixth career firefighter is scheduled to go to school this spring. The department also has four volunteers certified as EMT-IVs and two more certified as paramedics.

While the city paid for the career firefighters training, the volunteers paid for their training themselves and had to complete the training on their time off from their full-time jobs.

Volunteer Firefighter Chad Hollingsworth coordinated the training for the BLS program. Chad is a full-time paramedic with the Franklin Fire Department and has been volunteering with Fairview for more than four years. Off-duty EMTs and paramedics from Williamson County EMS also donated time to train the firefighters for this program.

The people from WCEMS really stepped up to the plate on this, they were a huge help in bringing the firefighters up to speed.

Fairview Firefighters ran a total of 917 calls for service during 2006, with 641 of those calls being of a medical nature. That means 70 percent of Fairview's calls are medical related.

Fairview is somewhat at a disadvantage, though because of its geographical location in Williamson County. A backup ambulance in Franklin or Brentwood is only minutes away. A second ambulance for Fairview must come from Leipers Fork, Grassland, or Franklin. That



Photo by Mike Cooper

Fairview firefighters Jesse Woodard and Dustin Arney perform a Basic Life Support demonstration

means response times of 20-30 minutes.

Very often Fairview will see multiple calls for service in Fairview and the ambulance stationed in the city must leave to transport the patient to area hospitals, either in Franklin, Dickson, or Nashville.

Having the firefighters certified and equipped in Basic Life Support means the patient no longer has to wait until the backup ambulance arrives to receive definitive care.

Before Fairview's BLS program, the patient had to wait until the

ambulance crew arrived to receive definitive care, now that care begins as soon as the firefighters arrive.

The Department hopes to have the patient treated and ready for transport before the ambulance arrives so that all we'll have to do is load and go.

Maryville hosts junior rookie school

The Maryville Fire Department (MFD) has been actively involved in hosting a "Junior Rookie School" for 3rd - 4th grade students from Fort Craig Elementary School in Maryville for the past 12 years. Starting in 1995, MFD has brought 3rd and 4th grade students to spend a week with MFD personnel and learn what a firefighter does. These "Rookies" are issued MFD T-Shirts and will go through training much like a full-time firefighter.

The week's outline of events, include:

- Tour of fire department and vehicles
- An overview of the fire service
- History of the Maryville Fire Department
- Firefighter personal safety EMS

training

- Field trip / truck rides
- Knots and low angle rescue (repelling) exercise
- SCBA Maze
- Live burn demo
- Safety house exercise
- Ladders and aerial ladder demo
- Fire extinguisher class
- Family cookout / sleep over station 1
- Firefighter team relays/ rope and knots/ ladder climb demo
- graduation

From the fire chief to the newest MFD firefighter are involved in the "Rookie Class" each year. Alcoa Fire Department has helped out in the past several years with their expertise in firefighting and helping make this event a success.

Child care providers teach fire safety skills

Four years ago South Central Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) made a commitment to implement a fire safety program to help decrease the number of young children who died in fires in Tennessee. To accomplish this goal, South Central CCR&R wrote and received a FEMA grant to purchase a Sparky Hazard House, Risk Watch Curriculum and Play Safe/Be Safe Kits so that child care providers would have some tools to teach basic fire safety skills to young children across the South Central Tennessee area.

Child Care providers who successfully completed a two-hour fire safety training were permitted to have the Sparky Hazard House simulator at their facility for one week. The training incorporated hands-on activities with the house as well as games, puzzles and books to reinforce the fire safety skills. During the training, child care providers also brain-stormed ways to involve parents in this fire safety program. Child care providers would often connect with their local firefighters to support the fire safety message that they were teaching the children through the hazard house and the Risk Watch Curriculum. All providers who had the Sparky Hazard House at their facility were asked to have the children complete a pre and post-fire safety test which involved selecting the correct picture that illustrated accurately a fire safety skill. South Central's fire safety effort showed dramatic improvement in the children's knowledge of fire safety.

Because of the success of this effort, the state's CCR&R Network wrote and received a FEMA grant to duplicate the endeavor at all 11



CCR&R sites in Tennessee. Upon receiving the FEMA grant, the Tennessee CCR&R State Network conducted a two-day intensive in-service fire safety training for all CCR&R staff. Dr. Robert Cole, a renowned fire safety educator associated with Play Safe! Be Safe! played a significant role in the training. Local firefighters also participated in the two-day event working with CCR&R staff on fire safety skills.

The Tennessee CCR&R staff work with approximately 9,600 child care providers and these child care providers care for more than 377,000 children. The fire safety program has grown and expanded since that first Sparky Hazard House arrived in South Central Tennessee. There are now 12 Sparky Hazard Houses, a Sparky costume, and a multitude of fire safety books and prop boxes that travel across the child care community from family to center providers from Memphis to Kingsport teaching practical fire safety skills to children and adults in hopes that lives will be saved.

Chattanooga purchases fire rescue boat



With Chattanooga Fire Department's first ever fire-rescue boat, emergency response has been taken up a notch along the region's water ways

In a city where the Tennessee River and adjoining lakes and tributaries play key roles in industry, commerce and recreation, the Chattanooga Fire Department became the proud owner of a fire rescue boat in order to protect life, property, and community resources along the local waterways.

The 27-foot Vigilant Boston Whaler boasts two Mercury 250 horsepower outboard engines, and is equipped with a 750 gpm (gallons per minute) fire pump. It is also equipped with the latest navigation and electronic equipment.

The fire department was able to purchase this piece of equipment with a Homeland Security grant which is utilized in a cooperative effort with other local authorities.

Risk Watch: Make Time for Safety!

Loss control is a critical part of managing a governmental entity effectively.

The TML Risk Management Pool salutes the brave men and women who work to preserve and enhance the quality of life for their citizens through comprehensive fire and hazard prevention programs.

TML

RISK • MANAGEMENT • POOL



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA
ALCOA Inc. plans to invest some \$113 million on capital improvement projects for both the smelting and fabricating areas of its Tennessee operations. The projects are part of a \$265 million capital improvement program planned for the next three years. ALCOA's Tennessee operations is the world's largest producer of rolled aluminum can sheet for beverage cans. Tennessee operations employs more than 1,800 at its smelting and fabrication plant in Blount County, its hydropower facilities and its downtown Knoxville office.

CHATTANOOGA
Officials are examining several different routes a high-speed train line between Chattanooga and Atlanta could take. One route would mainly follow Interstate 75; another would go along U.S. Highway 411; and a third would travel along utility corridors through Rome, Ga., according to information provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation. The department hosted a public meeting in Chattanooga seeking public comment on the possibility of a high-speed rail line. Harvey Keepler, administrator for GDOT's Office of Intermodal Development, said officials hope to choose a route by the end of the department's planned study in October 2009. Construction of a rail line would depend upon available funding and the study. The Federal Railroad Administration has estimated the cost of an Atlanta-to-Chattanooga maglev line at about \$4.5 billion.

DICKSON
Two five-mile sections of Interstate 40 in Dickson County have been dedicated in memory of state troopers killed in the line of duty. The General Assembly passed a bill this year naming the segment from mile 177 to mile 182 for Trooper Todd M. Larkins, and the segment from mile 172 to 177 for Trooper Samuel F. Holcomb. Both died during traffic stops on the highway. Larkins was struck and killed in July 2005 by a tractor-trailer. Holcomb died in March 1988 as he exited his patrol car and was struck from behind by a driver who was blinded by morning sunlight. Tennessee Highway Patrol officers and public safety officials joined two Dickson lawmakers, Sen. Doug Jackson and Rep. David Shepard, in the ceremony at the Dickson Renaissance Center. Family members of the fallen troopers also attended.

ETOWAH
ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, Inc. broke ground on a \$162 million expansion to the company's operations in Etowah doubling the size of its current facility and adding more than 100 new jobs to the community. ThyssenKrupp Waupaca, which opened in Etowah in 2001, produces gray and ductile iron castings for automobiles. The expansion will add a new state-of-the-art ductile iron production line, allowing the company to better serve its customers.

GREENVILLE / GREEN COUNTY
A \$40,000 Waste Tire Cleanup Grant has been awarded to Greene County, to help fund the cleanup of thousands of tires that were dumped in the Nolichucky River. The tires were dumped in the river in the 1950s and '60s by a tire business operating on the bank at the time. The tires are washed downstream when the Nolichucky River is flowing, and they are more visible during periods of low water. Awarded by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the grant will pay for a contractor to provide cleanup services including labor, equipment, and proper disposal for the first phase of the cleanup. Additional cleanup needs will be assessed once the first phase of work is complete.

KNOXVILLE
Scripps Networks is extending its roots in Knoxville with a major expansion of its worldwide headquarters. Plans were unveiled to create a new Knoxville Main Campus configuration along Sherrill Blvd. incorporating land that the business has owned for many years with a new recently acquired parcel. The expansion project, which includes construction of a new building, will nearly double office space for the business' headquarters from 189,000 square feet to 340,000 square feet. The total value of the upgrades and expansion will be more than \$30 million, with greater continuing economic impact on the city through the nearly 900 employees living and working in Knoxville.

KNOXVILLE/KNOX COUNTY
Knox County parents, teachers and high school students were excited to have input on when the 2007-2008 school year starts through a community-wide survey. Many parents complained that the school year keeps starting earlier. Pending board approval, students' first day will now be Aug. 11 instead of Aug. 6,

thought to be the the earliest start date ever in Knox county. Two teacher in-service days will be moved to the beginning of August making the first day of school a full day.

PORTLAND
Portland received a federal financial boost to help train its rescue workers. The town in Sumner County will receive \$48,954 in grant money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The money will provide training, health and safety programs, and equipment and response vehicles to the communities.

ROGERSVILLE
Officials of Sam Dong Company Limited of South Korea has acquired the former Assured Castings facility in Rogersville. The company will be moving into its new facility with the plant scheduled to open early next year. The firm will retrofit the plant, previously used to manufacture aluminum castings, to produce specialty magnet wire products used in the electrical transformer and motor and generator industries. Sam Dong has been a producer of Magnet Wire in South Korea for 30 years and exports their products globally. The building covers 80,000 square feet and is located on a 10-acre tract in the Rogersville Industrial Park. Modifications to the building and installation of equipment will begin immediately. Company officials say the plant will initially employ between 25 and 50 individuals, with an employment of up to 100 when it is in full production.

SHELBYVILLE
The Shelbyville Fire Department has been awarded a \$475,000 U.S. Department of Homeland Security vehicle acquisition grant. The funds will be used to purchase a 75-foot ladder truck, which will replace a 1973 truck that doesn't have a pump or tank.

WEST TENNESSEE
Eight West Tennessee communities were recipients of transportation enhancement grants totaling \$4 million. The Tennessee Department of Transportation presented the grants to McKenzie, Somerville, Brownsville, Parkers Crossroads, Ripley, Jackson, Union City and Brighton. The grants range in amounts from \$236,155 to \$852,672 and will provide the communities with funding for streetscape projects, pedestrian walkways, multi-use trails, lighting, landscaping and renovation projects



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

KNOXVILLE
Mayor **Bill Haslam** easily won a second four-year term. He received 87.3 percent of the votes. His only challenger, Isa Infante, received 10.2 percent. Voter turnout was low – only 5,728 voters turned out to vote in a community that has more than 86,000 registered.



Haslam
Governor Phil Bredesen appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General **Andy Bennett** to the state Court of Appeals. Bennett replaces William C. Koch Jr., who was named to the state Supreme Court in June. Bredesen cited Bennett's experience in the Office of the Attorney General for selecting him for the Middle Section bench.

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Bennett
Mt. Juliet City Commissioners voted to hire **Randy Robertson** as the new city manager. He replaces Rob Shearer, who resigned. Robertson has 30 years of service in the military.

Mt. Juliet City Commissioners voted to hire **Randy Robertson** as the new city manager. He replaces Rob Shearer, who resigned. Robertson has 30 years of service in the military.

The Etowah City Commission appointed **Andrew Hyatt** as the new city manager. Previously, he was the Community and Development manager for Deerfield Beach, Fla., and was employed with the city of Jacksonville, Fla., where he worked in the Human Resource Department, as well as the Parks and Recreation department. While attending school at the University of Tennessee, at Chattanooga (UTC), he worked as a managerial trainee and graduate assistant for the Cleveland City Manager's office. He has a bachelor's degree in political science along with a master's degree in public administration, both from UTC.

The Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously to promote **David Smoak** from assistant to the town administrator to assistant town administrator. Smoak was hired by Collierville in 2000 as a budget analyst and was promoted to assistant to the town administrator after just nine months. Smoak has a B.S. in political science from Presbyterian College and an M.P.A. in public administration from the University of Georgia.



Smoak

State parks system No. 1

PARKS from Page 1
ference centers and restaurants. Tennessee State Parks and natural areas also play an important role in environmental protection of ecologically significant land and preservation of cultural and historic sites.

Power" in all state parks where it's available.

Bredesen also announced in 2006 plans to pursue the construction of a scenic state park lodge in Southeast Tennessee and to add a new state park in Middle Tennessee during his second term.

Some of the key accomplishments of Tennessee State Parks since 2003 include:

- Immediately reopening 14 parks that had been previously closed;
- Removing access fees from the 23 state parks that had instituted them;
- Acquiring properties with exceptional conservation value from Bowater;
- Partnering with the Nature Conservancy and conservation-minded timber companies to protect 124,000 acres on the Northern Cumberland Plateau;
- Working with community organizations and other partners to open the first Boundless Playground at a state park anywhere in the country at Warriors' Path State Park;
- Purchasing renewable "Green

In addition to Tennessee, the states of Georgia and Utah were finalists for the Gold Medal Award. In grading award entries, a panel of judges comprised of parks and recreation professionals reviewed application materials with an emphasis on long-range planning, resource management, citizen support systems, environmental stewardship, program and professional development and agency recognition. State parks systems are judged every two years, and Tennessee was also a finalist for the Gold Medal Award in 2005.

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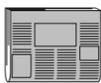
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BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The Department of Revenue's Special Investigations Section will be conducting **surveillance on tobacco retailers** located just outside the state lines to watch for Tennesseans purchasing cigarettes in bulk and then transporting them back to Tennessee. Earlier this year, the state Legislature, at the calling of Gov. Phil Bredesen, more than tripled the state's cigarette tax from 20 cents to 62 cents per pack. According to Revenue, the law requires cigarettes purchased outside of the state to bear a Tennessee tobacco stamp, otherwise they could be considered contraband. All eight states around Tennessee have cheaper cigarette taxes. Transporting more than 25 cartons of cigarettes lacking revenue stamps is considered a Class E felony.

In a **ruling that appears to be the first appellate decision of its kind** in the state, The Tennessee Court of Appeals ruled that if a wedding is canceled, the person who gave the engagement ring is entitled to get it back. "In summary, we hold that an engagement ring is given in contemplation of marriage, and as such, is impliedly a conditional gift," the unanimous opinion, written by Judge Charles D. Susano said. The decision stems from a legal battle over an engagement ring that began in a Knox County court.

ECD is rolling out a comprehensive resource that explains each of the state's programs aimed at helping communities create higher skilled, better paying jobs. **The Tennessee Tool Kit is now available** to download online at ECD's Web site, www.state.tn.us/ecd/gov07/docs/Toolkit.pdf. The tool kit includes information on all of ECD's programs: Three-Star Community Development, Tennessee Main Street Program, Retire Tennessee, FastTrack and BERO. The guide also offers detailed information about the various grants, loans and tax credits available through ECD.

Tennessee's unemployment rate for August was 4 percent, the lowest monthly rate since July 2000, according to the state Department of Labor and Work Force Development. There was a slight drop from July's rate of 4.1 percent with the state's jobless rate falling from 5.2 percent to 4 percent over the past year. There were major monthly employment increases in local government educational services, up 10,000 jobs since schools started. Administrative support and waste services were also up 5,000 from the seasonal downturn in July. Month-to-month decreases took place in machinery manufacturing, which is down 900 jobs. There was also a seasonal decline of 600 jobs in arts, entertainment and recreation. From August 2006 to August 2007, construction led in job increases with 8,200 or almost 6 percent.

Tennessee's foreclosure rate in August jumped by one-third compared to July and foreclosures were up 96 percent compared to August last year. A report from RealtyTrac shows 4,639 foreclosure filings in August in Tennessee, the 11th highest in the nation. The total equals

one foreclosure for every 569 households in the state. RealtyTrac, an online marketplace for foreclosed properties, says the actual increase may be less because of improved or expanded state coverage. Nationally, the 244,000 foreclosures were up 35 percent from a month ago and 115 percent from a year ago, with one foreclosure for every 510 households. The increase is accompanied by a shift in the type of foreclosures and the number of REO filings (bank repossessions). A greater percentage of homes entering foreclosure are going back to the banks.

Site Selection magazine has recognized the **Tennessee Valley Authority's economic development achievements** in the Tennessee Valley area for the second consecutive year. The international magazine recognized TVA as one of the top utilities in North America based on total capital investment, investment per capita, total jobs created and jobs per capita in the area, and for the development of new programs and services to support economic growth. The magazine cited TVA's 2006 figures of \$4.2 billion in investment that will create some 53,000 jobs across an 80,000-square-mile territory in seven southeastern states. TVA's economic development accomplishments are highlighted in the September 2007 issue. Site Selection is a bimonthly magazine that provides business expansion planning information to executives of fast-growing firms.

The Tennessee Department of Health reports an **increase in call volume to the Tennessee Tobacco QuitLine** due to the recent enactment of the Non-Smokers Protection Act approaches. The workplace smoking ban was passed in May 2007 and from that time through August 2007, more than 2,600 Tennesseans called the state tobacco cessation program for help to kick the habit. This is more than double the total number of calls received since the program launched in August 2006. Total number of calls received has surpassed 4,600. The QuitLine offers free, personalized support to stop the use of tobacco products, including cigarettes and chew tobacco. The program can be reached toll-free at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

UT agencies study state's fire death statistics

DEATHS from Page 3
the fire department. It also a known fact that home fire sprinklers cut the chances of dying in a fire by more than half.

Tennessee is no different. It is anticipated that a combination of adding new legislation to assist in preventing or extinguishing fires early, continue public education efforts, along with improving basic firefighter training, the future effect will reduce Tennessee fire deaths.

The NFPA report said that "fire deaths can be prevented. They're not inevitable. When a community reaches out to educate the public and provide the tools to be safe, lives are saved."

The experience of South Carolina illustrates this point. South Carolina had the nation's highest fire death rate in 1988 and 1989.

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SPRING HILL. The city of Spring Hill, a suburb of Nashville, with a population of 25,000, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of city administrator. The position reports to a nine member city council. The city has an annual budget of approximately 21 million, a Class IV wastewater plant, Class IV water plant, police, fire, parks and recreation among the 13 departments with a total of 151 employees. The ideal applicant should have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field plus 8 years of city management experience; a master's degree is considered a plus. Applicant needs experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, and management of complex departments with multiple functions. Experience in legislative issues, economic development, redevelopment and planning are high priorities. The position requires a leader, a manager, a team player with strong communication skills and other skills of a professional city administrator. The individual hired must live within the city limits during tenure and have a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary: DOE plus excellent benefits. Send resume to: City of Spring Hill, Attn: Resume - City Administrator, 199 Town Center Parkway, P.O. Box 789, Spring Hill, TN 37174. Mark envelope: Resume - City Administrator. For further information contact City Attorney Tim Underwood at 931-363-4571. Deadline: Oct. 15th 2007. EOE.

FINANCE SUPERVISOR/SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
OWASSO, OK. Owasso, Oklahoma (33,858) is a growing, progressive community with a hometown atmosphere just minutes from downtown Tulsa. Under general direction of the Finance Director, the Finance Supervisor/Senior Accountant is responsible for complex accounting duties, including general ledger reconciliations, financial reporting and record keeping; maintains a variety of accounts and subsidiary ledgers for various city functions including capital assets and grants; and performs diverse accounting functions relative to assigned areas of responsibility. Responsible for supervision of accounting, budgetary, municipal court and utility billing staff. Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance or related field required, CPA certification a plus; must have at least five years responsible experience in governmental accounting or equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of GASB and GAAP and supervisory experience required. Send resume to Human Resources, P.O. Box 180, Owasso, OK 74055 or submit through employment opportunities at www.cityofowasso.com. Position open until filled.

FIRE CHIEF
JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications now through Monday, October 15, 2007 for fire chief. The Fire Chief is responsible for the overall direction of Fire Administrative Services; Fireline Operations; Training, Fire Prevention and Public Education of the Department and its 177 members. Specific areas of responsibility include public fire education, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, fire suppression, hazardous material incident response and natural and man-made disaster mitigation. Specific job duties include: preparing and administering an annual operating bud-

get and developing annual revisions to the department's capital improvement plan; developing policies, procedures, rules and regulations as may be necessary to meet the department's goals and objectives; representing the department to the citizens of Jackson and visitors; serving as the final authority for all activities of the department consistent with the policies established by the Mayor and City Council; ensuring compliance by all subordinates of the policies, procedures, rules and regulations; maintaining a courteous and professional relationship with the general public and co-workers; acting as Incident Commander at emergency incidents as required; ensuring that training and education opportunities are available for members. The Fire Chief will be an experienced manager and administrator who will possess good communication, organizational and presentation skills. The position requires progressively responsible management experience in a governmental organization, preferable with staff size and overall operating budgets similar to the city of Jackson. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration; Fire Science or a related field preferred. Must demonstrate competency in the performance standards for Fire Officer I, II, III and IV as described in NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (1977 ed.) Preference may be given to candidates who are certified Fire Officers "CFO" or who are graduates of the National Fire Academy, EFO Program (Executive Fire Officer). Generous benefit package; salary is negotiable. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net Please contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301; phone (731) 425-8252; Fax (731) 425-8673

IPS CONSULTANT III/CONSULTANT, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
UT KNOXVILLE. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service has openings for three Consultants, Finance and Accounting; one each in Jackson, Nashville, and Knoxville. Provides professional advice and technical assistance in the area of municipal financial management to Tennessee cities, various state agencies, Tennessee Municipal League, as well as various state associations. Position researches, develops, and maintains timely technical reports and publications on critical financial issues. Develops and teaches multiple municipal training courses. This position requires a BA or BS in business administration, accounting or finance, a related field, or equivalent. Prefer a Master's degree in business administration, finance or related field. Must have at time of employment or must obtain within 18 months of employment, one of the following: Certified Government Finance Manager by the Association of Government Accountants, or Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) by the Government Finance Officers Association, or be a Certified Public Accountant by the state board of accountancy and in active status with a minimum of five (5) years of primarily governmental experience with at least three (3) years in Tennessee. Requires a minimum of five years employment in a finance related position in state or local government with three years as a city finance director (or equivalent position). Prefer Tennessee government experience. Please send letter and resume to: IPS Consultant III Search; MTAS; 120 Conference Center; Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or email to: elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu. Positions open until filled. 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.

IPS CONSULTANT II/ TRAINING CONSULTANT
UT KNOXVILLE. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service has an opening for a Training Consultant in our Knoxville office. Conducts formal and informal needs assessments, meets with customers and subject matter experts to develop course content and determines the best methodology for delivery of courses to appointed and elected municipal officials throughout the State of Tennessee. Creates training classes from conception by conducting research; exploring resources; developing exercises, course content, PowerPoint presentations, and student manuals. Curriculum development includes classroom versions and web-based versions. Ensures quality control of all curriculums that are developed by implementing standard formats for lesson plans and course material. Assures that courses comply with International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) standards. Meets with MTAS subject matter experts to ensure standards are understood and met. Occasionally facilitates training classes or programs. Also, serves on IPS CEU accreditation committee as an approving member. This position requires a master's degree in adult education, human resource development, organizational development, or a related field. This position also requires a minimum of five years in developing curricula, needs assessment, evaluating training programs, performing logistical development, and delivering training programs is essential. Prefer three years in a local government environment. Also requires thorough knowledge of training methodology, techniques and principles, a thorough knowledge of Adult Learning techniques, knowledge of research methodology as applied to adult education and training, ability to write clearly and concisely, ability to use teaching aids and techniques, ability to coordinate multiple programs simultaneously, ability to speak effectively before groups, ability to work effectively with colleagues, city officials and university staff, and ability to obtain certifications through American Society of Training and Development or other related professional organizations.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER I
JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications through Friday, Oct. 12, 2007 for a Transportation Planner. The Transportation Planner will assist the Transportation Planning Coordinator with work tasks to ensure compliance with federal and state guidelines and overall assistance with administration of the transportation-planning program, such as the UPWP, TIP, LTRP, and PPP. Specific job duties include: performing studies related to transportation planning; conducting research, analyzing data, and preparing written reports. Manage preparation of meeting packets or special materials for distribution to the MPO Technical Staff and Executive Board. Prepare quarterly MPO grant billings. Bachelor's degree in Planning, Transportation Planning, Public Administration, or a closely related field with three (3) years of related transportation planning experience. Generous benefit package; salary beginning at \$14.88 per hour. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net. Please contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301; phone (731) 425-8252; Fax (731) 425-8673

Then it introduced a statewide fire-safety program that emphasized smoke-alarm installation and fire-safety education. By 1991, the state's rank had dropped to sixth place. Right after the program lost its funding, the death rate went up again, and by 1993, South Carolina had the nation's second-highest fire death rate. The program has since been restored.

Civilian Fire Deaths in Tennessee
Sept. 25, 2007, marked the fourth anniversary of the devastating NHC Nursing Home fire in Nashville that killed 16 people. This tragedy did, however, lead to some serious changes in state law requiring more than 300 nursing homes in Tennessee to install fire sprinkler systems. The result of this legislation has already had a tremendous effect on preventing such an event in

the future.
A problem already discovered in Tennessee is the quantity and quality of data collected through fire department incident reports. According to the state fire marshal's office, fire departments in Tennessee have made dramatic improvement in submitting fire reports to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System (TFIRS). In five years there has been a 122 percent increase in incidents reported and a 96 percent increase in the number of departments reporting. Educating fire departments in the importance of data collection is critical in addressing the state's fire death and injury problem. Reports include fire cause and origin, extent of damage, fire deaths and injuries, and smoke alarm or sprinkler activations. State law mandates that all departments report fire

incidents within 10 days.
In 2002, there were 133,498 incidents reported by 338 departments representing 46 percent of all departments. By comparison, in 2006, 296,560 incident reports were submitted by 663 departments, representing 90 percent of all departments. There is still room for improvement with 10 percent of Tennessee fire departments not reporting as required by state law.
The study will also analyze reporting statistics with optimism that MTAS can encourage city fire departments to comply with reporting requirements. Information already collected with assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office includes every Tennessee fire department incident report submitted from the past six years and data from Tennessee death certificates related to fire.

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Municipal Administration Program November Schedule

The city council at work and my part in it (3025)

The city council is the city's legislative body and is responsible for enacting ordinances, imposing taxes, making appropriations, establishing policies, and possibly hiring some city officials. This course provides an overview of these duties and how city employees, officials and council members can work together to understand one another's role in achieving common goals.

Who Should Attend

Elected officials, city recorders, city managers, city administrators and any one who works with the city council.

Dates and locations

Nov. 5 Cookeville
Nov. 7 Johnson City

Nov. 8 Knoxville
Nov. 13 Collegedale
Nov. 15 Franklin
Nov. 28 Bartlett
Nov. 29 Jackson

Time

Courses are 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Training Facilities

Bartlett Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling Road
Collegedale Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Cookeville Town Center, One West First Street
Franklin Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane
Jackson West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard

Johnson City Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard Street
Knoxville University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

To register, visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Sandy Selvage at sandy.selvage@tennessee.edu or 865.974.9833. For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS training consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu. Fees \$25 per person per class for municipal employees, \$50 per person per class for other participants.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Let us know the particulars about your most important festivals at least six weeks in advance of the event. E-mail Gael.Stahl@TML1.org or fax to 615-255-4752.

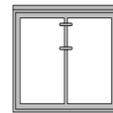
Tennessee Fall Homecoming: Oct. 11-14, Norris Museum of Appalachia. Features 400 musicians playing old time folk, mountain, bluegrass, and gospel music on four stages. A large craft fair featuring handmade Appalachian items and pioneer demonstrations. For more information, call 865-494-7680 or www.museumofappalachia.com

Tennessee History Festival: Oct. 12-13 at the Nashville Bicentennial Capitol Mall. A living timeline celebrating Tennessee's history from Hernando De Soto to the Vietnam conflict and Gulf War. For more information, call 615-741-5280

11th annual Harvest Pride Days Festival: Oct. 20-21 the City of Bean Station will attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for cooking the largest pot of beans, 600 gallons. Once the new record is achieved, organizers plan to sell bowls of beans. Proceeds will be donated to local non-profit organizations. Other events include pumpkin bowling, a pumpkin seed spitting contest, cornbread cooking contest, and a poster contest for children. Artists, craftspeople, food vendors, churches, and community service organizations that wish to participate in the festival are invited to reserve booth space now. For a booth application, or more information, call (865) 993-2977 or visit www.beanstationtn.com.

Halloween Haunts & Happenings: Oct. 31 in the center of Jonesborough's historic district. Bring your family to a safe evening of trick-or-treating, games, a costume contest and scary stories. Free. For more information, call 424-753-1010 or call toll free 1-866-401-4223. Visit the website at www.jonesboroughtn.org

COMING UP



Nov. 12-14: The Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop will be held at Tennessee State University - Main Campus, at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All participants will receive certification in professional grant writing from the Institute. For more information call (888) 824-4424 or visit The Grant Institute at www.thegrantinstitute.com. Grants 101 consists of three courses that will be completed during the three-day workshop: (1) Fundamentals of Program Planning, (2) Professional Grant Writing, (3) Grant Research. \$597.00 tuition includes all materials and certificates. Registration online www.thegrantinstitute.com or call 888-824-4424 or e-mail your name, organization, and basic contact information to info@thegrantinstitute.com.

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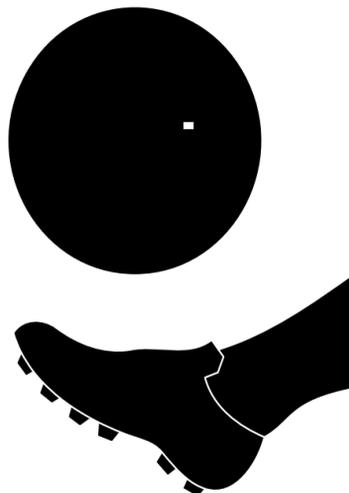
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Can Tennessee's water supply meet future demands?

WATER from Page 1

for navigation and recreational uses. A separate but related issue that has been getting additional attention for several years now is the number of households without access to a public water supply. A survey by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in 2005 estimated that there are well over 110,000 homes across the state without public water service. By and large, these residences are in rural areas where extending water lines may be cost prohibitive. Authors of the report estimated that more than 18,000 miles of water lines and approximately \$1.7 billion would be needed to extend public water service to all Tennessee households. That's in the range of \$15,000 per household.

Previous Policy Initiatives

A special report on Tennessee's water supply by the Comptroller's Office of Research was presented to the Commission in 2003.

The purpose of the report was to examine the state's water supply policy and make recommendations on a broad array of related issues, including legislation, planning, funding, and intergovernmental cooperation. The report followed passage of the Tennessee Inter-Basin Water Transfer Act of 2000, which was aimed at providing a framework for protecting Tennessee's water resources from competing demands in adjacent states, and the Water Resources Information Act of 2002, which requires TDEC to collect information on the withdrawal and use of water in Tennessee in order to protect the state's water resources from over-utilization.

TDEC is currently in the process of forming the technical advisory committee required by the act and hopes to begin holding meetings sometime this fall.

The Comptroller's report called for development of a comprehensive, long-term water policy for Tennessee to include

- tools for modeling and analyzing water supply data,
- regionally focused water- and land-use policies,
- a system of institutional arrangements among its agencies or with other levels of government to help facilitate a consistent, long-term water policy, and
- additional interstate agreements.

The report concluded that although there is an important link between land use and water supply, water supply is often not properly considered in the land use decision making process. And Tennessee's Growth Policy Act (PC 1101 of 1998) does not include water supply



With less than a tenth of an inch of rain so far this month, and more than 14 days with high temperatures at or above 100°F, water in retention ponds has been decreasing to record levels. This one, taken in Franklin on August 27, is nearly dry.

planning within its current framework. Since the release of the Comptroller's report, an overall framework for developing a comprehensive water supply policy has not been accomplished.

The systems and sources of water supply in Tennessee are governed and operated by a network of public and private entities including TDEC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TVA, and an array of municipalities and public utility districts, as well as some private utilities and industrial users with their own independent water sources. Each of these entities has different roles and responsibilities, raising important questions about how the functions and responsibilities of all of them are coordinated and integrated. Within this array of agencies and operators, there is no overall planning framework to balance the competing demands placed on the state's water resources and delivery systems. Against the backdrop of the current drought and the problems that have surfaced over maintaining

a predictable and adequate water supply in many locales across the state, a fresh look at how Tennessee deals with its long-term water needs seems warranted.

TACIR's Role

With its focus on intergovernmental relations, public finance, growth policy, and infrastructure needs, TACIR is uniquely positioned to take up these issues. The recent drought has highlighted many of the difficulties in successfully managing Tennessee's water resources and meeting the demands for water from a wide array of often competing users of water that include power generation, ensuring environmental quality, recreation, large and small scale urban and rural distribution systems.

To address these concerns, TACIR staff proposes to take up the following broad issues and present their findings by the first of 2008.

- Can Tennessee's water supply continue to meet the demands of a growing population, including safe drinking water, waste dis-

Fall enrollment surges at state's universities

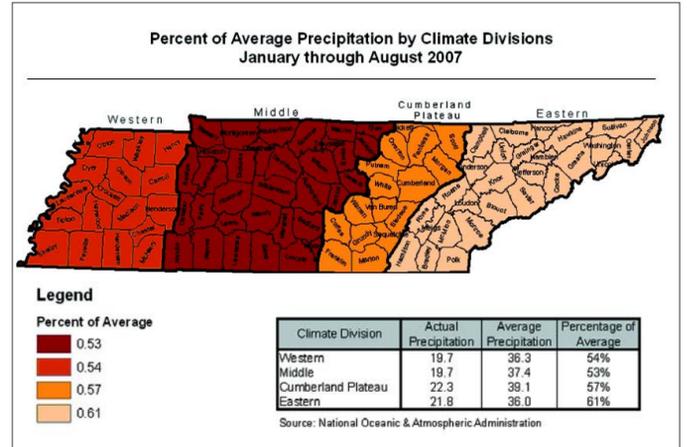
COLLEGES from Page 1

laureate courses have more than doubled. More importantly, Tennessee's students must be truly ready for post-secondary education. The high school diploma must mean something. Higher standards are the beginning of the process, but all of us must set high expectations for all students from the time they are young. In Memphis the school district has a motto that states 'Every Child- Every Day- College Bound'. If we are clear in our expectations, determined in providing resources,

and consistent in holding every child accountable for achieving the most that they can in school, more students will enroll in college after graduation."

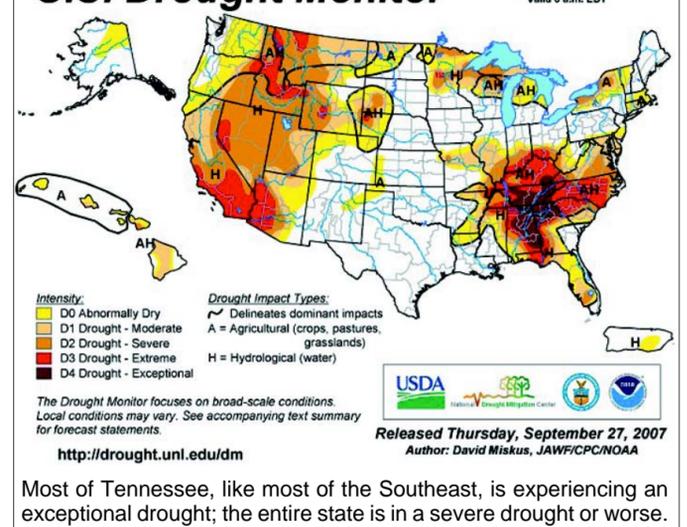
"It's all about attitudes," added Rich Rhoda, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. "It's about raising expectations."

Tennessee is currently outpacing the nation in the increase of students earning superior scores on Advanced Placement (AP) exams, according to reports from The College



The effects of the drought are being felt all across the state. Middle Tennessee has been the driest of the state's four climate divisions with only 53 percent of the normal rainfall for January through August, but even East Tennessee, which has been closest to normal has only received 61 percent of its normal rainfall for the first eight months of this year.

U.S. Drought Monitor September 25, 2007



Most of Tennessee, like most of the Southeast, is experiencing an exceptional drought; the entire state is in a severe drought or worse.

- positional, both small and large scale agriculture, power generation, navigation, and recreation?
- Does the state have a water sup-

- ply planning framework adequate to deal with these issues?
- If not, what needs to be done to create one?

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Board, with the number of students taking the exams increasing 14 percent compared to 9.5 percent nationwide.

According to Rhoda, increased enrollments are also closely tied to state-funded educational programs for high-risk students in rural areas such as GEAR UP Tennessee (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness) along with the successful Tennessee lottery scholarship program.

"The lottery scholarship, which has been in effect for four years now, is a mature program and definitely one reason for the higher enrollments," Rhoda said.

More than 2,800 new and returning ETSU students alone are recipients of Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarships, which range from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per academic year and the Tennessee Department of Education recently announced funds for 51 21st Century Community Learning Centers to help raise achievement of students in high poverty schools. The state's \$21 million P-16 program also places a strong emphasis on familiarizing families and students in rural areas of Tennessee with the basics of college course work and the importance of higher education in today's changing work force.

On the down side, nationally low graduation figures rival higher enrollment rates. V.Dion Haynes of *The Washington Post* writes that a 2006 report commissioned by Washington, D.C., city and school officials asserts "nine out of 10 freshmen will be confined to low-paying jobs because they never began college or gave up before obtaining a degree. It blames the problem largely on the school system for failing to prepare students, but also on colleges for being unable to accommodate students' deficiencies."

In *One Step from the Finish Line: Higher College Graduation Rates are within Our Reach*, Kevin Carey also notes "low-income and minority students who are finally able to enroll in college are also the least likely to actually graduate."

"For governors, state legislators and, increasingly, the business community, the lack of a strategic focus in higher ed has become too big a problem to ignore," said Alan Greenblatt, in the 2007 *Governing* magazine article "A Higher Purpose."

According to Greenblatt, policy makers in some states have been compelled to form high-level com-

missions and task forces charged with setting long range targets for producing more college graduates.

"Colleges and universities (in Tennessee) are always concerned about success and have renewed their efforts to go the extra mile to see graduation rates increase," Rhoda said.

In January 2007, Tennessee joined the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network, a coalition of 29 states dedicated to aligning high school curriculum, standards, assessments and accountability policies with the demands of college and work. ADP Initiatives include:

- Align high school standards with the demands of college and work.
- Require students to complete a college- and work-ready curriculum so that earning a diploma ensures that a student is ready for postsecondary opportunities.
- Build college- and work-ready measures into statewide high school assessment systems.
- Hold high schools and postsecondary institutions accountable for student preparation and success.

In addition, the state's colleges are developing stronger initiatives concerning graduation rates.

At UT Chattanooga, a peer mentoring program pairing freshmen with upperclassmen is in place to promote academic success. Administrators there have recently announced plans to create a task force to study how to improve student retention after finding only 63 percent of full-time freshmen who entered in fall 2005 made it to their sophomore year, down from the standard 80 percent retention rate.

Vanderbilt University has been increasing efforts to attract and retain minority students, recruiting Hispanics as early as seventh grade and working with students to ensure that they stay on track, taking the necessary classes to qualify for admission.

"There's no question that higher education is important," said Rhoda. "Individuals need to have access to the fullest extent of their interests and abilities and the state benefits as well." It has been estimated that every 1 percent increase in college educated workers increases a region's per capita income by 8-9 percent.

Rhoda surmises, "We are hopeful that the students obtaining their degrees stay in Tennessee to become a productive part of the state's workforce."

Cities promote fire prevention through educational programs



Grant Program (AFGP)'s Fire Prevention and Safety Program.

AFGP awards one-year grants directly to fire departments to support the nation's firefighters and the services they deliver. Under the program's governing statute, a minimum of five percent of appropriated funds are reserved to support fire prevention activities.

Fire Prevention and Safety Awards are made to assist state, regional, national or local organizations address fire prevention and safety issues with a focus toward the high-risk target groups of children, seniors, and firefighters. The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

EDUCATION from Page 2 and guidance while Engineer Robert Ivey educated teachers on Learn Not To Burn. They, in turn, taught the children. The program was successfully implemented in Crockett Elementary School and Kinder Care Child Care Center during the 1996/97 school year and is implemented in at least one other elementary school each year.

In 2005, a \$720,000 grant was awarded to Brentwood under the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters



Firepup and Smokey the Bear will be on hand to greet children and the young at heart at the Greenfield Fire Department Open House during Greenfield's huge Annual Fire Prevention Week Parade and Festival

2007 FEMA grants awarded to local fire departments

Firefighters in Tennessee will be getting more money for training and equipment from the federal government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded some \$4.27 million in firefighter grants to fire departments and emergency medical services across Tennessee.

The list below includes city departments who have received grants. For a complete listing of all Tennessee fire departments go to www.firegrantsupport.com.

Grant money will be distributed in phases to these municipal departments: Cleveland Fire Department, \$51,851; Goodlettsville Fire Department \$28,500; Jamestown Fire Department; \$213,750; Millersville Fire Department, \$57,000; Morristown Fire Department, \$63,000; and Shelbyville Fire Department, \$475,000.

The grants are to be used for training, equipment, and response vehicles.

Greenfield holds 19th Fire Prevention Week festival

Annual Fire Prevention Week is unforgettable in the community of Greenfield thanks to the hard work of the Greenfield Fire Department.

For 19 years, the department has planned and hosted an exciting community festival and parade that brings home the importance of fire prevention and safety.

"We started out with three or four other departments participating with us; exhibiting equipment at our open house," said Chief Bob Dudley. "That number has grown to 50, and we've had children attend this event that are now grown and have become firefighters in Greenfield."

The week of October 8 -13, the department will host the 19th Annual Fire Prevention Festival with activities for children and adults on Fire Prevention Day, Saturday, Oct. 13.

The Greenfield Fire Department will host their open house featuring antique fire trucks, Smokey the Bear and Fire Pup, who will be on hand to greet the children. Free fire truck rides, a climbing wall and kids fingerprinting will be conducted by

the Weakley County Sheriff's Department.

"We always have fire prevention materials and brochures for the public to learn about fire safety as well," said Dudley. "The kids may watch demonstrations and safety videos too."

For the adults, there will be free blood pressure checks and the LIFE-LINE blood mobile along with exhibitors with fire safety items such as smoke detectors and extinguishers.

Greenfield's Fire Prevention Festival & Parade begins at 2 p.m. routinely drawing thousands of residents, visitors, and special guests from surrounding communities.

Dozens of fire trucks and emergency vehicles from throughout the region participate. Festival activities include the arrival of a Med-Vac helicopter, bagpipers, emergency response displays, arts and crafts, food booths, merchant sales, prize drawings, a car show and the always-popular fireworks display.

According to Dudley, this year's parade Grand Marshal is Greenfield resident Billy Swindell, a tireless community volunteer.

"Billy Swindell is the epitome of community spirit and civic pride," said Dudley. "Anyone who knows Billy understands what he has meant to Greenfield residents, to our area schools, to our young people, and to our senior citizens."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Oct. 10- Greenfield Fire Prevention Kick-off Breakfast at the Greenfield Fire Station 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Homemade waffles, sausage, coffee, and juice for \$5 with proceeds going to

the American Cancer Society.

Oct. 11- The Greenfield Fire Department Spaghetti Supper from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Greenfield Elementary Cafeteria. Cost \$6.

Oct. 12- Oct. 13- Bar-B-Que Cook Off at the city park.

Oct. 12 -Rotary Club Fish Fry at 5 p.m.-7 pm. at the school cafeteria. Admission \$6.

Oct. 12 -13-Extreme Thrills from Jackson with five different rides and events.

Oct. 12-13-Reggis Bar-B-Que and concessions from Jackson.

Oct. 13- Tenth Annual Arts and Crafts Show at the Mini Park downtown Greenfield.

Oct. 13-The annual 5-K run at 8 a.m. in front of Greenfield Banking Company. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Entry fee is \$15. All proceeds go to Project Graduation.

Oct. 13- Entries for the Car Show sign up at 8 a.m.-10 a.m. First and second place trophies in all classes will be given.

Oct. 13-Parade at 2 p.m. All floats, cars, trucks, horses and walking entries invited.

Oct. 13- Fire Works display at 8 p.m.



The Fayetteville Fire Safety House is a furnished remodeled home where visitors are taught how to exit smoke-filled buildings under the watchful eye of trained firefighters.



Brentwood kids love Hydro, the friendly fire hydrant.



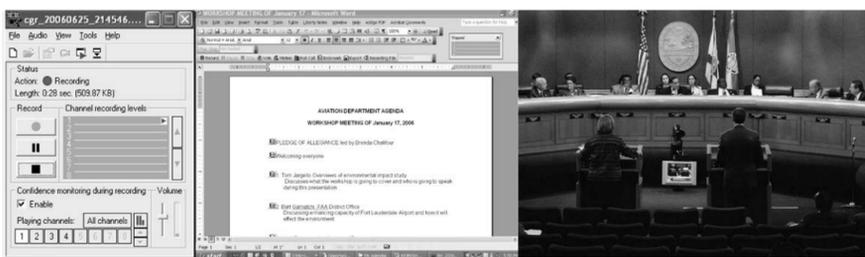
Dozens of fire trucks and emergency vehicles from throughout the region participate in the annual Greenfield Fire Prevention Parade drawing thousands of visitors from surrounding communities



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Commissioner Leslie Newman brings municipal roots to Commerce & Insurance

State fire marshal plugs TML efforts to get firefighter training required & subsidized

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Gov. Phil Bredesen has given the state's new fire marshal, Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) Commissioner Leslie Newman, the job of promoting Fire Safety Week's 2007 theme through Oct. 7-13: "Practice your Escape Plan." The theme underlines Newman's goal to lower the state's excessive number of deaths by fire through education, training, and preparation.

The Fire Marshal's office is but one of many of the divisions housed in TDCI. Other divisions include securities, two dozen boards and commissions, insurance, consumer affairs, law enforcement training, TennCare oversight, E911 board, and others. Amazingly, she has had practical experience with these types of regulatory agencies during her 25 years of legal experience with governmental entities. TDCI is the largest regulatory agency in the state.

Newman was the first lawyer in her family. She grew up the middle child between two bothers; one was three years older, while the other was three years younger. She attended Dallas public schools where her favorite hobbies were debate and oratory. For a career, she says, she chose law because it was the "only thing she could do." She wished unsuccessfully that she had artistic talent, but, instead, she found her talent in law.

So Newman went to Baltimore for her undergraduate studies. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1976, from Washington University Law School in 1979, and worked for the St. Louis County government for six years as legal assistant to the county counselor. She also studied an additional year with a nationally renowned professor of municipal/local government environmental and land-use studies, and obtained a master's in urban law from WU in 1980.

In 1985, she returned to Dallas to work in private practice as in-house counsel for a land use and zoning consulting firm. In 1990, she moved to Nashville and became a legal consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Tennessee's municipal officials knew her work well when her married name was Leslie Shechter.

For Newman, MTAS was a fabulous job that allowed her to quickly get to know some great Tennesseans, mostly elected city officials and department heads. She learned to define job satisfaction as feeling great, doing a lot, seeing a lot of results, and seeing people extremely grateful for the service MTAS provides.

In 1994, Metro Law Director Jim Murphy lured her to the Legal Department where she served the bulk of Phil Bredesen's two terms as mayor. When she was in private practice from mid-2000-early 2003 she chaired the land use and zoning subgroup as a member of the Nashville law firm of Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis. In 2003-2006 she was with Farmer & Luna PLLC where she continued her focus on urban and municipal law and governmental relations while working for a variety of clients, both public and private.

Newman has two sons, one a 25 year-old who is a second year law student at the University of Denver; the other is a junior at New York University studying economics and political science. He is also active in politics and spent his summer working in a Nashville mayor campaign. Recently remarried, Newman also has a high-school-aged stepdaughter. Her husband, a native New Yorker, is a mathematician in the field of genetics working for a biotech company in Tennessee.

TT&C: What was the best part of being a Law Department attorney with Metro Nashville in the 1990s?

LN: I had a lot of favorites at that great job. Being liaison to the Mayor's Office meant I got to know and work closely with the mayor's staff, the mayor, and the Metro Council. The primary client agencies I was responsible for were the Planning Commission, the Water and Sewer Department, the Arts Commission, and the Department of Finance. I also supervised 25 attorneys in terms of legal opinions and the ongoing advice that the Metro Law Department gave to the council and various municipal officials and to the 115 boards and commissions.

TT&C: That helped prepare you for the diverse hats you wear in



Injuries and the number of claims are decreasing – good news in the workers' compensation area.

Commerce & Insurance?

LN: It did. By being a metropolitan municipal attorney, I got involved in almost every area of law but domestic-environmental, transactional law, corporate law, securities in some cases, copyrights, a lot of election issues, term limits issues – an extremely diverse job.

Then, for almost seven years in private practice, I primarily handled state and local issues for clients including municipalities and counties.

So this department was something I had a certain amount of background for, particularly on the commerce side. An added attraction was taking advantage of the opportunity to work with Gov. Bredesen and his staff, some of whom I'd worked with previously.

In eight months, I've already traveled to a large part of the state. I have spoken with a lot of people and am little by little beginning to learn the insurance and the securities industry side, too. This is an incredibly challenging regulatory department. It's also an opportunity to help consumers and promote best practices in the industry.



We continue to be concerned and focus our attention on the absence of residential housing codes in Tennessee.

and Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) are financially solvent and meet certain financial criteria in order to enter into contracts with the state. As we speak, a big change is taking place in the way HMO and BHO providers operate. They are all going to be financially at risk as soon as requests for proposals are issued for East and West Tennessee and new contracts entered into. Middle Tennessee has finished that process, and two new HMO providers were selected. They are now at risk, which means they will be financially responsible; the state no longer subsidizes the cost or underwrites the risks of companies operating for TennCare enrollees.

TT&C: How is it that you have a role in law enforcement training?

LN: The POST and Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy where police officer standards training takes place were moved to this department from the Department of Safety. We've been working closely with Director Brian Gresham and with the commission when technical support is requested. The E911 Board



Photos by Gael Stahl

We support the legislature finding funding to help volunteer firefighters attend the academy.

Robert Gowan, who became the governor's policy adviser after leaving TDCI. She brought the division into the 21st century; you can now renew your professional license online, and all of the boards and commission meetings can be seen on video streaming. She instituted training and protocols for investigators to make sure licensees are in compliance. The division now operates very smoothly.

TT&C: What's it like being state fire marshal?

LN: That is an amazing division, and also a diverse one. It includes the bomb and arson squad, which leads to a lot of interesting requests such as the one to sign an order to disinter a body to investigate possible arson.

On the fire prevention front, we undertake electrical inspections statewide. Our codes division reviews and approves plans and inspects for codes compliance for all state owned facilities. We will be requesting funding to provide for electronic plans review to streamline this process.

We're pleased about the number of fire departments that are cooperat-



11th grade winner 2006



10th grade winner 2006



6th grade winner 2006

Attending the state's award banquet for the Fire Safety Poster Contest is a favorite duty of Fire Marshal Newman. More and more schools across the state participate in the art project in which the kids create a visual interpretation of the current year's fire safety theme. After the judges pick the K-12 grade winners, the winning 13 earn a fun weekend in Nashville and receive an award, stay at a hotel, go swimming, have pizza parties, and receive an award to celebrate their creativity.

Last year's theme was about reducing cooking fires Watch What You Heat!
Above: The winners for three grades.

TT&C: How do you oversee the securities industry?

LN: Unlike insurance companies and insurance agents that are regulated exclusively by the state, the securities industry is mostly regulated at the federal level. We license brokers, dealers, and investment advisers who have to register as securities agents with us. We also conduct an investor education program to advise consumers about scams and unfair or deceptive investment practices. We teach students ways to become savvy investors by urging all high schools statewide to get involved in our yearly statewide essay contest. The topic of this year's essay contest is credit card usage and how credit cards can impact financial and long-term goals. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes are savings bonds.

We also investigate fraudulent activities such as the selling of unlicensed securities and prosecute those violations civilly. For potential criminal prosecutions, we assist the Attorney General's Office.

The Insurance Division is almost entirely responsible for enforcing the state's insurance laws and supervising its more than 1,700 insurance companies and other entities licensed or otherwise authorized to do business in Tennessee such as accredited reinsurers, surplus lines companies and mutual risk retention groups. There are an estimated 114,454 licensed insurance agents in the state.

TT&C: It seems strange that you have TennCare oversight.

LN: We make sure that the health management organizations (HMOs)

is also attached to the agency.

TT&C: The media get a lot of press releases about scams from Commerce's and the Attorney General's Consumer Affairs divisions.

LN: Our Consumer Affairs is a fabulous division. It operates with meager resources, one of the things I'm going to try to change during my tenure. But even with a small crew, Mary Clement has done a remarkable job. Last year the division mediated over 6,000 complaints and returned refunds or merchandise in excess of a million dollars to Tennessee consumers – a remarkable figure. For example, consumer affairs works closely with the Contractors Licensing Board to mediate contractor complaints.

We work closely with the AG's office so it can take over criminal prosecution whether it's Ponzi schemes or other scams. There is just no limit to the creativity of people out there and, unfortunately, a lot of the scamming is perpetrated against seniors, such as selling bogus investments. We spend a lot of time helping consumers who have been victimized. The Consumer Division of the Attorney General's office also alerts the public about these scams.

TT&C: What are the 24 boards and commissions you regulate?

LN: It's a diverse group from cosmetologists and barbers to boxers, contractors, appraisers, motor vehicle dealers, surveyors, geologists, and on and on. Meredith Sullivan has worked hard to institute best practices following in the footsteps of

ing with the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System now. Reporting of fires to TFIRS has increased in the last four years from 46 percent to 88 percent. The problem we had before was the small volunteer departments that did not have computers. More are now using computers to distribute information and spot problems.

But we continue to be concerned and focus our attention on the absence of residential housing codes in Tennessee. We believe there is a direct correlation between fire deaths and fire damage and the lack of residential codes or electrical, plumbing, and other infrastructure inspections.

TT&C: What would be the benefit of adopting a residential housing code?

LN: It would benefit the cities of Tennessee by lowering ISO ratings, which lowers insurance rates. It would benefit the insurance industry to know that structures are built to meet codes requirements. It benefits owners and renters of homes by improving life safety. It has positive economic benefits and promotes best practices in the building industry. We believe time and resources are better spent preventing fires instead of chasing fires. There are so many reasons to have good codes enforcement in place.

We've been talking to a lot of groups including the Tennessee Building Code officials and the firefighter association. Most insurance folks we've talked to are in support, and we'll be speaking with TML and the County Services and the Homebuilders Association.

TT&C: How does your fire education program work?

LN: Fire education is one of our highest priorities because it can help bring down Tennessee's horrible ranking, being fifth in the nation for the number of fire deaths. Our full-time educator, Jeff Huddleston, travels around the state presenting fire prevention programs to youth and seniors and distributing smoke alarms. I wish we had 30 of him going around the state.

He provided training to 500 groups this year, including fire departments, teachers, and educational organizations, by promoting the Safe At Home Program. He shows an interactive video, gives the kids coloring books and a packet of materials. Interestingly enough, many fires are the result of cooking accidents, so cooking safety is a big part of our educational push.

TT&C: Are you involved in the bills the Tennessee Municipal League is promoting to require mandatory minimum training for all firefighters and subsidies to pay for that training?

LN: We support that wholeheartedly. It was a great thing that we finally got state subsidized training for full-time municipal firefighters and the state fire academy to train them. Still, 80 percent of firefighting in Tennessee is done by unpaid volunteers, not professionals. But there is no mandatory training requirement for volunteers. And if volunteer firefighters want to attend the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bell Buckle, they have to take off from their jobs and pay for that training besides. That is a double economic disincentive to obtain training.

We support any interest the legislature has in finding a funding source to help volunteer firefighters attend the academy. It is in volunteers' best interest to get that training, if only for their safety and well being. Firefighter deaths rise in direct proportion to lack of training. The TML bills sponsored by Rep. Charles Curtis and Sen. Ketron would be a great solution to the state's record-breaking rates of firefighter deaths. I agree it would be best to have a way to subsidize costs before mandating training for volunteers.

TT&C: Is the fire academy being used much by municipal codes and fire departments?

LN: I've attended two graduations at the academy and saw what a really wonderful experience the eight-week sessions are for the firefighter recruits. Most were municipal fire department firefighters. Last year, almost 7,000 students went through one of the academy's 500 courses taught by six full-time and 90 part-time instructors. Other agencies that use the academy are the ATF, FBI, the Tennessee Meth Task Force, TBI, Partners Health, the county highway commissions, the Fire Chiefs Association and codes enforcement personnel. Since 2001, 38,000 students have taken training courses that the academy offers.

TT&C: That's an astounding number – 38,000 students, 7,000 in a year.

LN: We are including in that number anyone that has taken any class through the academy including the courses we offer in the field. Many volunteer departments (and some paid firefighters) cannot afford to send many students at one time to the academy, so they contract with us to provide instruction off-site in their community. The only students that we call graduates are those who successfully complete and graduate from the eight-week Recruit/Firefighter Class. We have lots of volunteers that attend our training, even though they aren't required by the state to get any training and they have to pay out of their own pockets.

TT&C: There was a big push a few years ago to reform workers' comp rates and your predecessor filed lower rates. Did it do any good?

LN: In 2004, Gov. Bredesen signed into law comprehensive reform of the workers' compensation statutes to try to get control of increasing costs. Our 2007 loss cost filing will, for the first time, reflect post reform numbers showing that workers' comp costs are going down as a result of the reforms. Costs are coming down, the amount of injuries and the number of claims are decreasing – good news in the workers' compensation area.