

House Subcommittee Approves “Fig Leaf” Build-Out Requirement

On April 17, the House Subcommittee on Utilities and Banking narrowly passed the cable and video franchising bill, as amended, by a vote of 8-6.

The subcommittee adopted five amendments, including three PEG amendments and a build-out requirement modeled after a Missouri bill. While some of these amendments made marginal improvements to the bill, the bill effectively eliminates local control of franchising and substantially weakens existing municipal authorities and reduces municipal revenues. As such, TML and the counties opposed the bill as amended.

Although cities and counties were pleased the subcommittee expressed its support for a build out requirement, local government believes the amendment adopted needs some additional work. For example, the build out only applies to AT&T and even then it contains a

loophole that will ensure the company is only required to provide video to 25 percent of the households in which it provides telephone service. This minimal requirement could be fully satisfied by offering service in just two of the state's largest markets; providing no assurances or protections for the remainder of the state. Moreover, the build out amendment adopted last week does not provide for any penalty should AT&T fail to meet this meager requirement. As such, the only value of the current requirement is that it allows AT&T to declare the bill now includes a build -out requirement.

The full House Commerce Committee is scheduled to vote on the bill and amendments on Tuesday, May 1. The bill is also scheduled for the Senate Commerce Committee on May 1.

See Pages 4 & 5 for photos of the House and Senate Commerce com-

Certification process for chief city finance officer

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

A new comprehensive training program and certification process for municipal financial officers in Tennessee is currently pending before the General Assembly.

Sponsored by Sens. Randy McNally and Doug Henry (SB 2059) and Rep. Craig Fitzhugh (HB 2127), the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007 establishes a certification requirement for the chief financial officer for each municipality.

The proposed certification program is a joint effort between the state Comptroller's Office and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to ensure competence in the handling of municipal funds and the protection of public monies.

“The standards in municipal finance are changing. The complexities of capital markets, new federal tax laws, and changes in audit standards have placed more and more responsibilities on the city employee in charge of financial operations,” said Comptroller John Morgan. “Through a structured training



Comptroller John Morgan

program, we can raise the competency level – which means that cities would be less likely to encounter problems in the future. And the healthier cities are; the better off the entire state will be.”

MTAS, with the approval of the Comptroller's office, will be charged with developing the Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) curriculum, providing the training, and administering the testing. The 10 eight-hour sections will *CMFO continued on Page 9*

Median income limits used for senior property freeze

Last week, the Senate began consideration of legislation, SB 2, implementing the local tax relief program for senior citizens, which was endorsed by more than 80 percent of the voters in last November's election.

While cities have commended the bill's Senate and House sponsors for recognizing and addressing the adverse affects of a growing economy and the real estate boom on some seniors that own their own home, local governments have expressed some concerns about the unintended consequences of shifting the tax burden to young families. In addition, municipalities have raised questions regarding the feasibility of administering and implementing the program outlined in the bill.

During its consideration of SB 2, the Senate State and Local Government Committee, adopted an amendment offered by the bill's sponsor, Sen. Mark Norris, which addresses some of the concerns and questions voiced by local government.

Among the most significant changes included in the amendment are the provisions related to program eligibility. Under the original bill, all individuals 65 and older with annual incomes of \$50,000 or less were eligible for the local tax relief program. As amended, eligibility is based upon the median household income of persons age 65 to 74 in the county in which the homeowner re-

sides. This change makes the bill more equitable for all taxpayers.

In addition, the amendment defines income to include an individual's combined income from all sources. This change will better ensure that young families will not be required to take on an additional tax burden so that wealthy seniors can enjoy the benefits of lower taxes.

Lastly, the amendment addresses one of the most challenging aspects of administering the proposed local tax relief program by authorizing the Comptroller to provide income verification and other services and assistance to local government.

The amended bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee for further consideration. Meanwhile, the House companion bill, HB 1033, is scheduled to be considered this week in the Local Government Subcommittee.

Summary of SB 2, as amended

As amended, SB 2 authorizes, but does not require, a municipality or county to enact a property tax relief program for eligible taxpayers, effective July 1, 2007. Once enacted, a municipality or county may elect to terminate its property tax relief program, provided; however, such ordinance or resolution shall not take effect until the tax year following its adoption.

Administration

The median household income for persons 65 to 74 years of age in *See SENIORS on Page 6*



Photo by Gael Stahl

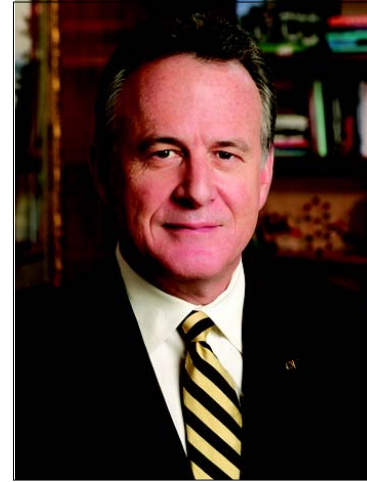
UT Basketball Coach Pat Summitt, left, and the NCAA 2007 National Champion Volunteers team were honored at the State Capitol along with the athletic director, team manager, and UT President John Petersen “as the most successful women's basketball program in the history of NCAA.” The resolution is held aloft by Rep. Joe Armstrong, left, and Sen. Tim Burchett, who represent the university within their House and Senate districts. Sen. Joe Haynes, Rep Craig Fitzhugh and Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry are also pictured.

UT officials to speak at Annual Conference

In just two years since taking the helm of the University of Tennessee, Dr. John Petersen's accomplishments are already on the grand scale that folks in Tennessee have come to expect – record setting awards of research grants, record private donations including the largest gift ever given by a single individual, a partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory that puts UT in a position to compete for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grants, and a biofuels initiative that could position the state as a leader in the nation's efforts to reduce dependence on imported petroleum.

Dr. Petersen will discuss some of these initiatives plus UT's new strategic plan for increasing the number of Tennesseans who have four-year degrees during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference, slated for June 10-12 in Knoxville.

Petersen will address the membership during the Monday morning general session on June 11 that begins at 9:30 a.m. He will share that



Dr. John Petersen

time slot with Dr. Matt Murray, associate director of UT's Center for Business and Economic Research and Graduate Director of Economics.

Dr. Murray will present an economic forecast for the state and discuss future revenue trends, in particular the future of the property tax and sales tax and how it will meet the demands of public services.



Dr. Matt Murray

The conference will kick off Sunday, June 10, with a festive jazz brunch in the exhibit hall and conclude on Tuesday, June 12, with the annual awards breakfast.

With a theme of *Today's Challenges are Tomorrow's Opportunities*, conference workshops will focus on several challenges that cities face and how to successfully prepare *See CONFERENCE on Page 2*

Media violence effects on children: NLC roundtable discuss cities' role



Photo courtesy of NLC

Robert Wehling, chairman of the Board, Common Sense Media; Kimberly Barnes O'Connor, deputy executive director, National PTA; William Isler, president of Family Communications, Inc.; Mayor Bart Peterson; and Terence Smith, former PBS media correspondent and senior producer, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

“All I know is when I was a kid there were students who felt ostracized, students who were bullied, left out, humiliated – but they didn't shoot up their schools...”

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson

A day after a 23-year-old Virginia Tech student tragically shot 32 people to death along with himself, the National League of Cities (NLC) hosted an interactive roundtable discussion in Indianapolis on the role cities play regarding media violence and its impact on children.

The summit united city leaders with law enforcement officials, researchers, other national organizations, media and members of the entertainment industry to discuss and develop ways of dealing with what has become a national dilemma.

Research continues to uncover unsettling correlations between violent acts and images depicted via television programs, films, music, the Internet, and video games and aggressive behavior in the nation's youth.

“In recent years, our communities have witnessed far too many incidents of extreme violence by and against children and youth,”

said Bart Peterson, mayor of Indianapolis and NLC president. “Certainly, a number of factors contribute to these disturbing trends, but a prominent concern that is increasingly capturing the attention of both researchers and policy makers is the heightened exposure of children to graphic violence in video games, television, movies, and music.”

A recent report administered by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reveals that in spite of regulation efforts, “children under the age of 18 are still being exposed to violent media.”

“This summit is about bringing elected officials together so that they *See VIOLENCE on Page 3*

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

ATHENS
Evader's Night Vision Imaging Systems equipment was purchased with federal Homeland Security grant money through the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program.

CHATTANOOGA
A 2007 time capsule was placed in the city hall cornerstone replacing the 1907 capsule during a ceremony on April 12. The capsule contained newspaper articles, a letter from Mayor Ron Littlefield, signed business cards of city officials and administrators, data disks and DVDs, pieces of money including a 1976 centennial \$2 bill, a George Washington dollar coin, a new and an old buffalo nickel, wheat penny, and a Tennessee quarter, as well as other current era items.

CHATTANOOGA
The kudzu-eating goats that were so successful in controlling the kudzu vines on Missionary Ridge are going back to work keeping the ridge clean. It is hoped that by eating the new growth as it appears, the goats will kill the nuisance weed that grows prodigiously. This year the area will be expanded to include property adjacent to the original site.

ENGLEWOOD
Undercover narcotics equipment and thermal imaging equipment have been purchased with Homeland Security grant money.

FRANKLIN
A new transit center that houses offices and a dispatch center for the transit authority opened in downtown Franklin on April 18. The center also functions as a new trolley stop as well.

GREENEVILLE
JessEm Tool, a woodworking equipment manufacturer, announced it will close its Canadian plant and open one in Greeneville with a beginning work force of 40 and expected to reach 85 in the future.

JOHNSON CITY
The Northeast Tennessee Ozone Action Partnership recognized Johnson City's environmental efforts with an Ozzie Award. This is the first time the city has won the award given for being the first municipality in the area to use biodiesel in all of its diesel-fuel vehicles.

NASHVILLE
The U.S. Census Bureau report shows the Nashville area, including the 13 surrounding counties, has grown 11 percent in the last six years

to an estimated 1.5 million people.

NASHVILLE
Black Enterprise magazine ranked Nashville fifth on its list of best places for African Americans. The magazine looked at median household income, percentage of households earning in excess of \$100,000, percentage of black-owned businesses, percentage of college graduates, unemployment rates, home loan rejections, and home ownership rates in determining its list of top cities.

PIPERTON
Piperton housing starts are defying the national trend of a 10 percent drop. The town is booming and subdivisions are sprouting like dandelions in spring, municipal officials say. Fayette County has a bright residential development future, according to Michael Borne, a land developer.

ROANE COUNTY
Saginaw Control & Engineering, a Michigan electrical equipment and supplies manufacturer, announced it will build a distribution center in Roane County's Roan Regional Business and Technology Park with an anticipated opening in the fall.

Joint ECD boards must
comply with PC 1101 law

BY DON DARDEN
MTAS Management Consultant

Cities and counties have recently been notified by Commissioner Matt Kisber of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) that the department will not approve grants for entities not in compliance with the requirements of Public Chapter 1101.

Beginning Sept. 1, 2003, all state grant applications administered by ECD must include supporting documentation that the joint economic and community development board is legally established, is composed of the minimum required members, and that the board and its executive committee have met according to state law.

A copy of the interlocal agreement establishing the joint board and certified minutes shall be the minimum acceptable documentation.

The department will accept applications where good faith efforts to meet are demonstrated by a schedule for both the board and executive committee indicating meeting dates between Sept. 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004.

By July 1, 2004, every local government applying for a state grant administered by ECD must provide records documenting that a minimum of four board meetings and four executive committee meetings were held during the previous 12 months.

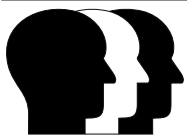
Public Chapter 1101 requires the establishment in each county of a joint economic and community development board for the purpose of "fostering communications with regard to economic and community development between and among governmental entities, industry, and private citizens." Cities and counties generally have complied with the requirement that such joint boards be established.

T.C.A. § 6-58-114(f) requires that the board meets a minimum of four times annually and that the board's executive committee meets at least four times annually. When applying for state grants, cities and counties are required to certify compliance with the requirements of T.C.A. § 6-58-114(i).

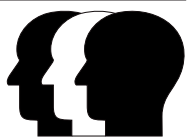
Commissioner Kisber is required by law to ensure local government compliance with Public Chapter 1101. The stakes are simply too high not to comply with the law.

Accordingly, MTAS recommends that:

- Every city develop and maintain documentation proving the existence of a joint board by interlocal agreement with the minimum required members;
- Every joint board schedule the required four board meetings and eight executive committee meetings for each year; and
- Every joint board maintain minutes proving that the board has met the required number of times for any given 12-month period.



PEOPLE



BY TISH WOMACK

The State Judicial Commission has nominated Memphis Circuit Judge **D'Army Bailey**, Nashville Court of Appeals Judge **William C. Koch Jr.**, and Savannah Circuit Judge **C. Creed McGinley** for Gov. Phil Bredesen to choose from for the vacant state Supreme Court seat.

The Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development announced that economic development veteran **Charlie Giffen** is re-joining the department as the director of national recruitment.

Business Tennessee magazine's April issue named state Senate Speaker Pro Tem **Rosalind Kurita** of Clarksville to its "100 Most Powerful People in Tennessee" list.

State Sen. **Jerry Cooper** returned to the Senate April 18, following his recovery from injuries sustained in an automobile

accident in early February.

Paris city commissioners re-elected **David Travis** mayor and former TML President **Sam Tharpe** vice mayor at the city's April meeting.

Germantown named **Ralph Gabb** finance director, replacing **John Dluhos** who retired. Gabb has been with the Germantown Finance Department for nearly 15 years.

U. S. Ambassador and former Knoxville Mayor **Victor Ashe** announced he will resign his ambassadorship later this year and return to Knoxville. He will remain in Poland until President Bush nominates a replacement.

Sparta Mayor **Tommy Pedigo** has rotated on to the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport Board for his second two-year term.

Murfreesboro's police Captain **Anita Flagg** became the city's first female of-

ficer to graduate from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy in Quantico, Va. Flagg is a 30-year member of the Murfreesboro's police department.

Shelby County Election Commission tapped **Mary Wilder** to fill Tennessee House District 89 seat vacated by state Sen. **Beverly Marroero**. Wilder will serve until a permanent member is elected in July.

Ashland City administrator **Murry Hawkins** will retire effective July 31, but has indicated that he has plans to stay in town and practice law on a consultant basis.

The Lenoir City council approved the hiring of **Maggie Hunt** as recorder-treasurer following the resignation of **Debbie Cook**.

Former state Rep. **Clyde Webb**, Athens, died at age 73 on April 5. He served in the Tennessee House from 1970 to his retirement in 1990.



Tharpe



Wilder



Hawkins



Ashe



Pedigo



Webb



Giffen



Kurita



Cooper

McGill ASSOCIATES
Engineering • Planning • Public Finance

Municipal Commercial Industrial Residential

Water • Wastewater • Collection • Distribution Treatment • Site Design • Land Planning • Roads Storm Water • Erosion Control • General Civil Solid Waste • Regulatory Compliance & Permitting Planning • Public Finance • Grants

248 Bruce Street
Savannah, Tennessee 37862
www.mcgillengineers.com

ph 865.908.0575
fx 865.908.0110

STANTEC = INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

• Engineering
• Architecture
• Planning
• Surveys/Geomatics

Stantec

In Nashville, call (615) 885-1144
Offices throughout North America
and the Caribbean stantec.com

HART FREELAND ROBERTS, INC.
ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING

Committed To Excellence Through
Client Satisfaction Since 1910

Brentwood, TN
615.370.8500

Jackson, TN
731.660.1322

www.hfrdesign.com

Discover ARCADIS . . .
Total business solutions that add value to your bottom line

Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">TransportationWater ResourcesProgram Management/Construction ManagementLand Resources	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">BuildingsOperating Facilities Management	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Site InvestigationRemediationRisk and Associated Services	Business Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strategic ConsultingGLP Remediation ProgramProperty Redevelopment — GuaranteedEnvironmental Asset and Liability Management
--	---	--	---

Knoxville 865.675.6700
Chattanooga 423.756.7193
www.arcadis-us.com

ARCADIS

TH&P
Solutions for the Future

TYSINGER, HAMPTON & PARTNERS, INC.

Consulting • Design • Project Management

3428 Bristol Highway • Johnson City, Tennessee
423.282.2687 P • 423.282.1621 F
www.tysinger-engineering.com

RAGAN • SMITH

LAND PLANNERS • CIVIL ENGINEERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS • SURVEYORS

315 WOODLAND ST. P.O. BOX 60070
NASHVILLE, TN 37206
PHONE (615) 244-8591 FAX (615) 244-6739
WWW.RAGANSMITH.COM

COHEREX Dust Control Agents
RECLAMITE/CYCLOGEN Asphalt Pavement Rejuvenators
SINAK Concrete Sealers
CRF Restorative Seal/Crack Filler

PAVEMENT TECHNOLOGY, INC.
ASPHALT RECYCLING & PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS

Helping Cities and Counties Make Pavements Last Longer Since 1972

1 - 800 - 333 - 6309

JOEL B. SPAULDING & COMPANY, INC.

**2402 WINFORD AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
PHONE (615) 255-7766
FAX (615) 255-7767**

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Your Professional Employee Benefit Company

The Malone Company

124 North Main Avenue • P.O. Box 616
Fayetteville, TN 37334

Jim Malone President Office: (931) 433-6907
FAX: (931) 433-9714
Toll Free (888) 752-7126

Email: Jim_Malone@TheMaloneCompany.com

Wiser

1431 Kensington Square Court
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
Phone 615/ 896-7375
FAX 615/ 890-7016

Engineering • Surveying • Mapping • GIS

Visit our web site at www.wiserco.com

GARVER ENGINEERS

STUDY • PLAN • DESIGN • COORDINATE • MANAGE • SOLVE

• Bridges	• Sewerage and Industrial Waste	• Structural Design
• Roadways	• Solid Waste	• Electrical Engineering and SCADA
• Traffic Engineering	• Site and Subdivision Planning	• Mechanical Engineering
• Airports	• Natural Gas Systems	• Hydraulics and Hydrology
• Water Systems	• Industrial Buildings	

615-377-1337
233 Wilson Pike Circle • P.O. Drawer 1847
Brentwood, TN 37024-1847
Huntsville, AL • Little Rock, AR • Tulsa, OK
Fayetteville, AR • Jackson, MS • Louisville, KY

ATS American Traffic Solutions

Daniel S. Foglton
Senior Business Development Director

14861 N. Scottsdale Road
Suite 109
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

Cell: 803.466.0628
Tel: 480.368.0900 ext. 246
Email: dan.foglton@atsol.com
Fax: 480.607.0901
Online: www.atsol.com

TV violence affects children

VIOLENCE from Page 1
leave here better educated and with a deeper and more sophisticated understanding of this issue,” said Peterson. “Local leaders will be able to use what they learned about the impacts of media as a basis for discussion in their hometowns as they continue to protect the health and welfare of their communities.”

According to CNN reports, in 2006 the Parents Television Council monitored more than 440 hours of programming directed toward young people finding 3,448 incidents of violence, an average of eight incidents per hour.

The nation’s first detailed study on the effects of TV violence in the U.S. was conducted in 1972. The surgeon general concluded “Televised violence, indeed, does have an adverse effect on certain members of our society.”

“There is clearly a formula for media violence (in today’s media); it is glamorized, sanitized, and trivialized,” said Dr. Ellen Wartella, professor of psychology, executive vice chancellor and provost, University of California, Riverside. “Our research showed one-third of the perpetrators are attractive; one-half of the stories show no physical harm, pain or suffering; 20 percent do not show the long-term effects of violence. Humor is most often present when violence is shown... less than 5 percent had any anti-violent themes.”

During the summit, Wartella explained that while no socio-economic or demographic group is immune to the effects of violence, over time reduced exposure can lessen the impact while repeated viewings of violence can lead to desensitization and increased fear.

In “Feeding Their Fears,” an article published in the *Toronto Sun*, Dr Arlett Lefebvre, a leading child psychologist, views the damage to children first hand.

“Some, not all, but some kids can be emotionally traumatized by movies such as the *Sixth Sense* and *Armageddon*; I have a patient who has not slept alone for 15 months since watching the *Sixth Sense*; and another two have had psychotic breakdowns. Parents pay a great deal of attention to the nutritional content of a child’s breakfast, but what about the nutritional content of the media images they’re consuming?”

Lefebvre said that young children are especially vulnerable to violent images because they are unable to distinguish between reality and fantasy.

“They believe and personalize

everything they see. Thanks to modern technology and effects, the violence is a lot more realistic than before,” Lefebvre said.

“Parents I have talked with may be aware of the media’s influence but often feel overwhelmed by the prospect of limiting their children’s exposure to it,” said Jane Katch, elementary school teacher and author of *Under Dead Man’s Skin: Discovering the Meaning of Children’s Violent Play* in an interview with Diane Weaver Dunne, *Education World*.

“Advertisements make current movies look exciting and desirable. Kids complain that “everybody else’s parents let them see it,” Katch said.

After discovering her class of 5 and 6 year olds playing a game called “Suicide,” Katch met with parents in order to work on the problem together. “When I explained to parents the impact the media was having on this particular group....the problem seemed more manageable. Knowing their child would not see a banned program or movie at a friend’s house and that the other children weren’t going to see it either made it possible for the parents to say no in a consistent way.”

Summit speaker Cindi Tripoli, executive director of Pause, Parent, Play (PPP) and a former vice president at the Motion Picture Association of America, urged parents to use the full array of ratings tools and information about the content of games and films found on the PPP’s website. “We want to take this information to bus stops and soccer fields to get wide distribution,” she said. Every video game is now marketed with a rating and there has been significant improvement in in-store enforcement preventing children from buying age-inappropriate video games according to Patricia Vance, president of the Entertainment Software Rating Board. “We are doing a lot as an industry, but we can always do more,” said Vance.

“We want programs that a parent can watch with a child on one side and one of their parents on the other and not be embarrassed by what they are watching,” said Robert Wehling, chairman of the Board of Common Sense Media and a panelist at the roundtable. “Kids can legally download anything they want from the Internet. Now they are also creating their own media to impress their friends (referring to home-made “Fight Club-type videos created by teens).

Participants discussed a number of strategies to raise public awareness including the “V” chip for TV and parental controls in place within the growing wireless industry.

“The challenge facing officials, Peterson said, is creating alternatives to move young people in a different direction away from violent media.”

“We have to use this technology for good,” echoed panelist William Isler, president of Family Communications, Inc. and executive director of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media.

Peterson said NLC’s focus will be on raising awareness, stimulating local discussions in communities across the country, and partnering with industry and other interested organizations.

To view a webcast of the *Media Violence and its Impact on Children* summit, visit the National League of Cities website at www.nlc.org

Festival exchange program showcases Winchester and Tennessee attractions

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Winchester has been selected to showcase its community and other state attractions in a unique festival exchange program with Foley, Ala.

Developed in 2001 as a means of sharing the culture of two cities while celebrating the lifestyle and heritage of Foley and other Gulf Coast communities on a national and regional level, Winchester is the first city in the state invited to participate in Heritage Harbor Days, slated for Nov. 2-4. Winchester will be joining the ranks of previous cities selected for the program such as Grapevine, Tx; Ozark, Mo; Lafayette, La; and Maggie Valley, N.C.

In 2006, Winchester was recognized with a Tennessee Municipal League Achievement Award for Excellence in Promoting Tourism at the TML Annual Conference in Nashville.

“Winchester is up for the task of representing Tennessee,” said Kathy Danielson, Foley tourism bureau and festival director and co-developer of the project. “They’re already reaching out across the counties and state in preparation for the event. It will be our heritage next to theirs. All the elements of Tennessee will be featured, country music, food, crafters”

The festivities will kick off Halloween day, Oct. 31, when the Winchester group arrives at the Alabama state line in Huntsville. Flags will be exchanged between the two cities and a whistle -stop tour across Ala-



Foley, Ala. will take part in Winchester’s 2008 Dogwood Festival bringing along a 28- ft. shrimp boat and other Gulf Coast heritage items

bama will introduce Winchester to the state.

“Since it is Halloween I’m sure we all will be in costumes of favorite Tennesseans,” said Beth Rhoton, Winchester city administrator. “And we’ll be planting dogwoods along the way!”

A prime example of best practices in economical development, Winchester’s vendors, nurserymen, and craftspeople will set up in a prominent area at the Foley festival and be featured as Foley’s “sister city” in advertising brochures and the media.

In the spring, it will be Foley’s turn to shine at Winchester’s 2008

Dogwood Festival. The gulf coast visitors will arrive complete with vendors, dancers, seafood, net makers, regional music and a 28 ft. shrimp boat and will receive their tour of Tennessee.

“Winchester, Tennessee, and Foley, Alabama, are setting a great example for all communities in this important exchange program,” said Susan Whitaker, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. “It is always beneficial for groups to come together in the spirit of good will and mutual support. In this case, the benefit will See **FESTIVAL** on Page 9

Jackson Mayor Farmer roasted by all-star line-up

An impressive list of more than 875 registered guests and dignitaries including Gov. Phil Bredesen, U.S. Rep. John Tanner, and former Gov. Ned McWherter turned out April 10 at the Carl Perkins Civic Center to honor long-time Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer at “A Celebration of Mayor Charles Farmer’s Service to the City of Jackson” banquet.

After serving as Jackson’s mayor for 18 years, Farmer is not running for re-election.

A former TML president and attorney in Madison County, Farmer is recognized for his high energy approach to governing working with local and state officials while overseeing the city’s expansive growth and businesses development. Jackson is often referred to in national publications as a boom town.

In his last state of the city address in January, Farmer rallied city leaders to work together toward the accomplishment of great things challenging the city to realize its fullest potential.

Surrounded by friends and well wishers, Mayor Farmer expressed his sincere gratitude and love for his family. His involvement with many civic organizations will extend to the county’s school system as proceeds of the banquet will go toward an endowment for public schools.

Tommy Green, Alamo mayor and TML vice president, and Charles “Bones” Seivers, CEO and president of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, were among the many who roasted Farmer and paid tribute to their long-time friend.



Mayor Charles Farmer and his wife, Ondra



Photos by State Photographic Services

Gov. Phil Bredesen and Charles “Bones” Seivers (right) were among the many who participated in the celebration.

Rain or shine,
sleet or hail,
every day is perfect
for a GovDeals sale!



GovDeals

Online Government
Surplus Auctions—24/7

Visit GovDeals.com today
or call 1-866-377-1494

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION
Providing Hardware and Software to Local Governments for over 30 years!

Financial Management ~ Revenue Management ~ Document Management ~ City Court Management ~ Hardware and Networking Solutions ~ Software Support and Training Solutions

714 Armstrong Lane ~ Columbia, TN 38401
Phone: 800-381-4540 Fax: 931-381-0678
Email: marketing@localgovcorp.com ~ www.localgovcorp.com

GRIGGS & MALONEY
INCORPORATED

ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

P.O. Box 29268 • Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2968
(615) 895-8221

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES FOR 40 YEARS

V&M
Vaughn & Melton
Engineering • Architecture • Surveying

ARCHITECTURE
CIVIL
TRANSPORTATION
WATER
WASTEWATER
STRUCTURAL
SITE DEVELOPMENT
SURVEYING
RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

Office Locations:
219 West Depot Street
Greenville, TN 37743
Phone: (423) 639-0271
Fax: (423) 639-0980

1909 Allor Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921
Phone: (865) 546-5800
Fax: (865) 546-4714

Ashville, NC • Charlotte, NC • London, KY
Middlesboro, KY • Spartanburg, SC

www.vaughnmelton.com

Anderson & Associates, Inc.
Professional Design Services

An Employee-Owned Company

ENGINEERING
SURVEYING & GIS

240 E. Main St., Suite 300 (423) 434-2971
Johnson City, TN 37604 (800) 544-0147
www.andassoc.com jabinski@andassoc.com fax: (423) 434-9514

CTI CONSOLIDATED TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
ENGINEERS IN WATER AND EARTH SCIENCES
www.ctienviron.com

CHATTANOOGA
Phone: 423/267-7613
Fax: 423/267-0603

NASHVILLE
Phone: 615/731-6003
Fax: 615/731-4149

KNOXVILLE
Phone: 865/539-8209
Fax: 865/694-0848

We can help any city in the state get the alt fuels info they need! Hard working, and here to help you... make the switch.

EAST TENNESSEE CLEAN FUELS

(865) 974-3625
jgoverly@utk.edu → ETCleanFuels.org

J.R. Wauford & Company
Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Water and Wastewater Systems

Home Office:
2835 Lebanon Road
P.O. Box 140350
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 883-3243

Branch Offices:
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 984-9638
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 668-1953

www.jrwauford.com



ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE AND GROWTH

Mattern & Craig
CONSULTING ENGINEERS-SURVEYORS

403 E. MARKET STREET
JOHNSON CITY, TN 37601
PHONE: (423) 979-2220
FAX: (423) 979-2222

ROANOKE, VA
ASHEVILLE, NC
ATHENS, GA

www.matternandcraig.com

Memphis, TN (901) 372.0404
Jackson, TN (731) 424.5450

Engineers - Surveyors - Landscape Architects

A2H
ASKEW HARGRAVES HARCOURT
AND ASSOCIATES
Engineering an enhanced quality of life for our clients and community.

www.a2h.com

Tennessee Offices:
Nashville
Knoxville
Memphis
Chattanooga
Tri-Cities
Oak Ridge

BWSC
ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
SURVEYORS

bargwaggon.com

Water • Wastewater • Transportation
Stormwater • GIS Digital Mapping

GRW Engineers, Inc.

Nashville (615) 366-1600
Knoxville (864) 588-4166
www.grwinc.com

House Commerce committee continues to study cable franchise bill



Rep. Charles Curtiss, chairman of the House Commerce Committee



Reps. JoAnne Favors and Jim Hackworth



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh



Rep. Joe Pitts



Rep. Curt Cobb



Rep. David Hawk



Rep. Parkey Strader

Other members of the House Commerce Committee are: Reps. David Shepard, John DeBerry, Dennis Ferguson, Brenda Gilmore, Bill Harmon, Brian Kelsey, Jon Lundberg, Susan Lynn, Judd Matheny, Joe McCord, Gerald McCormick, Steve McManus, Richard Montgomery, Dennis Roach, Gary Rowe, Charles Sargent, Curry Todd, Joe Towns, and Eddie Yokley.

Local Governments Contend: The “**COMPETITIVE CABLE AND VIDEO SERVICES ACT**” Weakens Consumer Protections, Limits Municipal Authority, and Reduces Municipal Revenues

Weakens Consumer Protections:

- Eliminates build-out requirements
- Eliminates enforcement of federal, state and local customer service requirements; leaving subscribers with no meaningful protections
- Includes loopholes that effectively nullify the bill’s anti-discrimination requirements

Limits Municipal Authority:

- Effectively eliminates local cable franchising for new entrants into the cable market and creates avenues for providers to terminate existing local cable franchise agreements
- Eliminates build-out requirements for statewide franchises
- Eliminates a municipality’s ability to police cable or video provider’s activities within the public rights of way
- Preempts local taxing authority; thereby bestowing special protections upon cable providers

Reduces Municipal Revenues:

- Statewide cable franchise holders will pay less in franchise fees than companies operating under a local cable franchise agreement
- Reduces the statute of limitations for audit periods; and increase a municipality’s out-of-pocket costs
- Transfers operational and technical costs relating to PEG currently paid by cable providers to municipalities
- Eliminates fees and other costs currently paid by providers operating under local cable franchise agreements

**Contact your legislator and voice opposition to
SB 1933 / HB 1421**

Senate Commerce, Labor & Agriculture Committee



Sen. Steve Southerland, chairman Senate Commerce Committee



Sen. Bill Ketron testifies before the committee.



Sens. Tim Burchett and Mae Beavers



Sen. Charlotte Burks



Sen. Dewayne Bunch



Sens. Ward Crutchfield and John Wilder

Pictured to the left: Sens. Paul Stanley and Reginald Tate



Photos by Victoria South

ATTORNEY
GENERAL
OPINIONS

Compiled by
JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

STATE
BRIEFS

Recent opinions relating to municipalities

07-025: Holds that the surcharge on municipal solid waste under TCA § 68-211-835 (d) is a fee not a tax. The Solid Waste Disposal Control Board may establish this fee.

07-27: Holds that the state property tax code imposes no deadline for the assessor of property to accept or reject an amended tangible personal property schedule.

07-30: Amidst a number of fact-specific holdings, the attorney general states that under TCA § 13-4-104 when a municipal planning commission adopts a development plan the municipality is not authorized to sell its property until and unless the city’s legislative body has submitted the proposed sale to the commission for approval.

07-32: Holds that an airport authority may charge handicapped parking fees despite the prohibition found in TCA § 55-21-105(a).

07-33: Holds that local governments, including municipalities, may not determine the income/wealth amounts for qualification in the property tax relief program cre-

ated by the recent amendment to Article II, Section 28 of the Tennessee Constitution. The General Assembly is charged with determining this amount by passage of a general law. The localities’ authority is limited to adopting the tax relief passage that passes the legislature.

07-36: Holds that it is not a violation of the state conflict of interest provisions when a member of the Tennessee Legislature serves on the Board of the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency. Such service is however subject to the disclosure requirements regarding income and activities. The opinion does not answer the question of whether or not the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency is a municipality within the meaning of TCS §2-10-123(a).

07-48: Juvenile courts exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over all cases where a child violates a city traffic ordinance. Juvenile courts have exclusive original jurisdictions to hear non-traffic city ordinance violation by children to the extent such constitute the “act of an unruly child” as defined by TCA §37-1-102(b)(23).

The state’s March tax collections came in at nearly \$70 million more than projected, bringing the total tax collections to more than \$185 million over estimated revenue for fiscal year 2007.

The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has published *Fiscal Federalism: The Looming Federal Fiscal Crisis and Its Effect on Tennessee*. The report is available for downloading at www.state.tn.us/tacir.

Tennessee Departments of Education and Environment and Conservation has launched a **a new Website**, www.eeintennessee.org, that contains contact information for more than 90 organizations. In addition the site has facts and statistics on the environment, an E-quiz, and an interactive calendar page listing environmental education activities across the state.

The state Department of Environment and Conservation is encourages public participation in a survey found at <http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/pdf/2007gtsurvey.pdf> to help create a new Tennessee’s Greenways and Trails

Plan. Print the survey, fill it out, and fax it to 615-532-0778 or mail to: Recreation Education Services Division, Greenways and Trails Coordinator, 10th Floor, L&C Tower, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243.

Forbes Magazine’s Best Places for Businesses and Careers list includes several Tennessee cities. In the overall major metro areas, Knoxville was ranked number 5; Nashville, 9; Kingsport, 93; Clarksville, 102; Chattanooga, 108; and Memphis, 131. Johnson City was ranked number 10 of small metro areas on the list.

A report, “Technology Counts 2007,” issued by Education Week, a national educational publication, gave Tennessee a “C” grade in the availability of computers for students and implementing policies on teacher proficiency in the use of the technology. The report indicated that despite the demonstrated use of technology such as digital cameras, Internet and the like, the state’s

schools are a long way from “leveraging technology’s potential.”

The Campaign for National and Community Service survey produced by the Corporation for National and Community Service, an organization that oversees volunteer programs, ranked Tennessee 39th in the country for volunteerism, noting that less than 25 percent of the state’s residents donated time to public service. Despite that ranking, volunteers in the state donated 172 million hours of service that translated into more than \$3 billion to involved agencies.

Tennessee’s Exemplary Educator Program, a program that sends veteran educators to academically troubled schools, received a Harvard University Top 50 Innovations in America Award.

CoverTn, the state’s portable and affordable health insurance program has exceeded 100,000 enrollees since its launching in March

TML Pool holds annual photo contest

The TML Risk Management Pool is once again having a photo contest for all its members. Submitted photos will be proudly used in a presentation at the TML Annual Conference this June in Knoxville.

Rules: The theme of the photos this year is “City Hall.” Photos should be of a city hall or city administration building only. The Pool will only accept one (1) photo per person. The photo should be submitted in a “jpg” format only to Lottie Scobee, at lscobee@tmlrmp.org. Include your name, address and phone number on the e-mail.

Prizes will be awarded to the

top three photos submitted as determined by a panel designated by the TML Pool. The grand prize will be a 30GB iPod that can store and play videos, photos and up to 7,500 songs. The winners of the photo contest will be announced at the Pool Party on Monday, June 11, 2007, at the TML conference. All submitted photos will become the property of the TML Risk Management Pool.

(All employees and their family members of the TML Risk Management Pool, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and the Tennessee Municipal League are excluded from participating.)

Median income limits used for senior property freeze

SENIORS from Page 1
any given county shall be determined by the most recent federal decennial census and shall be annually adjusted to reflect changes in the consumer price index.

The Comptroller shall develop uniform definitions, application requirements, income verification procedures, and any other necessary policies or procedures. Any municipality or county which adopts a property tax relief program authorized under this legislation must conform to the definition, requirements, policies and procedures developed by the Comptroller.

The Comptroller is authorized to assess municipalities and counties a fee to process applications, verify income or other related services or assistance at the request of a municipality or county. The legislation provides that any such fee shall be sufficient to reimburse the actual costs incurred by the Comptroller to provide the requested service or assistance.

All financial records filed for purposes of income verification shall be confidential and shall not be available for public inspection.

Implementation

Eligible taxpayers that have attained 65 years of age at the time a city or county adopts a property tax

freeze for seniors, then the amount of property tax the taxpayer pays on his/her residence will be frozen at the amount of tax paid in the year the ordinance or resolution was adopted.

Any eligible taxpayer that reaches age 65 after a city or county has adopted a property tax freeze for seniors shall pay the amount of property tax due on the home in the year in which such person attains 65 years of age and will continue to pay the same amount every year thereafter.

If an eligible taxpayer purchases a home in a city or county which has adopted a property tax freeze, then that taxpayer shall pay the amount of property tax due on that home in the year in which it was purchased and will continue to pay the same amount every year thereafter.

Penalties for False Information

Any taxpayer, who knowingly provides false information concerning income or other information relative to eligibility for any such local program of property tax relief, commits a Class A misdemeanor. In addition, such taxpayer shall immediately repay to the municipality or county the full amount of tax relief received as a result of such false information, plus an amount equal to the penalty and interest set for pursuant to T.C.A. 67-1-801.

Bank of America
is proud to support
Tennessee Municipal League.

Visit us at www.bankofamerica.com.

BIS
Serving Your Recording Needs
Since 1982

LEADING PROVIDER of INTEGRATED DIGITAL CONFERENCE
RECORDING SYSTEMS IDEALLY SUITED FOR COUNTY COMMISSION
AND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

AUDIO

AGENDA

VIDEO

AGENDA ITEMS LINKED TO AUDIO AND VIDEO
MULTIPLE CHANNELS ALLOW EVERY VOICE
TO BE HEARD
IMPROVES SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING
ACCESS TO MEETING MINUTES WITH AUDIO AND
VIDEO THROUGH THE WEB

Call 800.834.7674 to Schedule an On-Line Demonstration Today! Preview the Entire BIS Digital Product Line at www.bisdigital.com

Tennessee Municipal League 2006-2007 Officers and Directors
PRESIDENT Tommy Bragg Mayor, Murfreesboro
VICE PRESIDENTS Tommy Green Mayor, Alamo
Tom Beehan Mayor Pro Tem, Oak Ridge
Royce Davenport Mayor of McMinnville
DIRECTORS Randy Brundige (District 7) Mayor, Martin
Ed Craig City Manager, Shelbyville (District 6)
Tommy Pedigo Mayor, Sparta (District 4)
Jean Davis Vice Mayor, Cookeville
Avery Johnson Vice Mayor, Cleveland (District 3)
Johnny Dodd, Councilman , Jackson
Bill Haslam Mayor, Knoxville
W.W. Herenton Mayor, Memphis
Jay Johnson City Manager, Franklin (TMLRMP)
Mark Johnson City Manager, Alcoa (TCMA)
Dale Kelley Mayor, Huntingdon
George Killebrew Mayor, Milan
Ron Littlefield Mayor, Chattanooga
Keith McDonald (District 8) Mayor, Bartlett
Jim Messimer (District 1) Mayor, Bristol
Don Mull Mayor, Alcoa
Paul Nutting (District 5) City Manager, Springfield
John Proffitt Mayor, Athens
Bill Purcell Mayor, Metro Nashville
Charles “Bones” Seivers President-CEO, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund
Kay Senter Vice Mayor, Morristown (District 2)
PAST PRESIDENTS Charles Farmer (1995), Mayor, Jackson
Dan Speer (1997) Mayor, Pulaski
Sam Tharpe (2001) Vice Mayor, Paris
Tom Rowland (2002) Mayor, Cleveland
Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
John Franklin Jr (2005) Councilman, Chattanooga
TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS (Ex-Officio Directors) Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn. Jennifer Noe, Ashland City Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference Ewing Sellers, Murfreesboro Tennessee Chapter, American Public Works William “Bo” Mills, Germantown Tennessee Government Finance Officers Assn. John Troyer, Knoxville Tenn. Assn. of Housing & Redevel. Auth. Dow Harris, Cookeville Tennessee Building Officials Assn. Jim Brown, Bartlett Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn. David Baxter, Murfreesboro Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports Larry Cox, Memphis Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police John Lowry, Johnson City Tennessee Water Quality Management Assn. Jack Graham, Maryville Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn. Dennis Suiter, Martin Tennessee Chapter, American Planning Assn. Steven Neilson, Brentwood Tennessee Personnel Management Association William Brown, Alcoa Tenn. Assn. of Municipal Clerks & Recorders Connie Kittrell, Gallatin Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing Susan White, Jackson TN Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers Greg Judy, Nashville Tennessee Public Transportation Association Tom Dugan, Chattanooga Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Tommy White, Sevierville Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools Wayne Miller, LenoirCity
TML ASSOCIATE PARTICIPANTS DIAMOND LEVEL MEMBERSHIP Bank of America GOLD LEVEL MEMBERSHIP ING Financial Advisers, LLC SILVER LEVEL MEMBERSHIP Redflex Traffic Systems Sensus Metering Systems BRONZE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP Adenus Technologies Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC LaserCraft, Inc. Scott Companies CORPORATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP AMEC Earth & Environmental American Concrete Pavement Association Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, LLC Barge, Waggoner, Sumner, & Cannon, Inc. BellSouth Telecommunications Buxton Bulli Ray Enterprises CH2M Hill Charter Communications CMI Equipment Sales, Inc. Comcast Cable Communications Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers DBS & Associates Engineering Education Networks of America Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc. Geothermal Utilities, LLC Johnson Controls Jordan, Jones & Goulding, Inc. J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers, Inc. Local Govt. Corporation The Malone Company Manatron, Inc. Mattern & Craig, Consulting Engineers, Inc. McGill Associates, P.A. Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority Nashville Tractor & Equipment, Inc. Neil Group, LLC Nortel Phoenix Tank Services Rush Truck Center, Nashville QS1/SDP Government Solutions Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. SSR Ellers Inc. Stowers Machinery Tenergy Corporation Tennessee Asphalt Co. Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Assn. Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corporation Tennessee Fiber Optic Communities Thompson & Litton, Inc. Thompson Machinery TLM Associates, Inc. Utility Service Co., Inc. Vaughn & Melton Volkert & Associates Waste Management Wiser Company, LLC W.L. Hailey & Company, Inc.

2007 fire grants available to cities

FIRE from Page 3

munities may request multiple vehicles on one application;

- All applicants may request assistance in both vehicle acquisition and operations and safety program areas using two separate applications;
- All applicants may submit a regional application using a separate application (a total of three), i.e., vehicle and/or operation and safety and/or regional; and
- Population protected and call volume will be considered for all activity requests when applications are selected for the peer panel review.

AFG program activities are broken down into two groups: operations and safety, and vehicles. Under operations and safety, eligible activities for fire departments are limited to training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and fire stations and facilities modifications. Eligible activities under vehicles include driver training and purchase of NFPA 1901-approved equipment and apparatus. Apparatus available to fire departments under this program area include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.

Applicants should strive to ensure that all projects applied for under the AFG program are consistent with national standards and address interoperability. Applicants are encouraged to read the 2007 Grant Guidance Document carefully before deciding on what to apply for.

The AFG again requires a local cash funding match that is based on population served. For fire depart-

ments serving populations below 20,000, the local match is 5 percent. For fire departments serving populations between 20,000 and 50,000, the local match is 10 percent, and for departments serving areas with a population of over 50,000, the local match is 20 percent.

The single most important thing applicants can do to ensure they have the best opportunity for success in the AFG program is to closely align the most significant risks in the community to AFG program priorities. Three things go into identifying risks: history, current situation, and future probabilities. History includes previous trends and the frequency and severity of past situations. Your current situation includes your core mission, political climate, and current financial situation. Future probabilities deal with things that can possibly happen or even things that are certain to happen in the future.

In determining risk, answer these three questions: Are you sufficiently equipped to respond safely to your risks? Where and when are your responders and citizens vulnerable? Would the operational condition of your equipment put your responders or citizens at risk?

Follow these six steps in planning your application submittal:

1. Know the purpose, rules and priorities of the program;
2. Align your departmental risks that need to be addressed with the AFG program priorities;
3. Apply for only those items that are top priorities that address your organization’s highest risk or need;
4. Become familiar with the application and complete it well in

- advance of the closing date;
 5. Use a team approach to develop your application; and
 6. Enlist a third party to review and evaluate the clarity and reasonableness of the application.
- Tennessee has an excellent track record of being awarded fire grants. A study conducted last year showed that, on average, one in three Tennessee applicants receive grants.

Since 2001, Tennessee has been successful in the AFG program by receiving 3 percent of the overall grants awarded and 2.99 percent of the federal share of money awarded. This is a success story, but considering that Tennessee has one of the highest fire death rates in the nation, it is obvious that this funding is very much needed. The Tennessee analysis can be further reviewed by looking at the success rate of Tennessee cities.

As of the end of February 2007, all but 69 of the 347 cities across the state have received some amount of funding from one of the grant programs. Most cities have received multiple grant awards and have applied multiple times. City size, resources, and the progressiveness of the fire department appear to be a factor in who applies for the grants. This is probably why 21 of the 347 Tennessee cities have never applied for this type of grant funding. In comparing the award amounts, Tennessee cities have received 61 percent of the funding that has been awarded to the state as a whole. Tennessee cities have obtained approximately \$40,709,000 in the past five years.

Applicants should refer to the AFG Web site for information at www.firegrantsupport.com/afg.



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

April 28-May 5: Dresden Iris Festival. Free. Contact: Jennifer McAlpin at jennifer.mcalpin@hotmail.com.

May: Memphis in May International Festival saluting Spain. Visit www.memphisinmay.org for schedule of events and tickets.

May 4: Jonesborough’s Music on the Square concert series that held each Friday night from May to September. For more information call: 423-753-1010, or toll-free: 866-401-4223.

May 4-5: Dayton’s Strawberry Festival Rodeo at Delaware Avenue Athletic Complex at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information call 423-775-7018.

May 6: Cosby Ramp Festival featuring music and those onion-like ramps.

May 11-13: Clinch Mountain Music Fest. May 11 music will be at the Natural Tunnel State Park, Duffield, Va. Downtown Kingsport will host the May 12 and 13 evenings. Contact: Angela Andreae at 423-392-8828.

May 19: Portland’s Strawberry Festival kicking off at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast and the strawberry Stride 5K run. Vendors, arts and crafts and locally grown strawberries. Call 615-325-9032 for more information.

May 24-26: Buford Pusser Festival, Adamsville, with car show, music, beauty pageant, and more. Call 731-645-6360 for more information.

May 26: Jonesborough’s annual Garden Gala with elegant garden teas and tours in the historic district. Admission charged. For more information call: 423-753-1010, or toll-free: 866-401-4223.



May 21-22: Storms Over the Urban Forest National Conference in Atlanta, Ga. Visit www.arborday.org/shopping/conferences/brochures/storms/2007/ for more information on registering and schedule.

June 10-12: TML Conference, Knoxville Convention Center.

June 11: Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association Summer Seminar, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Knoxville Convention Center. Dinner on June 10 at Chesapeake’s on Henley Street, Knoxville. Registration form available at www.tmaa.us.



Read it on-line
at www.TML1.org

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE STAFF
Margaret Mahery, Executive Director
Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director
Carole Graves, Communications Director
Edna Holland, Government Relations, TML/RMP
John Holloway, Government Relations
Debbie Kluth, Dir. Marketing & Member Services
Mona Lawrence, Administrative Assistant
Denise Paige, Government Relations
Victoria South, Communications Coordinator
Gael Stahl, Editor, *Tennessee Town & City*
Sylvia Trice, Director of Conference Planning
Tish Womack, Research Analyst

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
(ISSN. No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420 — Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Gael Stahl (gstahl@TML1.org); **Classified ads and news briefs:** Tish Womack (twomack@TML1.org). **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML. *Tennessee Town & City* is published, semi-monthly, 20 times per year at 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. **Postmaster:** Send changes of address to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894.

Municipal Administration Program May Schedule

Dealing with Difficult Behavior

How to cope with a “difficult person” in your life (at work or home) is vitally important. Everyone in life encounters a difficult person who causes us to act abnormally and develop bad attitudes. This course will help you identify difficult people and analyze their behavior. You will learn specific strategies to deal with the difficult person and buffers you must maintain in your life. You will learn how to turn negative encounters into positive ones.

Who Should Attend
This course is designed for municipal professionals who wish to im-

prove their skills in dealing with those who have difficult behaviors.

Dates and locations		
May 8	Knoxville	
May 30	Jackson	
June 14	Franklin (New)	


Time
Leadership courses are offered at 8 a.m. and conclude at 12 p.m.

Training Facilities
Franklin *Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane*
Jackson *West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard*

Knoxville *UT Conference Center, 600 Henley Street*

To register for this municipal administration program class, please 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 are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$50 per person per class for all other participants.

STRENGTH



RISK • MANAGEMENT • POOL

Accomplishing much
together.
That makes
a partnership strong.

1-800-624-9698

Simplify utility billing while reducing errors.



Generating accurate, efficient utility billing is easier with a powerful system like QS/1®'s Governmental Solutions. The comprehensive system interfaces with most hand-held meter readers and alerts you to potentially misread meters. Integrate with the general ledger without duplicating data entry for simpler financial reporting. User-controlled rate tables and flexible billing and payment options make QS/1's Governmental Solutions the total solution for utility billing.



1-800-235-0762
www.qs1gov.com



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CITY MANAGER
MOUNT JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet, population 20,000+ is seeking qualified applicants for the position of city manager responsible for police, finance, recreation, planning and zoning, public works, economic and community development, sanitary sewer, and other duties as assigned. The city operates under a general law manager-commission form of government. The ideal applicant is a high-achieving city manager with bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field, plus 10 years of city management experience in a fast growing city of similar size. A master's degree is considered a plus. The person hired needs experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, and management of complex departments with multiple functions. Experience in growth management and systems development a high priority. The position requires a leader, a team player with strong communication skills. Send resume to: City of Mt. Juliet, Attn: Sheila Luckett, P.O. Box 256, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121; e-mail: sluckett@cityofmtjuliet.org. Position open until filled, priority to those resumes received by April 20. EOE.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
MT. JULIET. The city of Mt. Juliet is accepting applications for a zoning administrator position. Duties include reviewing applications for variances, conditional use permits, subdivisions, and zoning ordinance amendments; preparing planning commission recommendations; interpreting city's zoning ordinance; coordinating zoning issues with other departments; maintaining records; and attending planning commission and zoning appeal meetings. Salary range: \$31,808-\$42,619 plus benefits. Submit resume to: City of Mt. Juliet, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 256, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121. Fax: 615-754-5742. EOE.

Certification process for chief city finance officer

CMFO from Page 1

cover all fundamental elements of municipal financial administration, including:

- Governmental Environment
- Auditing and Internal Controls
- Governmental Accounting
- Financial Reporting
- Budgeting
- Debt Administration
- Cash and Investment Management
- Strategic Planning, Capital Budgeting and the Capital Improvement Plan
- Pensions and Benefits Administration and Risk Management
- Procurement and Enterprise Resource Planning Systems

"We believe the program will enhance the financial decision making for Tennessee cities and thereby save money and maximize the utilization of the tax dollars cities collect from their citizens and receive from the state," said Mike Tallent, MTAS assistant director.

Municipalities will be required to comply based on the following schedule:

- cities with budgets of more than \$10 million would have to comply by 2010,
- those with budgets of \$5 million

Festival exchange program will showcase Tennessee

FESTIVAL from Page 3

be in the promotion of our wonderful Southern tourism destinations in Tennessee and Alabama."

"This has never been done before in Tennessee," said Rhoton. "We are hand selecting Dogwood Festival vendors to go with us to represent our festival and the state. We are hoping that our Franklin County Chamber and Tennessee Backroads Heritage will attend with us."

Tennessee Backroads Heritage encourages the preservation of the region's historic legacies through planning and promotion of tourism spanning Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore counties and Monteagle Mountain.

"They have several trails that we would like to help promote such as the Spirits & Wine Trail, Agri Tourism Trail and the Walking Horse Trail, continues Rhoton. "We are also talking with Jack Daniels, Birdsong Resort, Tennessee State Parks and several nurserymen, and, of course, we will be taking our International Dogwood Festival committee members, city staff, mayor and council."

"I can't decide what has been the most fun, hosting it or when we pack up to go to the other city," said Danielson. "This has become more

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
GOODLETTSVILLE. The city of Goodlettsville, population 15,000, is seeking candidates for a newly created position of economic development director. The position reports to the city manager and will be responsible for working toward measurably growing the business base of the city through independent activity and cooperative activity with the existing business community, area chambers of commerce, other municipal, county, state and federal government economic development officials, and commercial property developers. The person hired will serve as the primary implementer of the city's recently published retail development strategy plan. Candidates possessing a work history and a verifiable track record of successful recruitment of retail businesses will receive favorable consideration. Salary: DOQ/E plus extensive benefits. Send cover letter and resume to: EDD Search, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072; e-mail: eddssearch@cityofgoodlettsville.org. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER
NOLENVILLE. The Town of Nolensville Police Dept. is accepting applications until May 10 for a full time officer. Applicants must be P.O.S.T. certified and at least 21 years old. Salary: \$12.00 - \$15.00/hr. DOE. Applications may be obtained on the Nolensville website at www.nolensvilletn.gov, Town Hall or mail resume to: Nolensville Town Hall, P.O. Box 547, Nolensville TN 37135, Attn: Police Dept. EOE

WATER MAINTENANCE
LAKEWOOD. The city of Lakewood is seeking certified water person to fill water/ outside maintenance position who will be responsible for monthly meter readings, water line repairs, general street maintenance, seasonal projects lime mowing, weedeating, and chipping. Must be licensed in water distribution and familiar with state requirements. Send resume to: City of Lakewood, Attn: CWP, 3401 Hadley Avenue, Old Hickory, TN 37138. EOE.

to \$10 million by 2011, and

- those under \$5 million by 2012.

Morgan said that cities with less than \$300,000 revenue could contract out their financial services, but cities will be required to hire somebody that is credentialed or who gets accredited within 24 months.

Once the certification program is implemented in a city, new hires will have also have two years to become certified. All financial officers would be required to take 24 hours a year continuing education training to stay current with various finance disciplines.

Individuals that are already designated as a certified public finance officer (CPFO) by the Government Finance Officers Association, a certified government finance manager (CGFM) by the Association of Government Accountants, or who are licensed as a certified public accountant (CPA) by the state board of accountancy and are in active status with a minimum of five years of primarily governmental experience and at least three of those years in Tennessee are exempt from the educational requirements leading to the CMFO designation, but must comply with the continuing educational requirements.

than anyone could have imagined and really opened doors for us."

Attendance now peaks at 55,000 at Foley's festival, which is free and family friendly.

According to Danielson, the tourism department phones ring off the hook following the annual event with festival attendees interested in visiting the sister cities.

"This event fills my city with people," said Danielson. "And while they're here, they'll spend three days seeing Tennessee." Likewise, the Foley group, around 200 people, will fill Winchester's motels and Tims Ford state park with campers.

"The way I see it, when visitors cross the Tennessee line, I want them to visit Winchester," said Rhoton.

"That is what the festival exchange is all about! I know our beautiful state has a lot to offer, so when people have seen all Winchester has to offer, I am going to send them to another Tennessee city or county so they can enjoy what they have to offer too."

Rhoton is eager to speak with other parties interested in representing Tennessee at the festival exchange program in Foley.

Those interested in going along to help promote the area or Tennessee, contact Beth Rhoton at Winchester City Hall at 931-967-2532.

China trade opportunities highlighted at forum

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) welcomed senior members of China's Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) in Nashville for an overview of trade opportunities for Tennessee businesses in Guangdong, China, and to promote the country's upcoming International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMET).

More than 60 area business leaders attended the free forum as CCPIT delegates discussed opportunities for trade and economic cooperation in Guangdong and at the CISMET fair, to be held Sept. 15-18, 2007, in Guangzhou, the province capital.

"The United States of America is the most important trade partner of China," said Bai Mingshao, vice president of the CCPIT's Guangdong Sub-Council. "It is an important part of our work to attract, promote and help American small and medium enterprises develop business opportunities in China."

Guangdong is a center for Asian trade and a pioneer of economic reform in China. Guangdong's gross domestic product in 2006 was \$330 billion, making it China's wealthiest



ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber and Bai Mingshao, vice president of the CCPIT's Guangdong Sub-Council, discuss trade opportunities at the CCPIT forum in Nashville.

province.

Guangzhou has a population of 12.6 million and is China's third largest city. Tennessee-based FedEx Corporation has announced plans to construct a new \$150 million Asia Pacific hub at the Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport.

"China is astonishing the world as a rising economic power," said ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber. "It

is our interest to foster strong business and trade relationships with China, with its expanding share of global trade, record inflow of foreign investment and rapid growth as the 4th largest economy in the world."

Tennessee exports to China totaled \$1.9 billion in 2006, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

We are pleased to announce that
The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.
was recently appointed

Successor Bond Trustee, Registrar, and Paying Agent

for



TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund ("TMLBF") creates and administers various types of loan programs for the benefit of Tennessee cities and counties. TMLBF, which was created by the Tennessee Municipal League, works closely with city and county officials to structure cost-effective and flexible borrowing options. TMLBF has loaned more than \$2.4 billion dollars and saved cities and counties in Tennessee more than \$210 million dollars in interest costs alone since 1994.

The Bank of New York is the world's leading provider of corporate trust and agency services, serving \$8 trillion in outstanding debt from offices in over 50 cities and 18 countries around the world. The Bank, its subsidiaries and affiliates, provide trust services for all major debt categories, including corporate and municipal debt, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, collateralized debt obligations, derivative securities services and international debt offerings.

To learn more about the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, please visit the Tennessee Municipal League website at: www.tml1.org. To learn more about The Bank of New York's corporate trust and other securities services worldwide, please contact Mark Brown at 312 827 8560 or visit our website at: www.bnycorptrust.com.



The BANK of NEW YORK.

This announcement is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. The offering is made only by means of the prospectus.
©2007 The Bank of New York. Member FDIC. The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. is an affiliate of The Bank of New York.

Does your city need money for capital projects?

Get in the game! Call the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for all your financing needs.

We offer:

- low rates,
- lowest costs, and
- best service.

We're making great cities even better.
One loan at a time.
(615) 255-1561



TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND



When Sen. Steve Southerland faithfully steps out, things happen

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Steve Southerland started life innocently enough March 8, 1955, the fourth of six children of Morristown natives Virginia and William “Snooks” Southerland. His father worked in the furniture industry and his mother with a telephone company.

They attended Buffalo Trail Baptist Church. His grandfather, who lived next door, was a charter member and drove a school bus. When church members bought a lot to build on, he drove the school bus to the lot so they could hold services in the bus. Southerland’s memory of growing up was always being in the church, an eighth of a mile walk from home. Since turning 18, he’s held practically every church position from building and grounds to the finance committees and has been a deacon 26 years.

Already in grade school, he developed a scrappy approach to life, taking whatever step was necessary to achieve his goals. Admirers might say he just wades in and makes things work. At 12, he decided to join his older brothers who worked at the grocery store at the bottom of their hill. He showed up and started helping out. Two weeks later, with most of the employees out with the flu, the healthy volunteer kept working. It wasn’t long before he heard the owner’s wife telling her husband how she guessed they were going to have to start paying him, “because he’s not going to leave.”

He didn’t leave until the summer after his junior year and went to work at the furniture factory where his father worked. On graduating from Morristown High in 1973, he worked for two and half years for a construction company building subdivisions. He did everything from operating heavy equipment to being foreman over 15 men. He also took night classes at Walters State Community College. When the economy lagged, he went full-time until he got a call from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to work with them while going to college at night.

Within a year, his brother David tired of his small lamp company that kept him out of town on the Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and Vir-



Seventy percent of firefighters are not members of the firefighters’ association (and) didn’t want 30 percent telling them what to do.

named him its 2001 winner, too. Along the way, he helped revolutionize the finance industry. His Morristown lending office became one of three in the entire Southeast chosen to introduce a new computer technology that got loans approved in 60 seconds. It made chins drop at the big banks where many of their 95 percent loans took 60 to 90 days to get approved and closed.

In the late 1990s, Southerland served a term as chairman of the Republican Party of Hamblen County. At the time, there was a single Republican in the courthouse. Four years later, they swept every countywide contested race leaving one Democrat in the courthouse. Two years later, he began to wonder if somebody up there was nudging him to run for the Senate. He didn’t exactly want to but figured that if the Lord were to give him a push, he’d do it. On a Monday morning, he said, “If this is what you want me to do, Lord, have somebody call me this week and say, ‘Steve, I want you to run for the state Senate.’” He figures that he would get over the idea and move on. That wasn’t going to happen. On Friday afternoon at 4:30, he got the call – word for word.

Though he’d never run for public office, he ran in the 2002 primary against 14-year incumbent Tommy



The Southerland family photo on the wall of his Senate office was used as an effective campaign ad.

the backyard watching parasails glide over Cherokee Lake, when he said he reckoned he’d get one of those. She wondered out loud, why in the world he would want one of those when he could get something they could both enjoy – a motorcycle, for instance.

Sportive but cautious, Southerland began to gingerly check out the bikes at the Harley shop up the street. He found one he liked a lot. But sitting on it, he wondered if it wasn’t too big. After taking the safety course at Walter’s State, he returned to the shop, sat on the ultra classic Harley again, and one memorable October day found he was no longer intimidated by it. Ever since, he’s been riding the mountain and river roads that wander through all four of his counties including Douglas Lake and Cherokee Lake and the Pigeon, French Broad, Nolichucky, and Holston rivers – seldom out of sight of mountains the whole day.

In this, his second term, Southerland is the new chair of the influential Senate Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee and is secretary of Ethics and member of the Transportation and Environment committees. Since his first day in office, he’s served as chaplain to the Senate Republican Caucus.

TT&C: What are your civic or community involvements?

SS: As a member of the Rotary Club, the thing I most enjoy doing every Christmas for the last 16 years is the program for the less fortunate children of the community. We get names from the schools and we take them shopping for Christmas presents. The first Christmas, I took the child I was working with to the store entrance and said, “You can have anything in this store you want. What would you like?” I expected to buy him a bicycle or something. He didn’t look for the toys but looked up at me and said, “I want a coat.”

I walked him around and got him a coat and some shoes and pants and other clothes. Then, I took him to the toy section still intending to buy him a bicycle if he wanted one. I told him he could have any toy he wanted. He looked around for a few minutes and went over and picked up a G.I. Joe that cost \$3.95. He held it up and said that was what he wanted. I said, “Well, G.I. Joe needs a helicopter, doesn’t he, and a tank and gun to fight with?”

This year, when I asked the little girl I took shopping about her parents, she pointed up and said, “My momma’s in heaven, my daddy’s out real sick, and I’m living with my grandmother.” Being Santa Claus to children is the best part of Christmas.

TT&C: Many were surprised you beat an incumbent.

SS: It surprised me, too. Just after midnight, the *Greenville Sun* called and said I won. I didn’t believe it. We stayed up most of the night, fell asleep at dawn, and not until I picked up the afternoon newspaper did I believe it. An advantage was that I’m from a large Hamblen County family, and my wife’s from a large family in Greene County. I’d worked eight years for Home Federal Savings and Loan in Greene County meeting people, earning their trust, dealing with their money, making them home loans and taking their savings deposits. Having entrusted their funds to me, they sent me to Nashville to help take care of their funds there, too. During that election year, the legislature was in session into July. My opponent didn’t have time to campaign, and I ended up out-working him.

TT&C: What were your major



Photos by Gael Stahl

Sen. Southerland passed a helmet bill that all agreed on. It allowed motorcyclists to wear a lighter, cooler helmet.

bills in your first term?

SS: One bill is topical since the AT&T cable state franchise bill is now being argued in my committee. The city of Morristown wanted to provide cable TV to the city and county and passing a bill helped them. They have provided cable in competition with the cable companies since 2005. The cable company and the city both offer a triple tray of services: television, telephone, and Internet for about \$100.

A bill that’s up here every year is the one to let motorcyclists over 21 choose whether or not to wear helmets. In my position, you’ve got to be a good listener and a good negotiator. One of my abilities is to sit down and listen to both sides. I listened to both sides argue and having a motorcycle, understood the motorcyclists’ problem – the helmet is hot and heavy – and the health side that it’s a safety issue.

One day at Toys R Us, I noticed the bicycle helmets had holes in them making them light and cool – not heavy or hot. I passed a bill that everybody agreed on to allow motorcyclists to wear the lighter helmet approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Vanderbilt researchers testified that the part of a helmet that really protects you is the inch of Styrofoam inside the helmet. These helmets have that and solved a problem people argued for years.

TT&C: What does your virtual school bill do?

SS: That allows students to take classes on line. It will eventually cover grades K-12. While using the mortgage industry technology to get loans approved quickly on the Internet, at the time I was running for the Senate, I began studying problem areas in education and Tenn-Care. I found students have good teachers. Something else had to be the problem. I found out some children were taking online classes from England, so I brought my three-year-old niece to my office, perched her on my lap, and let her run through one of those courses from England.

I felt that was what we needed to do. We all were better in school in some subjects and bad in others. I was good in math, terrible in English, and after finishing my math assignments in minutes, got bored and aggravated the person in front of me. How much better to take the math class on line and spend more time with English teachers.

So, I studied virtual schooling, met with Bill Gates, and toured Microsoft where that’s one of the top problems they’re working on. Dell Computer has a PC tablet that students can use instead of a laptop you can drop without damaging it and can load your textbooks on it. Eight years ago, I learned how Henrico

County, Va.’s program bought 23,000 and downloaded books for a dollar apiece.

The bill I passed last year got us one pilot virtual school program in Madison County and one in Hamilton County. Ever since I took the bill to the Department of Education, we have been working together to get this through. They said it was exactly where they were headed. Dr. Robbie Kendall-Melton at the Tennessee Board of Regents told me, “When you get this bill passed, don’t try to reinvent the wheel. TBR has the third best online program in the nation and we will give it to you.”

We’re all trying to solve that one major state problem in education by bringing Microsoft, Dell, the TBR, and the legislature together. I’m allowing the experts to put it together. My job is to get 17 votes for this, and I’ve already got 17 votes. I’m just waiting for them to agree on the bill they want so instead of Tennessee being 48th in the nation, we will have the No. 1 virtual school program.

Other states including Florida and Kentucky have some form of this and we’re looking at their work to combine their best efforts with ours. Right now, Tennessee and South Carolina are the only Southeastern states without operating virtual schools programs.

TT&C: Is last year’s fire fighters’ union bill a concern of yours?

SS: That is in my committee also. It was on the calendar but put in the General Subcommittee where you park bills instead of running them right now.

There are two different groups – the firefighters and the firefighters’ association. Only about 30 percent of the firefighters are members of the firefighters’ association. In Morristown, 70 percent of firefighters asked me not to vote for it and later thanked me for not passing that out because they didn’t want 30 percent telling 70 percent what they could do.

The cities and counties didn’t want that bill either because it would allow the union to renegotiate employee retirements. Firefighters feel that they should be able to retire at age 55 because the job requires going out and fighting fires. If they were allowed to retire at 55, city and county officials would have to push for a tax increase to help cover that. I had a lot of property owners who did not want property taxes raised.

TT&C: Have you passed any special bills for your district this session?

SS: I passed a bill for Erwin’s Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. a category one nuclear fuel processing facility that for 50 years has provided the nuclear fuel for the U.S. Navy’s submarines and aircraft carriers, for example. Since it is a privately owned company, if a terrorist tried to attack the plant or destroy the plant, they couldn’t shoot to kill unless their lives were threatened. The bill that we passed last night allows them to shoot to kill.

This week, I passed the Black Fly bill for Cocke County to encourage tourism on the Pigeon River where we’ve steadily cleaned up the river.

With the small mouth bass coming in, I’ve been fishing the Pigeon River. TWRA is trying to make it a trophy small-mouth stream. The gnats began creating a burden on tourism. This bill lets the Department of Agriculture at UT-Knoxville use a suppressant program on the Pigeon River to help get rid of most of the gnats/black flies. It is the same technology they’ve used on the Holston River for 10 years to help reduce the gnats there.



Once a year, Sen. Steve Southerland bikes to the Capitol and while in Nashville drives the Natchez Trace. He enjoys the serene pace, the scenic roadway, and stops to see historical Indian mounds and the trace station where Meriwether Lewis died. This photo was taken in Seattle. Southerland flew out, rented a Harley, and rode through the Cascade Mountains.

ginia circuit. Southerland bought him out and found it a good business but he, too, tired of the travel after three years, sold it, and studied for the real estate exam. He got his license and worked in real estate less than a year when, in May 1979, he got a call from Home Federal Savings and Loan to work for them. Thus began his finance career.

He entered as a manager trainee doing everything that needed doing from taking loan applications, going out and appraising the properties, closing the loans, taking the payments, dealing with savings accounts, CDs, retirement accounts, and working with the computers. In May 1990, he opened his own lending business, Mortgage Federal.

Southerland says that was his first major “stepping out with a prayer and Praise the Lord.” He did it even though he lacked money and left a job of 11 years. Insiders expected him to last maybe six months competing against the big banks. He lived on savings, not writing himself a paycheck for a year and a half. Once again, to quote his first employer, “he wasn’t going away.” Within 10 years, his business grew quickly and won the 2000 Freddie Mac Customer Service Award. He was the first lender in Tennessee to win it. Freddie, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation,

Haun, chairman of the Transportation Committee. He was told he just might have a chance in Hamblen County where he was well-known. But what about Greene County, Haun’s home county? He said he’d win the more populous Greene County, too. Admittedly, it was a bit of a surprise that he won Greene 60-40 percent. He represents Unicoi, Greene, Cocke, and Hamblen counties and now has fishing buddies in all four counties.

It was Southerland’s good luck that when he was transferred by Home Federal to Greenville that he met Cheri Officer. They married Sept 24, 1994, and built a home in Morristown on Cherokee Lake. The Southerlands have one child, Mattea Cosmann. Cheri works for the Department of Human Service’s TennCare office out of Tacoma Hospital in Greenville. Her knowledge of TennCare proved useful to the future senator during his first campaign as revisions to the TennCare program were being discussed and implemented.

Growing up in Morristown near Cherokee Lake and the Smoky Mountains, Southerland has always enjoyed hunting, fishing and floating the rivers and lakes in his canoe or flat-bottom boats, and cruising the lakes on his pontoon boats with his family. He added another sport in 2001. He and Cheri were sitting in



Photos by Gael Stahl

“Cookies compliments of the speaker!” — “No, I’m fine, really!” Lt. Gov. Ramsey and Sen. Southerland share an apartment with Sen. Jim Tracy. The three have a contest to see who can lose 15 pounds first.