

Megasites: new tool in industrial recruitment

BY CAROLE GRAVES

Certified industrial sites are one of the fastest-growing trends in industrial recruitment. And now with a new law in place, cities and counties in Tennessee will have the opportunity to compete regionally for industries on a grander scale.

The Megasite Authority Act of 2007, sponsored by Sen. Lowe Finney and Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, gives cities and counties the authority to cooperate in developing industrial sites larger than 1,000 acres. Specifics of how local governments can work together to develop these sites were presented during the annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development held in Nashville earlier this month.

"Twenty years ago we would wait until we got a request and then look for the site. Now, you are already out of the game if you don't have a site," explained Wilton Burnett, with the Tennessee Department of Economic Development (ECD).

Under the new legislation, two or more local governments can work together to identify large tracts of land that can be developed as an industrial site. Through the establishment of a regional megasite authority, these entities will have access to state programs designed to help fund the creation of infrastructure like roads and utility access.

"You want to look for places that have rail, easy highway access, as well as sufficient utilities such as water, sewer, natural gas, and high-powered electricity," said Burnett.

A megasite is a large parcel of land that is ready for heavy industrial development. The Tennessee Valley Authority was one of the first economic development entities that began certifying megasites to help with recruiting efforts of large automotive plants.

"While certified sites have been around for a decade, most of these sites were smaller parcels of land too small for an automotive project," explained John Bradley, TVA senior vice president of economic development.

He explained that TVA embarked on the certification process in order to streamline the site selection process by creating an inventory of locations that fulfilled the criteria that an automotive plant was looking for. Since then, TVA now has nine certified sites – four are in Tennessee.

State leaders envision that regional megasite authorities will work in the same way and why the legislation was enacted.

"TVA has helped to provide a roadmap on how to go forward," See **MEGA** on Page 4

Bond Fund announces staff reorganization

Charles "Bones" Seivers announced the reorganization of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) the first of September.

Seivers has designated Linda Mooningham as director of marketing, replacing Kevin Barnett who served as vice president of marketing and is no longer with TMBF. Seivers stated that Mooningham brings the highest degree of knowledge and ability to the program. She was one of the people responsible for starting the program in 1985 and knows every aspect of the business. She has also coordinated all legal work for the Bond Fund since 1985. "We are very fortunate to have Linda as our director of marketing," said Seivers.

The Bond Fund has also named Wade Morrell, current vice president of finance and office manager, as executive vice president and CFO in addition to his present duties. Morrell is knowledgeable in all aspects of the program and is a tremendous asset to the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

Seivers also announced that Tiffany Graham will serve as secretary-receptionist for the Bond Fund replacing Lorrie Nelson who is no



Sen. Lowe Finney



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh

Dean elected Nashville's new mayor

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Karl Dean was sworn into office Sept. 21 as the sixth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville.

He won the victory in a run-off election over former U.S. Congressman Bob Clement. Dean took 52 percent of the votes (51,946) over Clement's 48 percent (47,347).

In the August general election, Dean also finished first over six other candidates. However, with such a large pool of candidates vying for that position, he won with only 24.1 percent of the votes and only by 135 votes over Clement. Candidates must win with a majority of all votes.

Dean succeeds Bill Purcell, who could not run again due to a two-term limit. Dean served under Purcell as Metro law director and has served as Nashville's public defender for three-terms.

He currently serves as an adjunct professor of law at Vanderbilt University Law School and graduated with a J.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1981 in addition to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University in

1978.

In his campaign, Dean identified education, public safety, economic development, and the environment as the top issues he is the most concerned about.

Education: reduce high school drop-out rate, get more parents involved, embrace innovative practices, recruit and retain high-quality teachers

Public Safety: Short-term goals - take illegal guns out of the hands of convicted felons, youth, and drug dealers; shift police resources to high crime areas; launch a violent youth offender enforcement unit; and create a Plain-Clothes Neighborhood Intervention Unit.

Long-term goals: build a bridge between citizens and Metro Government to deter crime; form a crime prevention alliance within the existing Mayor's Office of Children and Youth; focus the efforts of all Metro



Photo by Victoria South

Karl Dean was sworn in as the new mayor of Metro Nashville in a Sept. 21 ceremony.

departments; and fund the recruitment and retention of high-quality police officers.

Economic Development: provide support for small business in order for them to grow, support the development of black See **DEAN** on Page 6

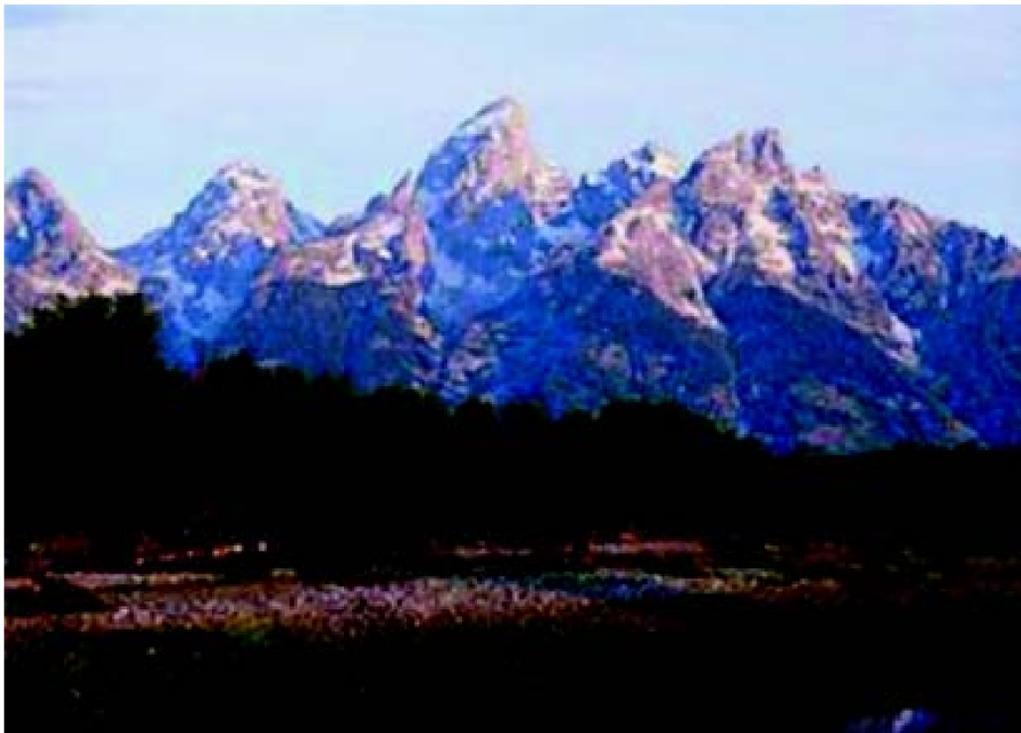
Cities taking steps to address Global warming

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The outcome looks green for the nation's cities as municipalities take a proactive stance in the battle against global warming. Municipal energy conservation projects are on the rise, while the number of mayoral signatures on the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement has risen to 660 all pledging to exceed federal mandates in the reduction of green house gas emissions while providing public accountability reports and tracking measures to verify emissions created by major industries within their communities.

"It is in cities that the battle to tackle climate change will be won or lost," London Mayor Ken Livingstone said, reported by Neal Peirce of *Nations Cities Weekly* at the Large Cities Climate Summit in New York.

Summit announcements revealed that a foundation headed by former Pres. Bill Clinton has secured \$5 billion in energy-efficiency loan commitments from five global banking institutions for the upgrading of heating, cooling and lighting systems in cities from Bangkok to New York. Clinton is scheduled to join the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Seattle, Wash., during a national climate summit and first meeting of Registry participants Nov. 1-2.



While less than 1 percent of the earth's surface is covered by cities, municipalities are responsible for 80 percent of the world's heat retaining greenhouse gases.

"Mayors from around the nation are not waiting to take action to help solve the threat of global warming - they are doing something about it right now," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickles. The Registry, spearheaded by Nickles in 2005, was developed by mayors in response to the U.S. refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol, an international greenhouse gas emissions treaty. The treaty recommends a U.S. greenhouse emission reduction target of 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

A recent survey among Registry

participants released by the Mayor's Climate Protection Center indicates that regardless of size cities throughout the country are researching and carrying out a number of independent energy initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions which include, but are not limited to, renewable energy sources, energy-efficient municipal lighting, alternative fuels in city fleets, and energy efficient buildings in both the private and public sector. These initiatives have become increasingly visible in cities across Tennessee.

Reports from the Cleveland *Daily Banner* lists Tennessee homes as the least efficient in the nation, according to the administrative coordinator of the Energy Efficient Construction Program at Cleveland State Community College, Allan Gentry. Gentry notes Cleveland homes on average use 1,240 kilowatt hours each month compared to the national average of 850 kilowatt hours a month.

According to Gentry, 35 percent of the nation's energy usage is See **GLOBAL** on Page 3

FCC creates climate of chaos over video, cable franchising

In another blow to consumers and cities, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected soon to decree that any company now under contract with a local government to provide video services may have the right to renegotiate better terms for itself, putting at risk America's public access channels, first-responder communications capability, and millions of dollars in franchise fees used by cities and towns for public safety and infrastructure.

"We continue to be shocked at the brazen efforts of the FCC to help the already-thriving telecommunications industry to the detriment of local governments, their first responders, and their taxpaying residents," said Elizabeth Beaty, executive director of the National Association of Telecommunications Of-

ficers and Advisors (NATOA). "Hundreds, if not thousands, of cable franchise agreements could be voided across the country as a result of the pending FCC order. This is not competition, this is chaos," Beaty said.

NATOA, the National League of Cities, and several organizations representing consumers, cities, towns, counties and non-profits are already suing the FCC over its initial order of last March, which in their view improperly strips local governments of their authority to protect the public health, education, welfare and safety of local residents, in violation of the Cable Act. The latest effort by the FCC, far from simplifying or streamlining matters, would only multiply the potential problems and disputes that cities have with cable operators.

According to recent media reports, the FCC is expected any day to rule that existing cable operators can, under certain circumstances, back out of key provisions in their current franchise contracts with local governments, renegotiate lower municipal fees, and reduce the benefits they currently provide to the public. This compounds the problems already created by the initial order, which among other things, appears to allow new franchise applicants to refuse to provide free service to municipal and school buildings and eliminate other in-kind services, while unilaterally reducing the fees they pay to support public, education and government (PEG) access channels.

"This new FCC order could put many PEG channels out of business. See **CABLE** on Page 6

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHATTANOOGA

A \$6 million industrial training center will be built at Enterprise South Industrial Park to lure new industry and to train workers area wide. Chattanooga State Technical Community College will operate it. A \$3 million federal grant is expected in October. The state will contribute \$1.5 million and Chattanooga and Hamilton County \$750,000 each.

CHATTANOOGA

Nine city recreation centers will be outfitted with state of the art computers, equipped with high speed internet access, and software compatible with Hamilton County's Department of Education curriculum, as part of an expansion of *Connecting the Dots with Technology*, a partnership between the Education, Arts & Culture, Parks and Recreation, and Information Services Departments, as well as several local and national computer/technology companies.

CLINTON

Voters will decide the fate of the city's 113-year-old school system. In special session, Clinton City Council voted to approve a referendum question asking if the city school system's administration should be transferred to Anderson County's school board. The question will be added to the ballot for the Dec. 4 municipal elections.

CLINTON

Aisin Automotive Casting Tennessee Inc. is planning a \$67 million expansion at its Clinton plant that will double the size of its facility and add 160 jobs. The company has an option on 32 acres next to its current 48-acre site. The city and the state of Tennessee will help fund site preparations. The company, which built its Clinton plant in 2004, makes aluminum die-cast parts — oil pumps, water pumps, pistons and cylinder head covers — for Toyota, Honda and General Motors. The plant will double in size to 480,000 square feet. About 400 people work at the facility.

ERWIN

U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker have asked the Bush Administration to include \$9 million in the federal budget toward the purchase of Rocky Fork. The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit organization, has signed a contract to buy the 10,000-acre tract, about 62 percent of which lies in southern Unicoi County, with the remainder in Greene County. Backers of the purchase hope a national recreation area or a state park could be created on the land. The purchase price is estimated to be \$40 million, with The Conservation Fund seeking \$16 million from the federal government, \$18 million from the state and \$6 million in private donations. The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund has set aside \$6 million for the acquisition.

FRANKLIN

The city celebrated the opening of the newest public park, the Park at Harlinsdale Farm. The 200-acre walking horse breeding farm was purchased by the city in 2004. The

park features benches, picnic tables, and restroom facilities and will eventually have walking trails, hiking trails, an overlook, and a visitor's center.

JOHNSON CITY

A new industry will give one of Johnson City's largest manufacturing sites a new lease on life while adding up to 200 jobs in the high-performance after-market vehicle exhaust business. Oxnard, Calif.-based Borla Performance Industries will buy the 325,000-square foot building at the foot of Buffalo Mountain from EPIC (Electronic Product Integration Corp.) Production could begin by early 2008. Borla produced about 100,000 exhaust systems last year, using about 150 workers at its main site and operating a smaller facility in Michigan.

KINGSPORT

Hardee's and Little Caesars franchisee Restaurant Management Group (RMG), with 1,500 employees in five states, relocated its corporate headquarters from Charlotte, N.C., to Kingsport. The fourth-largest Hardee's franchisee in the United States made the move after buying 16 Little Caesars locations in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Greenville, Morristown, Newport and Clinton from a locally based franchise outfit.

KINGSPORT

The Downtown Kingsport Association and East Tennessee State University are partnering together to bring arts courses to downtown Kingsport. Thirty-seven students have enrolled this fall in art and design courses offered in the downtown area.

LAWRENCEBURG

Thousands greeted 2008 presidential candidate Fred Thompson for a campaign rally in his hometown earlier this month. The rally was the culmination of months of planning, preparation and reshuffled municipal maintenance schedules in anticipation of Thompson's announcement. Around town they called it, "Getting ready for Freddie." The streets around town square were swept, cracked sidewalks replaced, and new welcome signs posted at the city limits picture an oversized Fred Thompson beaming at visitors.

LEBANON

The Lebanon Fire Department will receive a U.S. Department of Homeland Security operations and safety grant. The grant total is \$47,138, and will go toward equipment.

MARYVILLE

Twelve years after local citizens started pursuing the dream, the Blount County Historical Museum opened its permanent home. The museum will house a wide range of materials including a sculpture by internationally famed Alcoa sculptor Bessie Harvey donated by Sen. Lamar and Honey Alexander appraised at \$25,000. The main exhibit room of the museum is filled with personal artifacts of Civil War soldiers, vintage gowns from the era, and other exhibits, including information about the role of the Underground Railroad in Friendsville.

MEDINA

Medina will receive a \$50,000 grant to start its parks and recreation department grants. The development of the department will allow Medina to renovate existing parks facilities and develop a new softball/baseball complex with walking trails and a playground. The grant is part of a Tennessee Recreation Initiative program through the Department and Environment and Conservation

SODDY-DAISY

The county commission voted unanimously to name an eight-member committee to study a proposed new toll bridge between Soddy-Daisy and Harrison. The probable suspension style bridge would cross a section of Lake Chickamauga and be more than a mile long. Officials said the bridge in the north part of the county has been studied since the 1970s and would help alleviate traffic along Highway 153 connecting the two fastest-growing areas of the county and accelerating growth.

SOUTH PITTSBURG

South Pittsburg will also receive a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Environment and Conservation to provide expanded recreational programs and promote continued improvements to parks facilities. The grant is part of the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program.

SWEETWATER

The Lost Sea in Sweetwater bills itself as the nation's largest underground lake. With the drought, the lake is down by 20 feet. That's the lowest level since the pool opened as a commercial attraction in 1965.

STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Drivers are paying attention to **Tennessee's Move-Over law**. The Move-Over law requires drivers to move over a lane when driving near emergency workers along the road. If they can't move over they must slow down. In the first half of the year police said they wrote 640 citations, down from 1,400 tickets last year. The fine has been raised from \$50 to \$500 and can also include jail time up to 30 days. A 2005 crash that killed State Trooper Todd Larkins prompted Tennessee lawmakers to change the law to protect police and emergency workers. A truck driver slammed into Larkins on the side of I-40 in Dickson County in July 2005.

A preliminary total head count of 23,264 students taking classes this fall at **Middle Tennessee State University is a record number**. It marks the first time MTSU has surpassed 23,000 in a semester, university officials said. It is a 1.75 percent increase from fall 2006 and means 401 more students are taking classes this fall compared to a year ago.

Tennessee has been named the fifth-worst state in the nation in a new health survey, with **27.8 percent of adults considered obese**, according to an annual health report released



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

State Rep. Mike Bell

recently won the distinction of first place at the Mid-East Tennessee Regional Fair milking contest at Athens Regional Park. Bell's competition included McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, Athens Mayor John Proffitt and Fairest of the Fair Heather Brooks.



Bell

Lebanon Mayor Don Fox

has announced that he plans to retire. Fox said his primary reason for retirement is family and that he plans future work in the mission field and in schools. Fox said he will use the remainder of his time in office to continue work on projects already in progress and will also research bringing a city manager form of government to the city of Lebanon.



Fox

Pulaski city officials voted to promote City Recorder **Terry Harrison** to the newly formed position of city administrator. Mayor Dan Speer said Harrison was qualified as the top candidate for the position because he had been performing the duties for more than 18 years as the city recorder.

State Sen. **Roy Herron** completed his 30th marathon as part of the first Ford Ironman Louisville, a triathlon that consisted of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2 mile marathon. Herron, 53, completed the

entire 140.6 mile event in 13 hours and 42 minutes. Of the 100 men in the 50-to-54-year-old age bracket, he finished 40th.

Bill Purcell

former Nashville mayor, will become dean of the newly created School of Public Service and Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University beginning in January.

This fall he will teach classes in Massachusetts at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Prior to his election as mayor, he led Vanderbilt University's Institute for Public Policy Studies.

Former Metro Vice Mayor and mayoral candidate

Howard Gentry Jr.

has been named chief executive officer of the Nashville Chamber Public Benefit Foundation. Gentry served as vice mayor and president of the Metro Council from 2002 to 2007. He was first elected as an at-large councilman in 1999.



Gentry

Former state representative

Edith Langster

won a seat on the Metro Nashville council, representing district 21.



Langster

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Chattanooga promotes pedal power, honored for excellence

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

As crisp fall colors beckon bicycle enthusiasts across the state, Chattanooga stands out as a haven for riders of all skill levels. With a 2007 National Planning Excellence Award for Implementation from the American Planning Association (APA) under its belt, bike riding to school and work, errands, or simply getting around town has not only gained momentum in Chattanooga, but has garnered the city national recognition.

The effort beginning in 1967 with the founding of the Chattanooga Bicycle Club and city bicycle committee, faltered from lack of support through the years, but came back strong in 2001 when the Bicycle Task Force, a group of citizens, government agency and business representatives, petitioned for and secured more funding and developed a list of specific goals in conjunction with an existing comprehensive bike plan.

The \$50,000 Master Plan calls for \$24 million in bicycle lane and route improvements during the next 20 years, with the region's bicycle network to eventually reach 400 miles long. \$300,000 in Federal Surface Transportation Program funds have so far created 28 miles of bike lanes which will expand to 60 by 2008, according to Ben Taylor, the

city's traffic engineering manager. Share-the-road bike routes and bike racks have become fixtures on public buses and throughout the city along with published bicycle brochures and bikeway maps.

"Partnerships have been key to expanding use of bicycles in the region," said Melissa Taylor, senior planner with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, comprised of professional city planners, urban designers, researchers, graphic designers and administrative personnel.

"Without the high level of cooperation between agencies and private organizations, we could not have accomplished as much as we have during the past six years," Taylor added.

The Agency is especially proud of the city's newest addition, a tunnel warning system with a flashing light activated when cyclists hit a button as they approach the 1000 ft. tunnel entrance alerting drivers to their presence inside.

Bicycling as a primary transportation option is increasing throughout the city, according to Phil Pugliese, the city's bicycle coordinator, who estimates at least 400-500 riders utilize the bike racks on Chattanooga city buses per month and credits programs such as Bike to Work and the National Safe Routes to School, with Taylor as Program Director. Both programs address

critical municipal issues such as children's health, traffic congestion, public safety, and the environment.

"2007 has been a very good year for bike racing events," notes Pugliese, citing the Tour de Georgia and 3-day race weekends within the city.

With the increase of riders, cycling classes can't be far behind. Pugliese, a certified instructor with the League of American Bicyclists, teaches informative monthly courses for advanced riders and a children's summer camp course was held recently at the First Tennessee Pavilion.

The efforts of Chattanooga and Hamilton County were officially recognized during an award ceremony at APA's National Planning



2007 has been a good year for bike races in Chattanooga as the city gains ground as a "bike friendly" municipality

Conference in Philadelphia and highlighted in the April 2007 issue of Planning magazine. In addition, the National League of Cities features the plan in the "City Practices" collection, NLC's repository for innovative programs across the country.

According to Taylor, efforts will be ongoing to ensure bicycling

remains an important part of Chattanooga's future with planners focused on structuring zoning and mixed use development regulations. "For those with existing bicycle facilities, builders would have to continue on with them," Taylor said.

For more information about bicycling in Chattanooga, visit www.bikechattanooga.org.

Cities take a stance against global warming

GLOBAL from Page 1

to power appliances, water heaters and climate control devices in homes. Gentry stressed that replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights can reduce carbon dioxide emissions significantly and lowers costs \$60 to \$90 over the seven-year life span of the fluorescent bulbs.

The University of Tennessee has set a nationwide precedent for colleges and universities by announcing its \$5 million construction plan for new energy efficient buildings and renovations at its main campus in Knoxville.

Announced during the recent Make Orange Green Week festivities, Chancellor Loren Crabtree introduced the project's goal of meeting the U.S. Green Building Council's Gold standards for Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED).

The Min Kao Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Building, set for construction next month, will maximize the use of natural lighting achieving the LEED gold standard in architecture for energy efficiency.

"We will make a difference in global climate change here at the University of Tennessee," vowed Crabtree.

The initiative will apply to all new major buildings at the Knoxville campus and is the first of its kind by an institution of higher learning, according to John Nolt, co-chair of the Committee for Campus Environment.

Nashville joined the ranks of "Cool Cities" when former Mayor Bill Purcell signed on to the Registry Jan. 2007.

"I have supported the goals of the Climate Protection Agreement both personally and as a member of the US Conference of Mayors,"

Purcell said. "...Nashville can make the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now and in the future."

The Nashville region (which includes Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties), Chattanooga and the Tri-Cities are among 14 regions nationally that are scheduled to meet the third year of a three-year level of compliance for ground level ozone by Dec. 31, 2007 through early Action Compacts with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Communities with Early Action Compacts have plans in place to reduce air pollution at least two years earlier than required by the Clean Air Act.

Nashville has promoted environmental action through the addition of greenways and bikeways, the inauguration of the Music City Star commuter rail, the purchase of Energy Star equipment and appliances and the influx of greener, LEED certified structures.

Winchester recently approved a contract to install LED traffic lights at 11 intersections aiming to cut energy costs by 80 percent. According to Aldis Advantage Group, an average city switching from coal powered electricity will reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by 1,700 pounds per traffic signal.

The Alcoa Police Department made headlines with an electric vehicle used to police the Maryville/Alcoa Greenway. Alcoa, Maryville and Blount County are part of the East Tennessee Clean Fuel Coalition dedicated to promoting alternative fuels in the region. The ETCFC and the Clean Cities of Middle Tennessee Coalition were recognized for their efforts in reducing petroleum consumption.

This summer, Chattanooga participated in a joint demonstration

project using "green asphalt" to pave sections of roadways throughout the city. Green asphalt involves recycling 50 percent of existing asphalt pavement and mixing it with new materials at lower temperatures than those currently used eliminating the smoke and smell experienced with existing methods and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

With increased municipal responsibility in emission reduction planning, some cities, such as those in Durham, N.H., are considering separate "energy committees" as an off branch of their city councils.

On the state level, governors are increasing the pressure for federal action against global warming by seeking an expansion of state regulations concerning greenhouse gases, according to the chairman of the National Governors Association (NGA), Minn. Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

"Our nation has enjoyed more than a hundred years of inexpensive energy, seemingly inexhaustible oil and a relatively forgiving environment," said Gov. Pawlenty. "But America can no longer rely on business-as-usual to meet its energy needs, and the nation's governors are prepared to lead the way in crafting a sensible, sustainable clean energy future."

Launching the *Securing a Clean Energy Future* initiative, the first bipartisan, governor-led effort to address cleaner energy, the NGA will enlist the efforts of all governors to enact meaningful clean energy policies at the state level.

Resources for Local Governments

The city of Seattle offers excellent resources and examples for local governments in the beginning phases of climate protection actions, plans, or policies. Visit its website at www.climateSeattle.gov for further information.

The International Council for



Nashville, Chattanooga and the Tri-Cities are among 14 communities nationally that are on pace to meet federal clean air standards for reducing smog by Dec. 31, 2007 entering "early action" programs with the Department of Environment and Conservation. TVA's multi-billion dollar effort to reduce smoke-stack emissions at its coal plants has helped, according to officials.

Local Government Initiatives (ICLEI) has released the *Climate Action Handbook* as a resource guide on climate protection.

The Center for Climate Strategies supports public officials at all levels in implementing climate change policies.

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement at-a-glance

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement challenges participating cities to commit to three actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse

gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol, a 7 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and

• Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system

A downloadable signature page for the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is located at the United States Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org.

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Tennessee named one of 15 U.S. employers to receive Freedom Award

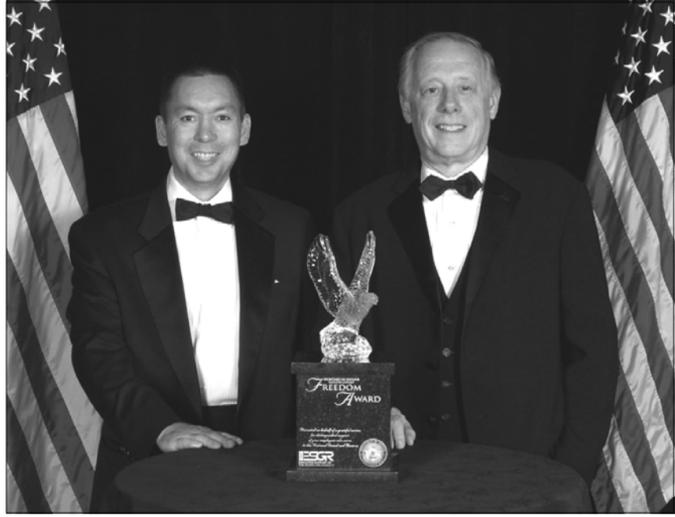


Photo by State Photography Services

Gov. Phil Bredesen accepts the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award on behalf of the state of Tennessee during ceremonies Sept. 12 in Washington. Tennessee is one of only 15 employers in the United States to receive the prestigious award. Bredesen is shown with Robert Nakamoto, an environmental protection specialist with the state of Tennessee, who nominated Tennessee for the award.

Gov. Phil Bredesen accepted an award on behalf of the state of Tennessee during ceremonies in the nation's capital for outstanding support of state employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The state was one of 15 employers nationwide to receive the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers.

Executive Order No. 4, issued by Bredesen in 2003, authorized dif-

ferential pay compensation to ensure state employees ordered to active duty aren't financially constrained while in service. The state pays the difference between the employees' state salary and their respective service pay and provides continued benefits for all National Guard and Reserve members on military leave and their dependents.

In addition, this year Bredesen proposed and the General Assembly approved an increase in military leave for state employees from 15 days to 20 days per year.

Bredesen outlines rural development strategies

Gov. Phil Bredesen outlined his strategy for increased economic development activities in the rural sections of the state during his remarks at the 54th Annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development.

The governor stated the case for the focus on rural development, citing that the majority of business tax revenue growth has come from a small number of counties.

Several programs were highlighted, including the the Rural Opportunity Initiative, the Rural Opportunity Fund and the Orange Carpet Tours. The ROI program entices more business development by extending the carry forward allowed in the Jobs Tax Credit to companies who locate or expand to rural counties.

The Rural Opportunity Fund is a newly created, innovative loan program and provides a new source of venture capital for small and independent businesses in rural communities. The state has appropriated approximately \$1 million in funds through the Department of Economic and Community Development to start the fund and private fundraising for the fund has begun with positive feedback from lenders. The governor credited the General Assembly for approving the funding in the last session, citing that the Assembly provides state departments the tools necessary to create such innovative development products.

Orange Carpet Tours will bring site selection consultants to Tennessee's more rural areas, allow-

ing the communities an opportunity to provide their best pitch. The Governor emphasized the need for preparation on the county's behalf for these tours, citing that consultants will be brought to those communities who have done their homework in making their area 'show-ready.'

Bredesen ended his speech by reemphasizing his commitment to staying focused and achieving results during the last three years of his administration.

"I want to re-state something I've said before: we're not coasting through the second term. We in government realize what a truly limited amount of time we have to positively affect the lives of our citizens," Bredesen said. "My approach to Tennessee's economic growth is straightforward: I intend to leave our state better off than when I took office."

Certified megasites streamline selection process

MEGA from Page 1

said Sen. Finney. "Obviously, the larger tracts of land you have the larger industries you can attract."

Finney said that one of the determining factors for sponsoring the legislation is that 27 counties in Tennessee that have been identified as economically depressed. Two are in his district.

Burnett explained that regional megasite authorities will operate similar to industrial development boards with the same rights and requirements under Tennessee law, including the ability to issue bonds, enter into payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreements, and to receive grants or loans. A board of directors will consist of the mayors of each county or municipality participating in the effort, along with a member of the industrial development boards of each participating community. In addition, two non-voting members may be selected by the U.S. Representative in whose district the site lies and by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Each director will serve a two-year term without compensation.

The legislation requires each megasite authority to file an annual report with the state board of equalization and to provide an economic impact plan defining the boundaries of the megasite and detailing how costs and revenues will be apportioned among the participants. A certificate of incorporation will be issued by the Secretary of State creating the megasite authority.

The law also requires the com-



By certifying an industrial site, companies know that the location is ready to go and building can start immediately. The certification also provides a tremendous marketing tool for a community.

missioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to establish the process by which megasites can be certified by the state of Tennessee. ECD officials say that specifics of the certification process are still to be hammered out but will most likely mirror the TVA process for certifying sites.

Bradley explained that TVA's certification process was rigorous; taking about three years to certify all of the nine sites, and that it can be somewhat costly to communities. "Communities have spent \$250,000 to go through the process, but it's well worth it because it provides a six-to-nine month advantage over the competition.

"The process is more than just a certification," Bradley continues.

International municipal attorneys meet in Nashville

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Nashville has snagged yet another major professional group. It is coming to Nashville for Halloween. The International Municipal Lawyers Association's annual meetings and programs move around the United States and Canada every year. This year's begins on Sunday Oct. 28 and runs through Wednesday Oct. 31 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

It will have a new twist this year. Susan McGannon, Murfreesboro city attorney and member of the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys host committee explains. "In addition to a reduced rate for the whole conference, there is a one-day rate to give other city officials in our state a chance to taste what the national/international group has for them this year. With a special one-day rate, the personnel folks can listen in when employment law is discussed and planners can come when they are talking about land-use law."

Charles W. Thompson Jr., IMLA executive director, says Nashville is known as "a terrific host city." It's the place that national as-

sociations have come to call "the place to go." When Metro Nashville City Attorney Karl Dean invited the municipal lawyers from the U.S. and beyond to Nashville a few years ago, the offer was readily accepted. Ironically, Dean will now welcome the gathering of fellow municipal attorneys not as host city attorney but as host city mayor.

Earlier this year, Dean was recruited to run for mayor, took a leave of absence to campaign against four topflight candidates, and went on to win the primary and the runoff Sept. 11. Mayor Dean was inaugurated Sept 21.

Thompson emphasizes the association's offerings for other municipal departments, the reduced-fee chance to attend programs on abandoned housing, adult business regulation, infrastructure, regulating digital billboards, green buildings, land use, ADA Today work sessions, updates on the First Amendment (with a special presentation on holiday displays), immigration issues for municipalities, public transit and facilities, and employment issues. There will also be a work session on intellectual property issues for local

"It's a win-win for the community, because in the end, those responsible for economic development in each community learn what corporations need and what they are looking for in order to re-locate."

He said in order for a megasite to be ready, the site must:

- be available for sale as a single parcel,
- must be developable and free of easement and right of way issues such as a county road going through the middle of the land,
- must be fully served by utilities or have a plan in place to provide the infrastructure.

For more information about regional megasites, contact ECD's Department of Business Development at (615) 741-3282.

government attorneys. IMLA is not limited to city attorneys – county attorneys and intergovernmental entity attorneys attend as well as Canadian attorneys.

Thompson says that if there are still any doubters that Nashville is a great draw, he would challenge them to click on the IMLA web site and go to the links to the Music City web sites. He feels they will surely sign up for one of the opportunities offered in and around Nashville that weekend. Check out events at the new Schermerhorn Symphony Hall and Wildhorse Saloon. The Titans tickets are about gone. At www.imla.org there is information about registration, the agenda, and Nashville area activities.

Special Tennessee rates

The special Tennessee registration rates expire on Oct. 15, 2007 and can be obtained by calling IMLA at 202-466-5424; they are not available with on-line registration. For one person, the full conference and all social events is \$300, for 3 or more from the same Tennessee city who register together the special rate is \$250 per person, and one day registration per person is \$150.

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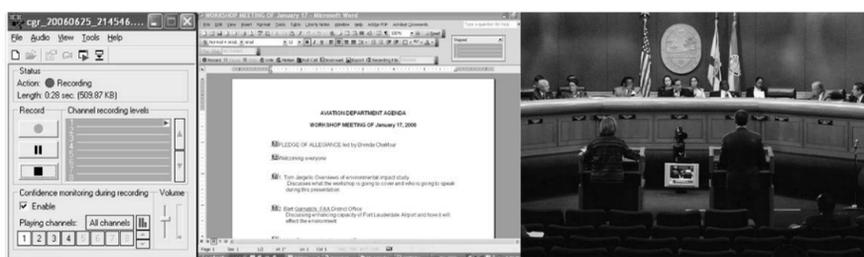
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Police managers attend UT's SECLA Academy



Police managers from Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi will graduate in 2008 from UT's unique Law Enforcement Center program held on the Chattanooga campus.

Police managers from Tennessee to Mississippi are attending a six-month University of Tennessee leadership training program to help prepare them for command positions. The Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA) is an initiative of UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC).

Held on the UT Chattanooga campus, 29 students will spend one week a month in-residence on the campus graduating Jan. 26, 2008.

SECLA students will study topics such as tactical and operational planning, managing diversity, audit systems, risk management, and ethics and integrity. The program offers 12 undergraduate credit hours or six

graduate-level credit hours through UTC.

The program's faculty members are among the most renowned criminologists in the nation.

The academy is a partnership between UT LEIC, UTC continuing education division, UTC School of Criminal Justice and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police.

2007 Public Acts that affect municipalities

BY DENNIS HUFFER
MTAS Legal Consultant

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chapter No. 106 (SB 276/HB 309). Seizure of property by campus police. Amends various sections of T.C.A. Title 40, Chapter 33; Title 53, Part 11; and sections 39-17-420 and 55-5-108(b)(1) to allow campus police of universities to seize property used in drug violations and other unlawful activities. Allows seized property to be used for the benefit of the university. Effective date: July 1, 2007.

Chapter No. 121 (SB 614/HB 148). Offering for sale or agreeing to pay ticket of person buying a radar jamming device. Amends T.C.A. § 47-18-104 to make offering to pay a traffic ticket for a purchaser of a radar jamming device or offering for sale a device that scrambles the radar of law enforcement officers a Class B misdemeanor and an unfair trade practice. Effective date: May 10, 2007.

Chapter No. 134 (SB 866/HB 75). Photographing and recording of

juveniles. Amends T.C.A. § 37-1-155 to allow law enforcement officers to photograph and make video and audio recordings of juveniles when the juvenile is committing an offense, the law enforcement officer is conducting a field sobriety test based upon suspicion the juvenile is driving under the influence of an intoxicant, or the juvenile is a victim of an offense and consents to the recording or photograph.

Recordings and photographs are to be done only as evidence and must be destroyed if no charges are brought against the juvenile within the statute of limitations. The photographs and recordings are not public records and will be released to the public only on court order. Effective date: July 1, 2007.

Chapter No. 210 (SB 11/HB 1907). Use of deadly force by individuals. Amends T.C.A. § 39-11-611 to clarify that deadly force can be used in vehicle break-ins when the victim reasonably fears for his/her life and in similar situations. This act adds a new section to Title 39, Chapter 11, Part 6 granting civil immunity for use

of justified deadly force unless the recipient of the deadly force is a police officer. Effective date: May 22, 2007.

Chapter No. 259 (SB 1701/HB 2079). Training in dealing with persons with mental illness Amends T.C.A. Title 38, Chapter 8, Part 1 to require all police officers to be provided training in proper procedures to respond to persons with mental illness. Effective date: July 1, 2007.

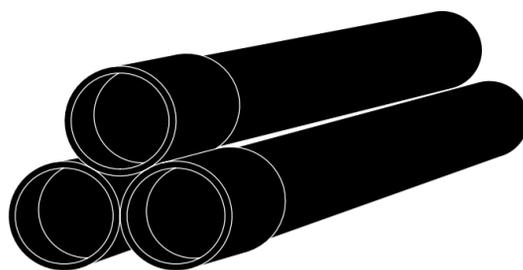
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLE & TRAFFIC
Chapter No. 7 (SB 498/HB 275). Television in vehicles. Amends T.C.A. § 55-9-105 to revise language prohibiting television and video screens in vehicles that are visible to the driver. Exempts vehicle information displays, global positioning displays, visual enhancement displays, television displays in law enforcement vehicles, wireless devices for receiving calls or gaining access to GPS, and electronic displays in utility vehicles when the vehicle is not in motion. Effective date: July 1, 2007.

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Oct. 6: October in Orinda just 20 minutes north of Nashville, from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Orinda City Park. Events include an antique car cruise-in, children's parade, craft fair, food, and live entertainment throughout the day. Admission free. For more information contact OctoberinOrinda@bellsouth.net or 615-654-3366.

Oct. 6-7: Kingston Autumn Country Fair 10 a.m.—6 p.m., Sunday Noon - 4 p.m. Craft booths, live bluegrass music, dancing, 4-H shows, competitions, FCE quilting, canning, baking and craft exhibitions. Contests include pie eating, sack race and more. Youth activities, games and inflatables. No entrance fee. For more information call Kingston Parks & Recreation at 865-376-1356.

Oct. 6-7: 18th Annual Autumn Children's Festival Saturday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 7, 1-5 p.m. at the Tennessee Riverpark on Amnicola Highway. Carnival games for children with prizes, arts and crafts with an autumn theme, pony rides, a petting zoo, magic shows, costumed characters Winner the Pooh, Sully and Smokey the Bear, face painting, health, wellness and educational programs. Admission is free. Cost of activities 50 cents to \$3. Sponsored by the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. All proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga.

Oct. 12-13: Lewisburg's fifth annual Goats, Music and More Festival at Rock Creek Park honoring Marshall County's famous native "fainting" goats and Boer goats. Free concerts Friday and Saturday night featuring Billy Joe Royal, BJ Thomas, Exile, Ricochet and John Anderson. Street fair, cook-off and children's activities. Absolutely free to all ages. For more information go to www.GoatsMusicAndMore.com.

Oct. 13: Rockwood's Family Fall Festival Children's activities & games. Hay maze, 4 beauty pageants from babies to 19 years of age. Live music & entertainment shows, petting zoo, rock climbing, fire truck slide, craft booths, cow milking contest and much more! For information call Krystal Hennager 865-394-2969

Oct. 27: Hooray for Harriman Harvest Fest Harvest recipe cook-off, scarecrow competition, hay rides, crafts, music and book sale. For further information call Amy Arriola at 865-742-4982 or email jenniro@comcast.net

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Inauguration Day for Mayor Dean, Metro Nashville Council

DEAN from Page 1

and other historically disadvantaged businesses; and ensure a funding system for the new convention center that does not place the burden for paying for the new center on the taxpayer.

Environment: increase energy efficiency by replacing all traditional light bulbs in Metro facilities and traffic lights with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diode (LED) bulbs; switch Metro fleets to alternative fuels and use hybrid vehicles; plant more trees and expand the system of parks and greenways.

"A true consensus has developed across this community about what is important to us as city," Dean said during his inaugural ceremony. "We have come to an agreement about our priorities. These are not



Diane Neighbors is sworn in as Nashville's first female vice mayor.

the only things we have to do, but they are the most important things.



Photos by Victoria South

U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper congratulates Mayor Dean.

WIMG seeking nominations

The National League of Cities' (NLC) Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) constituency group again launches its leadership award recognizing female municipal officials for unique and outstanding leadership in local government.

Each year, a winner is recognized for individual achievement in initiating creative and successful programs in municipal government that help citizens, particularly if the leadership serves as a specific mentoring model for future female leaders. The WIMG Leadership Award promotes the increased representation of women in local government and is designed to encourage more women to run for elected municipal office.

The WIMG Leadership Award is available to all NLC female

elected officials. The nominee is not required to be a member of WIMG. A panel of judges representing WIMG and NLC members, private industry representatives, and civic leaders will determine the finalists and the winner of the award. Current members of the WIMG Board of Directors and WIMG Advisory Council are not eligible.

Finalists will be announced in advance of the NLC Congress of Cities in New Orleans, Nov. 13-17. The winner will be honored along with the other finalists during the annual WIMG Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 16. All award finalists should plan to travel to New Orleans to be present for the award. For questions or to receive a nomination form via e-mail, call Eboni Morris at NLC at 202-626-3041.

National League of Cities to hold 2007 Conference and Exposition in New Orleans

Ever wonder what it really means to rebuild a community after a natural disaster? Now's your chance to find out. The 2007 Congress of Cities & Exposition in New Orleans offers a unique opportunity to view the rebirth of the community and see how far the city has come.

Hear the stories, visit the restoration zones, and learn about the recovery process from people who lived through it and rose above it.

Whether new or veteran, all elected and appointed officials, municipal employees and state league members should attend this once in a lifetime event Nov. 13-17, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The NLC Congress of Cities Exposition and Conference offers a unique mix of general sessions, workshops and networking sessions aimed at providing the insight and tools needed to solve your cities problems.

Hear from high profile national speakers, discover new approaches to leadership and governance, and gain access to a broad network of information and resources. Network and share experiences with other local elected officials from around the country. Help solve city problems by listening and sharing ideas with peers.

A broad range of workshops organized into major tracks will be offered in finance, community development, sustainability, public safety, building community, infrastructure, and special topics plus a unique and informative set of Host City Mobile Workshops on "Lessons Learned" are available; a great value for any local official who has been or will be called upon to lead a

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TMBF staff reorganization

TMBF from Page 1

perience includes representation of numerous cities, counties, and utility districts as bond counsel; serving as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel and bank's counsel in tax-exempt and taxable industrial development bond financings; representation of municipal bond issuers on post issuance matters such as IRS audits and arbitrage rebate matters.

"We are extremely pleased to have someone of Lewis Bell's caliber join the Bond Fund team. His vast experience will be a tremen-

dous benefit as we move forward," said Seivers.

For any assistance concerning municipal financing, or if competitors suggest changes to the loans that cities already have with TMBF, please contact the Bond Fund before making any decisions.

It is estimated that the TMBF has saved cities and counties across the state more than \$240 million in interest costs alone since its inception and also reduced the cost of issuance on TMBF loans to more than 60 percent.

For assistance, please feel free to contact anyone on staff.

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national disaster.

Advanced registration deadline is Sept. 30. For online registration and a complete schedule of events and workshops, visit the NLC website at www.nlc.org

Workshops Include:

- Paying for the Future—Long-term Financial Planning
- Understanding GASB
- Green Buildings
- Developing a City Sustainability Plan
- Regional Water Management
- Smart Growth
- Youth Violence and Gang Pre-

vention

- Interoperability: Can We Talk?
- Weathering the Storm: The Role of Partners in Emergency Response
- Safe and Sound: Building Afterschool Systems for Children and Youth
- Recruiting and Retaining Law Enforcement Personnel
- Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure
- Transportation Technology
- Broadband and Wifi—Technology Strategies
- Water Infrastructure

Policy Day set for Oct 11, registration deadline Oct. 2

The Tennessee Municipal League Policy Committees will meet Oct. 11 beginning at 10 a.m. in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville. This meeting will begin the process by which TML's legislative priorities are established for the second session of the 105th General Assembly that begins in January 2008. Deadline to register is October 2.

To register on-line to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=w8gu8adIXdiI7e9ozFBXeQ_3d_3d; by FAX: 615-255-4752; or by mail: Tennessee Municipal League, Attn: Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219.

FCC creates chaos over video, cable franchising

CABLE from Page 1

It would likely cripple many local governments' emergency services communications, which rely on institutional networks furnished by the cable operator," said Beaty, who is serving as a spokesperson for the six organizations. "What will happen if the backbone of emergency communications is stripped away? What happens to the math homework channels? How will cities make up lost revenue that currently assures local residents are connected to libraries, governments, schools, senior centers, and police and fire stations? The FCC is creating problems – not solutions – by its actions."

Communities are already experiencing confusion and backlash where state legislatures have taken video franchising out of local hands. Comcast, a major provider of cable services across the country, has already informed some agencies in Indiana and Michigan that, as a result of new state cable laws, it is canceling all public access channels.

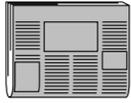
Video franchise agreements between local governments and cable operators usually provide for an array of services to localities in exchange for the operator's use of public property. Institutional networks or I-Nets are secure connections to municipal buildings, police and fire stations, courts and jails, schools, libraries, senior centers and hospitals. In many communities, these networks are the linchpin of emergency communications. Public ac-

cess channels are made available for government, educational and community programming, such as high school football or Little League games, city or county council meetings, and homework help.

"Not only would the FCC's rulings create chaos and uncertainty for our communities; they have the potential to create a real budget gap for our municipalities that would have to be closed, either by reducing important local government services or raising fees or taxes in other areas," Beaty said. "This FCC order is a win for big business and a loss for the people of this country."

In a 2006 survey of local government cable offices conducted for NATOA, 94 percent indicated that their community collects a franchise fee from cable operators. The majority, 87 percent, collect a franchise fee of 5 percent of gross revenues. The remaining 13 percent collect varied lesser franchise fees or do not collect a franchise fee at all.

More than half of the fees are used by local governments to support their general fund, which funds police, fire, schools, transportation and other vital public services provided by local governments. Seventeen percent of the fees are used for oversight of cable franchising and for public access channels; 20 percent are used for a combination of general fund and cable oversight; and 11 percent of fees are used solely for public access channels.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

BUDGET PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER
JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is currently accepting applications for the position of Budget Productivity Manager. The duties of this class involve responsibility for budget analysis and preparation as well as coordination of the annual productivity improvement process. Under the direction of the Assistant City Manager, the Budget Productivity Manager reviews all reports for appropriation from city departments and compares those requests with revenue anticipated for the fiscal year. This position monitors departmental expenditures on a quarterly basis and reports to the City Manager the expenditure trends of municipal departments. Work related to both budget and productivity improvement is performed with considerable independence in accordance with established guidelines and procedures established by both the Assistant City Manager and by city charter. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a degree in business, public administration or accounting and considerable experience in budget analysis and financial management; or any equivalent combination of experience and training that provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Masters degree in related field desirable. Post offer physical and drug screen required. Entry Rate of Pay: \$43,894.78 annually. Deadline for applying: Open until filled.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SOMERVILLE. The town of Somerville, pop., 2800, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Administrator. Responsibilities include the administration of all city services and departments, including finance and administration, personnel, budgeting, code enforcement, police, fire, electric, natural gas, water, sanitation, streets, sewer, industrial development, recreation, planning, and zoning. The position is responsible to a seven member Board of Mayor and Alderman. The person hired must have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field, and five years experience in local government management of multiple departments. Legislative issues, economic development, storm water operations, and planning are high priorities. The position requires a leader and a team player with excellent communications skills. The city has an annual operating budget of \$12,180,000 with 59 employees. Salary: DOQ, plus excellent benefits, including auto expenses. Send letter of application, resume, and salary requirements to: Town of Somerville, Attention Vivian L. England, City Administrator, P.O. Box 909, Somerville, TN 38068. References will be checked. Position open until filled, priority to those resumes received by Sept. 28, 2007. EOE.

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.

CITY ENGINEER
Gallatin. The city of Gallatin is seeking applicants for the position of city engineer. The city engineer reports to the mayor, and is responsible to the city council. Job duties include: plans, designs, coordinates, and participates in subdivision and commercial site plans, road projects, inspection and maintenance of a variety of public facilities; supervises all staff personnel; prepares cost estimates and bid documents; makes presentations to Boards and Commissions; works closely with other city departments. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in civil engineering. Considerable civil engineering experience (5 years or more preferred) in public sector. Upper-level management experience preferred. Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee and be registered as a Professional Engineer. Current salary range is \$62,432 to \$92,681 with excellent benefits. To apply, please submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, a detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Mail Resumes to City of Gallatin, 132 W. Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066, Attn: Dave Crawford, Personnel Official. All applications must be received by Sept. 28, 2007. EOE.

CITY MANAGER
PARIS. The city of Paris, population 9,800, is seeking applicants for the position of city manager who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and administration of a \$10+ million annual budget, and overall supervision of a workforce of 140 full-time employees. The successful applicant should possess a bachelor's degree in a related field, a master's degree in public administration is preferred, and a minimum of five years progressive experience in municipal government, preferably as a city manager of an assistant city manager. Equivalent educational qualifications or experience will be considered. Salary range: DOQ. Send resume to: David Travis, Mayor, City Manager Applicant, P.O. Box 970, Paris, TN 38242. EOE.

CITY MANAGER
SOUTH FULTON. The City of South Fulton, population 2,517 located in northwest Tennessee, is seeking applicants for the position of

city manager who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations, administration of the annual budget, and overall supervision of 25 full-time employees. The successful applicant should possess experience in municipal government, preferably as a city manager or as an assistant city manager. Salary is negotiable and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Send resumes to: City Manager Search, City of South Fulton, 700 Milton Counce Dr., South Fulton, TN 38257

CITY RECORDER/ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
BELLE MEADE. The city, population 3,000, is seeking qualified candidates for the position of City Recorder/Administrative Secretary until 4:00 p.m. on September 28, 2007. Primary job duties include maintenance of all official city records, preparation of board meeting minutes, agendas, and legal notices, and serving as the receptionist and clerical assistant to the City Manager, Commissioners, and other department heads as needed. A basic understanding of municipal accounting principles is required as well as the ability to meet state certification requirements within two years of hire. Minimum of two years administrative or accounting experience preferred. The successful candidate must be personable, highly organized, and able to meet deadlines and multitask, and effectively operate in a team environment. Excellent benefits. Minimum annual salary: \$33,400. EOE. Please send application, resume, and cover letter to Beth Reardon, City Manager, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, 37205 or email to breardon@citybellemead.org. A printable application and job description is available at the city website, www.citybellemead.org.

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR
LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland is seeking qualified candidates for the position of construction inspector whose responsibilities will include inspecting construction projects such as streets, sewers, drainage systems, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, etc. for compliance with all specifications; maintaining records; and preparing reports of construction and inspection activities. Substantial successful construction/construction inspection experience including street, curb and gutter construction experience required; ability to operate heavy equipment is a plus. Detailed job description available at www.lake-landtn.gov or call 901-867-2717. Excellent benefits are offered. Send resume or applications to: cityhall@lakelandtn.org or to City of Lakeland, 10001 Highway 70, Lakeland, TN 38014. EOE.

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. Please send letter and resume to: IPS Consultant II Search; MTAS; 120 Conference Center; Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or email to: elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu. Position open until filled. *The University of Tennessee*

is an EEO/AA/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR
NASHVILLE. Newly created senior legislative staff position responsible for advising the Fiscal Review Committee and the General Assembly on the local government impact of a wide range of legislative issues. Duties include developing and coordinating a state-wide database of local government information, in-depth analysis of data, creating a network of local government contacts and resources, and liaison with local government officials across Tennessee. Background in local government and public administration strongly preferred. Salary range \$65,000 - \$75,000, depending on qualifications and experience. Send resume and cover letter to James W. White, Executive Director, Fiscal Review Committee, jim.white@legislature.state.tn.us, 8th Floor, 320 Sixth Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37243 (e-mail preferred).

FINANCE SUPERVISOR/SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
OWASSO, OK. Owasso, Oklahoma (33,858) is accepting applications for a Finance Supervisor/Senior Accountant. 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.

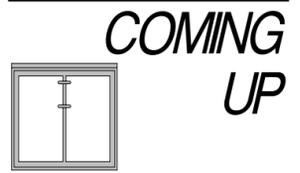
FIRE CHIEF
JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications now through Monday, October 15, 2007 for fire chief. This position is responsible for the overall direction of Fire Administrative Services; Fireline Operations; Training, Fire Prevention and Public Education of the Department and its 177 members. Responsibilities include public fire education, fire code enforcement, fire investigation, fire suppression, hazardous material incident response and natural and man-made disaster mitigation. Job duties include: preparing and administering an annual operating budget and developing annual revisions to the department's capital improvement plan; developing policies, procedures, rules and regulations that 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

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
PORTLAND. The city of Portland is seeking qualified applicants for the position of parks and recreation director. The person hired must have graduated from a four year college with two years experience. Applications may be obtained from and submitted to the Human Resources department or receptionist at city hall, 100 S. Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148. Position opened until filled. EOE.

SOFTWARE SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DATA PROCESSING CORP. Local Government Data Processing Corporation is seeking qualified applicants for the position of software support representative. The Software Support Rep must be a well-rounded individual who can easily multi-task and handle multiple on-going projects while answering customer support calls. The ideal candidate must also be able to work with virtually any personality type and possess a "can do" attitude. Candidates need to have a good understanding of accounting principles and preferably some software support experience. Knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word is also required. The primary focus of this position is to provide software support for accounting and related software for governmental entities across the Southeast. Prior knowledge with the LGC product line is preferred. Send resume to: Human Resources, 714 Armstrong Lane, Columbia, TN 38401 or email to bwood@lgdpc.com. Phone: 931-381-1115. EOE.

STAFF ENGINEER
CLEVELAND. The City of Cleveland is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Engineer in the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. Qualified applicants will possess a BS Degree in Civil Engineering with 2-4 years related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience in project design, CAD drafting and general construction surveying is required. E.I.T. or PE preferred but not required. Major duties include: providing field surveys for project design and construction surveys for improvement and new construction projects for streets, storm water drainage, bridges, other public facilities; prepare construction plans and specifications for improvement and new construction projects; perform construction inspections to insure conformance to plans and specifications; collect storm drainage data to ensure proper design of storm sewer projects; prepare preliminary cost estimates for construction projects; research property owner deed information; prepare temporary and permanent construction easements; assist with acquisition of properties for public use; serve as construction project coordinator with contractors, other agencies, property owners, etc.; enforce applicable city land-use and development policy, and all applicable codes and ordinances; other duties as assigned by the City Engineer. Interested applicants should submit a resume by mail to the City of Cleveland Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364, in person to the Municipal Building, 190 Church Street NE, or by email to jdavis@cityofcleveland.tn.com. EOE.



Sept. 26-27: The Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) will meet Sept. 26-27 in Nashville 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 26, and 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Legislative Plaza Room 30. An agenda will be posted on TACIR's website (www.state.tn.us/tacir) before the meeting. The public is welcome.

Oct. 11: The TML Policy Committee meetings will begin at 10 a.m. at the TML building, 226 Capitol Blvd. in Nashville. The meeting begins the process by which TML's legislative priorities are established for the Second Session of the 105th General Assembly, which begins January 2008. Coffee, light refreshments and box lunches provided. Deadline to register is October 2.

Oct. 24-25: The ECD Energy Policy Dept. is sponsoring the first Southeast Solar Summit in Oak Ridge. Join leading researchers, scientists, engineers, architects, designers, and other renewable energy professionals from around the Southeast at this exciting program. For more information or to register visit https://www.ornl.gov/solar_summit2007/

Nov. 13-17: NLC Congress of Cities. New Orleans. Deadline for early registration Sept. 30. For information and to register online, visit NLC's website at www.nlc.org.

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Jane Myron wants to give local, state officials a taste of getting up and at 'em

The Johnson City vice mayor has upper East Tennessee officials wearing pedometers

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Two years ago, when Jane Myron won a seat on the Johnson City Commission with her first attempt, she decided to promote community health. She was concerned that physical education was no longer found in the schools, adding to the problem of obesity in schools.

Myron gathered a team of decision makers that mapped out a citywide health initiative they called Up & At Em. By the end of last year, they were sponsoring a big Turkey Trot walk/run exercise activity for the public. It has also implemented health/exercise programs for elected officials, schools, city employees and businesses. Up & At Em won a state award last year and, this year, national attention.

Myron has been an area businesswoman for 34 years, a caterer since 1991 and popular restaurateur since 2000.

She was born and raised in Nashville. Her mother, Martha Moon, a Nashville native, was a homemaker and housewife. Her father, Ed Moon, an accountant, grew up on an Alabama farm and worked for 20 years at White Way Laundry in Nashville before going into business for himself. They focused on the education of their two daughters and son, imparting "the old values of giving a day's work for a day's pay and being honest, considerate, and loyal." Her education and upbringing have been her constant companions, as handy and useful as a Swiss Army knife.

Myron attended St. Bernard Academy, kindergarten through 12th grade, and majored in home economics/dietetics at the University of Tennessee. When her father decided to expand his Moon's Tuxedo, a rentals and sales formal wear business, to the Tri-Cities area, the new graduate moved to Johnson City in 1971 to manage Moon Tuxedos stores in Johnson City, Kingsport and Bristol.

She got involved in the Johnson City-Washington County Chamber of Commerce and in Big Brother, Big Sister. In 1994, she was elected president of the chamber, the second woman to hold that position. Her volunteer work with Big Brother Big Sister led to working with the American Heart Association, the Arts Council, and the Johnson City Symphony.

Community work taught her how groups working together can multiply the good they do. That stirred an interest in political service because politicians can make things happen, and have the power as well to keep things from happening. She was elected to the city commission on April 27, 2005, and in May this year, halfway through her first term, she was named vice mayor by the commission.

She married Jim Myron in 1990. When her father sold the formal wear stores, they opened Black Tie Formal Wear in Johnson City, which Jim manages. A year later, they started a catering business that Jane manages. On Valentine's Day 2000, they also opened Jane's Lunch Box, a popular restaurant that is patronized even by dozens that eat there daily. Rave reviews by food critics about the vast array of homemade offerings at Jane's Lunch Box can be found online.

TT&C: How'd you meet Jim?

JM: He is a native of Johnson City. He is an accountant with degrees from Oxford College in Oxford, Ga., and East Tennessee State University (ETSU). His grandfather and father and uncle started the Jones Ear, Nose, and Throat Hospital, the only one between Roanoke and Nashville. We still own that downtown building. Our formal wear store is on the ground floor, and we're part of the downtown Johnson City revitalization.

TT&C: You led the ticket two years ago when you were elected commissioner. What was your appeal?

JM: The No. 1 issue for the seven people running for two seats was probably that people wanted a change. Incumbent Steve Darden, an attorney, was re-elected, and I was the new one. I had different issues than some incumbents. I stressed bikeways, greenways, and education, and had good name recognition from my business and community work. I ran as Plain Jane—plain honest and plain respectful.

I tried to bring civility to the commission and to show respect to citizens. We had been criticized by people who said they felt too intimidated to participate in commission meetings. I told people that as long as I was on there that would not happen.



Commissioners Stephen Darden, Jane Myron, Jeff Banyas, Marcy Walker, and Phil Roe on Inaugural Day in May of this year. Soon after, Myron was elected vice mayor and Roe mayor.

TT&C: The media painted a feisty picture. How is the current commission different?

JM: We had an election in May and two new commissioners, Jeff Banyas and Marcy Walker, joined incumbents Dr. Phil Roe, Stephen Darden and me. Before, our commission meetings started at six, and we never got out before eleven. We would go on for an hour or two over one topic. Now, we're back on track and doing a lot of good things. Steve Darden has served two terms as mayor. Now, Dr. Roe is mayor. He won over a three-term incumbent getting about 8,000 votes to a former mayor's 1,800. People wanted a change. They spoke.

TT&C: Does the commission have a major theme it's pursuing?

JM: Mayor Roe wants to be known as 'the green mayor.' Johnson City had the first curbside recycling program in the state. Citizens accepted it well and we are still doing that every Tuesday morning. Our wastewater treatment facility continues to receive national awards.

The Iris Glen Landfill Gas-to-Energy Project is in place. It's a joint venture of Energy Systems Group and the city to harvest the methane gas from the landfill, clean it up and pump it across town to the Veteran's Administration to use as electricity. It saves the VA approximately 15 percent of its energy costs.

Our city is looking into and has started using biodiesel for its fleet.

that has a pharmacy school, a major university, a medical school, and a Veterans Administration campus. Those four facilities have made us a strong medical community. Ever since we got the medical school, the growth of our medical community has attracted retirees and young families alike. When the School of Pharmacy opened, there were more than 300 applicants on the waiting list.

TT&C: You were elected by your district's city officials to represent them on the TML Board of Directors in June?

JM: Yes. I've been interested in TML since my election in 2005. I think it is important to be involved in organizations, especially effective organizations. When I asked City Manager Pete Peterson to tell me about TML, he said we haven't had a lot of involvement or representation at TML in some years. I said that if it could help Johnson City, I sure intended to be as active as they liked.

I told (TML Executive Director) Margaret Mahery and some other folks that if they gave me an opportunity, I'd produce for them and help out in any way that I can. Running for district director and getting elected was a good opportunity to do that.

We in Tri-Cities have a refreshing regional air about us. We feel that what will be good for Johnson City is likely to be good for Kingsport or Erwin or Carter County. The same holds for working in TML.



Vice Mayor Jane Myron, left with Johnson City School Board Member Jenny Brock, the co-founder of the Up & At Em program

We also bought two hybrid cars and are testing them to see how we can incorporate that technology more. Our city manager and mayor attended a commission meeting in Bristol. They used one gallon of gas for the 40-mile round trip. I'm very pleased we have a tremendous environmental base and the potential to grow it.

TT&C: Other than health and environment initiatives, where is Johnson City headed?

JM: I feel very good about where our city is going. We are waiting for a study from the Market Street Group out of Atlanta to help guide us in our economic development. Our chamber of commerce is strong. This area's scenic attractiveness is absolutely stellar. We have quality growth, good job opportunities, and recreational prospects so diverse that we are getting to be known as a destination city for those opportunities.

Just down the road is the legendary Appalachian Trail. We have water, lakes, and rivers all around here. A trophy trout stream runs through parts of the city into Watauga Lake. Fly fishermen all across the country, all types of fishermen, know about it. Ours is the only area in the state

TT&C: How did you get the Up & At'Em health initiative started?

JM: I began with an advisory panel of 10 people. Each one was over a large group of people—the medical center, the school system, ETSU, the media, the chamber, and Economic Development.

The working committee consisted of 40 people who represented 40 different groups so that we had someone representing minorities, the Junior League, mental health, or ETSU athletics, for example. I'd have been happy to get 80 percent of them around the table, but they all were there. We accomplished what we did through wonderful collaboration.

We had specific activities for school children, for our employees, and for families. The health of our whole community is near and dear to my heart.

TT&C: What did you do in the schools?

JM: We have been working closely with the schools. We got the school coordinating health person that the governor gave us the opportunity to obtain. Since he is going to mandate the body mass index (BMI), we went ahead last year and did all the BMIs

of the kids in the grade schools. We've been in touch with the mayor of Cookeville about that. He did it there, also. We did about 9,000 kids and he did 10,000 in his schools. The BMI formula gives a read on the amount of fat in your body in relation to height and weight.

In December, the U.S. Surgeon General said that due to growing national obesity, today's children will not outlive their parents. I thought that can't be. When we did the BMI in January, we found that approximately 40 percent of our children were overweight or obese—right at the national average. What the surgeon general said applies to our children. I don't have children. But I've always carried some weight and I remember when I was one of those little kids that people would come up to and pinch on the cheeks and say, "How cute!" But, you realize you're going to be the last one to be picked to play Red Rover and other games.

TT&C: What does the Johnson City health initiative do for businesses and employees?

JM: We're starting a corporate program this fall dealing with how small businesses can work with their employees in developing better habits. A major shift is that we're trying to help the small businesses because they are as important as the big companies that have programs.

The city has a wellness program for its employees. The diabetes program for the employees has been well received and has been a wonderful benefit. We recently started an employee health initiative by partnering with Mountain State Health Alliance that includes testing.

This summer we conducted a camp called Fit the Place that we offered at \$75 for six weeks. That's a steal anywhere for a summer camp that lasted six weeks and dealt with nutrition and learning lifelong sports. It was just neater than grits. Sixty five children ages 6 to 13 learned lifelong sports such as swimming, soccer, baseball, tennis, golf, and introductory fishing. I thought it was important that children know how to fish so we contacted the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. They brought the poles and we brought the children to one of our lakes, and we caught some fish. That kind of activity will be incorporated in a lot of our parks.

The city is in the process of purchasing a rail line and turning it into a walking and biking trail. We're waiting to hear about that now.

Those are the kinds of projects that are gathering momentum.

TT&C: What was the first Up & At Em public exercise event?

JM: Last year we held the Turkey Trot, and we're doing it again this year so it becomes a tradition. What we did was to gather folks on Thanksgiving morning at 8:30 for a 5K walk and run. The fellow who was chairing it said that if we had 80 runners we would be doing great.

I'm thinking, "We're putting in all this time and effort for 80 runners? I don't think so!"

We ended up with a total of 1,058 people of whom 492 were runners. The other half were walkers. We promoted the event for everyone in the family by saying it was an opportunity for women cooking Thanksgiving dinner to send everybody out to go walk or run and then come back home for the family's Thanksgiving Day dinner. It was a big success.

TT&C: Describe the Up & At Em

challenge to elected officials.

JM: The newest one is the In-Step program. It's a good example of our vibrant regionalism. We challenged all the elected municipal and legislative officials in District 1 to literally count their steps for 90 days. They jumped in and accepted the challenge and are out walking, wearing their pedometers, and logging their steps.

After Nov. 1, we'll hold a press conference and present the elected official who took the most steps a Walking Stick trophy.

TT&C: You're getting state and national attention?

JM: Last year, the Tennessee Parks and Recreation Association named it the leading Parks and Rec program for cities above 50,000. A few weeks ago, the National League of Cities (NLC) sent a notice about its Cities Showcase program. We submitted Up & At Em and described what we do. NLC chose Johnson City to represent Tennessee in New Orleans at the NLC annual conference.

I called up the guy there and asked him if he was for real. How many other programs did you choose? He said they chose about 40 and besides Johnson City getting it for health, our unique trash-to-energy environmental program at the landfill that turns methane gas into energy would also be showcased. We're the only city in Tennessee or in the country to have two. We're going to go down there in November and talk Tennessee up all over the place. They are going to know we were there.

TT&C: Do you find time to exercise and practice what you preach?

JM: Before I start preparing lunch, I'll go out and walk a mile, and I walk at night. Ours is an older neighborhood that is flat and fun to walk. I have a recumbent bicycle at home. I did three miles on it last night while watching TV. I'm not one to sit a long time. I'm more apt to say to someone, hey, let's go walking. In the last two years I've probably lost about 40 pounds. I do practice what I preach.

TT&C: Are you expanding beyond Tri-Cities and Cookeville?

JM: Yes, we invited Gov. Bredesen to be part of it. He created GetFitTN to help address the health issues facing citizens in Tennessee, including Type 2 diabetes and obesity. The governor asked Commissioner of Health Susan R. Cooper to lead the charge, along with TeamTN member and spokesperson Eddie George, a former Tennessee Titan. The commissioner told me to count her in. She has her pedometer on and would love to be at the press conference after Nov. 1 to add state support.

[Note: Cooper and the Get Fit Tennessee team toured northeast Tennessee last week stopping in Unicoi and Johnson Counties visiting schools and taking part in the Foot-Stomping Fun Night at Unicoi Elementary School in Erwin. There and at Roan Creek Elementary in Mountain City, Cooper led classrooms in GetFitTN health and fitness trivia and observed the school's Fit5 program.]

Our mayor, Dr. Roe said on TV that he thinks he has a pretty good opportunity to win the In-Step walking stick. He's hiked Mt. Rainier three or four times and said he just knows he can beat Kingsport Mayor Dennis Phillips. Bristol Vice Mayor David Shoemaker said Bristol will win the Walking Stick. They're all out there hoofing it around their towns. Mayor Phillips asked me to issue the challenge in person at their last meeting and I did. When I asked Alderman Kevin Parsons in Mountain City to be part of it he invited Mayor Roe and me to drive over and issue the challenge to their commission.

I think it's creating a bit stronger working relationship with our fellow elected officials.

TT&C: Avid runners like Pulaski Mayor Dan Speer and the former mayors of Dyersburg and Selmer used to challenge elected officials to 5K and 10K races and even distributed Mayors' Challenge T-shirts. Will you be challenging the Middle and West Tennessee municipal officials?

JM: Consider it done. It's too late for this year's Step-In challenge, but the walking stick trophy will be at stake again next year. I can see officials everywhere leading by example in Tennessee and leading the country into more healthy activities like those that Up & At Em sponsors.