

Policy Day set for Sept. 11

TML Legislative Policy Committees will meet on Thursday, Sept. 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 first session of the 106th General Assembly that begins in January 2009.

As in past years, there will be four policy committees: Finance and General Administration; Public Safety; Utilities, Environment and Transportation; and Economic and Community Development. The four policy committees will meet simultaneously.

Once all committees have concluded their work, all participants will come together for lunch and a program. TML will make every effort to adjourn the meeting before the afternoon rush hour commences. A detailed schedule will be provided at a later date.

Previous Submittals

Any Board-approved TML policy initiatives that were pending at the adjournment of the 105th General Assembly in June will automatically carry over and will be among the submissions considered by the respective policy committees. However, the

committees are free to work their will and there is no guarantee a previous policy initiative will receive a favorable recommendation this year.

Guidance for Submissions

There is no restriction on the number, type, or content of the submissions. However, it might be helpful to consider three broad categories: "Non-Controversial," "Here and Now," and "Over-the-Horizon" when considering issues for consideration.

Only those initiatives sponsored by a city/town and submitted, in writing, to TML by August 22 will be considered by the policy committees. A city may either send their policy initiative directly to TML or submit their initiative to TML via their MTAS consultant. If submitting it through MTAS, no policy submissions will be accepted after August 15. Any proposals prepared after August 15 must be submitted directly to TML by the August 22 deadline.

Each submission must include a summary of the problem, a description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities of pursuing the proposed action.

See **POLICY** on Page 4

VW chooses Chattanooga for new plant

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. announced plans to build a U.S. automotive production facility in Chattanooga, where it will produce a car designed specifically for the North American consumer and invest \$1 billion in the economy. The announcement is an important element of the company's overall U.S. strategy of connecting with its customers, increasing its competitiveness and tripling its U.S. customer base in the next decade.

"The U.S. market is an important part of our volume strategy and we are now very resolutely accessing that market," said Prof. Martin Winterkorn, CEO of Volkswagen AG. "Volkswagen will be extremely active there. This plant represents a milestone in Volkswagen's growth strategy. We will be selling 800,000 Volkswagens in the U.S. by 2018, and this new site will play a key role. This, along with our growth strategy, is a prerequisite for the economic success of the company in the dollar region. We look forward to establishing an important mainstay for ourselves when we become the biggest European carmaker there."

The company will build the facility in the Enterprise South Industrial Park, located 12 miles northeast of downtown Chattanooga. The 1,350-acre site is 100 percent owned by the city of Chattanooga and Hamilton County and is certified as an industrial megasite by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Enterprise South is adjacent to Interstate 75. Initial production capacity for the facility is anticipated to be 150,000 vehicles, including a new midsize



Gov. Phil Bredesen and Commissioner Matt Kiser join Volkswagen executives to announce plans for a new automotive production facility in Chattanooga.

sedan designed specifically for the North American market. Production is scheduled to begin in early 2011. With the new plant, Volkswagen will bring about 2,000 direct jobs to the area, and will add a significant number of jobs in related sectors.

"I'm enormously pleased by the announcement from Volkswagen Group of America and grateful for the company's investment in Chattanooga and in the people of Tennessee," said Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. "I believe Volkswagen chose Tennessee because of our shared values, our commitment to innovation and our strong respect for the environment. This project will have a significant impact on the economy of Tennessee and the region for decades to come."

Environmental responsibility is a core value of the Volkswagen Group. The company's focus on sustainable mobility and environmentally responsible manufacturing are right in line with Chattanooga's strong environmental commitment. As an expression of this shared commitment, the state of Tennessee,

Volkswagen and Chattanooga-area organizations are partnering to distribute two saplings for every tree displaced by the project. The new trees will be planted by local school children.

With the new plant, Volkswagen will bring about 2,000 direct jobs to the area, and will add a significant number of jobs in related sectors. It is expected that these jobs will come from the tri-state area, pulling from the labor force of Tennessee as well as Georgia and Alabama.

Volkswagen of America received an attractive, comprehensive package of incentives for the new facility from Gov. Bredesen's office and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. The statutory incentives are tied to job creation and capital investment. Additional support includes assistance for public infrastructure and job training, each designed to ensure the local economy best leverages Volkswagen's investment to benefit the local work force and ensure the facility's success.



The TML Legislative Policy Committee meetings will meet Sept. 11, to establish priorities for the 106th General Assembly. Deadline to submit city-sponsored initiatives is Aug. 22.

New safety requirements for highway, emergency workers

As a result of a 2006 rulemaking (23 CFR 634) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), effective Nov. 24, 2008, all workers and most public safety officers working in the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway will be required to wear certified high-visibility safety apparel.

The rule is intended to increase worker visibility and reduce worker fatalities due to traffic accidents. The high visibility clothing must meet ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 or 3 requirements to ensure both day and nighttime visibility.

The rule does provide an exception for police officers who are "engaged in law enforcement activities, such as traffic stops and pursuit and apprehension of suspects."

However, "all persons at a traffic incident scene or within a traffic control zone, including, but not limited to, police, fire, EMS, utility, media, and tow operators exposed to risks of moving roadway traffic or construction equipment" must comply with the rule.

This means law enforcement will still be required to wear the required level of reflective garment when directing traffic, investigating crashes, and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters. Concerns were raised during the comment period about the possibility of material that complied with the requirements being hazardous if worn by firefighters working around heat and flame. FHWA explained in their final rule that standards were being discussed between ANSI and fire personnel, and therefore regulations may be changed at a later date for fire personnel.

To view the Final Rule, visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov>.

State gears up for third sales tax holiday Aug. 1

Tennessee is preparing for its third annual sales tax holiday that begins August 1. The holiday gives back-to-school shoppers the opportunity to buy certain clothing, school and art supplies, and computers without paying Tennessee tax.

It begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, and ends on Sunday, Aug. 3, at 11:59 p.m. Savings apply to select clothing that's \$100 or less per item, school and

art supplies that are \$100 or less per item, and computers that are \$1,500 or less.

For more information visit www.tntaxholiday.com



TML spotlights new board members

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communication Coordinator

The Tennessee Municipal League's recently elected 2008-2009 board of directors is a diverse group comprised of urban mayors, eight district directors, and six at-large directors, past TML presidents, along with the chairmen of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and the TML Risk Management Pool.

The eight district directors representing their section of the state were nominated and elected during district caucuses. Betsy Crossley, Brentwood Commissioner, joins the TML Board for the first time as the District 6 Director. Cindy Ogle, Gatlinburg City Manager, returns to the board to represent District 2.

The eight at-large directors were nominated by a six-member committee composed of municipal officials statewide and elected to a one-year term by a majority vote of the entire membership. Covington Mayor David Gordon was elected to the board for his first full term. Shirley Fox Rogers, LaFollette Councilmember, and David May Jr., Cleveland Councilmember, return to the board to serve another term as an At-Large Director. Kevin Helms, newly elected president of the Tennessee City Management Association, also serves as a voting member on the TML Board.

Having served eight years in public office, first as Planning Commissioner, and now current City Commissioner and representative for the Brentwood Planning Commission, Betsy Crossley's primary interests lie in economic and residential redevelopment along with green space and historic preservation.

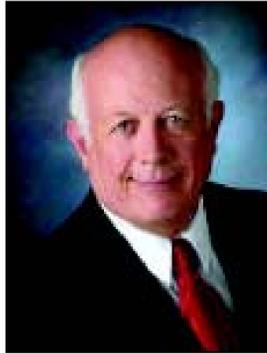
Crossley received her M.S. degree in Microbiology and was later awarded Teacher of the Year at Mt. Tabor High School. She is President of the Advisory Board for the Martin Center and serves on the Board of Directors for Fifty Forward. She also serves on the Board for Youth Leadership, Brentwood, and is an ad hoc member of the Brentwood His-



Betsy Crossley



Shirley Fox-Rogers



David Gordon



Kevin Helms



David May



Cindy Cameron Ogle

toric Commission.

Cindy Cameron Ogle has been in public office for 30 years. Having previously served as Gatlinburg's assistant city manager, projects dear to her heart include capitol projects, economic development, budgetary issues and "going green."

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services and masters in Public Administration, Ogle is a former board member with the International City Management Association and past president of the Tennessee City Management Association. See **BOARD** on Page 8


BY TML STAFF REPORTS
ALCOA

The Alcoa Service Center, located off Wright Road, opened for business July 14. The new facility houses the Public Works & Engineering Department, Electric Department, and Meter Division along with the Alcoa Municipal Employees Credit Union.

CHARLESTON

Thanks to recent improvement grants, citizens are enjoying a new 50 ft. by 90 ft. boat dock along with recreation and picnic facilities. City officials are optimistic that future grants will facilitate a greenway connector bordering Cleveland.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga's renewal and natural amenities have earned the Scenic City second place in *Outside* magazine's list of 20 Best Towns in America. In 2001, the magazine named Chattanooga one of the nation's top 10 towns in which to live, work and play the outdoor type of life. This year, the magazine divided the Top 20 list into two lists with 10 cities each, choosing the main 10 towns that best exemplified turning things around for themselves, working towards progressive change. For the second part of its list, the magazine put together 10 "Bright Ideas," or "towns that are almost like the runners-up, that are doing one thing in particular very well.

CHATTANOOGA

Erlanger Medical Center is closing its regional burn unit, saying it was unable to recruit a replacement director for its six-bed burn facility. Erlanger was the only burn injury specialty unit in East Tennessee, serving patients from throughout the region and NASCAR events at Bristol Motor Speedway. The unit celebrated its 30th anniversary in January.

CLARKSVILLE

The Tennessee Department of Transportation dedicated the newly constructed bridge on 101st Airborne Division Parkway to the victims of the Gander plane crash, which occurred on Dec. 12, 1985. The disaster claimed the lives of all 256 passengers on board, the majority whom were members of the 101st Airborne Division. In addition to the legislation adopted by the Tennessee General Assembly, the City of Clarksville and Montgomery County also passed resolutions to dedicate the Gander Memorial Bridge. Both resolutions were drafted by a local teenager, Leora Smith. The bridge is part of a \$30 million project to widen 101st Airborne Division Parkway (SR 374) and add a single point urban interchange at Wilma Rudolph Boulevard.

CLEVELAND

Whirlpool Corporation announced that 500 new jobs will be created at the company's Cleveland manufacturing facility. As Bradley County's largest employer, Whirlpool expects its Cleveland workforce - including manufacturing, engineering and call center employees - to grow to 1,650 by 2009.

DYERSBURG

The Dyersburg Regional Airport has been approved for a grant totaling \$455,000 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division to replace its navigational lighting system. Dyersburg Airport is one of 21 airports across the state to receive the funding. The 90-10 grant will be used to provide a more up-to-date lighting system and replace the existing runway lighting, estimated to be at least 30 years old. The runway lights were struck by lightning in February, knocking out the entire system for over a month and alerting airport officials to just how fragile the current lighting system is.

ERWIN

A groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the proposed Governor's Bend Assisted Living Residence was held recently with guest speaker, Gov. Bredesen. Construction of the facility is expected to begin this winter with a completion date in the spring of 2010. The \$8 million, 45,000-square foot facility will be owned and operated by Free Will Baptist Family Ministries and will consist of a 54-room assisted living residence featuring private living units, a chapel, dining rooms, a beauty/barber salon, spa, wellness center and library, among other amenities.

GATLINBURG

June was the most popular month for marriages in Tennessee in 2007 with 6,887 marriages, while July was second with 6,826. The state Department of Health says the Sevier County towns of Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville have led the state's wedding market for decades. Last year, 16,573 marriages were recorded in Sevier County, 26.7 percent of all Tennessee marriages in 2007.

MEMPHIS

The Tennessee Air National Guard soon will open a new \$235 million base in Memphis that will handle the largest cargo planes the Air Force has. The base is scheduled to open in September, and it will accommodate the Galaxy C-5 cargo plane, which can carry up to 270,000 pounds of cargo. The 118-acre base, which has been under construction since 2006, will be home for the 164th Airlift Wing, now headquartered at another, smaller site at Memphis International Airport. The new base, with three huge hangers costing a total of \$80 million, will house C-5s and other cargo planes available for military supply missions around the world.

MT. PLEASANT

The state agreed to provide a multi-million dollar loan to the city for its ongoing wastewater lagoon project. The \$3.1-million loan will be used for Phase II of the lagoon system, which includes a spray and irrigation field and will give Mt. Pleasant the capacity to treat 1.5-million gallons of sewage a day. Neal Westerman, a lagoon consulting engineer for the city, said he hopes to have lagoon construction completed by February or March. The total project will cost about \$8 million, including sewer pipe rehabilitation. The project had been at a standstill until the loan was approved.

MURFREESBORO

A partnership among MTSU, the Tennessee Department of Correction and the Great Books Foundation, enabled prisoners at three area lockups a chance to participate in a nine-week program titled "Great Books in Middle Tennessee Prisons." The program's weekly book discussions, which began in late March, were conducted at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution; the Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility and the Tennessee Prison for Women. English faculty volunteers guided the inmates through readings by such authors as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Alexis de Tocqueville and Joseph Conrad.

NASHVILLE

Some local officials want to install global positioning systems on government cars. The GPS uses satellite technology to tell a driver where they are and how to get to their destination. Other cities are finding direction and saving taxpayer dollars with GPS systems. "These devices literally pay for themselves in a matter of months if you use them correctly and monitor them correctly," said Metro Councilman Charlie Tygard. Tygard's asked officials to study the cost of putting GPS systems in many of Metro's 3,500-car fleet

NASHVILLE

Nashville's Board of Education passed a controversial rezoning plan, which some associate with neighborhood schools, and others call resegregation. The plan eliminates non-contiguous zones, areas of Metro Nashville Public Schools in which students are bused to schools outside their neighborhoods, and closes four schools, promising additional resources at a total price tag of \$4.6 million for schools in areas of concentrated poverty and minority populations. It will save the district and administration an estimated total of \$2.4 million. The plan will not take effect until the 2009-2010 school year.

Chattanooga erasing graffiti with unique youth program



Young people with Mayor Ron Littlefield's Summer Youth Program paint over and clean up graffiti around the city.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

Behind a local business, a group of young people cluster around a graffiti laden wall. Surprisingly, scrub buckets and soap replace spray paint and art tools as the youths work diligently to clean up the area.

The teens are part of a new and innovative graffiti removal program called the "Chatt City Erasers," made up of workers from Mayor Ron Littlefield's Summer Youth Program.

"Graffiti has become a serious problem for property owners, residents and visitors," said Mayor Littlefield. "It detracts from the beauty of our city and leaves a negative impression. By utilizing our summer youth workers, we are able to make a noticeable difference."

The Summer Youth Program provides employment opportunities and activities for teens and young adults and is sponsored by the office of Faith-based and Community Partnerships encouraging positive behavior through summer employment and mentoring.

"When kids clean up the graffiti, it definitely makes them more hesitant to participate in it," said Al Chapman, director.

According to Chapman, the program has been recognized as a best practices project by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"There are hundreds of kids employed by the city," Chapman continues. "They're working in departments such as parks and recreation and public works. At least 1,000 kids have participated in the basketball enrichment program."

According to Chapman, many of the youths are referred to the programs by school resource officers hoping to turn things around for at-risk children.

"The benefits have been extremely positive," Chapman added.

Initially, the graffiti clean-up program was limited to public property but has been expanded to include private property. Private property owners are required to sign an agreement to indemnify and hold harmless before any work can be performed and local citizens can report graffiti by calling 311.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Nashville businessman **John H. Noel III** has been given the 2008 Governor's Lifetime Conservation Achievement award for "exemplary service" in environmental stewardship.

Ronald "Hank" Thompson, 69, passed away July 7, after a battle with cancer. Thompson, a retired engineer with TVA, served as the mayor of Hendersonville for 10 years, and since 2002 has served as the County Executive for Sumner County. He is the only person in Sumner County history to serve as mayor, county commissioner, and county executive. He was a former member of the Tennessee Municipal League Board, a member of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.



Thompson

Tennessee Regulatory Authority directors elected **Tre Hargett** to head the agency for the coming fiscal

year. Hargett, who succeeds Eddie Roberson as chairman, was nominated by Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey in December for a six-year TRA director's term. He completed the remaining five months of former Director Pat Miller's TRA term. Miller resigned in December to head Gov. Bredesen's lobbying team. The agency's four directors each serve revolving one-year terms as chairman. Hargett, 38, was House Republican leader in the Tennessee General Assembly from 2003 to 2005.



Hargett

Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald has been named to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to serve a 4-year term. He replaces city member Germantown Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy, who has served on TACIR for the past 12 years.



McDonald

Collierville Fire Chief Jerry Crawford was elected President of the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association (TFCA), at its Annual Conference held in Nashville July 12-15. Chief Crawford has served on the TFCA Board of Directors for four years. He began his fire service career in 1973. Over the past 35 years he has worked in Somerville, Memphis, and was appointed Chief of the Collierville Fire Department in March 2004.



Crawford

Doug Bishop, 56, city administrator of Sevierville since 2002, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday July 19. Cause of death is currently unknown. Prior to Sevierville, Bishop had been city administrator in Springfield. While in Springfield, he was honored as City Manager of the Year by Tennessee City Managers Association.



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Hosting the movie industry: cities' starring role

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

Columbia Mayor William Gentner had never heard of Miley Cyrus when Walt Disney executives told him she would be starring in the new movie filming in his town.

"I'm afraid I had a dull look on my face," Gentner recalls... but, that was before his wife brought home a DVD of the teen sensation's sold out concert in Nashville.

"When I saw the huge line of fans wrapped around the Sommet Center, all I could say was, 'Oh my God!'" Gentner exclaimed.

More city officials across the state are getting a crash course in movie making as a result of incentive programs approved by the Tennessee General Assembly offering tax rebates; headquarter incentives and grants to the film industry.

"These incentive programs will place Tennessee squarely among the most production friendly locations in the U.S.," predicted Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission Executive Director, Perry Gibson in a 2007 release. The program is backed by \$10 million in funding under the Visual Content

town business area.

"Be careful about what you are committing to," Gentner said.

"People's livelihoods are at stake if customers and merchandisers can't get into their businesses. It can put a strain on the community and become a real death knell for appointed officials."

Gentner also advises cities to do their homework by checking the references of production companies requesting to film in their communities.

"If a city is approached by a film company, it would be helpful for the company to provide a list of cities they have worked in previously," he said.

As for Columbia's experience with Disney, Gentner has nothing but praise.

"They actually left the city cleaner and better off than they found it," he said, describing the three-day episode as "an entirely unique experience" and the chosen business model for future productions in Columbia.

"They had production people actually going up and down the street asking citizens if everything was ok, Gentner said. "Everyone



Photo courtesy of The Watertown Gazette

An actress portrays Billy Graham's mother during production of "Billy: The Early Years" filmed recently in Watertown. Many of the town's residents played extras on the set, including Watertown Mayor Mike Jennings' mother, Jean.



Photo courtesy of the Shelbyville Times Gazette

Shelbyville audiences were treated to a Hollywood-style premiere of *Our Very Own*, a semi-autobiographical film written and directed by Shelbyville native Cam Watson about the life of local hometown girl and Hollywood actress, Sondra Locke. The movie, released on DVD, was filmed entirely in Shelbyville. Arriving at the red carpet are the film's co-stars Elizabeth Cole, Michael McKee, Jason Ritter and Autumn Reeser.

Act of 2006.

"*Billy Graham, The Early Years*, (filmed recently in Watertown), is a testament to Tennessee talent," said Bob Raines, Project Manager/Location Coordinator, Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission.

"Ninety-five percent of the crew was from Tennessee. Larry Mortorff, the producer, couldn't have done it anywhere else for that quality at such low cost."

While the benefits of making a movie can be exciting and mutually beneficial for the community and the production company, it could also be inconvenient and costly if not managed professionally.

"Other cities might want to look at our mistakes," Gentner agreed, referring to an earlier low budget film venture Columbia participated in during the early 90s.

"We got so excited; we agreed carte blanche to everything, which was a mistake and what other communities might do without a plan in place," he said.

The primary issues, according to Gentner, are those of security and when movie companies ask to monopolize municipal rights-of-way, particularly around a city's down-

town business area. was compensated for their efforts and showed how to handle things during filming.

"The key is communication," Gentner continues. "It requires close communication with businesses and someone out there every day keeping people informed about what's happening and what is about to occur. Also, some things are better left unsaid in order to not jeopardize the safety of an actress. We learned about security measures when high profile people visit the community."

Gentner noted that Disney's good neighbor techniques extended to inquiring about the city's infrastructure and helping qualify Columbia for future improvement grants.

"They were interested in some earlier improvements we had made to our downtown facades," Gentner explained. "They picked a storefront and showed us some easy techniques to change a facade. With new improvements, other production companies might want to film in our city."

"We put our best foot forward to make sure everything worked to their advantage," Gentner continues. "There are so many aspects about how a film is produced. The



Photo by Victoria South

Billy Ray Cyrus chats outside TML offices in Downtown Nashville while filming *Hannah Montana: The Movie*. Cyrus and daughter, Miley, spent the week filming scenes inside the historical Hermitage Hotel.



Photo courtesy of The Columbia Daily Herald

Business areas around Columbia's downtown are closed during Walt Disney Productions filming of *Hannah Montana: The Movie*.

director might want to film in another locale and we would respond immediately to help keep their costs in line. They, in turn, will go back to their peer groups to share their positive experiences in our city."

Writer, director, Cameron Watson wouldn't have dreamed of shooting his film *Our Very Own*, anywhere else other than his hometown of Shelbyville.

"I just knew we could never capture that sense of place anywhere else," he said in an earlier interview.

The award winning film, released on DVD by Walt Disney/Miramax, stars Keith Carradine and Emmy Award winner Allison Janney along with Jason Ritter, Hilarie Burton and Autumn Reeser and is a "coming of age" story of five friends and their desire to connect with fellow hometown girl Sondra Locke, former co-star of Clint Eastwood's films in the 70s.

It has drawn national attention to Shelbyville as the winner of three Prism Awards, the 2005 Bluegrass Independent Film Festival Grand Prize for Best Feature Film and the Rome International Film Festival's Special Jury Prize.

"It went great," said City Manager Ed Craig, who played various extra roles. "The key to success is information. Information concerning street closings was provided to shop owners in advance, and we always made every accommodation

for the businesses."

Craig said the economic impact for the city was great as well, with the film company spending more than \$1 million there.

"The biggest part is the pride we have as a community that there is a movie about our town," said Craig. "We are known here as 'movie friendly' while some cities are not." "We really owe thanks to our governor and state legislature for providing the tax credits and economic incentives," Gentner said, revealing that Columbia has already been approached by another major production company.

"There was a great deal of competition between us and Mississippi for *Hannah Montana*. If the incentives were not in place, I'm not sure the movie would have been filmed here," he said.

"It was a very positive experience," adds Watertown Mayor Mike Jennings, regarding the film on Graham's life. Watertown has also been the site of several music videos.

"I hope the film industry will continue to consider Watertown in the future. We'd like for them to come to our community."

State's incentives to attract the entertainment industry

The Tennessee legislation allows the state to support film and television projects in the following ways:

- Out-of-state production companies filming projects in Tennessee with a budget of at least \$500,000 are eligible for rebates of 13 percent of the production's below-the-line costs.

If 25 percent of the production's cast and crew are hired in Tennessee, an additional 2 percent rebate is available and another 2 percent if at least \$20,000 in post-production is spent on music created or recorded by Tennesseans.

The same rebates are being offered to Tennessee-based production companies

with an in-state production budget of \$200,000.

- Film production companies that establish a permanent headquarters in Tennessee and incur a minimum of \$1 million in qualified expenses here may be eligible for a 15 percent refund of the expenses. If a production company doesn't have a headquarters here, but spends at least \$1 million in qualified expenses, a company's investor may receive the refund as long as the investor has headquarters in Tennessee.

- The Film, Entertainment and Music Commission establishing a competitive grant application system for Tennessee-based filmmakers. They can



apply for a grant of up to \$40,000 for the development and completion of qualified film or digital productions.

Applications for the incentive programs can be made to the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission. The address is: 312 8th Avenue North, Tennessee Tower 9th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243. E-mail tn.film@state.tn.us

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

A new state law requiring every person arrested for a violent crime to provide a DNA sample in hopes that investigators can link suspects to other cases is already working, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Investigators have been able to make arrests in three cases in a matter of months: a homicide in Shelby County, a burglary in Middle Tennessee and a sexual assault in East Tennessee. Criminals are often repeat offenders, which is why people arrested in violent crimes are required to give a DNA sample. At least two samples are kept on file at the TBI for future reference. Forensic scientists analyze the results and enter the information into a statewide database. If a person is found innocent, their DNA will be deleted from the database. If the law enforcement agency gets a hit, that gives them the authority to ask the individual for another sample, which is used for evidence purposes. Since January, more than 1,000 samples have been analyzed and entered into the state's database. Still more than 5,000 kits are stacked up and waiting for processing.

For motorists who encounter trouble on the roadway, there is a service available to call the Tennessee Highway Patrol immediately. All drivers can dial *THP - or *847 - to call for assistance or if they suspect another driver is under the influence or driving aggressively. Drivers can still dial 911 if they are in an emergency situation. Motorists can call from their cell phones and will be connected automatically to the closest dispatch office. Be ready to provide the highway patrol dispatch with a location, a description of the other vehicle and details regarding the incident.

Advocacy groups are asking the EPA to rethink a proposed rule that would affect how air quality is recorded in the Great Smoky Mountains and other national parks. According to the National Parks Conservation Association, an EPA proposal changing the way air quality is measured, would also relax pollution rules by only looking at annual averages rather than peaks. The Association fears air quality in the Great Smoky Mountains and other national parks will suffer under the rule due to an increased number of coal plants in use in the U.S.

Until recently, state law limited a class of cars known as the neighborhood electric vehicle to 25 mph. **Thanks to a law that kicked in on July 1, medium-speed electric- or gasoline-powered vehicles with four wheels can travel up to 35 mph**, and can use roads where the speed limit is 40. Golf carts are excluded. Tennessee joins Montana

and Washington as the only states with such a law. Most follow a 1998 federal law that allows the vehicles to travel up to 25 mph.

Insurance agents taking licensing exams in Tennessee must now be fingerprinted and have their backgrounds checked by state and federal investigators. Before they are licensed to sell, agents or their companies must pay an additional \$50 for the services and wait for the results of checks by the TBI and FBI. Tennessee Department of Insurance representatives say the move comes as a rising number of felons have applied for insurance licenses in the past few years becoming important as consumers put faith in insurance agents to help them make important financial decisions.

There's a new lottery-funded scholarship for the first 375 eligible veterans who apply. The "Helping Heroes Act," a component of a comprehensive lottery-scholarship reform bill approved by the legislature. It will award up to \$1,000 per semester for Tennessee veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that attend eligible public and private institutions of higher education in the state, starting with the upcoming fall semester. The grant is administered like other state-funded scholarships by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corp. The Helping Heroes grant will be available each year on a first-come, first-served basis. Students have until Sept. 1 to process their applications for this fall. Total benefits are capped at \$8,000 and must be used within eight years of the end of military service.

A new Tennessee law requires that all state colleges and universities inform the parents of students under 21 about violations of the schools' drug or alcohol policies. State Sen. Roy Herron sponsored the bill in hopes of curbing underage drinking and stemming the violence and injuries associated with drinking on college campuses.

The four-day work week is a company's attempt to help ease their employee's pain at the pump. Now some Tennessee state agencies are jumping on board. **Every state agency has the option to give an employee a four-day work week.** Gas prices have hit their tipping point for the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole. Recently the board approved a four-day work week. Supervisors will look at individual units and employees, deciding if the shorter work week works for the employee and the taxpayer.

Tennessee students are making gains in reading at a young age but aren't graduating from college as often as peers from other states, according to a new study by the Southern Regional Education Board. Students in the Volunteer State enroll in college at a higher rate than other graduates, but only 48 percent graduate within six years, below the national average of 55 percent. The study examined students in four-year public colleges and universities. On the flip side, 44 percent of fourth-graders from low-income families scored at or above the basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

On June 10, Google expanded coverage of its Street View feature in several locales, including Middle Tennessee, now peering down paths from Lebanon to Kingston Springs, and roaming from Spring Hill to Portland. Pictures are posted to a web site that includes photos of thousands of Middle Tennessee streets and the people who were on them when the camera-car drove by. The feature has tickled the antennae of privacy experts, and some local residents are put off that photos of their homes were posted online without their knowledge. Google began offering views of Middle Tennessee three months ago. At that time, it covered much of Metro Nashville and about half of Hendersonville. Privacy groups and consumer organizations in other states have criticized the site for not making it easy enough for viewers to get rid of photos they consider too invasive.

Tennessee lottery officials are warning about a fraudulent e-mail suggesting recipients are prize winners and asking for money to cover processing fees. The Tennessee Lottery never requires fees to claim a prize. Officials said anyone who receives such an e-mail or letter should disregard it. The scam has been attempted nationwide.

As of July 1, it is illegal to sell or distribute novelty lighters in Tennessee. Novelty lighters resemble a toy and according to the United States Fire Administration, have been responsible for a number of accidents, injuries and deaths.

A new Tennessee law allows 16-year-olds to donate blood with parental consent. The American Red Cross is hoping young people will add to the nation's blood banks.

Across the Tri-Cities, the State, and the nation, law enforcement officers say meth is re-emerging as the drug of choice. Through May 31, 2007, the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force recorded 258 meth lab busts statewide. Through May 31, 2008, the agency reported 273. In June alone, investigators found 68 meth labs in the state, the highest monthly total since March 2006. Although Tennessee has changed its laws to make it more difficult for a person to buy the ingredients needed to make meth, it appears dealers and addicts still have the will and the way to get their fix. The Meth-Free Tennessee Act of 2005 moved all products containing pseudoephedrine behind the counters at Tennessee pharmacies, required customers to sign a log whenever they bought drugs like Sudafed, and limited the number of boxes a person could buy within a month to just three.

TDOT will begin inspecting 600 highway signs across the state similar to the sign that fell onto the interstate south of Nashville near an exit leading to Cool Springs Mall. The sign that fell, and others like it, are called cantilever signs because they are supported by only one pole on one side. It was 15 years old. Department officials believe prolonged exposure to wind created by tractor-trailers may have contributed to the problem. TDOT said the signs don't have to be inspected, but the department periodically does so as part of its general work. Officials said there was no problem with the sign when they last inspected it in 2000.



Lenoir City closes a \$5 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for a new city hall and upgrades for the fire department. Pictured are: Mayor Matt Brookshire, City Recorder Maggie Hunt, City Administrator Dale Hurst and TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



Some states are making it harder for illegal immigrants to attend college by denying in-state tuition benefits or banning undocumented students. In the past two years, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and Oklahoma have refused in-state tuition benefits to students who entered the USA illegally with their parents, but grew up and went to school in the states. That represents a reversal from earlier this decade, when 10 states passed laws allowing in-state rates for such students. This summer, South Carolina became the first state to bar undocumented students from all public colleges and universities. North Carolina's community colleges in May ordered its 58 campuses to stop enrolling undocumented students after the state attorney general said admitting them may violate federal law.

sector. Economists had expected jobs to decline by 20,000 in June.

Businesses are bracing for a national minimum-wage hike later this month, with some business owners saying they'll have to raise prices or reduce hiring to compensate for the extra costs. The national minimum wage increased to \$6.55 an hour on July 24 — up from \$5.85 an hour, the second of a three-step increase that began last year. Next year, the minimum wage will increase again to \$7.25 an hour.

The nation is facing a massive nursing shortage. Figures indicate a current shortfall of 200,000 nurses nationwide, which will intensify through 2025, when the expected shortfall reaches 500,000.

A new payroll report shows that nearly 80,000 private-sector jobs were lost across the country in June. The National Employment Report showed a loss of 76,000 jobs among goods-producing businesses, the 19th consecutive monthly decline. That number included 44,000 manufacturing positions. The report also showed a decline of 3,000 jobs in the services

Policy Day set for Sept. 11

POLICY from Page 1
 The sponsoring city must attend the policy meeting to present an initiative to the committees, without exception. If the sponsoring city is not present to explain the initiative, the committee will not consider the proposal. In such cases, the proposal will be forwarded to the TML Legislative Committee with the note

that the sponsoring city was not present and proposal was not reviewed, ranked or approved by the policy committee.

A Policy Committee Registration Form is available online and must be completed and returned for those who wish to participate. Registration to attend the policy day is also online at www.TML1.org.

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TML salutes new vendor attendance at the 2008 Annual Conference in Memphis

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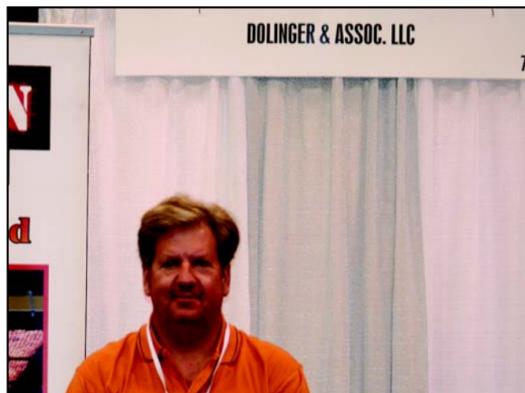
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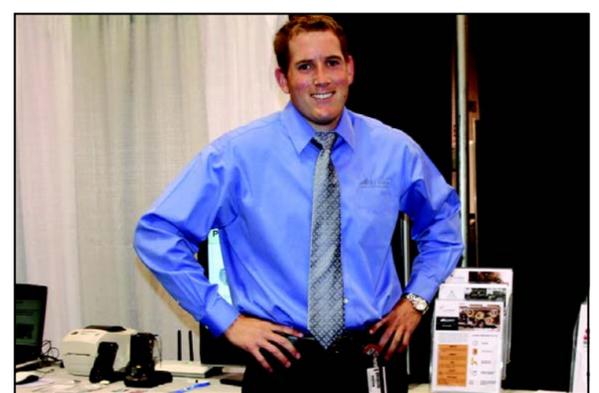
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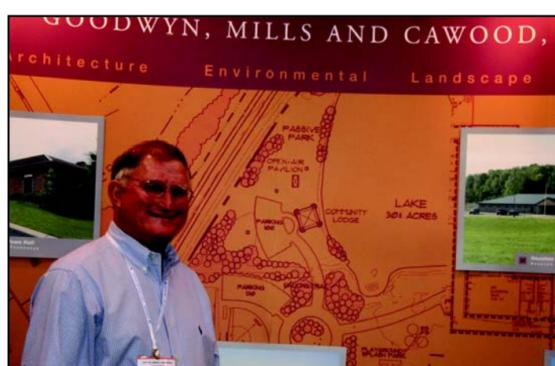
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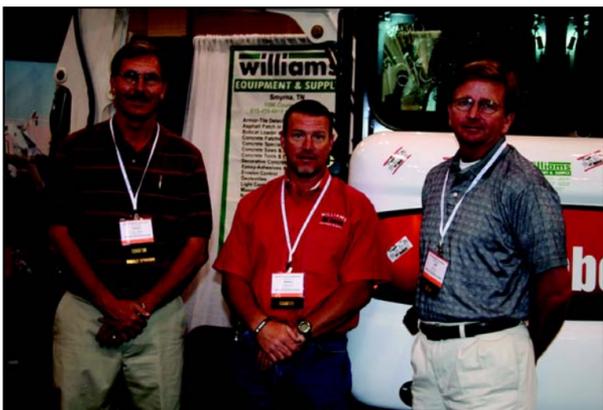
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ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

PIGEON FORGE. The city is currently accepting resumes for the position of Assistant City Manager. This position works and reports directly to the City Manager. Responsible for a wide variety of tasks associated with assisting the City Manager in management, administrative, and professional work as it relates to the growth, economic development and planning for city development. Excellent leadership needed with strong supervisory skills. Qualifications include: High School diploma, valid Tennessee Driver License, Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited College or University with a degree in Business/Public Administration, Political Science, or closely related field is required. Requires five years experience in municipal administration management and in supervising the work activities of department directors and supervisors in municipal government and/or closely related field. Experience in governmental work and public speaking is preferred. Personal computer skills necessary. Submit resume to: City of Pigeon Forge, Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868-1350. Resume must include 3 personal references with contact information and must be post-marked by August 8, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. No phone calls. The City of Pigeon Forge is an EOE and complies with EOE and Title VI. Applicant will be subject to the drug testing provisions of the City of Pigeon Forge.

CHIEF PLANNER

COLLIERVILLE. The town is seeking applications for the position of Chief Planner. This position performs responsible, complex professional work in a variety of current and long range planning studies. It requires a Bachelors degree in planning, landscape architecture or a closely related field supplemented by six years previous experience in a planning office at a professional level; or a Master's Degree in planning and five years experience; AICP certification may be substituted for one year of professional experience, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Must possess and maintain a valid operator's license. Salary range is \$46,437.000 - \$72,115.00 (DOQ) plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained Mon-Fri at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FRANKLIN. The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Administrator. The city is governed by a Mayor and Board of eight Aldermen. The Administrator is appointed upon the Mayor's recommendation and Board's approval. The ideal candidate will be a proven local government manager or assistant with experience in fast growing communities. Must have proven ability to provide strategic visioning to the city as it continues to develop and progress. Requires a Bachelors degree and ten years of related experience. Some private experience will be considered. Competitive salary range with excellent benefits with beginning salary negotiable DOQ. Visit the city's web site @ www.franklin-gov.com. This position will be open until filled. EOE. To apply, please submit resume and cover letter to: Robert E. Slavin, President, Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite A-1, Norcross, Georgia 30071, phone: (770) 449-4656, Fax: (770) 416-0848, E-mail: slavin@bellsouth.net. or visit the web site at www.slavinweb.com.

CITY MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city is accepting qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. Qualifications: At least five years city management experience, plus leadership and team building skills. College degree required. Salary range \$85,000 - \$95,000, plus benefits and automobile. Send resume to: Curtis D. Adams, Hamilton County Commissioner/City Manager, City of East Ridge, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412. Phone: 423-622-3352. EOE. TN Drug Free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

OAK HILL. The city seeks applications for the position of City Manager. Excellent ben-

efits package. Commission/Manager form of government with manager reporting to the mayor and board of commissioners. The city manager will lead and direct all departments including administration, safety, planning and code enforcement, streets and public services. Requires BA/BS in public or business administration, political science, public policy or related field. Prefer some municipal experience as manager or assistant manager in local government. Salary: DOQ/E. Position open until filled. The required city application is available from the assistant city manager. Application, with resume, cover letter, references and salary history should be submitted to: City of Oak Hill, 5548 Franklin Road, Suite 102, Nashville, TN 37220. The assistant city manager may be contacted by phone at 615-371-8291.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ATHENS. The city will accept applications for the position of Community Development Director until filled. This position is responsible for professional assistance in the city's industrial, commercial and residential development efforts including planning, zoning and supervision of building inspections and codes enforcement. The director works under the general supervision of the city manager. The position requires a bachelor's degree in city planning, public administration, business administration or closely related field and work related experience in management and planning for local and/or state governments. Must possess and maintain a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary range is \$56,163-\$84,244 (DOQ) plus full benefit package. References are required and background checks will be conducted. Resumes will only be accepted with applications. Applications are available through the Human Resource Department, City of Athens, PO Box 849, 815 North Jackson Street, Athens, TN 37371-0849. EOE.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town seeks applications for the position of Community Development Director. The director plans, organizes, directs, services of departments of engineering, planning, and building codes services. Requires strong, results-oriented management qualifications, leadership and team building skills and engineering, planning, communication and interpersonal relationship competencies. Needs track record demonstrating consensus-building, knowledge of community development, City functions, project design and management, transportation systems and their funding sources, customer service, employee relations, and intergovernmental relations. Requires Bachelor's degree, 10 years experience in planning and community development work. Master's degree in planning, business administration or related field preferred. Salary \$67,348 - \$106,660 DOQ, plus benefits. Send resumes by September 15, 2008 to John Maxwell, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated: 109-A Wimbledon Square, Suite A, Chesapeake VA 23320, fax: 757-422-6617 or email jmaxwell@springsted.com. EOE.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

JACKSON. The city is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. Will serve as principal assistant to the chief in organizing, directing, supervising, disciplining and coordinating activities associated with the department, ensuring effective and efficient daily operational practices, firefighting techniques and procedures. Specific job duties include: supervising, directing, and evaluating fire prevention officers, training officers, and emergency medical services officer; handle employee concerns and

problems; direct work; counsel; discipline and complete employee performance evaluations; direct personnel, apparatus, equipment and property of the department at emergency scenes, ensuring strict compliance with rules and regulations of the department, assist the chief in the development, implementations, and monitoring of operational and administrative procedures and policies; assist with the preparation and presentation of annual budgetary evaluations and related analysis to appropriate individuals; review the financial operations of the department and make recommendations on annual operating budget and capital improvements. Associate's degree in Fire Science preferred, with a minimum of three years experience as Captain. Must have State of Tennessee or National certification as a Firefighter II, Fire Instructor, Fire Officer I and II. Must possess a minimum of medical First Responder's certification from a Department of Public Health. Generous benefit package; salary is \$61,000.00. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net. Contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301; Phone: 731-425-8252; Fax: 731-425-8673.

ENGINEERING ASSISTANT

PORTLAND. The City of Portland is searching for a qualified Engineering Assistant. This person will report to the City Engineer/Public Works Director. The employee performs general work in the design, construction, inspection, and maintenance of a variety of public facilities and utilities. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or Civil Engineering Technology required. Salary range is \$34,075-\$47,705. For more information, contact Mary Lou Thompson, Human Resources Manager, at 615-325-6776. For applications, visit www.cityofportlandtn.gov. Send resumes and applications to: Human Resources, City of Portland, 100 S. Russell St., Portland, TN 37148. Position open until filled.

FINANCE ANALYST

PORTLAND. The city is seeking applications for the position of Finance Analyst.

Graduation from an accredited, post secondary college or university, with a bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance is required. This is an entry level position requiring a minimum of one year experience in the accounting field with a broad based knowledge of GL/AP/AR, purchasing and payroll. Candidate must be well versed in financial accounting software. Reports to the City Recorder. Knowledge of governmental account preferred. Salary range is \$34,075-\$47,705. For more information, contact Mary Lou Thompson, Human Resources Manager or Karen Johnson, City Recorder at 615-325-6776. For applications, visit www.cityofportlandtn.gov. Send resumes and applications to Human Resources, City of Portland, 100 S. Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148. Position open until filled.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city is seeking a progressive and experienced human resources director to lead and direct the services and programs provided by the Human Resources Department. Minimum qualifications include the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree in business, management, or public administration with seven years of progressively responsible experience in human resources and health insurance administration. Responsible for planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the personnel activities of the City's 890 FTE employee workforce, including organizational training. Looking for an enthusiastic, responsive team-oriented individual with good management and organization skills, self-starter. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required. The hiring range is anticipated in the \$60k - \$75k range, with a very competitive benefits package. Visit the city's website at www.johnsoncitytn.org for a more detailed description of the position and how to apply. Open until filled. EEO/AA

MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEF

ERWIN. The town is accepting applications for the position of Municipal Police Chief. This employee is responsible for the planning, organizing and directing of all activities of the Police Department, overseeing 10 full-time police officers and one full-time investigator.

The employee is under the general supervision of the City Recorder and Mayor. Qualifications include: Graduation from an accredited high school or equivalent, preferably graduation from a college or university with major course experience in police administration or related field. Must possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Must have five (5) years experience in law enforcement administration. Must be POST certified. Salary DOQ plus excellent benefits. Application is a public record. Send resumes, obtain application or receive more information from: Town of Erwin, P.O. Box 59 211 North Main Ave., Erwin, TN. 37650. Phone: 423-743-623. EOE

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

MT. PLEASANT. The city is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as Public Works Director. Currently, the Water Dept. and the Sewer Dept. are separate operating entities. We are seeking an individual who can combine these two functions into one department and effectively address the issues in front of us. Interested candidates should send a summary of qualifications to: Richard Goode, City Manager, 100 Public Square, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474. The position will remain open until filled. EOE

TOWN MANAGER

BLACK MOUNTAIN N.C. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Town Manager. Council-Manager form of government with manager reporting to the mayor and 5-member board. The manager shall lead and direct all departments including administration, fire, police, parks & recreation, planning and code enforcement, streets, and water. Requires BA/BS in public or business administration, political science, public policy or related field. Prefer minimum 5 years experience as manager or assistant manager in local government and/or MPA. Position open until filled. Salary: DOQ/E. Excellent benefits package. Town application is required and available at www.townofblackmountain.org. Application, together with resume, cover letter, and salary history should be submitted to: Town Clerk, Town of Black Mountain, 102 Montreat Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711

Municipal Administration Program August Schedule

New Laws Affecting Cities – 2008 (4595)

Each year, the General Assembly passes into law several acts that affect Tennessee municipalities.

This program will give you the opportunity to get an update from the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) legal staff who tracked the legislative process throughout the session. This course will be highly interactive and will give you an opportunity to ask questions about the new laws.

Instructor

MTAS Legal Consultants.

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All elected and appointed municipal officials who are responsible for implementation and monitoring of state legislation.

Time

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Dates and locations

Aug. 13	Johnson City
Aug. 14	Knoxville
Aug. 15	Collegedale
Aug. 18	Franklin
Aug. 19	Jackson
Aug. 20	Bartlett

Training Facilities

Bartlett Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling Road
Collegedale Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Franklin Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane

Jackson West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard

Johnson City Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St.

Knoxville University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrissy at Elaine.morrissy@tennessee.edu or 865-974-0411.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu. Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

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Mayor, Portland (District 5)

PAST PRESIDENTS

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Tommy Bragg (2006) Mayor, Murfreesboro
Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg
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Sam Tharpe (2001) Vice Mayor, Paris
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TML spotlights 2008 board members

BOARD from Page 1

sociation. She was recognized in 2002 as Gatlinburg City Manager of the Year and received the Excellence in Governing Award in 2007.

As a doctor of veterinary medicine, Mayor **David Gordon** has been in public office more than five years, serving as Tipton County commissioner with an interest in revenue sources, industrial recruitment, and education. Gordon was voted Tipton County's "Best of the Best" No.1 Politician in 2007 and is a former member of the Rotary Club, the TVMA, and SCVMA. He received the 2002 CP Boyd Leadership Award.

In addition to economic development, children's issues are No. 1 to **Shirley Fox Rogers**. A graduate of Knoxville Business College and

serving in public office for seven years, Shirley works with organizations that serve "at-risk" children as well as with a family-owned insurance company.

She is a member of the Campbell County Planning Commission and serves on the Knoxville Public Television Board. Her awards include: the 2000 Tennessee Volunteer Commendation Award, the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, and Women Who Make a Difference. Rogers' memberships include the Rotary Club, the Eastern Star, the Red Hat Society, and the Campbell County Health Clinic.

In public office for eight years, **David May Jr.** formerly served as Cleveland's Fire Chief and is a state licensed contractor. He is keenly interested in planning and economic

development issues and served on the first 911 Board, the EOC, the Planning Commission, Habitat for Humanity and Mainstreet Cleveland. May is a member of Keep America Beautiful, the Historic Neighborhood Association, and the Homebuilder's Association. He also sponsors the 100 Black Men's Association toward the education of young people.

Kevin Helms has served as Fayetteville's city administrator since March 2006. Prior to moving to Fayetteville, he served for nine years as city manager of Clifton in Wayne County. He earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in public administration, served on the Tennergy Advisory Board and received the 1996 Outstanding Young Men of America award.



August 29 - 31: African Street Festival

Jackson. Music artists, merchandise and food vendors; African arts and artifacts, health screenings, and children activities. For more information, call 731-616-0814.

September 1: Hooray for Harriman Labor Day Festival

Riverfront Park from 2-8 p.m. Children's activities, crafts, concessions, and live entertainment. For more information, call Amy Arriola at 865-882-9414.

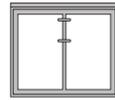
September 1: City of Harrogate Labor Day Celebration

Labor Day celebration beginning at 3 p.m. with children's games, live bands, food, crafts and business fair. Enjoy at dark a spectacular fireworks display. For more information, call City Hall at 423-869-0211.

September 5-6: 27th Annual Smoky Mountain Fiddlers

Loudon. Fiddle/guitar/banjo & dance competitions, great music, arts & crafts, antiques show and sale. For more information, call 865-458-7525

COMING UP



Aug. 5-7: The Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Grant Workshops. Free. Memphis, Aug. 5, 1-5 p.m., Shelby Farms Visitor's Center Board Room 500 North Pine Lake Drive; Nashville, Aug. 6, 1-5 p.m., Downtown Public Library, 615 Church St.; and Knoxville, Aug. 7, 1-5 p.m., Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, 17 Market Square, #17. For registration, call Paula Larson at 615-532-0926 or email Paula.Larson@state.tn.us.

Sept. 9: Disney Keys to Excellence one-day business best practices workshop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hosted by Middle Tennessee State University at the Sheraton Downtown Nashville, 623 Union Street. For registration information, visit www.keysnashville.com. Email: registrations@keysUS.com. Phone: 877.544.2384 Fax: 913.712.9247. For complete 2008 program schedule, visit www.keysUS.com.

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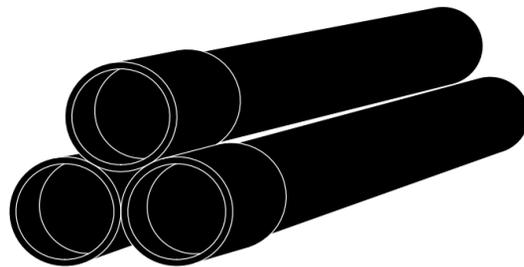
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Larry Turner often a Lone Wolf when the House votes 98-1

BY GAEL STAHL

Larry Turner has represented south Memphis District 85 since 1984. Late in his first session of 1985-87, he cast the only nay vote during a special session called to oust Judge Ira Murphy. A member of the House from 1969-1983, Murphy was the first African-American committee chair (Judiciary Committee) in a modern Southern legislature. Ned McWherter named him chair for helping him get elected House Speaker in 1972. After being elected a Shelby County General Sessions judge in 1982, Murphy was convicted in 1986 for trying to help a lodge obtain a bingo parlor permit. When he didn't resign his judgeship, the House voted to remove him. Turner was the only one to vote nay, signifying his character and philosophy.

Turner was born in West Memphis, Ark., to a single mother, and mostly raised by his grandmother. He was always on good terms with his father, Robert Lee Turner, who fathered 11 children. His mother had two, Larry and his older sister. When it got too cold in rural Arkansas, their grandmother took the children to Memphis where they had running water and gas heat. When Turner was nine, they moved to Memphis for good. Coming from a two-room Arkansas school to a four-story brick building was frightening. He quickly realized how deficient he was in reading, writing and arithmetic and he barely passed fourth grade.

In those days, students could stay out of school the first semester and get a passing grade by attending the second semester. During fifth and sixth grades, he delivered wood up to a mile and a half away pushing a wagon barrow loaded with five bushels of wood. He earned a nickel a basket.

During the second semesters, he went to school and by the end of the second semester of sixth grade he was up to grade level and on the honor roll. He stayed on the honor roll for the rest of his school career. He had the highest grade average in his class and came in second on a statewide math test. On graduating from Manassas High School in 1957, he received a full-tuition scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta.

Having lost his drugstore job in his senior year, he didn't have the \$25 needed to reserve his room. With everybody else going to college, he volunteered for the Air Force, passed every test with high marks, and became an assessor I early warning aircraft operator scanning the radarscope for air craft invading their territory. A lot of his four years in the Air Force was spent in southern California at Boron Air Force Base, a site rich in borax, in the middle of the Mojave Desert, 28 miles from Edwards Air Force Base, site of so many test flights and NASA landings.

On completing his service, he was accepted by the University of Indiana, but he followed an uncle's advice to attend Owen Junior College (now Lemoyn-Owen) in Memphis. He made the Dean's list, graduated in two years, transferred to Memphis State University (now University of Memphis), and despite an unfriendly climate - MSU had integrated just three years earlier - earned a BS degree in real estate and accounting.

While attending school part-time, he worked various jobs - as an Avon salesman and an insurance salesman, a job he left to visit his sister in Fort Wayne, Ind., the month before she died. He returned to his insurance job, then became Owen College's business manager, worked and managed Victory Funeral Home for five years, and, about 1973, began as manager of the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association in Memphis before working as a program specialist writing proposals for a non-profit that helped minorities wanting to go into business get financing from financial institutions.

He was always involved in community activities including civil rights. His wife, Johnnie Turner, a former teacher, now executive director of the Memphis NAACP, was arrested a number of times, and once convicted and sentenced to six months in jail but served no time while on appeal and Gov. Clement's pardon of the students two years later. She graduated second in her class at Owen but was denied employment with Memphis City Schools for three years because they knew she'd tell students about voting rights. Once she was hired, she



Photo by Gael Stahl

moved up, taught the gifted, became a supervisor, and an administrator. She retired to be director of NAACP.

Turner has experienced the sting of arrest himself. In about 1986, he and 13 others in the Black Caucus (Tennessee's was the only black caucus to go) went to Washington, DC, to demonstrate outside the South African Embassy against apartheid policy and were arrested. Half of the 14 arrested were legislators, including Rufus Jones, Harper Brewer, Pete Drew, Alvin King, Roscoe Dixon, and Lois DeBerry.

The Turners have one son.

TT&C: How did you meet your wife?

LT: We met at junior college. I was driving my old '47 Plymouth from school one day when a woman flagged me down and asked for a ride. She asked me to buy a ticket to a dance. I said I would if she found me a date. At the dance she introduced me to Johnnie Rodgers. We dated for three years. I called her every single day we courted. We married in 1965.

TT&C: How did you lose the job that meant you couldn't reserve a room at Morehouse?

LT: After working at a grocery store, I worked at a drugstore that was supposed to pay me \$4 a week more. My supervisor at the grocery said I wouldn't like working over there but I went. I called a pharmacist and a 16-year-old girl by their first names. They wanted me to add Miss to her name and add a title to the pharmacist. Sometimes they sent me to get their lunch. I'd go through the front door. African Americans were supposed to go through the back door. They called me on that, but I refused. The black guy I'd replaced came back about three months later. They said they didn't need me anymore. He went through the back door.

At the same time, my grandmother was earning a dollar a day. She bought some furniture on credit. A young man came to our door and asked for her using her first name. I told him, "Nobody lives here by that name." Two hours later he returned mad, and said, "You said Eva didn't live here." I told him my grandmother's name was Miss Evie Bond. "If I went to your house and asked for your grandmother by her first name, what would your reaction be?" He said, "Oh, that's different."

TT&C: In April, a ceremony was held in Memphis in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. who died 40 years ago. Where were you working in 1968?

LT: I was at the funeral home. The night before the assassination, my wife and I went to the Mason Temple to hear the last speech he made. It was a stormy night raining buckets. The temple was filled. My wife and I finally found a seat in the balcony. Martin had decided he was too tired and wouldn't be coming to the temple, but those who invited him prevailed on him to come on over. When he entered, you felt something in the atmosphere - that something was pending. He talked first about some recent misadventures, like an incident where he had made a remark about a sheriff that had been harassing him. When he got on the plane, the sheriff was right behind him.

He went on to make a very good speech about the ascent to the mountaintop, that he may not get there with us, but that we as a people would get to the mountaintop. You

could feel something surging through the audience. With all this harassment and being stalked by various law enforcement made you wonder if maybe he knew something was going to happen to him. The next day, about 4 o'clock, my next door neighbor asked if I was going down to hear King, who was supposed to appear again. I said, I didn't know yet. A few minutes later, I learned King had been shot.

TT&C: What led to King's being involved at all?

LT: About a week earlier, around March 31, we'd planned a march [to support black garbage employees], but the city would not give us a permit to march. We said we'd march without a permit. But on that day, 19 inches of snow fell. Memphis had never experienced that much snow in history. We always wondered what if it hadn't snowed. How many people could have been killed or wounded. The community was very set on having a march.

All of the garbage workers were black and were unable to get equity in salary and work practices on their own. Some community leaders felt they needed union help and King's help. But even that might not have been enough. The city hadn't allowed black garbage workers to come in out of the rain. When one black worker wanted to go into the office to get out of the rain, they told him he couldn't come in. He got in the back of a garbage truck and was somehow crushed in it. That was one of the things. Salary, of course, was an issue, but other things had people disturbed. They were getting nowhere, so the local leaders of the movement prevailed on King to come to Memphis. He didn't really want to get involved.

I was also active in the community in the late 1970s when we had what we called Black Mondays. We persuaded kids to not attend school on Mondays. We wanted the city to hire a black school superintendent. After the white superintendent they hired from Boston resigned because of the feelings in the black community, they finally hired a black superintendent, Dr. Willie W. Herenton.

TT&C: When did your interest in political service begin?

LT: I'd worked for the National Business League and was the treasurer. I worked for the Greater Memphis Development Corporation that built the first black shopping center in Memphis at Fourth and Crump.

I worked 10 years for state government. That came about when the leadership in the legislature agreed, after Ned McWherter was elected speaker, to appoint a black constitutional officer. That didn't materialize, but Rep. Ira Murphy helped persuade the Comptroller's Office to hire me to work in a new program giving tax relief to senior citizens and disabled citizens. They didn't want me but I was finally hired as regional coordinator for the property tax relief program. Every six months for 10 years, I had to go to Nashville to justify my having the job. I was suffering chest pains at the time and later found out they were indeed probably due to job pressure. The next time my supervisor asked me to come to Nashville for a rehiring interview, I said I wasn't coming. My resignation was already in the mail. I'd worked in real estate while I was working for the funeral home, the Savings and Loan Association, and regional coordinator for the state property tax relief program. I retired to work at my real estate

company.

Then, the Shelby County clerk died and I sought that position. I missed the County Commission appointment by one vote. That got me interested in the political end of things. I'd run Ira Murphy's campaign for the state legislature and worked in all of his efforts. I had also managed Rufus Jones' campaign for the legislature. Both were successful. I preferred helping other people get elected than running myself, I told people.

TT&C: But, then, you did run?

LT: Well, two years earlier, at the beginning of the 1983-84 legislative session, my state legislator, Dedrick Teddy Withers, went to Africa and missed the first year of the session and, after he returned, most of the next year, too. The papers wrote it up. I tried to contact him and didn't get a response, so I decided to run for his seat. Nine friends gave me \$100 each to kick off my campaign.

The incumbent underestimated my community experience and my ability to campaign. He thought it was a big joke and spent a lot of time helping Ulysses Jones's campaign against incumbent Harper Brewer. My wife, who was one of my chief campaign advisors, belonged to a sorority, and we both belonged to the NAACP. We put as many as 50 people on the streets every Saturday morning. Before he knew it, I had turned the corner on him two or three weeks out from Election Day with enough exposure to possibly win. By the time they got serious, it was too late. I beat a 10-year incumbent on my first try - by 110 votes.

Normally, in that district, if you won the primary, you had it made. He filed as a write-in, independent candidate to run against me in the general election. He got about 700 votes in the general to my 13,000 or so. Two years later, he filed against me in the primary, and I won by 180 votes.

TT&C: What issues have occasioned your single no votes?

LT: The issue they teased me most about was a bill 20 years ago to take the doors off of the viewing booths in adult book stores. People rented adult tapes and took them into viewing booths. I was the only one to vote against taking the doors off the booths. I feel everybody has a right to privacy if they want to go to an adult bookstore. And, many times, my no votes were about cases that the courts later ruled the same way I voted with regard to individual rights. I was the lone no vote when we voted to oust Judge Ira Murphy because he had filed an appeal and my position was that he was innocent until proven guilty. Later on he was exonerated on almost all charges. When he died last January, I spoke at his funeral.

TT&C: Such votes must underlie a philosophy of politics and service. What is it?

LT: My general philosophy is that I'm elected to serve one session - that I have two years to do what I think is right for people. Sometimes it may be politically expedient to vote a certain way, but I don't do the politically expedient thing if I don't think it adequately represents people's sense of their real needs. I realize all legislators have a right to cast votes that they hope will get the people back home to re-elect them, whether it is right or wrong. Like the votes to "lock people up and throw away the key" and extend prison sentences way beyond what they perhaps should be. I have voted against

a lot of legislation designed for that purpose.

I championed the abolition of the death penalty and carried the bills on the House side to extend voting rights to convicted felons who have done their time. We lost that one the first year I carried the bill. In the second year, we won by five votes with 55 votes on the board, because that was one of those difficult ones. But you know, the purpose of government is doing for people what they cannot do for themselves. I have tried to do that, especially when the rights of people are encroached. One day, a lady sitting in the House balcony when 98 green votes and my one red vote went up said, "Why don't you go down there and tell him to change his vote. He doesn't understand what he's doing." The lobbyist next to her said, "He understands."

The death penalty is inhumane. It doesn't deter and is 10 times more expensive than sentencing them to a life in prison. The United States is about the only industrialized nation that still has the death penalty.

TT&C: What's your take on those who passed the "three strikes you're out" legislation leaving us to pay for growing numbers of aged and sick prisoners in for three habitual but nonviolent crimes?

LT: I thought it was disingenuous of them to dramatically increase our costs of incarceration unless they passed the taxes to pay for the annual \$30,000 a year to house them.

I voted against bills to lock 'em up and throw away the key. I was one of the 46 House members who voted for the state income tax eight years ago. I carried a state income tax bill that called for a graduated income tax. The one that got through to the floor was a flat tax. I believe the tax system should be elastic, that people should be taxed fairly in accordance with their ability to pay for people's safety, education, and medical needs.

Sales tax collections are erratic and unfair with 50 percent of Tennesseans living right across a border from states with a lower or no sales tax on certain items. Our economy would be better by maybe a billion dollars a year if we passed a fair tax such as an income tax and lowered the sales tax to correspond to other states. We'd attract businesses to Tennessee rather than see them leave the state to avoid increases in property taxes year after year. Because education is supported largely by property taxes at the local level.

TT&C: What kinds of consumer rights do you champion?

LT: I carried the anti-predatory lending bill that passed two years ago. These last two years I've sponsored a bill to regulate the title-loan industry that gives short-term loans to people who put up a title. The current law allows them to charge 22 percent - per month! When you annualize that and mix in their fees, it comes to about 264 percent.

I've heard horror stories where people borrowed \$500 and put their car title up and had to pay \$3,000 to \$4,000 on that \$500 - highway robbery no matter how you look at it. These companies tell how they have to take in that much money to break even. Should we keep companies on life support if they are victimizing the people? I don't think we should build in any kind of security for people who victimize others.

The companies say there must be a market for their services or they wouldn't be in business. Well, the people who go to them are desperate. We have the responsibility to make other financial sources available without this usurious interest.

My bill addresses our responsibility to regulate these companies and lessen their victimizing by putting a cap on how much interest they can charge. It requires that after the second rollover that 10 percent of the principle has to be paid each month so people don't just keep rolling the loan and accumulating interest and never get the principle paid. Also, the bill requires each company to get a separate license for each business site and regulates the amount of the fee they have to pay for a license.

The bill doesn't put them out of business but does regulate their practices and requires the Department of Financial Institutions to audit them. The bill didn't pass in April but was sent by the subcommittee to a summer study committee to meet in late July. We are mobilizing the community as we speak asking them to write, call, and email legislators, and even to come up here to try to prevail on them.