

TML Design Review Bill approved

Municipalities throughout the state have been granted authority to establish a design review commission to develop guidelines for maintaining the aesthetics of their communities.

SB3970 by Sen. Diane Black and HB 3830 by Rep. Debra Maggart were passed into law earlier this month. This TML-backed legislation grants the authority to all municipalities, regardless of their charter, the ability to establish a design review commission. Up until now, this authority was only granted to those municipalities operating under a Mayor/Aldermanic charter.

"The absence of a design review commission places a tremendous burden on planning commissions in municipalities seeking to better regulate a building's or structure's appearance," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director. "TML appreciates the work and the support of the bill's sponsors and the Tennessee General Assembly for enacting this legislation that will help municipalities control the aesthetics of their communities, and in return, enhance economic development by improving property values."

The bill amends TCA, § 6-2-100, which authorizes municipalities with mayor/aldermanic forms of government to create a design review commission. Such commissions are authorized to develop general guidelines and procedures for the approval of the exteriors of all nonresidential properties, multiple family residential properties, and any entrance to nonresidential developments within the municipality. This statute further provides that such commissions are subordinate to any municipal planning com-



Sen. Diane Black



Rep. Debra Maggart

mission established pursuant to Title 13 of TCA.

In addition, this statute allows any property owner to appeal a decision offered by a design review commission to the municipality's planning commission or, if there is no planning commission, to the entire municipal legislative body.

"The substantial growth in Tennessee's population and economic expansion has significantly increased the workload of municipal planning commissions. Design review commissions allow municipal planning commissions to focus more on their core responsibilities while increasing the direct involvement of citizens in the planning process; affording residents greater input into the look and feel of their community," said Mahery.

The 105th General Assembly comes to a close

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Despite the tough economic times, the Governor and members of the Tennessee General Assembly cited many accomplishments during the 2008 legislative session, including balancing a \$27.75 billion budget while faced with a \$468 million shortfall.

"Facing tough decisions and a worsening national economy, we have taken the steps necessary to protect public education and balance the budget with no new taxes," said Gov. Phil Bredesen.

Fully funding the Basic Education Plan (BEP), including \$59 million in new dollars for inflationary growth and continued funding of 934 existing pre-K classrooms; expansion of lottery scholarship programs by adjusting the required GPA from 3.0 to 2.75; and passing sweeping reforms of Tennessee's long-term health care system were among the accomplishments cited.

Among items the governor cut from the budget were \$22 million to extend pre-K; a two percent pay raise for state employees; \$86.5 million for a scheduled installment to the BEP 2.0; and \$55.8 million in base reductions from higher education.

The Legislature also approved the Governor's plan to reduce the size of the state's workforce by five percent by offering voluntary buyouts to as many of employees as possible. The buyout plan will cost roughly \$50 million but will eliminate about \$64 million in annual payroll spending, and will include cash incentives, continuation of health insurance, and two years of college tuition.

The General Assembly did restore enough money to provide state employees, higher education employees, and teachers with three or more years of service with a \$400 bonus, to be distributed by Oct. 1.

Local Parks and Rec Grants affected

As part of its effort to eliminate the budget shortfall, the Bredesen Administration proposed a technical corrections bill that included a number of changes to the state's tax laws. It is estimated that the technical corrections bill would provide an additional \$30 million in revenue to the state.

Legislators objected to a handful of the proposed bill's provisions and voted to delete these provisions from the bill. Consequently, the projected revenue gains associated with the bill were cut in half. Therefore, the General Assembly had to identify another \$15 million in cuts or revenue enhancements in order to eliminate the budget shortfall.

The Senate and House Finance Committees were presented and adopted a package to fill this \$15 million hole that includes a provision to divert funds collected through the state real estate transfer tax and allocated to local parks and recreation grants to the general fund for two years. It is estimated that this provision will provide an additional \$3.9 million in revenue to the state's general fund.

TDEC awards parks grants to cities and counties every two years. As a result of this change, there will be no funds available for the next scheduled grant awards in 2010.

In fiscal year 2010-2011, these revenues will again flow to TDEC's account for parks grants.

Several cities have inquired about the affect of this change on applications submitted for this

year's awards. TML has been advised by TDEC and the Department of Finance and Administration that they cannot give a definitive answer until July.

However, given the recent economic trends and most recent analysis of revenue receipts, the legislators determined it prudent to include a mechanism in the budget that would allow the Administration to handle any additional budget shortfall that might materialize at the end of the fiscal year. In short, the budget includes a hierarchical listing of reserve funds identified within each state department and agency and authorizes the Administration to utilize these funds, as necessary, to balance the budget.

The TDEC account that funds the parks grants is included on the list. Consequently, if the economy performs more poorly than anticipated, revenues are less than projected, and the \$500 million in additional "savings" provided for in the budget are not sufficient to achieve balance, then there is a possibility some or all of the funds designated for parks grants awards for this year will be utilized to ensure a balanced budget. If this occurs, then the pending applications would be adversely affected.

At this point, it is impossible to determine the likelihood of this scenario or to measure the affect such actions would have on the parks grants with any certainty. TML will remain in contact with the relevant authorities and will keep municipalities apprised of any developments.

Record-high gas prices bust city budgets

BY MARK BARRETT
TML Legislative Research Analyst

Remember the good old days when a gallon of gas was just \$.99, back in 1999? It's hard to imagine that in less than a decade gas has more than tripled in price. Today, a gallon of gas costs more than \$3.50 and the price per gallon is expected to exceed four times what it cost per gallon in May of 1999.

At press time, retail gas prices have set a new record nationally for more than twenty consecutive days. There is no shortage of theories explaining the current price increases. Politicians, pundits, editorial writers, and citizens on message boards are all taking shots at identifying the cause of these growing prices. Some say it's the weak dollar, which oil is priced in, while others believe we don't have enough refineries or enough drilling options for oil companies. What's worse is that we seem powerless to reverse the trend.

Pres. George Bush, seeking an increase in the world's supply as a means to reduce prices and satisfy Americans unyielding demand for fuel, was recently rebuffed by the leaders of OPEC.

While an explanation for the current predicament may have escaped us, there is one certainty: no one has escaped the affects of the high price of fuel. Businesses, individuals, and every level of government is feeling the seemingly relentless pressure on their budget.

"We're no different than the average family," says Wilbur Berry, Commissioner of finance and revenue for Clarksville. "Not only is the price of fuel squeezing us, but city projects, services we provide, and goods we purchase are becoming more expensive too because of it. We've had to move money from other places to address this year's shortfall. Doing little things like leaving an open position vacant for an extra month, or making line item adjustments in our budget has added up for us."

Melissa Wright, city recorder for Murfreesboro concurs: "We're lucky that we have an unforeseen contingencies account which we can



Retail gas prices have set a new record nationally for the twentieth consecutive day. In Nashville, premium is \$4.05 per gallon.

use to help with this year. We've already increased the budget funding for next year accordingly, including a 50 percent increase for the police department, which will also increase the amount of cars on patrol next year."

In a recent TML survey, 97 percent of cities reported that the increase in fuel prices has significantly affected their budgets. It's no surprise because many essential services rely on full gas tanks: police cars, school buses, fire trucks, and ambulances to name a few. Solid waste trucks and other public works vehicles are even more of a problem, because these vehicles, like fire trucks and school buses, often run on diesel, which has outpaced the growth of regular gas prices by \$.40 or more per gallon.

"We have increased next year's funding for fuel and oil 20 percent. We're curtailing patrols and not running as many police cars," says Terry Harrison, City administrator of Pulaski. "We're considering bicycle patrols for officers, but they would have to undergo training for insurance purposes if we decide to do that. We're also considering changing the routes of our garbage trucks from five, eight-hour days to

See **FUEL** on Page 6

BY CAROLE GRAVES

In the final days of the 2008 session, the Tennessee General Assembly approved changes to the state's open records law.

The new law creates the Office of Open Records Counsel by statute within the state Comptroller's office and stipulates the duties of the ombudsman.

This role of the ombudsman will serve as a problem solver, answer questions, and provide information to public officials and the public. The office is also charged with collecting data on inquiries and identifying problems associated with the state's open records law.

The newly-adopted statute does not provide legal authority, however; therefore, the new entity will not issue new interpretations of the statute or make law, but will help

educate the public and local government officials about their duties and rights under Tennessee's Sunshine Laws.

The bill also requires governmental agencies to respond to records requests within seven business days of the request, provide an estimated time that the record will be made available, or provide a written reason for lawfully denying access to the record. Current law does not dictate a deadline for responding to requests.

The office is also responsible for establishing a fee schedule for requests that take more than five hours to fulfill and will be used as statewide standard once the fee schedule is approved. This new provision will ensure that government employees' time and taxpayer resources are not consumed by those

See **RECORDS** on Page 3

Lincoln to share wisdom at Conference

The most eloquent of American presidents, Abraham Lincoln, seemed to have a comment—wise or humorous—on just about anything that mattered.

Ken Jones, a member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, will honor the words and works of Lincoln during TML's Annual Conference as the keynote speaker for the awards breakfast on June 24.

As President Lincoln, Jones uses his wit and wisdom to present invaluable truths about leadership, achievement, diversity, and overcoming obstacles, while stressing such virtues as honesty and hard work. His presentation promises to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Held in Memphis at the Cook Convention Center, a festive jazz brunch will kick things off on Sunday, June 22.

On Monday, 16 workshops will be offered on a variety of issues, including: changes in the open records laws; a panel presentation on growth management; transportation funding; labor relations; disaster training; media relations; and performance measurements.

Other highlights include: a 5K

walk / run scheduled for Sunday morning; a special spouse's program that includes a guest speaker, lunch, and a trip to Memphis' Botanic Gardens; the host city reception at the FedEx forum; the TML Risk Management Pool Party; door prizes; plus much more.

For more information and to register online, go to TML's web site at www.TML1.org. Deadline for advanced registration is May 30.



Abraham Lincoln portrayed by Ken Jones

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ATHENS

To keep rising fuel and energy costs from eating away at next year’s budget, Athens has mandated a 15 percent reduction in fuel and energy consumption in every city department. Department heads are to submit proposals on how they intend to make 15 percent energy and fuel reductions within their departments. One plan for fuel savings includes leaving mowing equipment parked in various secure areas throughout the city after mowing jobs instead of driving the equipment back to Public Works. Other energy savings include burning fewer lights in the Municipal Building and less trips to the water fountain.

BLOUNTVILLE

Less than a year after announcing FedEx’s plans to bring 175 jobs to Kingsport, the company is now looking to develop a site near the Tri-Cities Regional Airport. FedEx Freight, which handles shipments weighing more than 150 pounds for the company, will build a new distribution center at the Partnership Park One industrial park. The new facility will employ 33 people when completed. Most will work as over-the-road truck drivers and earn \$20 an hour. The distribution center will occupy 17 of the park’s 105 acres.

CHAPEL HILL

Mayor Carl Cooper broke a tie vote to approve beer service with restaurant meals. At least 51 percent of revenue must be from food and the meal must be prepared at the restaurant. Chapel Hill has permitted carry-out beer sales for several years. A number of country markets in town sell meals and have permits to sell packaged beer.

CHATTANOOGA

RelocateAmerica.com named Chattanooga the third best city to live in on its 2008 list. The company chose Chattanooga after several residents nominated the Scenic City, praising its opportunities for raising a family, starting a business and realizing their dreams. Charlotte, N.C., topped the list and was followed by San Antonio. Before compiling its list, RelocateAmerica accepts nominations for cities and considers those alongside data on education, employment, economy, crime, parks, recreation and housing before cities are reviewed, rated and judged by its editorial team to create the top 100 list.

CLEVELAND

The city of Cleveland is listed as the top emerging metropolitan area in Tennessee when it comes to places to live, according to Sperling’s Best Places. Cleveland was placed at 33 on the list while Morristown took the 35th spot. Sperling’s Best Places/Fast Forward Inc. bases its data and other content original research and analysis on information gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey and other government agencies as well as private businesses. According to Sperling’s data, based on 2007 figures, Cleveland’s population was 38,627. The median home cost was listed at \$170,600, while nationally; the median cost of a home is

\$217,200. Cleveland also has a slight advantage with median income at \$30,098.

CLEVELAND

A section of 15th Street N. E. from Parker Street to North Ocoee Street was renamed Billy Graham Avenue by the Cleveland City Council. Mayor Tom Rowland worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to gain permission. Graham, who is probably the best-known and most respected evangelist in the world, lived in Cleveland in 1936 when he attended Bob Jones College. Billy Graham Avenue passes through the Lee University campus ending at Medlin Hall where Graham once resided.

COOKEVILLE

Tennessee Tech University has about \$275 million of construction projects in its pipeline. Among the projects are: a \$20 million residence hall complex; a \$2.5 million sports arena addition that will house a training and weight facility; and a \$250 million, four-building science center complex. The latest projects are part of the university’s expansion plan to accommodate growth. The Cookeville-based university of nearly 10,500 students has had nine years of record enrollment, averaging three percent growth a year, and projects five percent per year over the next three years. The school has several projects already under way. The first completed facility will be a \$26 million nursing school, which is scheduled to open in July.

ELIZABETHTON

Sabine Hill, a 190-year-old estate that saw two Tennessee governors born within its walls, has been saved from demolition. The State Historic Commission and State Parks placed Sabine Hill on the list of most endangered historic structures to preserve the site as part of Sycamore Shoals State Park. The state recently completed the purchase and the property will now become a part of the State Parks system. An estimated 300,000 visitors are expected to visit Sabine Hill each week.

FRANKLIN

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation participated in a recognition ceremony honoring Poplar Grove School, a K-8 school in the Franklin Special School District, for achieving Performer Level status in the Tennessee Green Schools Program. Elaine Boyd, TDEC strategic management director, presented a green “Performer” flag and framed certificate to school officials and students in recognition of the school’s significant achievements in preventing pollution. Poplar Grove is the third school in the state to become a Performer Green School joining Williamson County’s Centennial High School and David Lipscomb Elementary School in Nashville

GALLATIN

Shoals Technologies Group announced the company’s decision to expand its operations and headquarters into Gallatin. Shoals, makers of solar energy panel components, will employ nearly 100 people at its new plant, including corporate executives. A business plan provided by

the company anticipates that total growing to more than 300 over the next three years. Shoals was founded in 1996 as an automotive parts manufacturing company. In 2004, as a result of a lagging automotive market, Shoals diversified into the emerging alternative energy field, manufacturing components used in the construction and installation of solar panels and other alternative energy products.

JACKSON

As the number of meth labs seized decreases, the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force is seeking ways to stop the importation of the drug into the state from other countries. The task force director, Tommy Farmer, and U.S. Attorney Russ Dedrick have requested \$260,000 from the Hamilton County Commission for “interdiction plus” training to teach local and state law enforcement officials how to search vehicles and interrogate suspects. The training is performed by retired highway patrol troopers. According to Farmer, the training program would provide “the same sheet music” for all the officers in the state in how to search cars of suspected drug traffickers. A training session for 100 officers is scheduled for in Jackson.

KNOXVILLE

University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service agents have helped farmers plant switchgrass for UT’s Biofuels Initiative, the primary feedstock for a pilot biofuels refinery in Vonore that will produce 5 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol annually. UT is paying \$450 per acre annually for a three-year term. Come winter’s frost or Nov. 1, the switchgrass will be harvested and stored. Groundbreaking for the biofuels refinery is anticipated between fall and spring 2009. An acre can produce a lot of cellulose, that will later be converted to ethanol. UT has contracted with 16 farmers in seven counties - Monroe, Loudon, Roane, McMinn, Polk, Rhea and Bradley - to produce 720 acres this year. The university anticipates the first year’s production to be about one to two tons per acre.

NASHVILLE

The U.S. Postal Service plans to build a 626,000-square-foot processing and distribution center near Nashville International Airport. The new Nashville center will rise at Old Murfreesboro Pike and Faircloth Road on land owned by the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority. Panattoni Development Co. will oversee construction and is working with the USPS on traffic studies of the area. The new facility is likely to employ more than 1,500 people, though it’s not clear how many of those will be new positions or if the planned center will replace the USPS’ operations on the north side of the airport.

NASHVILLE

Nashville’s nine enhanced option elementary schools will have 45 minute longer school days starting this fall. Transportation expenses could add up quickly, as the schools will dismiss at the same time as area middle schools.

Kingsport’s Keith Bruner named Tennessee Code Official of the Year



Keith Bruner, Kingsport Codes official, is presented with the prestigious Tennessee Code Official of the Year Award by TBOA President Terry Cobb, Metro Nashville’s Codes director.

Keith Bruner, a 10 year city employee in the city of Kingsport Building Division, has been named Tennessee Code Official of the Year, the first time a building official in the region has been recognized with this honor.

Bruner worked for the cities of Church Hill and Surgoinsville prior to joining Kingsport, and has served as a volunteer firefighter in Hawkins County in years past. He also holds multiple certifications in building, fire, building plans, zoning, plumbing, electrical and mechanical areas. He was first certified as a building inspector in 1994 and as a fire inspector in 1995.

Bruner has been actively involved with the Upper East Tennessee Building Officials Association,

serving as president in 2007, and was awarded Code Official of the Year of the local Chapter. This state award places him into consideration as national Code Official of the year.

“Keith is a true asset for the city of Kingsport, and exhibits all the best traits that we look for in public servants,” City Manager John Campbell said. “He is smart, dedicated, hard working and customer focused. I want to thank Keith and the entire Building Department for working especially hard over the last several years to streamline services, providing the best possible service to both residential and commercial customers while ensuring the public is protected through safe building practices”

PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader **Howard Baker** has received Japan’s highest civilian honor for foreigners.



Baker

The Tennessee Republican on Thursday received the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers for his service as U.S. ambassador to Japan from 2001 to 2005. Baker wore a red-and-white sash with an ornate medal symbolizing rays of sunlight radiating from the rising sun. Among those attending the ceremony at the Japanese ambassador’s Washington home were former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, who was Baker’s campaign manager in 1972, and Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker

Linda Bennett

first elected to the Chattanooga City Council in March 2005, has been elected by her colleagues to serve as council chair. A lifelong resident of Chattanooga, Bennett has 21 years of experience in sales and marketing; working as a National Technical Training Director and currently as a Sales Director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. Bennett is Vice President of Programs of the North Chattanooga Chamber Council and serves on the Executive Board. She is also a member of the Tennessee Municipal League Board as a District Director.



Bennett

Tennessee Highway Patrol **Lt. Larry Gamblin**, House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh’s longtime security aide, is retiring at the end of May and was honored on the House floor.



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Conference
Schedule

Saturday, June 21

9 am – 5pm
MTAS’ EOA
3 – 5 pm
TML Board Meeting
Sunday, June 22
6:30 – 9:30 am
5K Walk / Run
9:30 am
Exhibit Hall / Registration
10:45 – Noon
Jazz Brunch
12 – 2:00 pm
Vendor Workshops
1:45 – 3:15 pm
New Fuel Legislation
3:30 – 5 pm
Opening General Session
6 – 8 pm
Host City Reception
FedEx Forum

Monday, June 23

7:30 – 8:15 am
Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9 am
District Meetings
9 am
Exhibit Hall Opens
9:15 – 10 am
Concurrent Workshops
2) Transportation Funding
3) Leadership Training
4) Urban Forestry
5) Cost of ADA
10:15 – 11:00
Concurrent Workshops
6) Growth Management
7) Leadership Training
8) Media Relations
9) Stormwater Regs
11:15 – 12:30
Second General Session
Annual Business Meeting
12:30–1:30 pm
Lunch in Exhibit Hall
1:30 – 2 pm
Door Prizes
2:15 – 3:15 pm
Concurrent Workshops
10) NIMBY opposition
11) Performance Measurements
12) Disaster Training
3:30 – 4:30 pm
Concurrent Workshops
13) Open Records
14) Labor Relations Panel
15) Public/Private Partnerships
16) City Council Shootings
6:30 – 11pm
Risk Management Pool Party
Tuesday – June 12
8 – 10 am
Third General Session
Awards Breakfast
• TML Achievement Awards
• Spouse of the Year
• City Manager of the Year
• Mayor of the Year

New records laws

RECORDS from Page 1
seeking to exploit the state’s laws for their own gain.
Other changes include mandating certain boards and utilities to develop training programs on open meeting laws.
Sponsored by Sen. Randy McNally and Rep. Steve McDaniel, the new legislation was drafted through the recommendations of a two-year study committee.
Information about Tennessee’s Open Records Laws will be presented during the Tennessee Municipal League’s Annual Conference in Memphis. The workshop will be held on Monday, June 23 and will be presented by the state’s new open records specialist, Elisha Hodges.

Jimmy Scurlock bids farewell after 25 years

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Jimmy Scurlock makes no bones about it, he’s ready to retire. After 25 years, a body should be able to go whenever he’s ready, he rations, ...especially when he’s feeling so good about the city’s future and the staff continuing after him.
“I have such respect for him,” said Melinda Bagwell, Dover city clerk for eight and a half years. “When something comes up, he always listens to both sides before making a decision and doesn’t pick favorites whether customer, employee or citizen. We don’t want him to go, but he always says, “Yes, I am.”
Patience, seeing the big picture, moving when the time is right, that’s what makes Jimmy Scurlock an excellent manager, a man who knows how to make a decision, just like he did in 1983 when he applied for Dover’s city administrator position.
“Prior to city manager, I did lots of things,” Scurlock muses. “I had a construction business and worked in a retail flower business with my mother...”
But managing his hometown was the ultimate fit for the modest, quick witted Scurlock, capturing his heart and imagination. In 1980, after his appointment to the Dover Parks Board, Scurlock’s career in local government took off.
At that time, he and other board members were trying to lease a 52-acre site under the Corp of Engineers Lease Development Plan, when he was appointed chair of the city’s Planning Commission in 1981.
“Nobody else wanted it,” Scurlock interjects, but again, he wasn’t there long before he was elected alderman in 1982. Three long running officials had left and the administration decided to move in a new direction by hiring a city manager.
“That was a time of big change in Dover,” Scurlock reflects about the pivotal point altering his future. The mayor had appointed Scurlock to head the search committee and while he was interviewing candidates, the hands of fate moved once more. Scurlock’s mother decided to retire from her flower business leaving the shop to Jimmy. Faced with his love for government, and a lucrative business opportunity, Scurlock knew what he had to do.
“I went into the mayor’s office and told him to take me off the search committee,” Scurlock said.
“Why?” the mayor asked in bewilderment.
“Because I want to apply,” Scurlock replied.
“The search is over,” the mayor enthused. “You’re hired!”
Lucky for Dover, Scurlock’s floral career wilted, yet, the prospect of managing the city in 1983 was anything but rosy. Sewer was only available to 60 percent of Dover’s residents. There was no police department, two factories sat empty, and city hall was a tiny hole in the wall. The general fund budget was \$90,000, as was the water and sewer budget.
“Some of the gravel roads were inaccessible for city water,” Scurlock explained. “We had 300 customers then. Now, we’re on a 15-year paving program, and have 1,400 water customers and a new sewer plant.”

The general fund budget along with water and sewer budget have grown to \$1.3 million under Scurlock’s administration. Jimmy also courted big industry at a time when Stewart County had the highest rate of unemployment in the nation, bringing in Osh Kosh B’Gosh and Dover Products. When those industries moved on, he found replacements Carhartt, Sentry Armor and Nashville Wire.
“We had to start building some industry,” Scurlock said. “It was and continues to be a hard, ongoing process, but we’ve always been successful.”
Under Scurlock’s watchful eye, the 52-acre site from 1980 became a thriving community park with improvements, including a dock, concrete walking trail, picnic areas, playground, and new restroom facilities. An ambitious multi-phase sidewalk project linking the town to the historic sites of Fort Donelson is currently in the works along with significant downtown improvements, street lighting and a common area.
A spacious city hall is also home to the Dover police department and a new maintenance building currently houses the city’s fleet.
“We used to do our maintenance work under a big cottonwood tree, but had to cut it down to make room for the sewer,” Scurlock quips.
Admired and revered for his outstanding performance, Scurlock was presented the Tennessee City Managers Association Manager of the Year Award at the 2007 TML Annual Conference in Knoxville.
“No one deserved the award more than Jimmy,” said Mitchell Moore, TCMA president and Athens city manager. Scurlock served as TCMA president in 2001-02 and has served three terms on the TML Board of Directors along with the board of Local Government Data Processing.
“You start out by paying attention to what successful cities are doing,” Scurlock advises. “You become involved with important entities such as TML and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service, where Scurlock attended the Elected Officials Academy. Scurlock also credits his many friends and mentors throughout the years.
“Former attorney, Bill Howell, a good friend of my father’s, encouraged me to learn more than anyone ever has,” Scurlock said. “I’d stop by to see him about a problem and he’d reach back and hand me a law book and say “when you find the answer, come back and see me.” Also, fellow city managers were good to talk over problems with, David Wilson, Goodlettsville; Danny Farmer, Mt. Juliet; and the ever present Randy Williams in Paris.”
As city administrator, Scurlock has also reached out to the county, offering his assistance during construction of the Stewart County Middle School and Public Library.
“We are a small county and city and it is always good to work together when you can,” Scurlock says. “By working together you can offer the services to citizens at the best possible cost.”
The county is currently building a new senior citizens center which Scurlock jokingly said he hopes is completed in time for his June 30 retirement date.
“Mostly, I’ve just worked,” he



Dover City Administrator Jimmy Scurlock retires after 25 years of service June 30. A reception will be held in his honor June 27 at Dover City Hall .



Scurlock is the middle eagle at Dover’s first 2007 Eagle Fest: A Salute to Freedom parade, of which he served on the organizational committee.



Athens City Manager Mitchell Moore (left) presents Jimmy Scurlock with the TCMA City Manager of the Year Award at the 2007 TML Annual Conference in Knoxville.

confides in retrospect. “I’m ready to retire at 62.”
Scurlock’s new ambitions include getting caught up on things around the house and doing some traveling with his wife, a Department of Children’s Services employee of 38 years. He also has every confidence in his successor, Wade Tosh, who obtained a Master of Public Administration degree at UT Knoxville and was the first Gary H. Hensley Municipal Managers Intern.
“When Wade started work, I

told him to start a scrapbook now,” Scurlock said wistfully. “It goes pretty fast, and I wish I had done that for myself.”
“If I had to say what I’m most proud of,” Scurlock continues, “It’s the employees here. I will miss them. They’ve been such a pleasure to work with and I’m proud to have selected them. It would also be my hope that Dover will continue to grow and improve service delivery and continue to be a good place to be.”

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Cities and municipal agencies have joined together to create in the TML Pool what has grown to be the largest municipal insurer in Tennessee. The extent of the coverage provided for municipal exposures is staggering.

The Pool insures:

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- general liability coverage for 16,407 miles of streets.

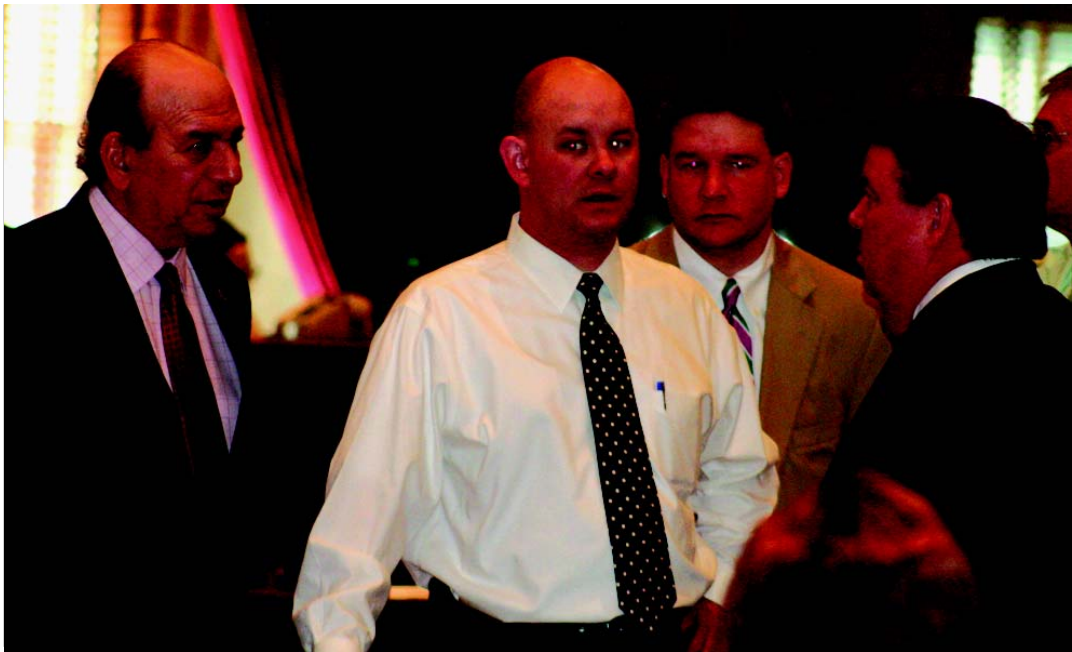


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Sen. Jim Kyle and Rep. Craig Fitzhugh



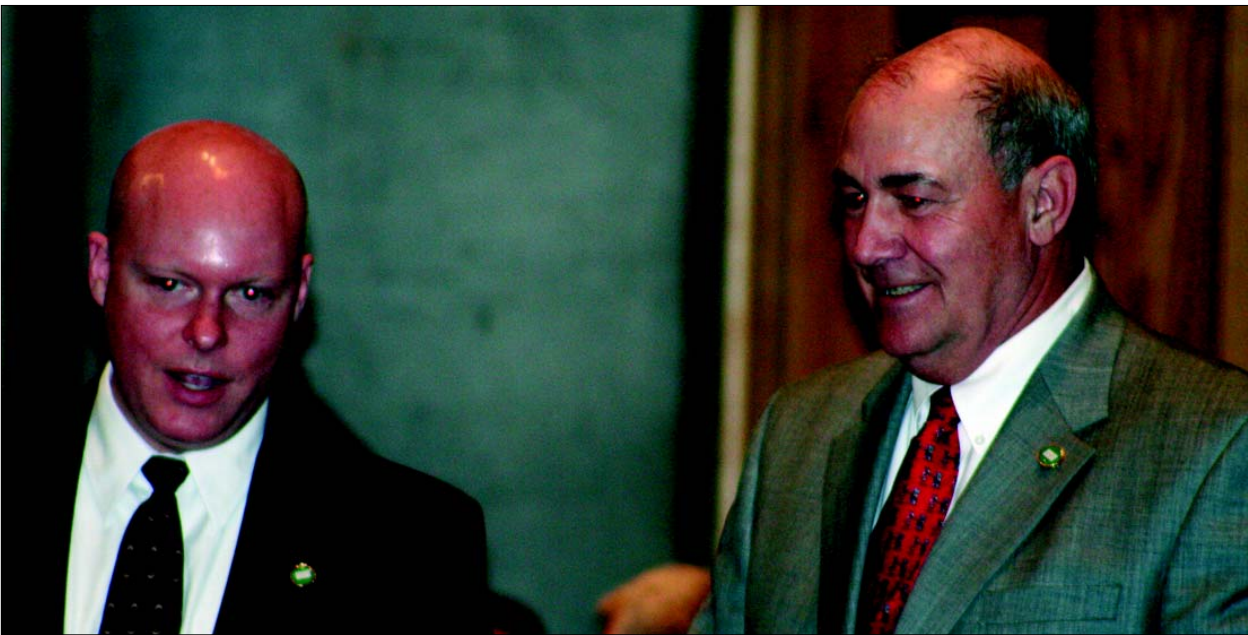
Rep. Johnny Shaw



Sen. Beverly Marrero and Rep. Ulysses Jones



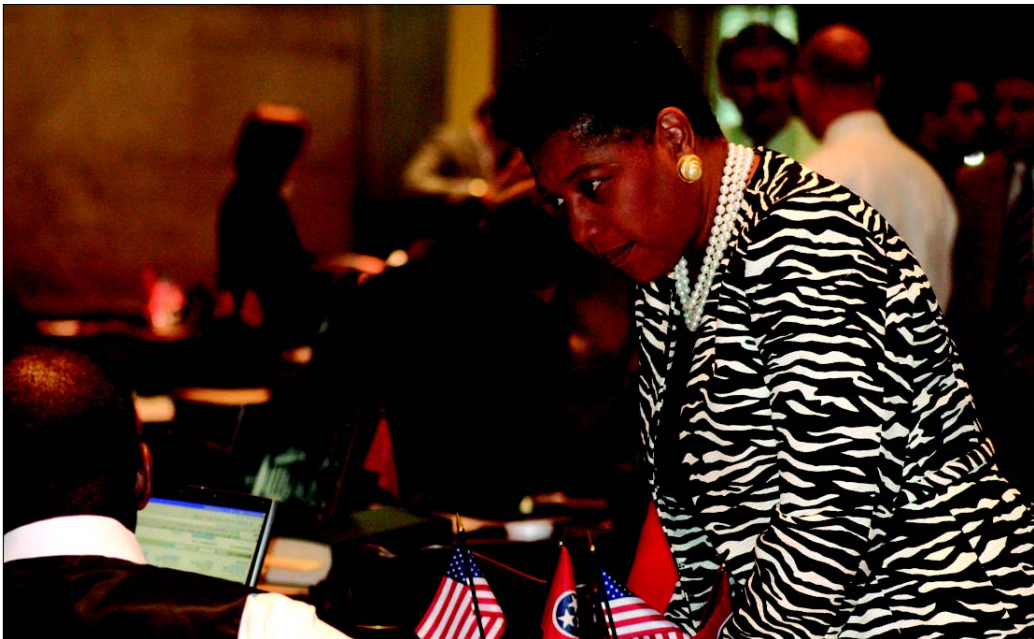
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The 105th General Assembly adjourns *sine die*



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



Sen. John Wilder and Senate Chief Clerk Russell Humphrey



Sen. Thelma Harper and Sen. Bo Watson



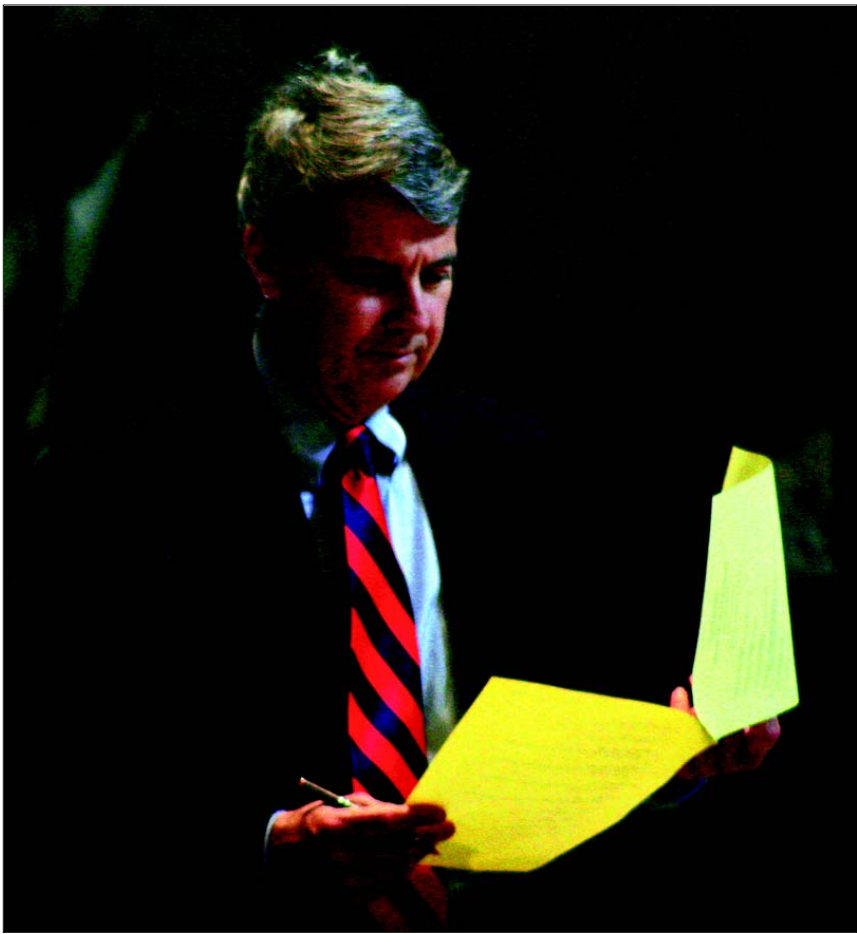
Sen. Rosalind Kurita on the balcony of the State Capitol



Sen. Lowe Finney



Sen. Douglas Henry and Sen. Joe Haynes



Sen. Roy Herron



Sen. Jim Tracy

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee businesses with broadband Internet access rose 16 percent in the second half of last year, according to a new report. Connected Tennessee, a public-private partnership organization formed to accelerate technology in Tennessee communities, released its technology trends report, which tracked broadband access through December 2007. The report found that the state’s broadband adoption outpaces the national average. Overall, 64 percent of businesses in Tennessee have broadband service, up from 55 percent in July 2007. Small businesses, or businesses with 20 employees or less, showed the most significant jump in broadband adoption, increasing from 61 percent to 77 percent. Half of all Tennesseans have broadband service at home, up from 43 percent in July 2007.

With motorcycle deaths on the rise, the Tennessee Department of Safety is celebrating National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month TDOS, Tennessee Highway Patrol, the Governor’s Highway Safety Office and the Motorcycle Awareness Foundation of Tennessee are urging all motorcyclists to be aware of safety concerns on the road. According to TDOS, more than 275,000 motorcycle licenses are issued throughout the state and one out of every nine fatalities on U.S. roads last year involved motorcycle riders. Since 1997, national motorcycle fatalities have increased by 127 percent. According to the latest statistics from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are about 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash.

The state will honor 13 counselors from Rutherford County Schools for assuming a greater role in accountability for student achievement, according to the Tennessee Department of Education. Awarded Gold Star School Counseling Awards, the counselors were selected based upon their use of MEASURE, a state model developed to help counselors evaluate which guidance programs have the greatest benefit for the students they serve. Eighteen counselors were recognized for the exceptional MEASURES they have implemented, including 13 from the local district. The Tennessee Comprehensive School Counseling Model, passed in 2005, creates a formal connection between counseling programs and educational reform initiatives.

Hate crimes against Hispanic and disabled victims rose dramatically in Tennessee last year, leaving advocates for both groups concerned about the trend. A recent Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report shows hate crimes rose 28 percent overall between 2006 and 2007, but those against Hispanics more than doubled and those against the disabled grew from one to 30. Those who study social conflict say stress over the economy is a contributing force, along with an increase in the Hispanic population and related anger about immigration. Advocates for the disabled in Middle Tennessee say they weren’t aware of the increase or of any effort to encourage the disabled to report crime. Most of last year’s incidents were thefts, forgeries and burglaries victimizing mentally disabled persons. Donna DeStefano, assistant director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition, said the problem is likely coalitional, with criminals using one of society’s most vulnerable groups for money.

Tennessee’s universal carding law for beer purchases lasted less than a year. Gov. Bredeesen signed a bill into law that curtails enforcement of the mandatory carding rules to people who appear to be younger than 50 years old. The first-in-the-nation carding requirement applied to anyone buying beer at supermarkets or convenience stores, no matter how old they looked. The law never applied to liquor and wine sales, or to bars and restaurants. Beer sales are traditionally regulated locally in Tennessee, while liquor sales are regulated by the state.

TDOT said that the number of stranded motorists running out of gas is climbing. Officials feel the

surge is because of the high gas prices. People are pushing it to the limit, waiting until the last possible moment to fill up their cars with the expensive fuel. TDOT assistance, giving drivers just enough gas to get to the nearest service station, comes at a cost to Tennessee’s taxpayers.

The slowdown in consumer spending this year is hitting Tennessee’s state government harder than most states, according to tax collections and budget reports through the first quarter of 2008. Unlike the last recession six years ago, when Tennessee’s sales tax-dependent state budget fared better than the rest of the country, the Volunteer State is shouldering a bigger drop this year from the housing slump and its related decline in taxable consumer spending. A new study by the Rockefeller Institute of Government found states such as Tennessee, which rely heavily upon sales-tax collections and aren’t rich in increasingly valuable oil, gas or coal resources, are struggling with budget shortfalls.

In the last year or so, **the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has received about 100 complaints, 86 percent from people who believe ethanol-blended fuel may be resulting in water in their engines.** In Nashville, 6,000 gas pumps are checked every year and the most common ailment reported is hydration. Ethanol invites water to stay in gasoline and according to officials, if tanks aren’t properly prepped and cared for, water can end up in the engine creating an expensive problem for consumers. With ethanol-blended fuels, a tank is only allowed to hold a quarter of an inch of water. Tanks that fail state tests are stopped so the water can be pumped out.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for animal spay/neuter grants. The grants supports low cost spay/neuter programs in Tennessee and are funded through Animal Friendly license plate sales. Every Animal Friendly license plate sale contributes more than \$15 to fund the grants. Last year, \$190,000 was awarded to a total of 46 different non-profit organizations and government agencies and another \$190,000 has been allocated for this year.

The Tennessee Valley Authority says the Southern drought has forced it to reduce hydroelectric power generation and buy costly power from others, contributing to reduced net income. The nation’s largest public utility reports net income fell to \$73 million in the second quarter ending March 31, down 42 percent from the \$126 million reported in the same three-month period a year ago. That’s despite a \$174 million, or 7.6 percent, jump in operating revenue to \$2.4 billion, due in part to an electric rate increase that’s expected to bring in \$300 million this year, the agency said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Operating costs jumped 8.4 percent, in large part because of those purchases, to \$2.1 billion.

More aggressive and dangerously armed criminals have led to an increase in the number of law-enforcement officers killed nationwide in the line of duty. In 2007, the number of officers killed intentionally in the line of duty rose to 57, compared to 48 in 2006, according to preliminary statistics released by the FBI. The deaths are the most since 2004, when there also were 57 felonious deaths. One of the 57 deaths occurred in Ten-

nessee — the January death of State Trooper Calvin Jenks, who was killed during a traffic stop near Covington.

Many lenders are pulling out of the student loan business and suspending their involvement with federal student-loan programs. As the federally set interest rate on student loans continues to drop over the next several years, lenders see fewer dollars being made in educational lending. A bill intended to head off a crisis of student loan availability was signed by President Bush increasing limits on the unsubsidized loan program by \$2,000 and allows guarantee agencies such as the Tennessee Student Assistance Corp. to expand its lender-of-last-resort-program. The lender-of-last-resort program allows the assistance corporation to act as a lender.

Southeast Tennessee counties didn’t get any new state road projects this year because the state doesn’t have money to pay for them, according to state officials. Members of the Southeast Tennessee Rural Planning Organization met with Tennessee Department of Transportation officials at Cleveland High School to discuss why the counties were left out of the state’s three-year work programs this year. Such programs are awarded annually and implemented within three years. TDOT officials site a cut in federal funding, flat state gas tax revenues, and soaring fuel and construction costs. “We simply don’t have enough money to put a project in every county and every RPO,” said Paul Degges, TDOT’s chief engineer.

The Senate’s unanimous vote on the so-called “Voter Confidence Act,” which has also passed the House, will eventually require **every county in Tennessee to use voting machines by 2010 that generate a paper record of ballots that can be checked in recounts or audited,** although the bill’s passage comes too late for a statewide switchover before this fall’s presidential election.

For the first time in a decade, immigration status won’t stop couples from obtaining marriage licenses in Davidson County and marrying anywhere in Tennessee. All Tennessee counties were told to follow suit due to the outcome of a Nashville case that sparked the policy change. Since 1998, county clerks in Tennessee asked for a Social Security card, or a valid passport and visa. Applicants must now provide their certified birth certificates showing proof of identity, date of birth, and mother’s name. They must also show proof that any previous marriages have been dissolved.



The city of Oak Ridge borrowed \$11 million from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for a new high school. Pictured are City Recorder Jackie Bernard, Mayor Tom Beehan, and TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello.

Gas prices hit record high

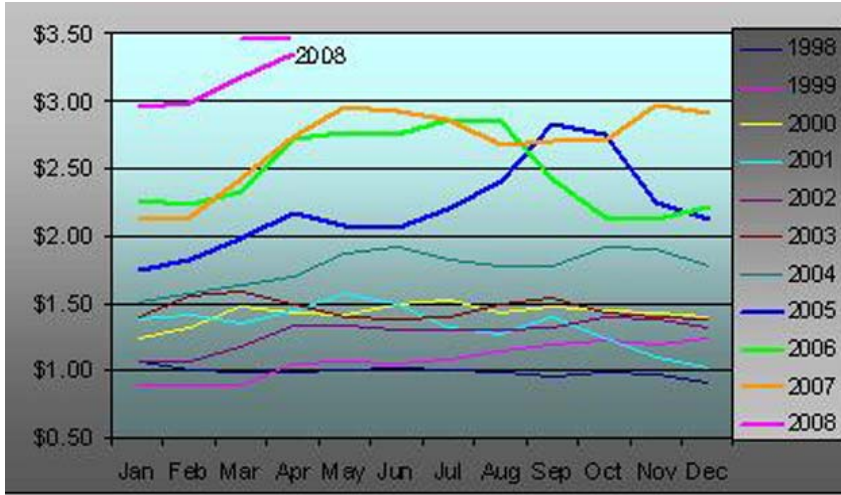
FUEL fromPage 1

four, 10-hour days. There has also been talk of a biodiesel plant coming to town in the near future, which will help significantly in the long run. Cities are going to have to get outside of the box to address this issue because prices are high and they’re only going higher.”

When plotted out, a typical year in fuel prices looks much like a bell curve: it rises to a peak, usually in the summer, and returns to a lower price in winter before the start of the next year. What makes 2008 an odd year is the fact that prices never stabilized at the end of 2007, and instead have been on a steady rise since last September. Since January 2008, the monthly price per gallon has marked an increase over the previous month. In fact, the low for 2008 (\$2.96, January) is as high as the high for 2007 (\$2.98, November).

“For next year’s budget we have pulled fuel costs out as its own separate category and now measure that cost in gallons. Previously we have simply budgeted for growth with fuel being an inclusive cost, but we know that won’t work any longer,” said Berry. “So, we are predicting a future cost and budgeting according to gallons used. This is our best approach, since we feel there is no end in sight.”

Clearly, the biggest threat to any municipal budget is an environment in which there is an absence of



A typical year in fuel prices looks much like a bell curve: it rises to a peak, usually in the summer, and returns to a lower price in the winter.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Despite the decline in total veterans, as soldiers from World War II and Korea die, **the government expects to be spending \$59 billion a year to compensate injured warriors** in 25 years, up from today’s \$29 billion. According to The Department of Veterans Affairs, the bill could be much higher due to worse wounds, advanced medical care, and more disabilities along with more vets aware of the benefits and quicker to file for them. Troops are coming home with devastating injuries that might have killed them in earlier wars.

Clicking on an e-mail with direc-

tions from the Internal Revenue Service on how to get that check might seem like a no-brainer. But hold off, even if the e-mail bears an official logo. **The IRS does not ever send e-mails about your personal taxes, or your business taxes.** The problem will only grow this year with “Get Your Rebate” sites for economic stimulus checks arriving in mailboxes soon. The IRS issued a warning to consumers about fraudulent e-mails advising that the fastest and easiest way to receive stimulus checks is to click on a special link to sign up for direct deposit. One version threatens that those who do not do so in a timely manner will experience delays in

receiving their checks.

Prescription drug addiction continues to rage nationwide and across the region, despite state and federal intervention. In 2006, non-medical use of prescription painkillers drew the highest number of new users, or “initiates,” than any other illicit drug, with 2.2 million users. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, there are nearly 7 million Americans abusing such drugs today, more than the number of those using cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, ecstasy and inhalants combined. Despite the alarming statistics, many insurance companies don’t cover substance-abuse treatment.

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Chattanooga celebrates “Great Ideas”



Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield announced the winners of the 3rd Annual Great Ideas Competition at the Spirit of Innovation Awards Luncheon. Great Ideas Competition is a scholarship based program that awards high school juniors and seniors for their innovative ideas. A total of \$7,500 in scholarships was awarded to the students. Kelsey Bailey, a senior at Soddy Daisy High School, won first place and was awarded \$3,500. Brian Ball, Chattanooga School of Arts and Sciences senior, won \$2,500 for second place. Emily Blevins, Girls Preparatory School junior, won third place and was awarded \$1,500.

Winners of the 2008 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards to be recognized in June

Commissioner Jim Fyke, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, recently announced the 14 winners of the 2008 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards, who will be recognized for their achievements and positive impact on the state’s natural resources in an awards ceremony to be held in Nashville in June.

The Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards program recognizes exemplary voluntary actions that improve or protect our environment and natural resources with projects or initiatives that are not required by law or regulations.

This marks the 22nd year for the awards program. Thirty-nine professionals from various public and private organizations judged more than 100 nominations to determine the award recipients.

The winner of one additional honor, the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award, will be announced at the awards ceremony in June.

The 2008 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship winners are:

Agriculture/Forestry-
Robert Thompson Conservation Farm in Niota , McMinn County

Aquatic Resource Preservation-
Tennessee Aquarium Research Institute – *Saving the Sturgeon*
Tennessee River Watershed from Knoxville to Chattanooga

Building Green-
Metro Nashville Parks “Green” Nature Centers, Davidson County

Energy Leadership-
Cleveland State Community College, Bradley County

Environmental and Education Outreach-
Kilowatt Ours Youth Initiative (Jennifer Barrie) , Davidson County

Greenways and Trails-
Peterson Lake Nature Area Collierville, Shelby County

Green Schools – K-12: The Harpeth Hall School – Environmental Stewardship, Davidson County

Green Schools – Higher Education: Vanderbilt University, Davidson County

Hazardous Waste Reduction
Johns Manville Facility in Etowah, McMinn County

Natural Heritage
Tennessee’s Wild Side – Weekly Outdoor Adventure TV Program Statewide

Parks and Recreation-
Bell Buckle Community Park, Bedford County

Pollution Prevention-
Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC – Warren Plant ,Warren County

Solid Waste Reduction-
U.S. Fence Facility in Bulls Gap, Hawkins County

For more information about the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards program, visit: www.tn.gov/environment/awards/.



June 7: 2008 Sonnenschein Festival

Hohenwald. Workshops, films, and exhibits focusing on green living, renewable energy and sustainable habitation. Music, handcrafted goods of wood, metal and glass, local farm produce, food, children’s entertainment. For more information, visit the website, www.Sonnenschein-tenn.org or call 931-628-4072.

June 7-June 8: 6th Annual Craft Fair on the Plateau

Crossville. Hand-made crafts with antique car show & country/bluegrass music. For more information, call 931-707-7291

June 14: Louie Bluie Music & Arts Festival

Caryville. Showcases Tennessee artists who represent the region’s musical heritage, and arts, crafts, music, and stories of the region. Three stages of Americana, gospel, traditional, blues, and bluegrass musicians all with east Tennessee roots or who knew or played with the legendary Louie Armstrong. For more information, contact Peggy Matthews at 423-562-8189 or visit www.louiebluie.org.

June 20 – 21: 6th Annual Secret City Festival

City of Oak Ridge. Highlights include performances by The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie and Mary Wilson of the Supremes, a World War II re-enactment, children’s area, arts & crafts vendors, a juried arts show, antique dealers, food and activities for the whole family. The site is open to the public, and most of the weekend’s events are free. The Secret City of Oak Ridge is best known for its role in developing the Atomic Bomb which helped bring an end to WWII. For more information on the Secret City Festival, visit www.SecretCityFestival.com or call the information line at 865-425-3610.

June 27-29 & July 4-6: 1st Annual Tennessee Shakespeare Festival

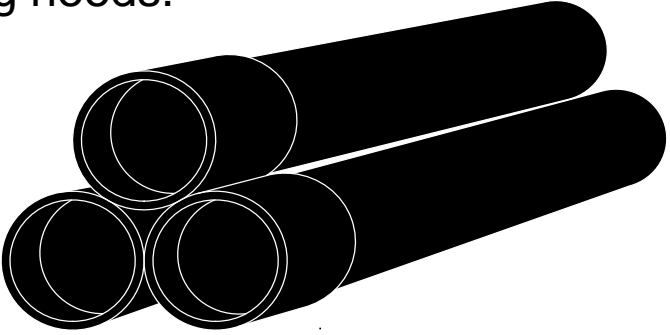
Bell Buckle on the campus of Webb School. An alliance of artistic, educational and civic entities from the Middle Tennessee area perform Shakespeare’s “Mid-Summer’s Night Dream.” For more information, visit www.tennesseeshakespearefestival.com.

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BUILDING OFFICIAL
KINGSTON SPRINGS. The town is accepting applications through June 16th, 2008 for the full or part-time position of Building Official. Applicants should have or soon be eligible to receive state certification. Experience in Planning or Codes work a plus. Compensation commensurate with qualifications. Benefits available. Applications are available at City Hall, P.O. Box 256, 396 Spring Street, Kingston Springs, TN 37082 or by calling 952-2110, ext. 10 for a faxed or mailed copy. Appointments for interviews for qualified applicants will be set beginning June 2nd. EOE.

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 6 years previous experience in a planning office at a professional level; or a Master's Degree in planning and 5 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 operators license. Salary range is \$46,437.000 - \$72,115.00 (DOQ) plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, Mon- Fri. 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

CHIEF OF POLICE
COLUMBIA. The city is accepting applications for the position of Chief of Police. Reports to the city manager who implements council policies and directs the delivery of all municipal services. Desire bachelor's degree in criminal justice/law enforcement or related field; advanced degree or law enforcement training through FBI-NA/LEEDS/PERF/similar programs highly desirable. Ten years progressively responsible experience in police management and supervision; strong leadership abilities; visionary style; ability to form strong partnerships with the community. Candidates must be Tennessee POST certified within 1 year of appointment. Tennessee open records laws may cause release of candidate information at any stage in the process. Resumes accepted until June 30, 2008. Salary DOQ. Send resume and current salary information to Kate Collier, Personnel Director, 707 N. Main Street, Columbia, TN 38401; kcollier@columbiatn.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, as designated by the fire chief; assist the chief in the development, implementations, and monitoring of operational and administrative procedures and policies; assist fire chief 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 a 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.

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
CITY OF CROSSVILLE
The City of Crossville is now accepting applications for the position of Director of Engineering through the Tennessee River Valley Career Center located at 60 Ridley St., Crossville, TN 38555. This position requires a degree in Civil Engineering or related field with 4 to 5 years of experience. This is a full time position with benefits, which include health, life, dental, disability, vacation and sick leave. A complete job

description is available upon request. Salary range is a minimum of \$53,931.00 to a maximum of \$80,896.000. DOE. The City of Crossville is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MTAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KNOXVILLE. The University of Tennessee, Institute for Public Service Municipal Technical Advisory Service, is seeking applicants for the Executive Director position in Knoxville. The position require a masters degree in public administration, city management or related field and ten years of senior level management experience, preferably in a state or local government or non-profit agency with similar work goals. Experience as a city manager or managing staff in remote locations a plus. For more information on the position, visit www.mtased.ips.tennessee.edu. To apply, send a resume and cover letter detailing how the applicant's credentials meet the requirement of the position including salary expectations to the MTAS Executive Director Search Committee via email to: chuck.shoopman@tennessee.edu.

MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEF
ERWIN. The town is accepting qualified 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 1 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, Tennessee 37650. Phone: 423-743-623. EOE

PARKS & RECREATION
OAKLAND. The town has an opening in the Parks and Recreation Department. All pertinent information will be discussed at the time of interview. No phone calls please. Interested parties should get an application from City Hall or mail resumes to: The Town of Oakland, P.O. Box 56, Oakland, TN 38060, Attn: Mayor Mullins.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
ASHLAND CITY. The city is seeking a Public Works Director to be responsible for the Water, Wastewater and Street Departments of the city. Candidates must possess or be soon eligible for the required operating licenses; should have a minimum of 5 years of appropriate related experience with personnel management skills. The department currently has 16 employees. Ashland City operates a council approved salary plan and benefits program. The salary for beginning this position is \$42,800. Contact Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder, P.O. Box 36, 101 Court St. Ashland City, Tennessee 37015 for full job description. 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

STAFF ENGINEER SENIOR
COLLIERVILLE. The town is seeking applicants for position of Staff Engineer. This position performs professional engineering work involving the design, review, and oversight of various engineering projects and programs to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and standards and to coordinate preparation of public improvement bond calculations for engineering agreements. Requires a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field supplemented by 4 years progressive engineering experience and/or training involving civil engineering, engineering design, engineering plan review, surveying, and personal computer operations; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid motor vehicle operator's license at the time of hire. Salary range is \$40,852.00 – \$63,441.00 (DOQ) annually plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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

Connected Tennessee launches new Computers 4 Kids initiative



Amber Lampley and Lotez Holloway, pictured with Michael Ramage, executive director of Connected Tennessee, receive free lap-top computers through Connected Tennessee's new initiative, Computers 4 Kids, which distributes free computers to children in foster care, from low-income families or struggling with behavioral disorders or other issues. Three thousand of Tennessee's disadvantaged students are expected to receive the computers within the next three years. Computers 4 Kids is intended to help bridge the gap between those who can afford computers and those who cannot, while allowing thousands of disadvantaged Tennessee children and families the opportunity to participate in the educational, economic and civic opportunities made available by having a computer in the home.

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Hollywood meets the checkered flag in Pigeon Forge

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

If variety is the spice of life, then Pigeon Forge has covered all the bases with its latest entertainment venture, Belle Island Village, a \$114 million mixed-use entertainment development packed with top notch shopping, lodging, dining, and attractions sponsored by NASCAR legend, Darrell Waltrip and America’s Sweetheart, Debbie Reynolds.

Designed as a bustling 1930s river town centered across an 18-acre island, the venue anchored by the Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Motion Picture Museum, the world’s largest collection of motion picture memorabilia, and The Darrell Waltrip Racing Experience, an interactive NASCAR racing attraction, will offer three major restaurants; The Atrium Inn, a luxurious 300-room hotel, 130 deluxe hotel rooms with balconies overlooking the retail district, the Little Pigeon River or the Great Smoky Mountains; 90 specialty shops; on-site east Tennessee craftsmen and artisans; an arcade; live entertainment stages; an exhibit featuring North American river otters from the Knoxville Zoo; business offices; and more. Primary investor for the project is James Dickert, Institutional Realty Resources

With a projected fall opening date, the Village is anticipated to draw a modest estimate of 2.1 million visitors to Pigeon Forge annually generating \$3 million in foot traffic alone. Currently 10 million tourists visit the city each year, 80 percent of them categorized as re-

peat visitors. “Belle Island Village is generating a lot of interest and excitement, both inside Pigeon Forge and beyond,” said Earlene Teaster, Pigeon Forge city manager. “It’s a huge project in a literal sense, 26 acres, and an investment of more than \$100 million. As a city, we’re keenly interested and look forward to its opening.”

While modernly cutting edge, today’s mixed-use, pedestrian friendly, entertainment extravaganzas could be perceived as super-sized versions of the downtowns of yesteryear, an essential component of the new urbanism revival sweeping the nation.

John McCloud writes in “Survival of the Fittest,” *Retail Traffic*, “In 1948, when you wanted to have fun shopping, you went downtown. You also went downtown to have a restaurant meal, see a movie or play, go dancing or just hang around where there were other people.”

That resurgence of excitement and demand for one-stop family entertainment has heightened in the 21st century, as McCloud notes, “The entertainment center has evolved from a simple organism to meet the needs of a changing society.”

And for those seeking a deeper investment at Belle Island Village, the opportunity to buy prime real estate will be an option when the development enters its third stage, 109 condominiums, “The Shoals of Belle Island,” will feature a private bridge adjacent to the complex, according to Developer Glen Bilbo, president of Southern Venue Development.



The recent Topping Off Ceremony for Belle Island Village celebrated a major construction milestone by placing the final piece atop the vertical steel structure at the construction site.

“It will be a lot like Las Vegas, but a different environment,” said Leon Downey, executive director of the Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism. “There’ll be lodging you can buy.”

“There’s no more messing around,” Tim Macy, director of marketing said, prior to the recent Topping Off ceremony, an invitation only event including the media, local officials, developers, and key partners Debbie Reynolds, Mike Todd, Museum CEO, Jim Vina, executive director of the Knoxville Zoo (Otter Cove) and NASCAR greats Darrell Waltrip, and Jeff Hammond.

“Two hundred workers are pulling double shifts six days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.,” Macy confides. “We’re pretty confident we will make the fall opening.”

The ceremony celebrated a major construction milestone by placing the final piece atop the vertical steel structure at the construction site.

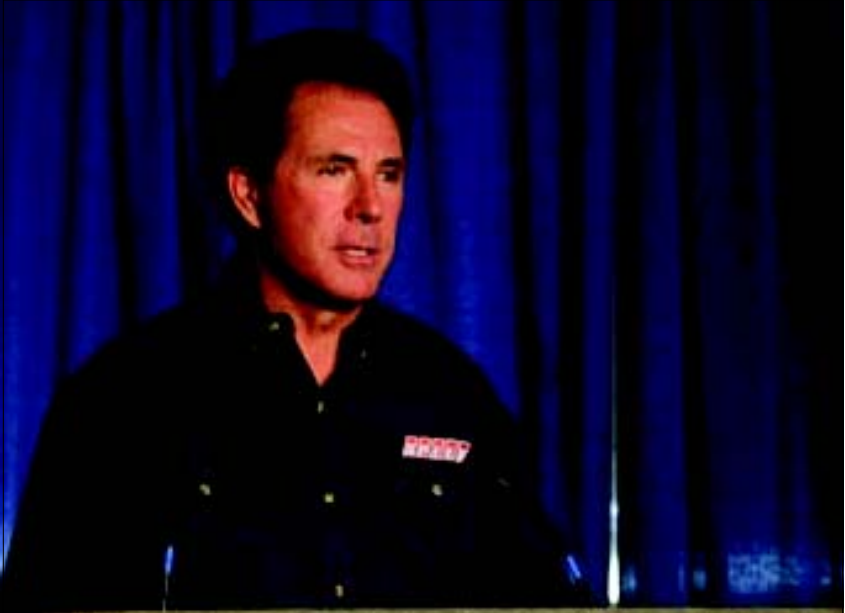
Announced in 2004, a scaled down version of Belle Island Village was slated for 2005 before hitting a permitting snag with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Plans had been developed in accordance with maps based on older FEMA studies. Part of the island was situated in 100-year flood plain and floodway along the Little Pigeon River. However, the delay ultimately worked in the developer’s favor, increasing the magnitude and scope of the project for the better, according to Macy.

“It was a good thing,” Macy concluded. “We suspended the floor of the retail spaces and built out over the flood plain actually picking up a couple of acres in the process.”

The Reynolds museum alone is an ambitious project, 57,000 square feet and 104 feet high built in the shape of a classic showboat including smokestacks. The building will feature a glass-topped meeting venue for upscale events and weddings.

“The two big attractions should be huge draws all by themselves,” said Teaster. “I think they’ll have added appeal for special activities such as convention events and other group functions. If I were a meeting planner, I’d be quite interested.”



Appearing at the recent Topping Off ceremony for Belle Island Village, Darrell Waltrip and NASCAR pit crew chief Jeff Hammond, are key partners in the Darrell Waltrip Racing Experience.

The Waltrip Racing Experience, a \$5 million, 27,000-square foot attraction, will give race fans an inside look at the world of NASCAR from the track to the garage. Built like a mini- Bristol allowing visitors to operate radio-controlled cars at a replica of the half-mile oval.

Both Debbie Reynolds and Darrell Waltrip have agreed to several appearances at the park throughout the year.

“We’ve met both Debbie Reynolds and Darrell Waltrip, and they are wonderful people who will be great ambassadors for Pigeon Forge,” said Teaster.

“One thing that really excites us is that both say they plan a full schedule of special events that will pull people back for repeat visits. We love repeat guests.”

According to Macy, one agency already has a confirmed locale at the Village. Partners there have donated 1,450 square feet of class A office space to the United Way.

“It’s a great charity,” Bilbo said. “We’re excited that we were in the position to do that.”

“Belle Island Village is one of the most exciting new tourism developments in the nation, combining the celebrity firepower of Debbie Reynolds and Darrell Waltrip’s world class attractions with restaurants, lodging, shopping and much more,” said Susan Whitaker, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

“I am personally looking forward to experiencing Belle Island Village as well as watching it become one of Tennessee’s favorite tourism destinations.”



America’s Sweetheart, Debbie Reynolds and son, HMPM CEO Todd Fisher, announced in 2004 that The Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Motion Picture Museum would be located at Belle Island Village in Pigeon Forge.

The Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Motion Picture Museum and The Darrell Waltrip Racing Experience

Glitter and axel grease should be the winning combination at Belle Island Village as silver screen star Debbie Reynolds and NASCAR legend Darrell Waltrip join forces in Pigeon Forge.

The Darrell Waltrip Racing Experience promises to place visitors in the driver’s seat showcasing the racing experience from all vantage points of today’s motor speedway.

Highlights include: an interactive theater, in which guests can watch a race from the driver’s perspective and make driving decisions using seat-side controls; a mini-Bristol, where visitors can operate radio-controlled cars at a replica of the half-mile oval; a mock stage that allows guests to emulate their favorite sportscasters and pretend to narrate the action alongside Waltrip and fellow broad-

caster, Jeff Hammond; an interactive pit crew with images of Darrell and former Crew Chief Hammond; appearances by past and present racecar drivers, crew chiefs, announcers and team owners several times a year; a variety of actual stock cars that have won racing events on display and exhibit commemorating the history of stock car racing, a gift shop and Victory Lane arcade.

The attraction will include the sights, sounds, and smells, atmosphere, motion and intensity of racing.

“Anyone that isn’t a die-hard racing fan when they get here, will be when they leave,” says Waltrip.

According to Waltrip, it will take the average guest two and a



half hours to view the attraction in its entirety.

In 2004, film star Debbie Reynolds announced that the **Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Motion Picture Museum** would be located at Belle Island Village.

The collection is valued at more than \$50 million and estimated to be the largest private collection of Hollywood memorabilia in the world, containing more than 3,500 costumes and tens of thousands of props, movie

posters, still photos, lobby cards, and original film clips relating to the artifacts. Interactive exhibits will include video clips showing the memorabilia as it appeared in a particular movie.

Hundreds of pieces of memorabilia included in the collection have never been seen by the public, according to Reynold’s son and Museum CEO, Todd Fisher.

Otter Cove, a joint venture by Belle Island Village and the Knoxville Zoo, is a permanent habitat to five North American River Otters. The 3,000 square foot outdoor habitat will include pools, water falls, viewing areas, and stages for presentations and educational events, plus a 1,000 square foot area for otter sleeping quarters, kitchen, and medical care facility.

In addition to the attraction, the Knoxville Zoo will have its own “otter cove,” a 1,700 square foot store featuring zoo mer-

chandise, displays, educational areas, demonstrations and interactive exhibits.

For more information about Belle Island Village and its coming attractions, visit www.belleislandvillage.com.

