

Energy Efficiency Block Grants available to locals

A total of \$9.3 million in federal stimulus funds will be available to small and medium-sized cities and counties through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The competitive grants are available to assist local governments in conserving energy and reducing fossil fuel emissions.

"I am very pleased these Recovery Act dollars are available to help local governments become more energy efficient," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "I have emphasized how important I believe it is for government to lead by example at the state level when it comes to conserving energy. Now our local governments will have the same opportunity to promote energy efficiency in their own communities."

Areas of funding that will be given priority include: developing an overall energy efficiency and conservation strategy; retrofitting existing buildings with cost effective energy efficient measures;

implementing renewable energy technologies on government buildings; and replacing traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies.

"The EECBG program will allow local governments to make strategic decisions on how best to reduce energy consumption," said ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber. "The cleanest energy of all is the energy we don't use, and these grants will give our cities and counties the tools they need to conserve."

The 17 largest cities and 10 largest counties in Tennessee may apply directly to the U.S. Department of Energy for EECBG funds (see the list on page 4). All other cities and counties may apply through the state of Tennessee by 5 p.m. CST on Dec. 31, 2009. Applications and more information are available at <http://tnecd.gov/recovery/eecbg.html>. The maximum grant amount will be \$100,000 and See GRANTS on Page 4

Stiffer fines, mandatory participation among changes proposed to state's one-call system

BY JOHN HOLLOWAY
TML Government Relations
&
CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

A system developed to prevent construction-related accidents to underground utilities is under review to determine whether state laws should be changed to require mandatory participation for all utilities.

Legislation was introduced last year in the first session of the 106th General Assembly that would completely rewrite the state's Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (UUDPA). Among the changes proposed, included a mandate for all utility providers to participate in the Tennessee One-Call system by Jan. 1, 2010, or be fined a civil penalty of \$100 per day. In addition, penalties for violation of the act by either the entity performing construction or by the utility providers themselves would be significantly increased. Thresholds to determine what constituted damage to underground utilities would be lowered.

In addition, the bill included a provision that gave oversight of the new law to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA).

While the legislation was supported by some, most notably the TRA and the Tennessee One-Call system, many organizations were adamantly opposed to it and contentious legislative debate ensued. Ultimately, the legislation was amended to direct the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) to study the effectiveness of Tennessee's current underground utility damage prevention program



Under current law, operators with underground utilities are required to either file a notice with the county register of deeds or the utility can participate in a one-call service that provides notifications of excavations

and report to the General Assembly no later than Jan. 29, 2010.

A preliminary report was made by TACIR staff at the September 2009 commission meeting with TRA and the Tennessee One-Call system both making presentations. Given the number of stakeholders involved and the magnitude of such a study, TACIR staff requested additional time to complete the report. Legislation will have to be filed and passed in the coming session to extend the reporting deadline. This issue will be before the TACIR commission again at the December meeting where the Tennessee Municipal League and others have been invited to testify.

The move toward a comprehensive and mandatory statewide damage prevention program is the result of federal legislation passed in 2006, the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act (PIPS Act of 2006). The PIPS Act included various provisions to strengthen federal and state oversight of damage prevention programs and essentially charged the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation with evaluating state run programs.

As a result of concerns raised during the evaluation process, TRA initiated legislation that attempted to address concerns raised regarding the lack of participation in the state's one-call system. See UTILITIES on Page 6

Local governments must step up to fight childhood obesity

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

As the race against childhood obesity breaks a sweat on federal and state levels, local governments are under tighter scrutiny to promote the health and well being of their most precious community asset — their children. More than 40 percent of Tennessee's children now suffer from obesity, according to a 2007 study conducted by the Tennessee Department of Education with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranking the state fourth in the nation for the percentage of 10-17-year-olds who are obese.

The highest prevalence of childhood obesity is found in southern states, and throughout the past 40 years, obesity rates have more than quadrupled among children ages six to 11 and more than tripled for adolescents ages 12 to 19.

Childhood obesity creates a predisposition for the onset of serious illnesses such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart attack and stroke. Local governments, businesses, and families not only face rising health care costs, the very life expectancy of the nation's children is in peril, according to a report by The Institute of Medicine (IOM).

In 2008, the IOM Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity identified local government actions as key to front-line efforts addressing obesity prevention and requested a study to examine the evidence on local government efforts, with a focus on identifying promising practices and developing a set of



Photo by Victoria South

The highest prevalence of childhood obesity is found in southern states.

recommended actions. The group was motivated by a need for more detail at the local government level on which specific actions have a potential to make a difference. To view the IOM report, visit <http://www.iom.edu/>

Tennessee is one of 25 states that will use federal money to zero in on critical components of the obesity problem, receiving \$450,000 in U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding to be used throughout the course of five years for obesity prevention through environmental and policy changes, building partnerships and engaging See OBESITY on Page 3

Baker Center advocates civic engagement

BY DENISE PAIGE
TML Government Relations

Civility in politics, the environment and climate change, civil liberties and national security, the second amendment and religion's role in public life are just a handful of the thought-provoking topics that the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee has addressed over the years.

Inspired by the political career of native Tennessean Howard Baker, Jr., the center began operating in early 2003 with a mission of furthering the public's knowledge of our system of governance as well as highlighting the critical importance of public service. This past month the center marked the one-year anniversary since the opening of its new facility — a 53,000-square-foot building on the UT-Knoxville campus that houses state-of-the art meeting rooms, an auditorium, a museum, and a premiere library of political archives.

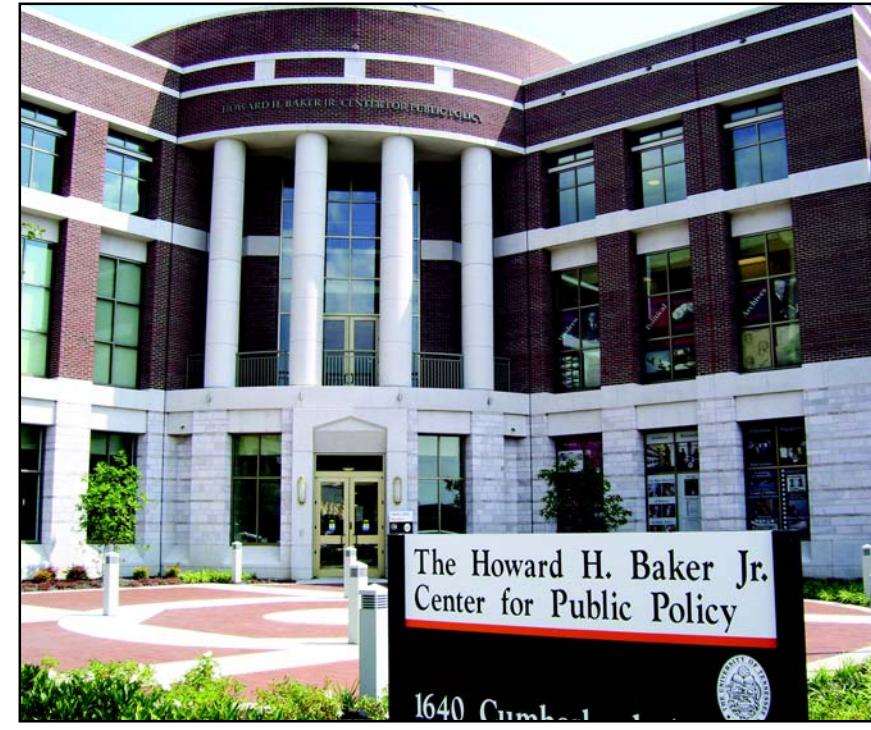
Public forums are offered on a variety of issues of local, regional, national, and international importance, and have featured nationally-recognized speakers like former Vice President Al Gore, former Tennessee Senator and Majority Leader Bill Frist, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and author and journalist Bob Woodward.

Most events are offered at no charge to the public.

With civic education as one of its primary missions, the center offers innovative educational programs to help students of all ages better understand the American political system. At the K-12 level, the center encourages the teaching of civics and responsible government by providing lesson plans for teachers and is also involved with local student organizations like the Youth Action Council and the Girl Scouts of America.

At the university level, the Baker Center is involved in many civic education initiatives in an attempt to encourage political participation. Programs are geared toward getting college students to vote and to better understand the political process, including voter registration and education drives.

"History shows that 18-24 year-



The Howard H. Baker Center for Public Policy is a multi-purpose facility devoted to the understanding of the workings of government and Tennessee politics. At more than 50,000 square feet, the center houses state-of-the art meeting rooms, an auditorium, and a museum. Most events held at the center are free to the public.

"Politics is an honorable undertaking and ... public service is among the highest callings open to members of the human society."

—Howard H. Baker, Jr.

Now, that's a GREAT pumpkin!



Photo courtesy of the city of Franklin

Charlie Brown and the gang would certainly envy this giant pumpkin, estimated to weigh hundreds of pounds arriving in Franklin just in time for the city's annual Pumpkinfest. For the past several years, Franklin's Sister Cities Group has arranged for a massively plump pumpkin to come from a farm in sister city, Carleton Place, Canada.

olds consistently are under represented in all elections," said Nissa Dahlin-Brown, associate director of the Baker Center.

The center also supports education through its Baker Scholars program, which recruits high-achieving students from a range of academic disciplines to participate in research partnerships, internships, and other programs related to civic education and public policy. And through the Baker Center Learning Community, students with an interest in politics live together on campus as a community and attend regular discussions and events relating to citizenship, public policy, and civic engagement.

The Howard H. Baker, Jr. Museum, located on the first floor, offers a better understanding of how

government works and Tennessee's contribution to the political process over the years, and, of course, insight about the extraordinary life of Howard Baker, Jr.

Self-guided tours are available with interactive stations covering modern issues such as Watergate, the environment, The Iran Contra Affair, and the Panama Canal.

The center has also created the Modern Political Archives (MPA), in partnership with UT Libraries, which houses the papers of some of Tennessee's most prominent political leaders. To date, the center has gathered more than 100 collections, including, the papers of U.S. Sens. Howard Baker, Jr., Estes Kefauver, and Fred D. Thompson; Governors Don Sundquist, and Winfield Dunn; See BAKER on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga's Electric Power Board (EPB) will receive one of the largest federal grants of its kind in the country to help make the city a national leader in building a smarter and more efficient electric system. The U.S. Department of Energy announced that the city's EPB will receive \$111 million in federal stimulus funds to help pay for part of nearly \$300 million that the company is investing in fiber-optic lines, new electric-grid technologies and "smart meters." Within three years, each of the 170,000 homes and businesses served by EPB should have new smart meters to allow continual monitoring of energy usage and its costs. "Chattanooga has the opportunity to become the electric system of the future," said EPB President Harold DePriest. "What was going to take us about 10 years will now take us only about three years to complete and allow all of our customers to be reaping the benefits of a smart grid."

CHATTANOOGA

More than 5,000 people applied online for the 1,200 production jobs at VW's Chattanooga plant which is under construction and slated to open in early 2011. The jobs, which will start at \$14.50 per hour and grow to \$19.50 per hour over 36 months, include benefits such as medical, dental, life insurance and a retirement savings program.

CLARKSVILLE

Jan Simek, the University of Tennessee's interim president and career anthropologist and archaeologist, is interested in making Clarksville's Dunbar Cave a place of particular interest. Simek led about 15 UT alumni and Kiwanis Club members on a self-guided tour of the cave stating that the cave is a



tourist gem Clarksville has yet to fully exploit. By putting a sign on the interstate and encouraging more interest and developing a more forceful awareness or advertising campaign — a specific, well-designed Web site, for example — Clarksville could stand to benefit economically from a vested interest of spelunkers and other archaeologists, Simek said.

CLARKSVILLE

In the aftermath of the federal government rescinding highway funds, Clarksville has lost nearly \$3 million due its coffers and will likely have to delay a number of construction projects already under way. The \$8.7 billion rescission, which went into effect when the 2005 SAFETEA-LU highway funding bill expired in September, stemmed from a clause in the bill that required that any funds awarded by the bill be retracted if not already committed to be spent. Further complicating matters for Tennessee and other states, an amendment included in the En-



In Franklin's Pay-as-you-throw program, citizens purchase pink stickers to tie to their extra garbage bags.

ergy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires that states reduce each spending category by a set amount. This allows for less flexibility in prioritizing cuts. Though both the city and Montgomery County pull money from the TDOT fund, Clarksville will be more adversely affected by the cut.

DICKSON

A TV special about the arts in Tennessee, a collaboration between the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Renaissance Center in Dickson, will premiere on East Tennessee Public Television in November. The show, *Creative License*, reveals how the arts have impacted the artist's lives and the lives of others. The magazine-style format offers inspiring stories that are both informative and entertaining. Plans call for eventually broadcasting the specials on public television stations across the state.

FRANKLIN

Instead of purchasing an additional roll-out container for \$75, citizens can now just pay \$1 for each extra bag they leave at the curb. It's part of Franklin's Pay-as-you-throw program. Citizens can purchase pink stickers to tie the bags through the City's Utility Billing Division or the Solid Waste Offices. The stickers are sold in groups of five for \$1 each or \$5 per pack. There is no limit to how many citizens can purchase, however, it is required that each extra bag have a sticker so the garbage collector will know they are allowable for pick-up under the new program. Last year Franklin enacted a new ordinance that discontinued the collection of bagged household garbage placed next to rollout containers. That rule is still in effect, except for the bags that have a pink Buck-A-Bag sticker.

LAKEWOOD

In a move to encourage and attract new business, Lakewood commissioners voted to no longer require a city business tax. According to commissioners, the business tax brought in at the most, around \$7,600 a year. "Our biggest benefit is going to be sales tax generation," said Commissioner Cathy Hance McKellar. Businesses located outside Metro's Urban Services District don't pay city business tax unless they are a satellite city that collects it. A percentage of the business tax goes to the state. A separate county tax is levied on all businesses in Davidson County if they gross \$3,000 or more in a year or have an exemption.



Contractors blast rock along the face of the mountain slope and several large boulders to repair the damage from a rock slide that occurred Oct. 25 on I-40 in North Carolina near the Tennessee line.

NASHVILLE

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC) has received a national Citation Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for its work on the restoration of the historic Metropolitan Nashville Courthouse. BWSC led the design team that reconstructed, renovated and restored the interior and exterior of the 270,000 square foot, 11-story art deco style courthouse which was originally built in 1936. The work on the courthouse involved complete reconstruction of the interior including installation of new mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems, security enhancements, and life safety features. New elevators were also installed. The interior's art deco details were fully restored to their original splendor in lobby areas, courtrooms and the central stairway. The building's limestone exterior and art deco ornamentation were fully restored. The project is profiled in AIA's annual publication, *Justice Facilities Review (JFR)*.

SEVIER COUNTY

Initial estimates are that it will take at least three months to reopen the road and about \$10 million for clean

up and to repair the damage from a rock slide that occurred Oct. 25 on I-40 in North Carolina near the Tennessee line. The slide is about 150 feet high and 200-300 feet wide and the majority of debris is rock. Crews began breaking up large boulders on the ground and removing unstable rocks on the mountain as they work to clean up debris and stabilize the area. Contractors are working to remove unstable rock on the face of the mountain and install a pulley system that will bring the drilling equipment up the face of the slope. Travelers can still reach Western North Carolina via a number of routes. An official detour has been set up for inter-state traffic.

NCDOT reminds motorists to stay alert and travel at non-peak times using alternative routes. Plan ahead before driving by visiting the NCDOT Traveler Information Management System Web site at www.ncdot.gov/traffictravel/ or calling 511, the state's free travel information line, for current travel conditions. NCDOT also provides alerts about traffic congestion, construction work and changes to the ferry schedule on Twitter.

To access them, visit www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter/.

Marsh sworn in to the State House of Representatives



The Honorable Bill Koch, Justice, Tennessee Supreme Court (right) administers the oath of office to Representative-elect Pat Marsh, while Mrs. Mary Marsh and Speaker Kent Williams look on.

Rep. Pat Marsh (R-Shelbyville) officially became a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives Oct. 26, 2009. Speaker of the House Kent Williams introduced Marsh at the ceremony in the chamber of the Tennessee House of Representatives where the Honorable Bill Koch, Tennessee Supreme Court Justice administered the oath of office. Speaker Williams announced that he was appointing Rep. Marsh to the House Commerce and Transportation Committees.

Marsh, a native of Fayetteville, was elected Oct. 13, 2009, to represent House District 62 which includes Bedford and parts of Lincoln and Rutherford Counties.

After graduating from UT Knoxville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business majoring in Transportation, Marsh began his career with the Ford Motor Company at their Nashville glass

plant. In 1973 he moved to Shelbyville and joined Goggin Truck Line - a small company with six tractors and 12 trailers. He eventually bought the company and grew it to 500 tractors and 1000 trailers, which employed more than 1000 people. He sold the company and started a trucking company, Big G Express, with his brother Jack in 1995. Today Big G Express has 350 tractors, 800 trailers and employs more than 500 people.

Marsh currently resides in Shelbyville with Mary, his wife of 31 years, and is the proud father to two sons, Rob and John, both UT graduates. He is active in the Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Trucking Association and American Trucking Association. He also sits on the Board of the National Walking Horse Celebration. Marsh owns and runs the Four M Game preserve.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Shelby County commissioner Joyce Avery



is now the first female mayor in the county's history. Avery will take over the day-to-day operations of the county until commissioners choose someone to replace former Mayor A.C. Wharton. She could be mayor for as long as 45 days.

Republican state Sen. Dewayne Bunch of Cleveland has told House colleagues who share his East Tennessee district that he won't seek re-election next year. Bunch, 50, has served in the Senate since 2006 and had spent 10 years in the House.

Results of the races for Franklin Alderman report that Beverly Burger in Ward 1, received 420 votes to Garry Neal's 145. Burger's win represents a little more than 74 percent of the total votes cast for the Ward 1 contest. Dana McLendon ran unopposed in Ward 2 and received 106 votes. There were 4 write-in votes. In Ward 3, Michael Skinner fin-



Rowland

ished first with 430 votes and 46 percent of the vote with Greg Caesar receiving 392 and 41 percent of the votes. Scott Ware garnered 85 votes, while 35 voters cast their ballots for Jason Thomas Destein. Ward 4 voters responded with 77 percent of their votes or 649 for Margaret Martin. Thomas Smithson received 199 votes representing 23 percent.

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland has been named "Community Leader of the Year" by the Tennessee Community Organizations network (TNCO). This organization represents 7,000 employees throughout Tennessee, and more than 30,000 families statewide who

have a family member with an "intellectual disability." Mayor Rowland was presented the award for his active and passionate support of people with intellectual disabilities. He has served as chairman on the Bradley/Cleveland ICF/MR Board Committee to help get additional ICF residential community-based beds approved and funded in order that medically fragile individuals with an intellectual disability would be able to live and be supported in the Cleveland community.

Franklin's Sustainability Commission has elected Ken Scalf as chair and Adam Ballash as vice chair. The commission, comprised of nine local volunteers, was named in August 2009, and has been meeting monthly to determine goals and priorities and also educate themselves on the city's Sustainable Community Action Plan. They have been meeting with Franklin's Sustainability Task Force committee and will be working closely with the city's new Sustainability/ Grants Coordinator, Andrew Orr.

Judge George McCrary, who served the City of Bartlett for more than 35 years, has passed away. McCrary served as Public Defender, City Prosecutor and City Attorney. He was appointed to the newly created City Court Judge of Division 2 Court in 2000 and was reelected as Division 2 Court Judge in 2008.

Dr. Karen Holt, age 54, of Knoxville passed away Oct. 27. She was an assistant vice president of the Institute for Public Service at the University of Tennessee. Before coming to the Institute for Public Service in 2008, Dr. Holt, a native of Paducah, KY, had previously served as an associate general counsel at UT and was an attorney with the Civil and Civil Rights Divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, DC. Dr. Holt also taught political science courses at both the University of Tennessee and the University of Virginia.

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Local governments encouraged to fight childhood obesity

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"There's nothing more important than the health of our children," stressed Gov. Phil Bredesen, while announcing Child Health Week Oct. 5-11. "Childhood obesity is a serious and growing problem in our state, but by working together, we can make a difference."

Strides made on the state level indicate that Tennessee's schools are in the top 10 percent that offer healthier vending machine options to students. A study released by the CDC revealed that more of the state's schools have cut candy bars, soda and sugary juices from vending machine lineups offering healthier snacks and real juice and water. Also cut was the sale of sports drinks — research shows only 33.9 percent of schools offer the drinks, making the state the leader in this category. State officials attribute the improve-

said Bill Rush, project manager for the "Activate America" program at Chattanooga's YMCA. "They're the ones that are going to really have to step forward to change their community."

The Junior League of Chattanooga's partnership with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department on the Step ONE Eat Smart program is addressing obesity among children ages six to 11 years with a three-fold focus on homes (families), schools and local dining establishments. Eat Smart focuses on choices made in the home by providing nutrition education, activities and materials to families, neighborhood organizations, faith-based institutions, food stores, and media outlets. The Eat Smart program also targets choices students make in elementary schools by expanding throughout the county elements of a pilot nutrition education

selections and by providing real benefits to local restaurants that share that concern for the health of the community.

"Fifty thousand volunteer hours by Junior League of Chattanooga members will go a long way toward changing the health culture of our community, encouraging and educating more people to Eat Smart," said Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey.

Local schools and the city are taking other steps in increasing physical activity and encouraging students and adults to work together to improve their health. "Activate Chattanooga," is an organization consisting of city planners and engineers, bike safety coordinators, health professionals, police officers, school faculty, concerned parents and others dedicated to finding ways to create a more active living community. The goal is to have families meet at pre-determined locations so parents can chaperone children as they walk or bike to school.

According to The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), "city officials can stimulate and shape local initiatives, promote collaboration across organizations and programs, and support effective programming that improves the health of children and youth." These initiatives include: supporting city design and land use decisions that encourage walking and biking; fostering partnerships with local school districts to expand access to nutritious food and enhancing utilization of parks and recreation facilities and after school programs that promote physical activity; and a focus on attracting healthier food options to underserved neighborhoods.

Nashville civic and community leaders as well as citizens recently attended a Grocery Forum held by Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee Re/Storing Nashville campaign in conjunction with The Food Trust from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to examine efforts to increase healthy food access in underserved neighborhoods. The Re/Storing Nashville campaign is funded through a grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Eat Smart refines restaurant menu options as well by helping to create demand for healthier menu



In keeping with Gov. Bredesen's child health initiative, Dyersburg Mayor John Holden, center, signs a proclamation announcing Child Health Week for students in the Dyersburg City School System. Poster contests in all schools were held to promote healthy choices.

ment to a focus on "coordinated school health," a CDC model geared at making kids healthier through access to medical treatment, counseling and education.

Members of the statewide Obesity Task Force met Oct. 27 in Downtown Chattanooga seeking input from every participating sector on obesity as well as the general public. A general consensus prevails among participants that change begins on the local level.

"People are in charge of their environment, their communities,"

program, which promotes the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

"We are fortunate to have the federally funded National School Lunch Program, which feeds more than 650,000 children every school day," said Sarah White, Tennessee Department of Education director of School Nutrition. "For some children, this lunch is their most nutritious, if not their only, meal of the day."

Eat Smart refines restaurant menu options as well by helping to create demand for healthier menu

ner city communities as well.

"The forum really sparked conversation and interest," said Leibowitz. For more information about Re/Storing Nashville, contact Miriam Leibowitz at 615-498-7926 or miriam.leibowitz@vanderbilt.edu.

NLC and the YEF Institute in partnership with the American Association for School Administrators (AASA) plan to empower municipal leaders to form local collaborations focused on adopting and implementing policies that promote healthy eating and active living by hosting a Childhood Obesity Leadership Academy Dec. 9-11 in New Orleans.

There, municipal and school district leaders will have the opportunity to learn how to create and implement local wellness policies; discuss new ideas, strategies, and national models for implementing these plans; explore best practices and opportunities for forging effective partnerships with diverse stakeholders; and broaden national peer networks. The selection criteria for academy participants hinged upon the extent to which the leadership academy can assist cities in enacting local policy and environmental change to combat childhood obesity and strengthening city-school partnerships.

"Residents tell me they prefer to shop at a store where they can purchase everything in one place, due to transportation issues," Leibowitz said.

Forum participants are working with the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) as well as public and private shuttle services about a direct transportation option to grocery stores outside the neighborhood. Policy changes, including tax and zoning incentives, could help bring supermarkets into the in-



Photo courtesy of Marne Rowland Duke
Re/Storing Nashville program coordinator Miriam Leibowitz talks with Metro Nashville District 19 Councilwoman Erika Gilmore at the Grocery Forum hosted by the Food Security Partners of Middle Tennessee held at the Nashville Civic Design Center.

Baker Center advocates civic engagement

BAKER from Page 1

and U.S. Congressmen Bob Clement, John Duncan Sr., and Harold Ford, Jr. These collections are available for public review on the third floor of the building.

The center is currently in the process of preserving the papers of the city of Oak Ridge, which was designated a *Preserve America Community* in 2006, and was awarded a \$150,000 grant in 2008 for the project "Birth of a City: The History of Oak Ridge, Tennessee."

The project will document Oak Ridge's evolution from a World War II "temporary community" to an incorporated, professionally-managed city.

According to Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, reaction to the project has been very positive. "Most people think of Oak Ridge as the secret city that helped end World War II. This project tells the rest of the story—how young scientists and others drawn to Oak Ridge for the work, chose to make Oak Ridge their home. They created the social, cultural, and governmental institutions that shaped the foundation for the city as it exists today."

"The Baker Center is a tremendous asset, both in its public policy programming and its state-of-the-art archives," Beehan added. "The city is very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with their excellent staff on this project."

Senator with a Camera

What people may not know about Baker is that he was a renowned photographer and has used this art to document his political and personal experiences.

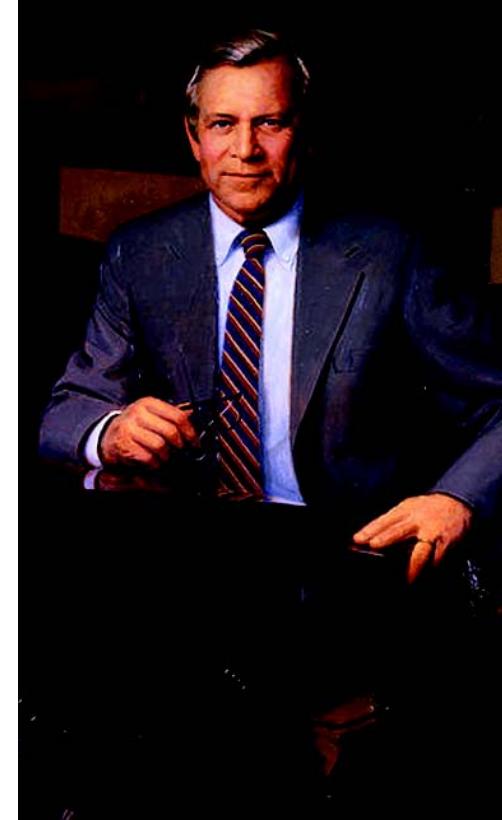
Over the years, the senator has taken candid photos of presidents, fellow members of Congress, ordinary citizens, and nature scenes. Thousands of his pictures are housed in the Modern Political Archives on the third floor of the Baker Center, and many can be found in the exhibits of the first floor museum.

Sen. Baker received The American Society of Photographers' International Award in 1993 and was elected into the Photo Marketing Association's Hall of Fame in 1994. His photos serve as a diary, which offers an "insider's" perspective of historic events.



Self-guided tours are available in the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Museum, with interactive stations covering modern issues such as Watergate, the environment, The Iran Contra Affair, and the Panama Canal.

Howard H. Baker, Jr.



"A great and diverse people do not speak with a single voice."

former lawmaker is senior counsel to Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, the law firm his grandfather founded and where he formerly practiced with his father, the late U.S. Rep. Howard H. Baker. Senator Baker focuses his practice on public policy and international affairs.

Retired from public service, the

Information about upcoming events at the Baker Center can be found at www.bakercenter.utk.edu/main/index.php.

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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee residents and businesses affected by severe storms and flooding that occurred on September 16 were able to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The declaration covered Hamilton County and the adjacent counties of Bledsoe, Bradley, Marion, Meigs, Rhea and Sequatchie in Tennessee. Loans up to \$200,000 were available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property according to SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center in Atlanta. SBA's customer service representatives were on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete applications. The Center was located in Hamilton County at East Ridge City Hall.

The number of children and youth receiving autism-related special education services in Tennessee more than tripled from approximately 1,293 to 4,019 between 2001 and 2007, according to the first in a series of reports examining public services for infants, children and youth with autism in Tennessee. The report was released by the Comptroller of the Treasury's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA). The report, "Autism in Tennessee: Part 1 – An Introduction to Issues and Data Collection Methods," provides an overview of autism as a disability, a review of associated laws and includes autism data collection and prevalence estimates. According to the report, it is not known whether those numbers have risen because of an increased prevalence of autism or because autism is being identified

and diagnosed more frequently. Subsequent reports to be released in the series will review public education and health care services as they relate to autism in Tennessee.

A newer, greener welcome center soon could greet visitors traveling to the Volunteer State. Tennessee officials hope to start work on a replacement for the Interstate 24 welcome center in Lookout Valley as early as January. An environmentally friendly, 4,500-square-foot building will double the size of the existing structure on the eastbound side of I-24. The new center is one of three statewide being built with stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. A log cabin-style prototype is the projected design. The other two centers are along Interstate 65 in Middle Tennessee. One is north of Nashville in Robertson County near the Kentucky border. The other is south of Nashville in Giles County near the Alabama border.

The Volunteer State is now in the top 10 for percentage of schools that offer healthier vending machine options to students. The study revealed that more schools cut candy bars, soda and sugary juices from vending machine lineups and instead offered healthier snacks and real juice and water. Also cut was the sale of sports drinks — research now shows only 33.9 percent of schools offer the drinks, making the state the leader in this category. State officials attribute the improvement to a focus on what's called "coordinated school health." This is a CDC model geared at making kids healthier through access to medical treatment, counseling and education.

The state has received more than \$18 million to help low-income citizens with their heating bills during October, November and December. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides the grant. LIHEAP helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter and cooling their homes in the summer. Tennessee households receive assistance based on the Priority Points System, which factors income based on family size, energy burden and the presence of household members who are elderly, disabled or young. LIHEAP assistance does not go directly to the applicant; instead payments are made to the local utility company or energy supplier.

Report examines progress of Tennessee's pre-kindergarten program

Kindergarten students who attended a state-funded pre-kindergarten program prior to entering kindergarten performed better academically than a comparable group of peers who did not attend Tennessee's pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) program, according to a recently released report.

However, the report "Assessing the Effectiveness of Tennessee's pre-kindergarten Program: Annual Report 2008-2009" reveals that there is little evidence that the unique effects of Pre-K attendance on academic achievement last beyond second grade.

The report summarizes previous reports and reviews similar Pre-

Tennessee State Parks unveiled eight new, environmentally friendly villas at Montgomery Bell State Park at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. These unique, contemporary accommodations serve as a first in a series of more energy efficient and environmentally responsible cabins to open within the Tennessee State Parks system in the coming months. An environmental focal point of the project is the geothermal system. Each villa has a 450-foot well to capture the energy of the earth to generate heating and cooling, using 40 to 60 percent less energy and minimizing energy-driven pollution. Among many other benefits, the geothermal system also produces free hot water in the summer. Other energy and environmental practices at the villas include the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs, outdoor furniture made from recycled plastic and indoor/outdoor recycling equipment.

Tennessee is the most overmedicated state in the nation. It's a dangerous situation, and it's become a key element in the ongoing health care crisis. Tennessee has high rates of diabetes and hypertension which require people to take more medications. At one point, a large number of Tennesseans averaged 30 different prescriptions each year. That number is down to 16, but the national average is 11. Criminals are fueling the problem also by doctor shopping. They are going from one doctor to another to get controlled substance, and then selling it for a profit. The Office of Inspector General, a one of a kind agency in the country, is cracking down on the problem inside the TennCare program. The state is spending millions of dollars to fight TennCare fraud, and to pay for the Office of Inspector General. It's believed they have saved Tennessee about a \$171 million.

Incentive funds are available for landowners willing to put at least 5 acres into native habitat to improve the bobwhite quail population in Tennessee. Conservationists say now is a good time to enroll land in the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative because those who get in early can receive an extra \$100 per acre. The U.S. Department of Agriculture pays 75 percent of the cost of approved development of quality bobwhite habitat. That goes up to 90 percent for some farmers. The incentives also apply to habitat for pollinators like native bees, beetles and butterflies. Enrollment is statewide, but priority for incentives will go to farmers in 28 counties. Bobwhite populations have declined more than 70 percent since 1980.



Tennessee State Parks unveiled eight environmentally friendly villas at Montgomery Bell State Park. TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke and Deputy Governor John Morgan (center) were among a host of dignitaries that attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Energy Efficiency Block Grants

GRANTS from Page 1
partial funding may be awarded.

Applications will be scored based on the local government's strategy, feasibility, readiness to proceed, impact, partnerships and the ability to extend funding impact beyond a one time use. ECD hosted two application workshops on Nov. 2, in Nashville that focused on the guidelines and application process and to offer suggestions for making an application more competitive.

ECD will be administering the application process for EECBG funds in other cities and counties not eligible for direct funding from DOE. At least 60 percent of the funds received by ECD under EECBG must be used to make sub-awards to these cities and counties. Funding not used for subgrants to cities and counties may be used by the State Energy Program (SEP), subject to all SEP requirements.

Tennessee will use the remaining funds to conduct a comprehensive public education campaign to help its citizens use energy more efficiently, and establish clean energy worker training programs at technology centers, community colleges, and universities. The public education campaign will be specifically targeted to help Tennesseans improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and will use various channels to collect, organize, and disseminate information, including workshops and print media.

The training initiative will provide the state's citizens training in a wide variety of green sectors, including weatherization, advanced energy codes, and solar installation. These programs will better position Tennessee's workforce to take ad-

vantage of the clean energy economy.

For questions regarding the application process please email ecd.energy@tn.gov.

The 17 largest cities and 10 largest counties in Tennessee may apply directly to DOE for EECBG funds. These funds will not pass through state government or ECD. 2007 census population data was used to determine which cities and counties will receive direct grant funding from DOE.

Please see the chart below for a complete listing of these cities and counties.

State of Tennessee	\$13,818,200
Bartlett	\$193,600
Brentwood	\$164,500
Chattanooga	\$1,864,300
Clarksville	\$1,114,900
Cleveland	\$186,300
Collierville	\$164,400
Franklin	\$593,700
Germantown	\$169,600
Hendersonville	\$190,500
Jackson	\$670,700
Johnson City	\$661,800
Kingsport	\$219,100
Knoxville	\$2,012,700
Memphis	\$6,767,200
Metro Nashville	\$6,225,400
Murfreesboro	\$961,100
Smyrna	\$164,800
Blount County	\$501,600
Hamilton County	\$616,500
Knox County	\$2,125,400
Maury County	\$334,900
Rutherford County	\$418,600
Sevier County	\$356,900
Shelby County	\$421,800
Sullivan County	\$459,700
Sumner County	\$431,700
Wilson County	\$433,300

NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Health and law enforcement officials around the nation are scrambling to figure out how to regulate medical marijuana now that the federal government has decided it will no longer prosecute legal users or providers. For years, since the first medical marijuana laws were passed in the mid-1990s, many local and state governments could be confident knowing that marijuana would be kept in check because it remained illegal under federal law. But with the Justice Department's announcement that it would not prosecute people who use marijuana for medical purposes in states where it is legal, local and state officials say they will now have to take on the job themselves.

Some health and legal experts say the Justice Department's decision will promote the spread of marijuana for medical uses because local and state officials often take leadership cues from federal policy.

The report summarizes previous reports and reviews similar Pre-

K studies that have been conducted in other states. The series is based on a multi-year project produced by the Strategic Research Group (SRG) and commissioned by the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA).

The project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pre-K program over time. To date, project reports have analyzed student assessments in kindergarten through fifth grade as measured by results of standardized tests administered in three academic years: 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. The present report includes analysis of a limited amount of additional data for these years.

The objective of the report series is to determine whether children who attended a state-funded Pre-K program perform better academically in the short- and long-term than a comparable group of peers who did not attend Tennessee's Pre-K program. The report also aims to assess what aspects of Pre-K programs impact student academic achievement.

"This analysis of year-end assessments in kindergarten reveals that students participating in the Pre-K program demonstrated an increase in school readiness, such as language and math skills, which confirms that this objective of the state's Pre-K program is being met," said OREA Director Phil Doss.

Ph.D. "Other considerations for policy-makers include the finding that the effects tend to fade over time and that there is significant variation in the types of Pre-K curricula students are exposed to statewide, which makes it difficult to assess the impact of program characteristics."

An upcoming report will contain analysis for two additional school years, 2007-08 and 2008-09. The full report may be viewed at: www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/Repository/RE/SRGAnnualReport08-09.pdf. Visit www.tn.gov/comptroller/ore to view previous reports related to the Pre-K program and to sign up to receive email notification of future reports released by OREA.

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2009 Public Acts of interest to municipalities

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chapter No. 370 (SB2150/HB2037). Law enforcement to request proof of insurance upon charging any motor vehicle violation. Amends T.C.A. § 55-12-139(b) by requiring law enforcement officers to request proof of compliance with financial responsibility law upon charging any motor vehicle violation, as opposed to just moving violations.

Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 372 (SB2224/HB2166). Railroad police to be POST certified. Amends T.C.A. Title 38, Chapter 8 and Title 65, Chapter 6 by requiring railroad police officers to obtain POST certification prior to commission.

Effective July 1, 2009 and applies to any railroad police officer commissioned on or after that date.

Chapter No. 430 (SB0275/HB0234). Procedures for permitting retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons.

Amends T.C.A. § 38-8-116 by allowing a retired law enforcement officer to meet the annual requirements to carry a firearm in the same extent as authorized for an active law enforcement officer by one of the following methods:

- 1) Obtaining a photo identification issued by the local agency from which the officer retired that indicates the individual has, not less than one (1) year previously, been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the standards established by the agency for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers;
- 2) Meeting POST standards by qualifying and obtaining an annual certification from the POST commission; or
- 3) Using a private range and certified firearms instructor to verify that the retired officer has met the POST standards.

POST commission must maintain a list of approved instructors who may certify retired officers. POST commission is authorized to establish a fee for issuing certifications.

Effective June 12, 2009.

Chapter No. 480 (SB1221/HB1209). Distress warrants executed by municipal law enforcement.

Amends T.C.A. § 67-4-215 by allowing a distress warrant issued by a municipal tax collector to be executed within the boundaries of the municipality by the chief of police or a police officer of that municipality.

Effective June 23, 2009.

METRO GOVERNMENT

Chapter No. 474 (SB1082/HB1347). Convention center authorities. Amends Titles 7 and 67 by authorizing municipalities and counties to create convention center authorities. Allows for the creation of joint authorities among multiple entities. Authorities are created by resolution of the governing body. Authorities operate under charter provided for in statute. Charter may be amended locally with approval of the secretary of state. Board of the authority must be comprised of residents of the city or county creating the authority and may not include officials or employees of the city or county.

Board members appointed by chief executive of the county or city. Authority granted powers including: to contract; to sue and be sued; to acquire, operate, furnish, maintain, buy, lease and sell projects; issue bonds to finance projects. City or county can agree to divert property taxes paid by the owner of the convention center facility into a special fund. These funds may be used to make payments due to the authority.

Creating cities and counties may make donations of property or cash to authorities. Authority can purchase up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of goods, supplies and services without competitive bidding. Authorizes Metropolitan Nashville to impose an additional one-percent (1%) increase to the hotel occupancy tax. A third of which can be used for the direct promotion of tourism, including convention center financing.

Effective June 23, 2009.

MOTOR VEHICLES /TRAFFIC

Chapter No. 201 (SB0393/HB0107). Text messaging prohibited.

Amends T.C.A., Title 55, Chapter 8, Part 1 by creating the misdemeanor offense of using a mobile telephone or hand-held personal digital assistant to read or transmit a written message while driving a motor vehicle that is in motion. Selecting or entering a telephone number for the purposes of making a telephone call does not constitute a violation.

Violation is a Class C misdemeanor, subject only to a fine, not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00), and court costs, not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00), including, but not limited to, any statutory fees of officers. No state or local litigation taxes may be imposed in a case prosecuting this offense. Citation issued for this offense is considered a nonmoving violation.

The following persons are exempted: 1) state or local law enforcement officers, when in the actual discharge of duties; 2) campus

police and public safety officers, when in the discharge of official duties; 3) emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technician-paramedics, and volunteer and career firefighters, when in the actual discharge of official duties; 4) state or local emergency management agency officers, when in the actual discharge of official duties.

Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 252 (SB1339/HB1631). Minimum age of abandoned vehicle eligible for destruction increased.

Amends T.C.A. § 55-16-108(e) by increasing from five (5) years to ten (10) years the minimum age of an abandoned vehicle that may be demolished without notification procedures. Vehicle must have no engine or be otherwise totally inoperable.

Effective May 20, 2009.

PERSONNEL

Chapter No. 293 (SB0540/HB1510). Negotiations not open to the public.

Amends T.C.A. § 8-44-201(b) by clarifying that during negotiations between representatives of public employee unions and representatives of state or local governmental entities, the planning or strategy sessions of either group when meeting with the entity they represent are not open to the public.

Effective May 27, 2009.

PERSONNEL – RETIREMENT

Chapter No. 438 (SB0529/HB0352). TCRS retirees may accept reemployment.

Amends T.C.A. Title 8, Chapter 36, Part 8 by allowing TCRS retirees with at least one year of employment to accept covered employment with another employer without suspension of retirement benefits. Requires annual reporting by new employer. Members' retirement benefits are reduced to seventy percent (70%) during new employment. No new retirement benefits may accrue during new employment.

Effective July 1, 2009.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Chapter No. 338 (SB2116/HB2177). Zoning ordinance and map presumed current and accurate.

Amends T.C.A. Title 13, Chapter 7, Part 2 by requiring cities who have exercised zoning powers to compile and keep current their zoning ordinance and map as amended. When these documents are produced via a public records request, they are presumed to be a true and accurate statement of the zoning ordinance and map. A party challenging this in court must prove inaccuracy by clear and convincing evidence.

Effective June 1, 2009.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Nov. 14-15: Signal Mountain

Sunday on Signal

Sales at retail shops as well as information about the service businesses located there. There will be live music, Santa Claus and other entertainment. Signal retail shops will have scratch off tickets with discounts starting at 10 percent available to the public. Shopping in 4 of the 5 "zones," makes you eligible to enter a drawing for a variety of prizes including dinner at local restaurants and prize baskets. Hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sat. and 1p.m. until 6.p.m. Sun. Visit the MBA website (SignalMBA.com) to peruse member stores. For more information, call 423-886-5982.

Nov. 14: Portland

35th Annual Highland Harvest Craft Festival

Held at Portland Middle School. Local artisans selling handcrafted jewelry, home décor, seasonal items, baby gifts and more. For more information, call Portland Parks & Recreation Department 615-325-6464.

COMING UP

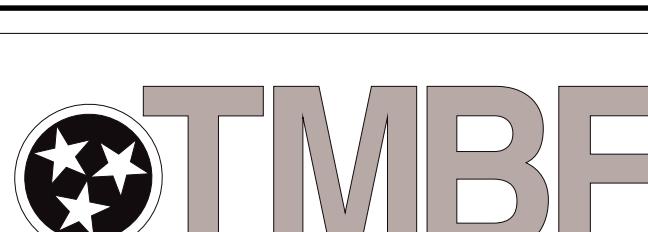
Nov. 21: Winchester's Bicentennial Dinner at Franklin County Country Club with social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at Winchester City Hall for \$25 each. For additional information contact Yvonne Stewart at 931-967-3527 or e-mail yvonne.stewart@winchester-tn.com

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Cities urged to do their part for America Recycles Day

It's not too late for your community to join Tennessee Beautiful and the Tennessee Recycle Coalition by holding an event in honor of America Recycles Day (ARD) through Nov. 21. Visit www.americarecyclesday.org to register.



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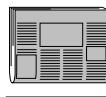


The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.

No loan is too large or too small



The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.



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COLUMBIA. Columbia Power and Water Systems, a municipal utility located in Maury County in Middle Tennessee, is seeking a Controller (exempt position) who is accountable for financial controls and activities of CPWS, general oversight for departments Billing and Collecting, General Office, Meter Services, Purchasing and Stores, and Information Systems. Requires B.S. in Business Administration with major in accounting, five years experience in accounting (utility accounting preferred) and CPA certification in state of Tennessee. Please visit our website at www.cpws.com, "General Information", "Careers at CPWS", and "Click here for current job opportunities" for Application for Employment and job description. CPWS will only consider fully completed, original applications that are mailed or hand delivered to Columbia Power and Water Systems, 201 Pickens Lane, Columbia, TN 38401, ATTN: Personnel Department. Position is open until filled. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications and will be discussed only at interview. Excellent benefit package. Minorities and females encouraged to apply. EOE/Drug Free Workplace.

TOWN RECORDER

JONESBOROUGH. The Town is seeking applicants for the position

of Town Recorder. This position is the Town's authority on all aspects of financial management and requires a comprehensive understanding of city government finance. Director manages the accounting, accounts payable, tax collection, debt service and cash management functions of the Town and participates in certain aspects of the payroll process and purchasing. A bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance supplemented by three (3) years previous experience and/or training that includes management and supervisory experience preferably in the area of governmental accounting are required. Preference will be given to candidates with professional certification such as Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO), or Certified Governmental Financial Manager (CGFM). If not certified, must be able to attain compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007 within 18 months of hire. Salary \$50,000+ - dependent upon qualifications; comprehensive benefit package offered, including TCPS pension. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Application and position description may be accessed at www.jonesboroughtn.org. Mail completed applications to: Town of Jonesborough, Attn: Town Administrator, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659. EOE. Historic Jonesborough is Tennessee's oldest town and located in beautiful Northeast Tennessee. Information about the town can be obtained from the Tourism website www.historicjonesborough.com or the website above.

Under current law, utility operators with underground facilities in any given area are required to either file a notice with the register of deeds stating that the operator has underground utilities in that county and provide contact information where they can receive notices; or, the utility can participate in a one-call service that provides mutual receipt of notifications of excavations and demolitions.

UTILITIES from Page 1

call system by many utilities across the state, the lack of a dispute resolution process, and the fact that no one specific state agency was empowered with enforcement and penalties authority.

Tennessee currently has two methods in place to prevent damages to underground utility lines. The UUDPA, originally passed in 1978, established procedures to protect underground utilities when construction, maintenance, excavating or blasting is scheduled to occur in public rights-of-way. The Tennessee One-Call system, established in 1983, is a communications system that gives advance notification to operators of underground facilities before any digging or construction occurs. According to the Tennessee One-Call system, there are 179 municipal utility owners out of 254 municipalities with underground utilities who currently participate.

Under current law, utility operators with underground facilities in any given area are required to either file a notice with the register of deeds stating that the operator has underground utilities in that county and provide contact information where they can receive notices; or, the utility can participate in a one-call service that provides mutual receipt of notifications of excavations and demolitions.

Natural gas distributors are not given an option and must participate in the state's one-call system.

All operators, including those participating in the one-call service, are required to maintain records and drawings of all changes and additions to their underground facilities.

Entities which plan to excavate, demolish or perform repair work in



Under the state's current system, if a utility has facilities in the area where the excavation or demolition will take place, the operator must stake or mark the location of the underground facility within three days of being notified of pending construction.

the public right-of-way of a street, highway, or other public space must contact the register of deeds for a list of all operators in the county. The contractor must then give written, telephonic, or e-mail notice to all operators with utilities in the affected area three to ten working days prior to the actual date of excavation or demolition. In areas with a one-call service, the contractor must notify the service and the service will then notify operators with utility facilities at the location for construction or excavation.

Upon receiving notice, if a utility has facilities in the area where the excavation or demolition will take place, the operator must stake or mark the location of the underground facility within three days of being notified of pending construction. After the utilities are marked, the entity may begin construction. Currently, the UUDPA is enforced by local and state law enforcement agencies or the inspector of the permitting agency. Any person who fails to comply with the law commits a Class A misdemeanor and may be subject to a maximum fine of \$2,500 and a maximum imprisonment of 48 hours. Contractors are liable for damages resulting from an operator's failure to locate and mark utilities, unless an underground utility was clearly present and the contractor did not make additional attempts to contact the operator or did not use reasonable care to avoid damaging the utility. If a utility fails to mark its facilities within three days of being notified and damage is incurred during the course of construction, the entity performing the work is not held liable.

Communities awarded funding for water, wastewater improvements

Seven Tennessee communities, two water authorities and one utility district have been approved to receive low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. The funding comes from a combination of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Forty percent of the funding is in the form of principal forgiveness, which does not have to be repaid.

The low-interest loans and principal forgiveness are used to finance the planning, design and construction of water and wastewater facilities. Through this program, communities, utility districts and water and wastewater authorities can obtain loans with lower interest rates than most can obtain through private financing. Interest rates for the loans can vary from zero percent to market rate based on each community's economic index.

The funding order of projects is determined by the SRF Loan Program's Priority Ranking Lists that rank potential projects according to the severity of their pollution and/or compliance problems or for the protection of public health. Environment and Conservation administers the Recovery Act/State Revolving Fund Loan Program in conjunction with the Tennessee Local Development Authority. Recovery Act Wastewater Grants/Loans were

announced for the following recipients:

Athens (McMinn County) – \$4.09 million for collection system expansion and sewer line rehabilitation in the areas of Mount Verd Road, as well as Interstate 75 at Exit 52. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$2.45 million loan with an interest rate of 2.39 percent and \$1.64 million in principal forgiveness.

Cleveland (Bradley County) – \$1.36 million to expand the collection system with eight-inch diameter gravity sewer lines in the areas of Interstate 75 at Exit 20, as well as Westside Drive. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$820,000 loan with an interest rate of 2.11 percent and \$540,000 in principal forgiveness.

Franklin (Williamson County) – Franklin will receive \$3.15 million for the expansion of recycled water distribution lines on Downs Boulevard and continuing west, as well as collection system expansion in the Boyd Mill Pike, Country Road and Simmons Ridge areas. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$1.89 million loan with an interest rate of 2.69 percent and \$1.26 million in principal forgiveness.

Huntingdon (Carroll County) – \$3 million for a watershed enhancement project, collection system expansion and pump station. The

project will be funded with a 20-year, \$1.8 million loan with an interest rate of 1.5 percent and \$1.2 million in principal forgiveness.

Maryville (Blount County) – \$3.84 million for water meter replacements, water leak detection sensor installations and wastewater treatment plant improvements including solar-powered biosolids handling. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$2.3 million loan with an interest rate of 2.09 percent and \$1.54 million in principal forgiveness.

Metro Nashville (Davidson County) – \$1.08 million for a collection system expansion in the Holt Road and Nolensville Historic District areas. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$650,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.62 percent and \$430,000 in principal forgiveness.

Munford (Tipton County) – \$650,000 to replace the existing 50-year-old Ridgecrest pump station with a new pump station and a force main to eliminate the existing bypasses and to handle additional flows. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$400,000 loan with an interest rate of 0.91 percent and \$250,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Water Authority of Dickson County (Dickson County) – The Water Authority of Dickson County will receive \$2.4 million for collec-

tion system expansions into six existing Dickson residential areas currently utilizing septic tank systems. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$1.44 million loan with an interest rate of 1.51 percent and \$960,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

West Knox Utility District (Anderson/Knox Counties) – The West Knox Utility District will receive \$3.66 million to expand the collection system into the Ball Camp Road and Northampton Commons areas. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$2.19 million loan with an interest rate of 1.5 percent and \$1.47 million in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Watauga River Regional Water Authority (Carter County) – The Watauga River Regional Water Authority will receive \$5 million for a new two million gallon-per-day regional water treatment plant and clear well, raw water lines, raw water pump station, water booster station and distribution lines. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$3 million loan with an interest rate of 0.60 percent and \$2 million in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

percent and \$1 million in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Metro Nashville (Davidson County) – Metro Nashville will receive \$4.8 million for water meter replacements. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$2.9 million loan with an interest rate of 1.62 percent and \$1.9 million in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

City of Franklin (Williamson County) – Franklin will receive \$2.5 million for improvements to the raw water reservoir, which has been leaking. Upgrades to the water reservoir will ensure continuous reliable source water for Franklin's drinking water treatment plant. This project will be funded with a 20-year, \$1.5 million loan with an interest rate of 2.82

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Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Municipal parks and playgrounds can contribute to a community's overall quality of life. But they can also pose some safety hazards. Each year, emergency rooms treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and under for playground-related injuries.

Through a comprehensive training program offered by the TML Risk Management Pool, city leaders are taught hazard identification and risk management methods.



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East Ridge: Entering the Green Zone

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

*You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension—a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas... You've just crossed over into... "The Green Zone"—Excerpt from Rod Serling's *The Twilight Zone**

A green glow along I-75 could narrow the gap between science fiction and reality in alternative energy sources (AES) as the small town of East Ridge, an 8-square-mile city between Georgia and Chattanooga, readies a three-phase \$14.5 million initiative called Project Green Zone.

Dubbed "The Gateway to Tennessee," East Ridge is a land-locked city with a population of 21,000 that's short on space—but not imagination. "The Green Zone" could be described as an alternative energy paradise, where no fewer than seven green technologies: conservation, wind, solar, low impact hydro electric, bio mass, fuel cell, and biodiesel will operate generating 2,160,000 KWH per year when applied to day-to-day operations.

Located conveniently alongside I-75 within Camp Jordan Park, the city's existing 257-acre recreational

cal Advisory Service (MTAS), the U.S. Green Building Council, and Hamilton County Schools. The city estimates a total of 85 new jobs will be created throughout the three phases of the project, while the model cuts costs at the government level where savings can be shared by citizens.

East Ridge has requested funds from the State Energy Program and the State Energy Block Grant Program. "The East Ridge model will demonstrate for all Tennessee municipalities that multiple green technologies closer to urban population centers can work," said city officials in their state grant application.

"I realize that many communities will submit applications, but few will demonstrate the good sense, remarkable transferability, and positive environmental impact as East Ridge's plan," said state Sen. Bo Watson. "The Green Zone" has the potential to be a working model for other small communities across Tennessee, Southeast and the nation."

According to a report by the Energy Information Administration/Annual Energy Outlook 2009, coal continues to provide the largest share of energy for U.S. electricity generation, yet with the New Energy Approach by the Obama Administration and the American Recovery Act Focus on Green Energy and as



cess in any federal or state grant based funding opportunity that improves the capacity for energy efficiency, environmental protection, or economic development."

As a partner in the project, MTAS will be providing East Ridge with technical consulting services for Project Green Zone as well as collaborating with the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council on the city's behalf seeking additional guidance and support from green related agencies and businesses.

"East Ridge is poised to become the pioneer in developing a sustainable energy conservation program that promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency for citizens in Tennessee," said Mike Tallent, MTAS executive director.

"We think Camp Jordan and its close proximity to I-75 makes it a perfect one-stop shop to showcase The Green Zone," said East Ridge City Manager William Whitson. "It is our unique opportunity to display the latest in AES technology applications and advancements to the public."

For more information about the East Ridge Green Zone initiative, contact the city of East Ridge at 423-867-7711.

Our imagination and creativity are the only real limits here from our perspective. — East Ridge Mayor Mike Steele

facility, "The Zone" will blanket 10 to 15 acres of parkland, where exhibits and educational opportunities will abound for students, green job seekers, and the general public. The Green Zone would accentuate Camp Jordan's already ample amenities, numerous baseball/softball and soccer fields, an outdoor amphitheater, indoor arena, picnic and RV facilities and a two-mile walking trail through natural wetlands.

Research, classes, interactive models, displays and green job training would be provided in the Green Zone at a new 6,000 square foot state-of-the-art Leed Platinum certified educational facility. The building would also support field demonstration, and applied research-oriented activities for middle school, high school, college and graduate students as well as businesses.

Teachers and staff at the center would be provided from among the project's Who's Who list of partners: the state of Tennessee, the Electric Power Board (EPB), TVA, IBEW, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga College of Engineering, Arcadis, the Municipal Techni-

states continue to organize regional climate control pacts, renewable generation will become more prominent in carbon-constrained regions.

As an example of environmental stewardship demonstrating the practical effectiveness of green energy measures and to conserve and generate enough green power to offset the costs of Camp Jordan's operation, the city plans to retrofit current municipal buildings and park facilities with AES as well. The city's goal is to produce enough energy to offset their own expense needs, and have surplus energy sold back and credited to the city's green energy account.

Traffic lights would receive a green makeover, replacing energy inefficient bulbs with LED lighting, while Camp Jordan Arena would be the most ambitious project along with the outlying sports fields. Solar energy could be harnessed by solar panels for the arena along with natural lighting. Specifically designed insulation, replacement light fixtures and geo-thermal heating and cooling would be other retrofits throughout the building. Close to the new educational facility, the arena

could serve as a model for green conservation measures and utilized for practical demonstrations of applied research.

TVA's Green Power Switch Generation Partners program can augment these measures, purchasing all of the green energy output at a rate of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour for solar and three cents per kilowatt-hour for other renewable power. Payment is issued in the form of a credit on the participant's monthly bill by the local power company.

"On behalf of TVA, we look forward to exploring opportunities with the city of East Ridge through EPB for the Generations Partners Program," said Ken Breeden, TVA executive vice president, Customer Resources. "Generations Partners provides technical support and incentives for the installation of renewable generation systems. We commend East Ridge's efforts for initiating the Green Zone."

Recently awarded a whopping \$111.5 million in federal stimulus funding from the Department of Energy, Green Zone partner EPB is constructing a \$220 million Smart Grid modernization of the electric system for automated meter reading, enhanced power quality, outage management, and the capacity to manage dynamic rates and alternative energy sources.

EPB and TVA will provide extra dollar incentives for green energy production through the Smart Grid.

"The grant will allow us to turn this whole central area on to smart grid technology and implementation," said Harold DePriest, EPB president and CEO.

EPB has recently performed an energy survey of East Ridge's municipal buildings. "EPB has a long history of service and partnership with the people of East Ridge," said DePriest. "We stand ready to work in close cooperation to ensure suc-



A 10-15 acre segment at Camp Jordan Park in East Ridge would be designated as "The Green Zone" displaying multiple green technologies and a Leed Platinum Certified Educational Center.

Green Zone Project Phases

Phase I—Focus

- Data collection, testing, monitoring and auditing current energy use
- Conservation and retrofitting existing buildings and facilities.
- Documentation of auditing results from conservation and retrofitting efforts.
- Showcasing these results in an education facility—which will also serve as a model of the proposed AES and systems used.

Phase II—Alternative Demonstration Technologies

- Produce via green AES 70-80 percent energy needs to operate the city parks, administration, streets and other municipal operations.

Phase III—Experimental Technologies & Future Research

- Hydro-electric power generation utilizing the three major creeks adjacent to Camp Jordan Park.
- Other methodologies, systems and concepts with research & development in conjunction with the UTC College of Engineering and Computer Science and Sims Center.

During these phases, green jobs will be created as well as a special green jobs training effort to prepare the workforce for future jobs in the application of green technologies.

TT&C: You met with Gov. Bredesen about project Green Zone. How did this meeting come about and what was the Governor's main concern?

Mayor Steele: Our Legislative delegation (Rep. Vince Dean & Sen. Bo Watson) have been very supportive and helpful. They arranged the meeting with the Governor. The Governor was very attentive and supportive of the project concepts. His main question was if our city is willing to commit some funding? We, of course, indicated that we could commit dollars from any energy savings generated or green energy credit for power that was excess and not consumed by the City. We remain hopeful that such an approach will be supported by the innovative partnerships we have developed and proposed.

TT&C: If the state Green Zone funding is approved, how soon will the city move forward?

Mayor Steele: The city could be underway very quickly, 90-120 days, if approved with the first projects on line in one year.

TT&C: If the educational facility at Camp Jordan Park meets expectations, do you foresee future Green Zone projects across other sections of East Ridge? What municipal buildings would be retrofitted with AES?

Mayor Steele: Yes, most definitely. We could see all facilities included, police, fire, public works etc... The city is also willing to work with schools and our business community.

Our imagination and creativity are the only real limits here from our perspective. Council is committed to green leadership and innovation.

TT&C: What are some of the personnel/jobs required to keep the Green Zone in action?

Mayor Steele: Many kinds; there will be administrators, engineers, project managers, maintenance staff, teachers for the green jobs training program, tour guides for public education and research and development staff. It will take a wide variety of skills and talents.

TT&C: You mention that the training facility will host educational opportunities for students. Will there be Green Zone apprenticeships with credit for high school students?

Mayor Steele: Absolutely, the city wants to encourage young people to know more about various sources of green technology as well as the latest applications and use. The city wants to train them in green job options/skills. The best way to learn some trades is by simply doing and experiencing!!!

The great thing about the city's partnership with UTC is that students will be exposed to not only the current market and various green technology uses but also the opportunity to see firsthand what is on the emerging research side. It is very exciting indeed!

TT&C: Will the classes and green job training be conducted by individuals within the partnerships or will outside recruiting take place?

Mayor Steele: The city believes our partnership is self-sufficient. UTC and IBEW have the skills, training and capacity to do a fantastic job. If they choose to look at additional

options and ideas that would be OK too. We will be looking for efficiency and effectiveness, just as our partners will be.

TT&C: Do you foresee the facility becoming a tourist attraction similar to the Huntsville Space Station?

Mayor Steele: Yes, we see many exciting possibilities. Our City Council believes in the power of partnership. East Ridge wants to be known as a community that "thinks outside the box" for sure.

TT&C: Will East Ridge be partnering with local farmers for bio-mass production?

Mayor Steele: Eventually the city will be willing to look at that. However, the city will do what we do best and work with municipal partners first. There are lots of communities that collect yard waste. Why not try and do something innovative with that if we can find a way to get jump started and remove key barriers like huge capital start-up costs via the grant process. It just makes sense to us to use resources close at hand first.

TT&C: There's been much emphasis upon mountaintop removal coal mining and the devastating environmental and health effects connected with this process. Will any portion of the project address this issue?

Mayor Steele: No, unfortunately that problem is outside the focus of this project. However, if we can prove more sources of green tech-



"East Ridge wants to be a front runner in the South East to show how using Alternative Energy Sources would benefit not only the producers and consumers, but the planet," — East Ridge Mayor Mike Steele.

nology that are closer to the population bases of the state, we could help reduce the demand for coal and that could be helpful in moving our energy sources in newer green directions.

One of our partners, EPB, have just been awarded a \$111 million grant by the U.S. government to develop Smart Grid technology. They are one of the most innovative utility providers in the state and possibly the entire Southeastern United States.

The city is also partnering with TVA due to the green credit. If this approach works, we believe it could be modeled by other local governments. This may help us work toward green goals instead of coal based technologies. It's worth a try anyway, don't you think?