

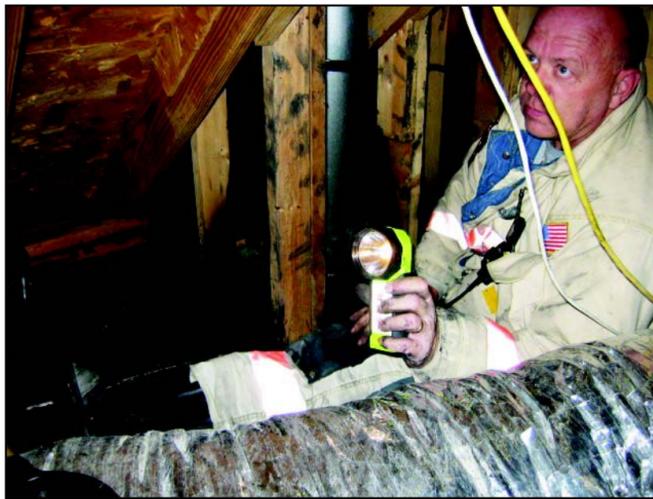
Statewide building codes will make homes safer, more energy-efficient in Tennessee

BY JIM PILLOW
TDCI Assistant Commissioner
Fire Prevention Division

In an ideal world, a homeowner would never deal with substandard construction. Unfortunately, stories of mold, framing problems, foundation problems, excessive heating and cooling costs, ventilation problems, unsafe egress and plumbing problems are all too common in our state.

One of the best remedies for substandard construction is the adoption of building codes. That goal is at the heart of legislation recently signed into law by Gov. Phil Bredesen. The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) oversees building codes and will play a central role in implementing the Governor's vision of safer and more-energy-efficient homes in Tennessee.

More than a year ago, TDCI Commissioner Leslie A. Newman and her staff began meeting with representatives of cities, counties, insurers, environmentalists, fire officials, homebuilders, contractors and others to discuss the Department's interest in estab-



The adoption of building codes is at the heart of recent legislation signed into law by Gov. Phil Bredesen.

lishing a minimum one- and two-family residential code to protect all the citizens of Tennessee. The Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency, recognizing that Tennessee ranks number one in per-capita consumption of residential energy, recommended a statewide residential one- and two-family construction code.

We are committed to establishing a limited statewide residential building code, not just to save Tennessee's consumers on energy costs, but to make our homes safer. We believe the new energy law is a huge step in the right direction and are very thankful to Governor Bredesen for his See **CODES** on Page 5

TDEC fee increases adopted permanently

BY DENISE PAIGE
TML Government Relations

Following lengthy deliberations, both the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) and the Water and Wastewater Operators Certification Board (WWOCB) permanently adopted fee increases to permit annual maintenance fees in the Environmental Protection Fund and cross connection training and certification fees for the Fleming Training Center (FTC), a facility located in Murfreesboro that offers training, certification, and technical assistance to water and wastewater systems across the state.

In the final days of the 2009 legislative session, the General Assembly reduced the amount of state dollars allocated to several divisions of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) as part of the plan to balance the state budget. Additionally,

the legislature enacted a provision which bypassed the prohibition intended to prevent the General Assembly from enacting fees to offset state appropriations until July 30, 2012. In other words, the General Assembly waived this provision so that the costs associated with reductions in state appropriations can be passed on to local governments and other customers.

First, the state reduced appropriations to the Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC) by \$1.4 million. The DWPC is the section of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) responsible for the administration of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977, which, as one of its duties to monitor and analyze water quality in the state, issues permits to municipalities. Secondly, the legislature eliminated all state funding to the Fleming Training Center.

In an effort to offset the effects of these cuts, the state legislature

granted TDEC the authority to increase fee revenue starting July 1, 2009. Accordingly, on July 1, TDEC implemented the fee increases under its public necessity rulemaking authority; setting in motion a 165-day review of the new rules. During this required review period, TDEC initiated the rule-making process and held public meetings concerning the fee increases across the state.

The DWPC elected to increase permit annual maintenance fees by approximately 38.4 percent to combat the state reduction. During the public comment period, a number of groups voiced objection to the proposal, including TML, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Tennessee Storm Water Association. The WQCB, in turn, agreed to examine the fee schedule for the next few years and to re-evaluate it prior to June 30, 2012, to determine if the fee schedule needs to be continued, modified, or discontinued. The See **TDEC** on Page 6

Broadband Task Force pursues the need for speed across Tennessee

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Nearly 2,200 diverse strategies for a technically charged America have been signed, sealed and delivered, as state and local governments, businesses, nonprofit groups and other entities across the nation applied for the first round of economic stimulus funded loans and grants supporting projects to expand broadband access.

Administered by the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the \$28 billion in requests clearly dwarfed the total \$7.2 billion award amount with NTIA's set at \$4.7 billion overall and \$1.6 billion allotted for this round through the Broadband Opportunities Program (BTOP). RUS' Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) will administer \$2.4 billion for this round to facilitate broadband deployment in primary rural communities with another \$100 million to be awarded at a later date.

The goals of the BTOP program are to deploy broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in the U.S., expand public computer center capacity by supporting schools, libraries, medical facilities, public safety agencies and those serving vulnerable populations, and encouraging sustainable adoption of broadband service, stimulating broadband demand,



Photos by Victoria South

Donita Brown, civil mediator and Broadband Task Force project manager, Jerry Kettles, TRA chief economist and Michael Ramage, Connected Tennessee executive director at an Aug. 19 meeting of the state's Broadband Task Force.

economic growth and job creation. Unserved areas are those in which 90 percent of households do not have access to 768k or faster broadband.

Areas are considered to be underserved when no more than 50 percent have access, no provider advertises 3 Megabit service, or there is less than 40 percent adoption rate.

Tennessee's Broadband Task Force convened Aug. 19 for an overview of the broadband projects submitted by the state as part of a three-prong grant application package including: establishing a broadband

tower network by upgrading about 80 state-owned communications towers in underserved areas to be utilized by private Internet providers, providing and expanding computer labs and training opportunities in libraries throughout Tennessee, and generating promotional initiatives for broadband sustainability.

Presenters included Dr. Jerry Kettles, division chief for Economic Analysis and Policy, Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA); Jonathan Rummel, policy advisor for Secretary of State Tre Hargett; See **BROADBAND** on Page 3

Cities to send out November Class 4 returns Implementation of business tax changes delayed until 2010

Implementation of Public Chapter 530, which changes the administration and collection of the business tax from municipalities and counties to the state, has been postponed until February 2010.

Initially, the Tennessee Department of Revenue planned to assume responsibility for administration and collection of business tax returns beginning with the Classification 4 returns due on or before Nov. 30, 2009. However, the Department has been unable to complete the development of the database and technical tools required for implementation within the desired time frame. As such, the Department has been forced to postpone the transition.

The Department will now begin receiving business tax returns and payments for taxpayers beginning with the Classification 1 returns that are due on or before Feb. 28, 2010. The Department will be prepared on Jan. 1, 2010, to accept both electronic and paper returns filed by Classification 1 businesses.

What does this mean to municipalities?

1. Classification 4 businesses will file returns that are due on or before Nov. 30, 2009, with municipal clerks /recorders /collection officials. Businesses are to use existing tax returns provided by the municipality. Municipalities are to process the returns in the same manner See **BUSINESS** on Page 6

Worst of recession has yet to hit cities

NLC survey says cities' financial conditions to worsen

Cities are in the early stages of registering the effects of the nation's economic downturn, according to the National League of Cities (NLC) annual report on fiscal conditions. The report finds that the ability of cities to meet their financial needs will only worsen through 2010 and beyond.

The report, *City Fiscal Conditions in 2009*, reveals that cities face significant budget gaps (-2.9 percent) this year, due to the decline of income (-1.3 percent) and sales tax (-3.8 percent) collections. These taxes are typically the earliest source of city revenue to decline as job losses in a community increase and consumer purchases decrease. Property taxes, which make up the bulk of city revenue nationwide, are beginning to slow (1.6 percent growth) as real property assessments are adjusted to reflect declining housing values.

Because most city tax revenue is collected only at a few specific points during the year, or over the course of several years in the case of property tax revenue, there is usually a time lag of 18 months to several years before economic shifts have an impact on city fiscal conditions.

Report co-author, Michael A. Pagano, professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, cautions: "Cities face the burden of confronting the effects of the downturn for years after any recession ends. This means that cities will be navigating the implications of the downturn for awhile longer, even if the business climate turns around immediately."

In the face of declining revenue and increasing expenses, city finance officers are pessimistic about cities' abilities to meet their financial needs. Nine in ten (88 percent) say this year will be difficult in

meeting fiscal needs, while 89 percent expect the same in 2010. This is the worst outlook the report has detailed in 24 years.

Under state law, most cities are required to balance their budgets, which means their expenses cannot exceed revenues in a given budget year. According to the report, to meet projected budget shortfalls, cities are taking a number of steps to cut back expenses or raise revenue. Cities are instituting hiring freezes or layoffs (67 percent), canceling capital infrastructure projects (62 percent) and cutting services other than public safety (32 percent). Many are decreasing spending on non-personnel operating expenses.

To raise revenue, according to the report, cities are increasing the fees charged for city services or increasing taxes. Four in 10 (42 percent) of cities are increasing the level of fees they charge and 25 percent are creating new fees for some services. The report indicates that 25 percent of cities have increased property taxes.

"The current economic situation is wreaking havoc on city budgets," said NLC President Kathleen Novak, mayor, Northglenn, Colo. "Although we are beginning to see signs of a possible recovery in the national economy, city officials will need to be more proactive than ever in terms of monitoring their budgets, reevaluating budget priorities, and identifying new revenue and savings opportunities."

Most of the available economic data points to a slow recovery beginning sometime in 2010. Housing is expected to recover slowly with consumer spending remaining at low levels. Since these are the main drivers of property tax and sales tax revenue streams, cities will See **RECESSION** on Page 5

Knoxville going to the dogs? Area aims to be most pet friendly

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Pets are people too in Knoxville and Knox County, as the two governments along with the University of Tennessee, the Knoxville Chamber, the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corp., Young-Williams Animal Center, and PetSafe work to become the most pet-friendly community in America.

With a focus on three major areas: expansion of pet activities and events, pet-focused tourism and more pet-friendly park acres and businesses, the coalition seeks to foster the pet friendly culture as part of the community's normal daily life.

"People love their pets," said Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam. "And we are supportive of this initiative that increases the number of pet friendly activities and locations in our community."

According to an American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey, pet ownership is currently



Mayor Bill Haslam is supporting an initiative to make the Knoxville area the most pet friendly community in America.

at its highest level with 71.4 million households in the U.S. owning at least one pet (62 percent of the U.S. See **DOGS** on Page 5

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ASHLAND CITY

Trinity Marine Products, one of Cheatham County's largest employers, has announced it will lay off 327 workers in mid-October. The Dallas-based company blames the layoffs on a downturn in orders for its barges. The layoffs at the Ashland City plant will begin on Oct. 17.

ATHENS

With the spread of illnesses such as the H1N1 Virus, many school systems in East Tennessee are taking extra steps to clear the air when it comes to germs. Athens City Schools recently purchased a device called the Aerofog 300 Generator. The machine is around the size of a coffee maker and can fill a 900 square foot room with a disinfecting fog. "In about two minutes we can sanitize and disinfect an entire room," said Craig Rigell, director of Athens City Schools. The machines cost around \$500 and the concentrated chemicals are priced at around \$300.

BARTLETT

The Bartlett Association of Retailers (BAR) a local non-profit organization was formed by local merchants to promote growth and prosperity for the city's retail industry. The mission of the BAR is to educate the citizens of Bartlett on the importance of shopping locally and to promote the individual retailers within the city. "We want residents to know how their decisions about where to buy gas, groceries or a new appliance can actually impact their city services and indirectly their property taxes," said Mayor Keith McDonald. The Bartlett Retail Association has launched "buybartlett.org," a website featuring all retailers inside the city. The site features a map of the Bartlett Retail Zone to help people understand the zone's boundaries.

BRISTOL

Advanced Technical Solutions, LLC (ATS) has announced it has opened its first branch office in Bristol. ATS' core business is supplying IT professional services and support. Advanced Technical Solutions, LLC was founded in 1999. The company has grown from its early days as an information technology consulting firm with two customers to a multi-million dollar company with 29 employees.

CHATTANOOGA

USA TODAY released its list of "10 great places to find true Americana" and Rock City Gardens was among them. Just six miles from downtown Chattanooga, Rock City Gardens, high atop Lookout Mountain, features massive ancient rock formations, gardens with more than 400 native plant species and a breathtaking "See 7 States" panoramic view. For more info, visit www.seerockcity.com.

CHATTANOOGA

Construction of Volkswagen's assembly plant is on track for production to start in early 2011 and a top executive also said that more than half the \$519 million in plant con-

struction contracts awarded so far have gone to local companies. The \$1 billion plant near Interstate 75 in southeastern Tennessee is to have about 2,000 employees and is expected to create thousands of other related jobs. CEO Frank Fischer said that VW has decided to add about 43,000 square feet to the assembly area at the 1.9 million-square-foot complex where a yet-to-be revealed, mid-size sedan will be the first product. Volkswagen has awarded 51.4 percent of the contracts — \$267 million — to local companies and the German automaker has already exceeded its start-of-production goal of awarding at least five percent of vehicle contracts to minority firms.



Photo by Collierville Photography

COLLIERVILLE

Collierville initiated a traffic safety campaign called "Look Twice Save a Life" specifically focused at motorcycle safety. The town has placed signs at key intersections and along heavily traveled streets in an effort to enhance drivers' awareness of motorcyclists who share the road with them. To kick off the campaign, Collierville held a ride for safety event in August. More than 900 motorcyclists participated in the ride.

CLARKSVILLE

The Clarksville Police Department D.A.R.E vehicle took First Place in the SUV/Pick-up/Van Category at the D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T conference. The SUV was a part of a drug seizure which the Major Crimes department provided for conversion to a D.A.R.E show vehicle. Restoring and customizing the SUV was a collaborative effort between the Police Department's Operation Turn-around, MAACO, House Doctors, and the Citizen Police Academy Alumni.

COLUMBIA

The state gave its approval for a controversial drug treatment facility to be opened in one of Columbia's busiest shopping centers. Members of the Tennessee Health Development Services Agency approved Recovery of Columbia's certificate of need by a vote of 6-1, opening the door for a methadone clinic in the Campbell Plaza Shopping Center on S. James Campbell Boulevard. The city had sought to block the facility, with council members saying it would increase crime and drive business away from the area. Methadone is a drug used in the treatment of opioid dependency, such as heroin and several prescription painkillers.

\$178,000 in stimulus dollars — includes a year's worth of operational costs for a two-bus system that will hit hot-spots including Tennessee Tech, Cookeville Regional Medical Center, and "Restaurant Row." The funding will also cover three drivers and allow buses to run six days a week. The Upper Cumberland Resource Agency, which has spearheaded the project, is also using another \$200,000 in stimulus money to purchase the buses, 26-passenger vehicles with handicap accessibility. The projected start day for the transit system is Jan. 1, 2010.

DYERSBURG

At the close of the 2008-2009 school year, the Dyersburg High School Class of 2009 boasted one of the largest groups of seniors ever to join the "30 Club," a group of students who earn a score of at least 30 on their ACT exams. Educators at the school learned DHS students earned average scores that were much higher than both state and national averages. In 2008, DHS students earned an average score of 21.1 on their ACT. This year, the number jumped to 22.2, besting a state average of 20.6 and a national average of 21.1. In addition, DHS scores also beat state and national scores in each ACT subgroup, including English, mathematics, reading and science.

GOODLETTSVILLE

Congressman Jim Cooper and Goodlettsville Mayor John Finch recently met to inspect a new fire truck at Goodlettsville Fire Department Station 41. Purchase of the truck was possible through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security.



Officials inspect Goodlettsville's new fire truck.

GREENVILLE

The city has received a \$370,163 grant for construction of the second phase of the Greenville Historic Walkway. The second phase is designed to provide a walking trail that will connect Downtown Greenville to Hardin Park. The grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) was announced on Aug. 25. The city was the only recipient in Northeast Tennessee. The grant will cover 80 percent of the \$462,704 cost for the second phase of the historic walkway with the city funding a 20 percent match.

LAKESWOOD

The city, chartered in 1959, will celebrate its 50th anniversary September 26 at City Hall honoring the men and women who founded and built Lakeswood.

LINDEN/PERRY COUNTY

Reporters for the "CBS Evening News with Katie Couric" are scheduled to be in the county to do a nationally-released story on the Perry County Recovery Program. CBS News is interested in the way American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars are being spent locally to create jobs. The segment will be featured on the CBS Evening News series, "Bright Spots." The date for that airing has not been released. The network contacted local leaders and asked them



The Clarksville Police Department D.A.R.E vehicle took First Place in the SUV/Pick-up/Van Category at the D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T conference.

to identify individuals who had an interesting story of hardship before the recovery program helped them find a job. The local recovery program, put together by Gov. Bredeesen and his staff, was announced in May. The initiative has been covered in state and national print, including a feature in the *New York Times*.

MEMPHIS

State government employees who work in the Memphis area are now able to ride public transit to and from work at no cost under a new agreement reached between the Memphis Area Transit Authority and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The new service is part of the state's Swipe and Ride program which currently operates in Nashville through a partnership with Nashville's Metropolitan Transit Authority. The new agreement with MATA will provide state employees in Greater Memphis area with transit rides to and from work at no cost until at least September 2010. The service will be available for work trips only. The program extends to all MATA services, including the downtown trolleys.

MEMPHIS

A study by nonprofit Memphis Bioworks Foundation proposes major changes in the way agricultural land in the Delta is used to create a bioeconomy worth \$8 billion with more than 25,000 jobs in the next decade. The study says 36 million acres in the Mississippi Delta now producing cotton and trees could be converted to producing plants that could be turned into biofuels or plastics. The agricultural changes proposed by the study wouldn't reduce food crops, which is one of the criticisms of corn-based ethanol production.

NASHVILLE

Nashville Electric Service is going to start using biodegradable soybean oil in all new transformers instead of petroleum-based oil. "We are elimi-

nating the need for over 150,000 gallons of petroleum-based mineral oil annually," Paul Allen, NES Vice President of Operations. Soybean oil is biodegradable, non-toxic and more fire-resistant than the oil NES has been using. The switch was a recommendation of the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

NASHVILLE

Local outsourcing company, ServiceSource, is close to leasing 50,000 square feet of space in downtown Nashville, a deal that would give a shot in the arm to an office submarket with more than 20 percent of its space vacant. The San Francisco-based company would move from the roughly 25,000 square feet of space that its call center has occupied in the former CNA building near Nashville International Airport since December 2007. New York real estate investment firm Sterling American Property Inc. owns that building now called Commerce Center East and the former SunTrust Bank Building, where ServiceSource wants to move, in joint ventures with local investors.

TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Fire Department recently performed a semi-annual hands-on inspection of every emergency warning siren located in the city as well as the one siren located at Motlow State Community College. There are seven total sirens available to warn of impending weather emergencies. Firefighter Chris Smith, TFD's siren technician, and Jimmy Davis with the Tullahoma Utilities Board performed the inspections, with the use of the Utility Board's small bucket truck. All sirens were inspected for function and condition of siren and batteries. To date, all units are functioning, in good condition, and should perform well if needed.

Kingsport's Higher Education Initiative wins Innovations in American Government Award

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University announced the Higher Education Initiative of Kingsport as a 2009 Innovations in American Government Award winner. Formerly with an over-reliance on a dying manufacturing industry, Kingsport's aging population, shrinking younger workforce, and dropping education levels of area residents threatened to further depress the region's standard of living.

In order to reverse this impending economic crisis, Kingsport launched a successful 'Educate and Grow' campaign to attract new business investment to the region by upgrading the quality of its workforce. Started in 2001, Kingsport officials collaborated with the Sullivan County school board to develop and finance a host of new programs to enhance academic outcomes of

Kingsport students and build a more qualified workforce.

Among these initiatives, the city's K-14 program, a first in the nation, extends public high school by an optional two years to provide students with additional training and technical skills.

Designed to capitalize on Kingsport's 53 percent daily commuter population increase, the city also underwent a series of infrastructure enhancements, building an "academic village" in close proximity to the city's business center. Officials project the new building plans will increase the downtown student population to 2,500 over the next few years.

Kingsport's Educate and Grow program is one of six government initiatives honored at an awards reception in Washington, D.C. and will receive a grant towards sharing its innovation with other jurisdictions around the country.

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COOKEVILLE

Cookeville has received funding to kick-start a fixed-route transit bus system in the city, and the service could be up and running as soon as January. The funding — just under

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Tennessee eyes a slice of the broadband stimulus pie

State submits projects hoping to connect Tennessee

BROADBAND from Page 1

Paul VanderMeer, director Administrative Services, Tennessee's Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD); and Michael Ramage, executive director Connected Tennessee.

After a detailed application process for some 20 organizations and a few private entities in Tennessee, all that remains is to wait and to dream.

"This has been one of the more difficult application processes I have ever seen," said Ramage. "But, if all of it gets funded, we would see tremendous change across Tennessee. It's been absolutely gratifying to see that all the data, the mapping and work this last couple of years has all come together and we were able to put it into this application."

Connected Tennessee, with the help of ArcGIS technology, developed a new interactive online mapping tool providing Census Block Level broadband data allowing applicants and the general public to click on any Census Block to obtain the number of households served and unserved by a broadband provider within that Census Block. The map was created according to the Congress prescribed Broadband Data Act of 2008 based on information from all types of providers across the state, including cable, telephone, wireless Internet Service providers, rural cooperatives



Sen. Roy Herron, co-chairman Tennessee Broadband Task Force

and municipalities.

"I've been hearing and reading about what other states are doing and I think we have a more attractive application," Ramage continues. "We don't just say we have good ideas, but we have the research to prove the basis of everything we put in our application." State-wide mapping data will be used to create a national broadband map for understanding and improving broadband services throughout the U.S. To view Tennessee's map, visit the Connected Tennessee website www.connectedtennessee.org.

"Tennessee's approach is novel, but cre-

ative, as well as responsively tailored to federal objectives that will provide more broadband services to the state," said Eddie Roberson, TRA director. "I think our application has a lot of merit."

With about an eight-mile wireless coverage range, the state's rehabilitated towers along with new towers, depending upon future funding, would be interconnected with leased fiber facilities constructed with grant funds, according to Kettles. Not only would the network be useful for state police radio frequencies, but major carriers have expressed interest in the rural tower network.

Along with AT&T, one of the strongest proposals is from DigitalBridge Communications out of Ashburn, VA, seeking \$100 million to provide wireless access to 600,000 additional households across 69 counties in Tennessee. The company plans to lease a technology called WiMax through a ClearWire Internet Service Provider, covering an 8-10 miles radius that is deemed affordable at \$35 a month and providing 2-4 megabits of download speed.

With the state's minimum capacity set at 100Mbps, one of the more daunting questions across the nation, has been how fast should an internet connection be to qualify as broadband? According to the *Information Technology & Innovation Foundation*, the federal agencies responsible for distributing the funding have settled on a threshold of 768 kbps for downloads and 200 kbps for uploads, about the speed of the cheapest plan from most DSL providers. However, broadband experts have argued that even faster speeds should be mandated for the U.S. to effectively compete globally.

"What interstate highways were to the 20th century, broadband is to the 21st century," emphasized Sen. Roy Herron, co-chairman of the TaskForce. "Broadband is crucial for saving jobs and growing jobs."

If the state's library system gets a slice of the stimulus pie, the road toward future jobs and success for those living in rural sections of Tennessee could begin at their public library in a computer lab, where classes would be offered in everything from computer literacy to resume writing.

"Rural Tennessee counties (more than 77) are home to 2.2 million citizens," said Rummel. "The unemployment rate in some of those counties is nearly 20 percent, with a poverty rate of more than 20 percent. Broadband access is below 40 percent in 20 of these counties. Much of this is compounded by the fact that 38.3 percent of the state's population is found in these rural counties."

With a 9.3 percent increase of Internet users at public access computers since 2008, according to Rummel, the state also hopes to target social issues at the public computer centers.

"We hope to address health problems in



Mark Bengel, chief information officer for the state of Tennessee, and Eddie Roberson, TRA director

our proposal such as obesity or depression, which could be the result of the physical and virtual isolation from jobs and educational opportunities that are available elsewhere in the state," Rummel said.

Wayne Senville notes in the 2009 Summer Issue of "Planning Commissioners Journal: *Libraries Bring Value to Our Communities*: "Libraries in cities big and small are becoming dynamic places, actively seeking to engage the community... expanding their mission." Senville observes that famous architect Witold Rybczynski discovered that libraries are "far from dead in today's Internet age and making a comeback as key anchors in our downtowns."

While Tennessee plans a brighter future through improved broadband access, ECD's mission is to support these efforts through a sustainable adoption plan. According to VanderMeer, rural broadband adoption in Tennessee hovers around 39 percent with 1/3 of residents responding that they have no need for the technology and 28 percent stating that they do not own a computer. Through a \$7.1 million stimulus fund proposal, ECD plans to foster an outreach program following three progressive steps:

1. Utilize libraries as an outreach arm, not only through broadband training, but as facilitators of a public service announcement campaign to inform residents about broadband technology, that it is available and what it can do. Provide an 800 number for an online resource center and an online directory of service providers along with basic computer courses.
2. Online training modules in conjunction with Tennessee's Technology Centers and Tennessee's Career Centers to assist patrons



Carolyn Ridley, vice president of Regulatory Affairs, TW Telecom and member of Tennessee Broadband Task Force.

with employment skills. One to one training at public computer centers and online resource development.

3. Broadband toolkits for small businesses, anchor institutions and local governments to enhance and develop local government websites.

"Some rural counties don't even have a website," said VanderMeer. "We hope to provide future community recognition, an Annual Broadband Day. We may want to bring the whole effort into the Three-Star program." According to Bengel, the first round of approvals should be announced around mid-September and notification of awards around mid-October. Funding should be allotted by mid to late December.

"We feel good about our submissions," Bengel said. "But, we'll celebrate when we get the awards."

The Need for Speed: The Importance of Next Generation Broadband Networks

Facilitating the widespread deployment of next-generation broadband Internet will enable the emergence of a whole host of online applications and services, many of which we can barely imagine today.

The true potential of this next-generation broadband network lies in the transformative new functionalities it enables: faster file transfers, streaming data such as video, and real-time collaboration tools—will support a broad range of Web-based applications delivering tremendous benefits to consumers, educational institutions, businesses, society, and the economy.—The Information, Technology & Innovation Foundation

Terminology

Next Generation Broadband: Download speeds at least 20 megabits per second (Mbps), and ideally 50 Mbps or upwards, and upload speeds of 10 Mbps or greater.

Bandwidth: A basic measure of performance for computer networks, including internet broadband service. It determines the rate at which computer data moves through a network, and thus how quickly files can be transferred over a network.

What makes next generation broadband different?

- Faster File Transfers: Dramatically improves consumer experience with

sending and receiving data, pictures, and audio and video files over the Internet.

- Enables Video Streaming Applications: By making high-quality video on demand (VoD) possible at a technical level, next generation broadband will lead to a revolution in video distribution, such as downloading full-feature films in minutes.
- High-quality real-time collaboration: Video-conferencing applications will add two-way video to the old-fashioned phone call.
- Enable users to run a multiplicity of bandwidth-hungry applications simultaneously. The homes of today may have up to thirty

different electronic devices, almost all of which can communicate with one another and the network. This multitude of electronic devices—digital cameras, home video editing equipment, cell phones, PDA's, digital video recorders, HDTVs, laptop computers, home monitoring systems, smart appliances, etc. increases demand for broadband, as these devices allow individuals to both consume and produce content and give them the means to share it with others.



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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Nearly 70 years after President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated the Chickamauga Dam and Lock, the outline of a new and bigger lock is taking shape below the dam on the Tennessee River. However, the \$391 million lock replacement project is taking longer and costing \$70 million more than the original estimate. With much of the available money for lock improvements being absorbed by a major project on the Ohio River, the new Chickamauga Lock probably won't be finished until 2014. The existing lock, which opened in 1940, is suffering from "concrete growth" caused by a chemical reaction between the river water and the rock used to build the lock. The Army Corps of Engineers, which is in charge of maintenance on the dam, must spend more than \$2 million a year on extra anchors, support devices and engineering analyses to keep the crumbling lock in operation while a new 110-by-600-foot lock is built.

When Pfizer Inc. pays Tennessee its \$15.6 million share of the \$2.3 billion national settlement, it will be the largest cash payment for health care fraud in the state's history. The \$2.3 billion will settle allegations that Pfizer marketed and encouraged physicians to use its drugs for diagnoses beyond their approved uses. It also will be the highest fraud sum ever paid in the U.S. by a pharmaceutical company. State and federal charges applied in the case as they were alleged against federally funded Medicare and federal-and-state-funded Medicaid.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is using the widening of state Highway 66 in Sevierville as a pilot program to use Twitter as a way of alerting the public to ongoing road work. "That way if they need to close a road for a water line, they can send it out quickly," said a TDOT regional spokesman. Those who sign up for the service will get regular messages about lane closures, work progress and even crashes in the four-mile long construction zone, which is receiving about \$39 million in federal stimulus money. The service can be accessed at www.twitter.com/improving66 or improving66.com for those already Tweeting. A Web site for the project also is available at www.improving66.com.

Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2009 was released at 10.7 percent, 0.1 percentage point lower than the June rate of 10.8 percent. The United States' unemployment rate for the month of July was 9.4 percent.

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Solid Waste Management has notified 11 counties and their municipalities that generate the most waste in Tennessee that they are eligible for recycling rebates based on their final 2008 waste generation reporting data. A total of \$300,000 is available for recycling rebates from the Solid Waste Management Fund for fiscal year 2009-2010, with funds allocated to county and municipal governments based on county waste generation data and population. The Solid Waste Management Fund is comprised of tipping fee surcharges at Tennessee landfills and tire pre-disposal fees. The 11 counties eligible to share the current pool of funding include Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Loudon, Madison, Montgomery, Rutherford, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner and Williamson Counties.

Rising electricity costs and the nation's renewed push for energy independence has brought another round of tax credits, which is spurring new interest in harnessing the sun's rays to heat water. Tennessee showed a three-fold increase in shipments into the state of solar thermal collectors, the panels that capture the sun's rays for heating water, between 2006 and 2007, according to the Energy Information Administration's most recent tally. Thermal solar systems use a panel on the roof to absorb the sun's warmth, heating a liquid that is pumped to a tank below. Traditional water heating is available as needed as a backup. The new federal tax credit is good through 2016, and it covers 30 percent of the total cost of a system, an amount that is deducted from whatever income taxes are owed.

More Tennesseans are receiving food stamps than ever before — nearly one in six — and the numbers are only expected to increase. But as the food stamp program expands, so may the waistlines of the people who use the benefit to put food on the table, according to a recent study. Obesity has already

been an ongoing issue in Tennessee. About 30 percent of adults and 36 percent of children are obese, and the state ranks as fourth-fattest in the nation. Researchers at Ohio State University found that people who used food stamps were more likely to be obese. Women on average were about six pounds heavier than women who did not get food aid. They tracked 10,000 people, both on and not on food stamps, over 14 years and found that poverty, lack of access to healthy foods, and nutritional education of people on food stamps contributed to the obesity rates.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park will represent Tennessee as one of 56 new quarter-dollar coins honoring national sites. Beginning in 2010, the United States Mint will issue the quarters in accordance with the "America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008." The design phase will now begin for the new quarters, which honor national sites in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The coins will be issued from 2010 through 2022 in the order in which each site was first established as a national site. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park quarter will be released in 2014.

Handguns may now be permitted in hundreds of parks across the state, but the battle over the issue might not be over. About 70 cities and counties have opted out of a law that was meant to open all Tennessee parks to handguns, and gun-rights groups say they will press lawmakers to take the matter out of local governments' hands unless they reconsider. From the large cities of Nashville and Memphis, each with more than half a million people, to rural communities such as Watertown — population 1,400 — local city and county councils have voted to close their parks to handguns ahead of a law that went into effect Sept. 1. Most of the state's urban centers have voted to ban guns. And bans have been reinstated in many suburban and rural communities.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation's "StopLitterT - Tennessee's Had Enough" won a 2009 Exemplary Human Environment Initiative Award from the federal agency. The award recognizes transportation projects that create or improve conditions for human activities while protecting the natural environment. The StopLitterT campaign, which was launched by first lady Andrea Conte in 2006, was the state's first new, comprehensive litter prevention initiative since the Tennessee Trash campaign in the 1970s.

So many bodies have been donated to science in Tennessee this year that the Vanderbilt School of Medicine and the University of Tennessee Body Farm have stopped accepting cadaver donations. "We're seeing an increase in families who can't afford the expense of a funeral," said Davidson County Chief Medical Examiner Bruce Levy. In Nashville, demand for the city's burial assistance service has skyrocketed. Between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, Metro handled 49 burials and 11 cremations. That number jumped to 97 burials and 31 cremations in the same period for 2008-09.



PEOPLE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Bobby Goode, of Dreseden, was named by the Obama Administration as the Tennessee state director for rural development for the United States Department of Agriculture. Goode has been an area director in Tennessee since 2006. He also served as a supervisory farm loan manager for the Farm Service Agency from 1995 to 2006 and prior to that worked in a variety of roles in the Farmers Home Administration from 1979 to 1995. The USDA's rural development program administers and manages more than 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs.

of the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission. The Tennessee Aeronautics Commission is a five-member board charged with policy planning and with regulating changes in the state Airport System Plan.

Circuit Court Judge D'Army Bailey is resigning from the court after 19 years on the bench. His resignation was effective Sept. 15. He was re-elected to an eight year term in 2006. Prior to that, Bailey was an attorney.



Bailey

Deputy Commissioner Steve Norris, who heads the state Division of Intellectual Disabilities Services, plans to retire Sept. 30. Norris was correction commissioner under both Gov. Lamar Alexander and Gov. Ned McWherter and is also a former deputy commissioner of employment security.

Rob Webb, Rural/Metro division general manager, has been appointed to the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board. Webb will serve as a representative for ambulance service operators. The 13-member Emergency Medical Services Board oversees the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Division, and is responsible for establishing all rules governing emergency systems throughout the state.

Newly appointed Knoxville Fire Chief Stan K. Sharp was sworn in publicly officially replacing former Chief Bob Key - who resigned on Aug. 31. A onetime research scientist with a master's degree in life science with an emphasis on environmental toxicology, Sharp joined the ranks of the Knoxville Fire Department at the age of 36.

Former state Sen. Annabelle Clement O'Brien has died following a fall at her home. She was 86. Clement O'Brien served in the Cabinet of two different governors and later was the first woman chairman on three committees in the Tennessee Senate. She was married to the later state Supreme Court Justice Charles O'Brien and was the sister of former Gov. Frank G. Clement. She was also the aunt of former Congressman Bob Clement.



O'Brien

Mike Patterson, after three months as interim, has been appointed city manager in Algood. Patterson replaced Freddie Maxwell, who held the position for six years. Patterson served 20 years on the Putnam County Planning Commission, a term on the hospital board of trustees and a stint as the Cookeville assistant city manager in 1978.

Union City businessman Ronald Cooper has been named chairman

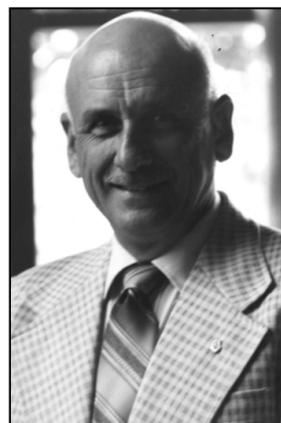
Former longtime UT-MTAS Consultant A.C. Lock dies

Aaron Charles (A.C.) Lock, Jr., former MTAS engineering and public works consultant, passed away in Claremore, Okla., Aug. 14, 2009, at the age of 84.

Lock worked for MTAS for 25 years giving assistance to more than 160 cities in West Tennessee. He joined MTAS in 1965 as an urban growth consultant in Memphis, later becoming an engineering and public works consultant in 1973. He retired in 1990. Even after Lock retired and he and his wife Jessie Lee moved back to Oklahoma, he continued to support the University of Tennessee and was a regular at the IPS conferences until his health prevented him from attending.

During his career, he received state and national recognition as a public works leader. He was a member of the American Public Works Association and a driving force for the Tennessee Chapter. In 1983, he received the prestigious Harry S. Swearingen Award for contributions to APWA. In 1989, he received the Tennessee Chapter's award as "Public Works Man of the Year."

Lock was a native Oklahoman. He served as an engineer paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division during World War II and



A.C. Lock

fought in several battles including the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of a unit that won two Presidential Citations, and three foreign decorations. After the war, he returned to Oklahoma where he worked, went to school and graduated from Oklahoma A. & M. (now Oklahoma State University) with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. Lock then worked for the Corps of Engineers, and went on to work as city engineer in the cities of Claremore, Cushing, and Stillwater, Ok.



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Statewide building codes will make homes safer

CODES from Page 1

vision and support of our efforts.

"We appreciate all the hard work and input from so many people in this state who worked to bring this to fruition, especially the Governor's Energy Task Force members," says Commissioner Newman, "and we thank our legislative sponsors – Senator Jim Kyle, Senator Ken Yager, Senator Randy McNally, Rep. Les Winningham and Rep. Phillip Johnson – for all their hard work in sponsoring and passing this progressive legislation."

Most of the state's more-populous areas enforce one- and two-family building codes and, in fact, about 75 percent of the state's residents live in areas already subject to a one- and two-family residential construction code. Although, in truth, some of these areas do not adequately enforce codes. However, for some areas of the state, one- and two-family residential construction simply does not have the volume to enable a local government to implement a cost-efficient codes program.

Therefore, after hearing from local government representatives, the current electrical inspection program was used as a model for enforcement of a minimum statewide residential one- and two-family residential construction code. And, although the Legislature gave local governments the power to opt out of the codes that will be adopted by rule of the Department and limited the codes application to new construction (not renovations), a community that has basic minimum building standards—especially for homes—is one that cares about is citizens and its future. Enforcement of minimum energy-efficiency construction standards contained in the residential building code will ultimately save the consumer in energy costs in amounts that, over time, will far ex-

ceed the additional construction and permitting costs. Building to minimum standards should result in homes that are safer, more environmentally friendly, more energy-efficient and less costly to insure.

TDCI will be adopting rules to carry out its authority under the new law. Prior to beginning the rulemaking process, the Department intends to educate Tennessee's communities and listen to the concerns of Tennessee's citizens. The department will be conducting meetings around the state and will invite citizens, local government representatives, fire safety professionals, environmentalists, homebuilders and any other interested persons to attend these meetings and have an opportunity to comment.

The department also plans to offer free training to its contractors (modeled on its electrical inspector program) and for local government codes officials to ensure that Tennessee has qualified home inspection professionals to conduct the foundation, framing, mechanical and plumbing and energy inspections, and will be taking other steps to ensure new homes are built according to codes.

Additionally, the state will offer other incentives to small-to-medium-sized local governments to stay in the program or conduct a comparable, locally enforced program. Local communities still have the right to adopt more stringent standards than what our Department is authorized to adopt. For example, a locally adopted code may require sprinklers because local jurisdictions are better suited to consider factors such as availability of fire services, water availability and costs. While we want to hear from all parties, we will definitely start with a bias for the safest possible homes and for homes that will be built to save lives and money.

Worst of recession has yet to hit cities

RECESSION from Page 1

continue to endure a difficult economic environment in the coming months.

"Cities will be seeing difficult conditions for some time," said Chris Hoene, co-author and director of research and innovation for the National League of Cities. "The impact of the housing market drop is really just beginning to be felt. City leaders and residents will need to work together more than ever to make decisions about the future of their communities in terms of the types and levels of services cities will provide in the next few years."

The report also calls for a greater coordination of effort among local, state and federal governments in responding to these challenges.

"It is imperative that as the national economy recovers, the nation keeps its attention focused on the recovery of our cities," said Don Borut, executive director of the National League of Cities. "The fiscal health of our cities is essential to keeping our nation innovative and competitive on the world stage."

The City Fiscal Conditions Survey is a national mail and online survey of finance officers in U.S. cities conducted in the spring-summer of each year. This is the twenty-fourth edition of the survey which began in 1986.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

Through its Center for Research and Innovation, NLC develops, conducts and reports research on issues affecting cities and towns. The Center assists cities and their leaders to implement innovative practices by providing qualified information and technical assistance.

Tennessee Revenues

Tennessee state tax collections again fell below budgeted estimates in August, with sales tax collections recording negative growth for 18 of the last 20 months. Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz reported that overall August revenues were \$726.9 million, which is 5.74% below collections for August 2008.

"The continued negative trend

in tax collections requires us to continue to closely monitor revenues and adjust expenditures accordingly," Goetz said. "August sales tax figures reflect July consumer spending, and represent the first month of collections for the new fiscal year. "We need to make sure we make adjustments to accommodate for the next several months so we keep the state's budget in a balanced posture."

On an accrual basis, August is the first month in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. August collections were \$28.2 million less than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was under collected by \$30.5 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$2.3 million.

Sales tax collections were \$24.6 million less than the estimate for August. The August growth rate was negative 8.21%.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$279,000 above the budgeted estimate of \$20.6 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections increased by 9.13% and were \$5.2 million above the budgeted estimate of \$68.2 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were under collected by \$289,000.

Privilege tax collections were \$1.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$17.6 million.

Inheritance tax collections were \$3.0 million below the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were under collected by a net of \$4.4 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2009-2010 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation adopted by the first session of the 106th General Assembly in May of 2009.

Some \$37 million in loans approved for drinking water and wastewater projects

The Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA) approved nine communities and two utility districts in Tennessee to receive a total of more than \$37 million in low-interest loans for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Of that amount, \$15 million is scheduled for principal forgiveness on debt, which will result in a financial windfall for the communities with the most urgent needs.

The loans are provided through Tennessee's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided additional funding for the two programs. The funding consists of 50 percent DWSRF/CWSRF program funds and 50 percent ARRA funds. In compliance with ARRA funding guidelines, only 60 percent of the total loan amounts will have to be repaid. The remaining 40 percent of the original loan amounts will be forgiven.

"This is the second of three allocations to be made for loans pursuant to the ARRA and the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs," said Comptroller Justin Wilson, secretary of the TLDA. "They are receiving significant loan amounts at very low interest rates. Forty percent of the principal is forgiven and does not have to be repaid. And interest is based on a community's ability to repay the loan."

Wilson added that a third group of applicants will be considered for TLDA approval in October.

The General Assembly delegated to the Tennessee Local Development Authority the responsibility for issuing bonds and notes to provide funds to make loans to local governments for water and sewer facilities. As of June 30, 2009, the Authority's outstanding indebtedness was \$52 million in bonds and \$52 million in tax-exempt notes. The Authority also manages the two Revolving Loan portfolios, which totaled more than \$594 million as of June 30, 2009.

Municipalities approved in this round for CWSRF/ARRA loans by the Tennessee Local Development Authority include:

- **City of Algood** – for collection system expansion to the Bear Creek Area Sewers including approximately 23,000 linear feet



(LF) of gravity sewer collection lines, two pumping stations and approximately 13,000 LF of force main. Total: \$3,229,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$1,937,400. Interest Rate: 2.14 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$1,291,600.

- **City of Cookeville** – for collection system upgrade and expansion via the system-wide installation of telemetry to pumping stations and the construction of a 2.6 million gallons per day (MGD) submersible sewage pumping station, approximately 6,500 LF of 16-inch diameter force main and approximately 10,000 LF of 18- and 21-inch diameter gravity sewer lines in the south western part of Cookeville in the Hudgins Creek Drainage Basin area. Total: \$3,500,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$2,100,000. Interest Rate: 2.50 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$1,400,000.

- **City of Lenoir City** – for wastewater treatment plant improvements, upgrade and secondary treatment (digester rehabilitation, trickling filter rehab and miscellaneous upgrades). Total: \$4,500,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$2,700,000. Interest Rate: 2.88 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$1,800,000.

- **City of Madisonville** – for wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) improvements to increase the capacity of the equalization basin and pump station, construct approximately 8.3 miles of force main that will transport screened wastewater to the Tellico Reservoir. Development Agency's wastewater treatment plant for treatment, and eliminate Madisonville's wastewater treatment plant discharge to Bat Creek. Total: \$5,836,500. Loan: 20-year loan for \$3,501,900. Interest Rate: 2.14 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$2,334,600.

- **Town of Monteagle** – to re-

place the Town of Monteagle's two existing wastewater treatment plants with an improved sequencing batch reactor wastewater treatment plant and replacing the old existing clay pipe collection system with a new small-diameter low-pressure and conventional gravity collection system. Total: \$6,200,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$3,720,000. Interest Rate: 1.79 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$2,480,000.

- **Town of Smyrna** – for green-treated wastewater reuse and new storage tank project. Total: \$5,750,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$3,450,000. Interest Rate: 2.14 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$2,300,000.

- **City of White House** – for construction of approximately 2,500 LF of gravity sewer lines, 2,500 LF of force main, 16 manholes, and a new duplex sewer lift station at Copes Crossing to replace the existing Tyree Springs sewer lift station. Total: \$1,000,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$600,000. Interest Rate: 1.77 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$400,000.

DWSRF/ARRA loan approvals recipients include:

- **City of Jellico** – for water source and storage improvements via the construction of two new raw water wells, approximately 9,500 LF of raw water transmission lines and re-activating the Old City Water Storage Tank. Total: \$1,350,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$810,000. Interest Rate: 0.71 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$540,000.

- **City of Morristown** – for 12,800 green-water meter replacements. Total: \$2,000,000. Loan: 20-year loan for \$1,200,000. Interest Rate: 2.83 percent. Principal Forgiveness: \$800,000.

Knoxville area pet friendly initiative

DOGS from Page 1

population owning a pet). Furthermore, during the past decade the current number of pet-owning households increased 12 percent, up from 61.2 million pet-owning households in 1998, the first year the survey was conducted.

"Ultimately, being the most pet-friendly community in America can offer great benefits to our citizens," said Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale. "It can also have a significant positive impact on local tourism."

The prospect of separation anxiety draws thousands of pet lovers each year to sites such as DogFriendly.com to view the rankings and resources of cities that welcome four-legged travelers. DogFriendly.com's 2009 Top 10 U.S. Cities to Visit with Your Dog provides the scoop on cities with dog-friendly accommodations, transportation options, beaches, parks, dining and sight seeing areas. With competitors such as San Francisco, Boston, Charleston S.C., and New York, the Knoxville community have their work cut out before

them.

"We are currently staking the claim and are in the planning stages," said Abigail Taylor, Knox County communications specialist. "It will take time, but we are definitely doing this."

While Knoxville-area residents are being called upon to make donations, volunteer, become pet friendly businesses and support pet friendly events—furry, four-legged tail wagers still have a hurdle to jump before becoming future restaurant diners.

Knox County Commissioner Mike Hammond placed a new law signed by Gov. Bredesen on the September commission meeting agenda that allows cities and counties with



Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam along with county and state officials announce the kick off of the pet friendliest community initiative.

populations of at least 100,000 to establish an ordinance and a permit process enabling restaurants to allow dogs into outdoor dining areas.

Up-to-date details about the Knoxville community's most pet friendly efforts and opportunities to join the cause are available at www.petfriendliestcommunity.com

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CITY MANAGER

WAYNESBORO. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of city manager. The manager works under a manager-commission charter and is supervised by a five member city commission. The position includes 29 full time employees and utilities operating under a \$3.8 million budget. The ideal applicant will have 2-4 years of college in public administration, business or a related field. Requires 2-5 years of city management experience and residence within the city is required during tenure, as well as having or being able to obtain a Tennessee drivers license. Salary and benefits are negotiable. Apply by October 5 to dardem@tennessee.edu, faxed to 615-532-4963, or mailed to MTAS, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 606, Nashville, TN 37219-1804, Attn., Waynesboro City Manager. The city is an EEOC employer and does not discriminate in employment and selection.

FINANCE DIRECTOR/ CITY RECORDER

FAIRVIEW. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Finance Director/City Recorder. This position is the city's authority on all

aspects of financial management and requires a comprehensive understanding of city government finance. Director manages the budgeting, accounting, accounts payable, debt service management functions of government and participates in the cash management, pension, investments and certain aspects of the payroll process and purchasing. Position serves as city recorder working closely with the Board of Commissioners. A bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Public Administration, or closely related field supplemented by three (3) years previous experience and/or training that includes progressive management experience involving governmental accounting and budgeting is required. Preference will be given to candidates with professional certification such as Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO); Certified Governmental Financial Manager (CGFM); or Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Salary: DOQ; comprehensive benefit package including TCRS Pension. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Submit a letter of interest, current resume, salary history and a list of three professional references to: City Manager, City of Fairview, 7100 City Center Circle, P O Box 69, Fairview, TN 37062. Email: cm@fairview-tn.org.

TOWN ENGINEER

COLLIERVILLE. The town is seeking applications for an experienced town engineer. The town engineer performs administrative, managerial and supervisory work in directing the town's entire engineering program, covering both design and construction of public works and public utilities projects to enhance and update the town's infrastructure. This position requires that the candidate have a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering or related; supplemented by 10 years of professional experience that includes public sector municipal engineering, project design, and contract administration, with at least 7 years at a supervisory level, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Must possess Professional Engineering (PE) license at time of hire and obtain State of Tennessee licensure within 6 months of hire. Salary range of \$64,529 - \$102,195 (DOQ) with excellent benefits. This position will remain open until filled. To apply, send letter of interest, cover letter with resume, salary history and professional references to: The Centre Group, 3725 Campion Hills Drive, Suite #2300 Memphis, Tn. 38125, Attention: Joel Myers.

It's hip to be square! Krystal Square Off VI championship to be held in Chattanooga



Qualifiers for the Krystal Square Off VI competition will be held across seven southern cities before the big championship finale, to be held Sept. 27 at Ross's Landing in downtown Chattanooga. Contestants will square off against some of the best competitive eaters in the world. Krystal has hosted eating contests since it first opened in 1932. This year marks the largest cash purse in competitive eating history, \$50,000.

Tennessee airports honored for excellence

The Tennessee Department of Transportation recognized five Tennessee Airports with Awards of Excellence in aviation. The awards were presented at the 24th Annual Tennessee Airports Conference on August 20 in Nashville. The Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding achievements and contributions to aviation in five categories: Airport of the Year, Most Improved Airport, Governing Body of the Year, Airport Manager of the Year, and Career Contributions to Aviation.

"Each of these winners is setting an example for others through their leadership, dedication, persistence and overall commitment to excellence," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely.

The Fayetteville Municipal Airport was selected as Airport of the Year. To receive this award, the airport's commission has demonstrated a long term commitment to the operation, appearance, maintenance

and level of service at their airport.

The Winchester Municipal Airport received the award for Most Improved Airport of the Year. The Tennessee Aeronautics Commission recognized Winchester Municipal Airport for their efforts to improve the facilities, service and overall operation of the airport.

The Excellence Award for Governing Body of the Year was presented to the Portland Airport Authority for demonstrating superior leadership in the field of aviation.

Danny Collins with the Rockwood Municipal Airport was awarded the Airport Manager of the Year.

"Danny Collins sets the bar for all other airport managers through his steady leadership, dedication, persistence and an overall commitment to excellence," said TDOT Aeronautics Director Bob Woods

Montill Warren of Savannah

was honored for his many contributions to the aviation industry by presenting him with the Excellence Award for Career Contributions to Aviation. Warren is the manager of the Savannah-Hardin County Airport.

"Montill Warren has set an example for others in our industry through his impressive leadership, dedication, persistence and overall commitment to excellence in the field of aviation," said Woods.

The Awards of Excellence are presented each year during the Tennessee Airports Conference.

"The Aeronautics Commission recognizes the combined, cooperative and ongoing efforts of many people and groups to continue to improve our aviation industry," said TAC Chair Ronald Cooper. "These awards, whether to an individual, organization or airport, recognize all who have contributed to aviation."

Front Door Awards recognize quality airports

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is recognizing numerous airports across the state with "Front Door Awards" for providing facilities and services that reflect community pride and commitment to quality. The awards were handed out at the 24th Annual Tennessee Airports Conference on August 20, 2009.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression and our airports are often the front doors to our communities for visitors and business representatives," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "I'm pleased to honor these airports for their commitment to quality."

Front Door Awards are presented by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.

The criteria for the *Front Door Award* include: general appearance of the airfield, buildings and grounds; quality of services offered to passengers, aircraft and crews; availability and quality of information about the airport and the surrounding community; cleanliness and level of maintenance of areas used by the passengers, aircrew and airport visitors; courtesy and professionalism displayed by airport personnel; and, an overall impression of community pride and commitment to quality.

The goal is for every airport in Tennessee to receive this award in recognition of their commitment to quality and community pride.

2009 Award Recipients

Abernathy Field
Beech River Regional Airport
Benton County Airport
Campbell County Airport
Carroll County Airport
Charles W. Baker Field
Centerville Municipal Airport
Crossville Memorial Airport
Collegedale Municipal Airport
Covington Municipal Airport
Upper Cumberland Regional Airport
Dickson Municipal Airport
Downtown Island Airport
Dyersburg Regional Airport
Elizabethton Municipal Airport
Everett-Stewart Regional Airport
Ellington Airport
Fayetteville Municipal Airport
Fayette County Airport
Franklin County Airport
General DeWitt Spain Airport
Greeneville-Greene Co. Airport
Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport
Gibson County Airport
Hardwick Field
Hawkins County Airport
Henry County Airport
Humphreys County Airport

Jamestown Municipal Airport
Johnson County Airport
John A. Baker Field
John C. Tune Airport
Lafayette Municipal Airport
Lawrenceburg-Lawrence Co. Airport
Lebanon Municipal Airport
Livingston Municipal Airport
Lovell Field
McMinn County Airport
Monroe County Airport
Maury County Airport
Marion County - Brown Field
Mark Anton Airport
McGhee Tyson Airport
McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport
Memphis International Airport
Millington Regional Jetport
Moore-Murrell Field
Murfreesboro Municipal Airport
Nashville International Airport
New Tazewell Municipal Airport
Outlaw Field
Portland Municipal Airport
Rockwood Municipal Airport
Robert Sibley Airport
Savannah-Hardin County Airport
Shelbyville Municipal Airport
Smithville Municipal Airport
Smyrna Airport
Springfield-Robertson Co. Airport
Sumner County Regional Airport
Tri-Cities Regional Airport
Tullahoma Regional Airport
Warren County Memorial Airport
William L. Whitehurst Field
Winchester Municipal Airport

Changes to business tax delayed to 2010

BUSINESS from Page 1

as has been done in the past.

2. The Department has prepared a notice for Classification 4 taxpayers containing important information concerning changes required under the new law. The Department has requested that municipal clerks/recorders include a notice from the Department of Revenue when sending out the returns. Revenue has posted the notice on their website at <http://www.tn.gov/revenue/notices/business/bus09-00.pdf>

Business Tax Classes

With all the new changes to the business tax, the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service in conjunction with the Department of Revenue have

scheduled statewide workshops to address the new changes.

This class, taught by Bill Trout, manager of Taxpayer Education, with the Department of Revenue, will give an update on the new laws passed this year, as well as address a number of issues that pertain to administration and collection of the local business tax, including a variety of exceptions and tax credits allowed, state reporting requirements, and other various procedures that can be quite confusing.

This course is designed for all municipal employees who handle finance and the implementation and collection of business tax.

Class Schedule

November 4 Collegedale

November 5 Johnson City
November 6 Knoxville
November 12 Franklin
November 18 Lakeland
November 19 Jackson

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrissey at Elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu or call 865-974-0411. For program information, contact Kurt Frederick MTAS Training Consultant at 615-253-6385 or e-mail Kurt.Frederick@tennessee.edu.

Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Federal agencies will be hiring more than 270,000 workers for mission-critical jobs by the end of September 2012, according to a new report from the Partnership for Public Service. The total projected hiring for mission-critical jobs is expected to jump by more than 40 percent during fiscal 2010 to 2012, compared to the previous three years. The D.C.-based non-profit compiled the report by surveying 35 federal agencies about government-wide projected hiring needs for the next three years. Most federal hiring will be concentrated in five fields: medical and public health; security and protection; compliance and enforcement; legal; and program management. The medical and public health arena has 54,114 projected hires, with large concentrations of jobs within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services.

TDEC fees increased

TDEC from Page 1

WQCB also discussed forming a committee to review ways to enhance service levels to the fee payers.

The Fleming Training Center made up for the loss by increasing fees for cross connection certification by 20-54 percent and implementing new cross connection training fees. In addition to the authority to increase fees, the Fleming Training Center was given permission to charge fees for training class and building and equipment use. Unlike the increase in fees for cross connec-

More people are getting their health insurance from the government as the number of individuals with coverage from an employer decline, according to figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The number of people in the U.S. without health insurance rose by about 700,000 between 2007 and 2008 to 46.3 million. The proportion of uninsured was essentially unchanged at 15.4 percent. The 46 million figure, often cited in debates about overhauling health care, is hotly disputed. Many experts say the number is probably higher now because rising unemployment is causing more people in the U.S. to lose insurance provided through jobs. That number includes millions of people who are eligible for government insurance but haven't enrolled, or who can afford coverage but chose not to buy it. About 25 percent of the uninsured are eligible for Medicaid or state-run children's health insurance programs.

tion activities, the fees for training classes and building and equipment use were permanent and not subject to public comment.

As previously stated, the legislature suspended the rule that prevents fee increases in a fiscal year in which state appropriations are reduced. This means it is possible that municipalities could face more fee increases at any time during the next three years. TML will continue to keep you informed.

Please visit www.tml1.org to view more information about the new fee schedules.

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 Volkert & Associates
 Waste Management
 Wisser Company, LLC

2009 Public Acts of Interest

BY JOSH JONES
 MTAS Legal Consultant

Crimes and Criminal Procedure Chapter No. 274 (SB1168/HB1228). Offense of falsely wearing military decoration. Amends T.C.A. Title 58, Chapter 1, Part 1 by creating the offense of wearing or displaying any U.S. military or Tennessee Military Department badge, decoration or medal with the intent to deceive or misrepresent that the person is authorized under law or regulation to wear or display the badge, decoration or medal. Also an offense to falsely represent, orally or in writing, that such person has been awarded any decoration or medal by Congress or the Tennessee Military Department.
Effective May 21, 2009.

Chapter No. 276 (SB1517/HB1527). Offense of disseminating any autopsy material. Amends T.C.A. § 38-7-119 by making it a misdemeanor offense to distribute, publish or otherwise disseminate any autopsy photographs, videotape or other visual image or any autopsy audio recording without the written consent of the next of kin or personal representative of the deceased. Offense is punishable with incarceration if government employee releases this information for pecuniary gain.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 307 (SB1665/HB1429). Serious bodily injury defined. Amends T.C.A. § 39-11-106(a)(34) by expanding the definition of "serious bodily injury" under Title 39 to include a broken bone of a child who is eight years of age or less.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 324 (SB0534/HB0355). Post-accident blood alcohol level tests required. Amends T.C.A. § 55-10-406 by requiring a law enforcement officer to see that a driver is tested to determine the alcohol or drug content of the driver's blood if the officer has probable cause to believe the driver committed:
 1) Driving under the influence;
 2) Vehicular assault;
 3) Vehicular homicide; or
 4) Aggravated vehicular homicide.
 Testing does not require driver consent, and results are admissible by either party in any court or administrative hearing relating to the accident or offense.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 325 (SB0066/HB0516). Public housing fraud. Amends T.C.A. Title 39, Chapter 11, Part 1, and Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 1 by expanding the definition of "services" in the offense of theft of services to include any "other activity or product considered in the ordinary course of business to be a service." Also creates new offense of using a false statement, representation or impersonation, or knowingly concealing any material fact to obtain accommodations or a reduction in rent in public housing.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 347 (SB0113/HB0484). Offense of harassment expanded. Amends T.C.A. § 39-17-308 by making it an offense to communicate with another person without legitimate purpose:
 1) With the malicious intent to frighten, intimidate or cause emotional distress; or
 2) In a manner the defendant knows, or reasonably should know, would frighten, intimidate or cause emotional distress to a similarly situated person of reasonable sensibilities; and the person is frightened, intimidated or emotionally distressed.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 387 (SB1243/HB0815). Laser pointer offenses. Amends T.C.A. § 39-16-515 by expanding the offense of pointing a laser pointer at a law enforcement officer, making it illegal to point a laser pointer at a firefighter, emergency medical technicians or other emergency service personnel, while that individual is actively engaged in the performance of his or her duties. Pointing must be with the intent to place the individual in fear of serious bodily injury or death.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 390 (SB1419/HB1210). Warrants issued upon LEA employees. Amends T.C.A. Title 40, Chapter 6, Part 2 by requiring the written approval of the district attorney prior to the issuance of arrest warrant for an LEA employee where the affiant is the parent of a child who is the alleged victim and the LEA employee had supervisory or disciplinary power over the child.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 394 (SB1831/HB1541). Offense of aggravated assault against a public employee or employee of a transportation system. Amends T.C.A. § 29-13-102 by creating a classification of aggravated assault specific to an assault against a public employee or an employee of a public or private transportation system authorized by state law, when the employee is performing a duty within the scope of his or her employment.
Effective June 9, 2009.

Chapter No. 412 (SB0539/HB0351). Assault against law enforcement officers. Amends T.C.A. Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1 by creating enhanced penalties for the offenses of assault and aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 414 (SB0869/HB0620). Indecent exposure redefined. Amends T.C.A. § 39-15-511(b)(1)(B) by stating that a person over 18 years of age commits indecent exposure if in his or her own residence by knowingly masturbating or exposing the person's genitals, buttocks or female breasts in the presence of a child under 13 years of age. No prosecution for the aforementioned offense will be commenced based solely on the uncorroborated testimony of a witness

who has a relationship with the accused as defined by the domestic abuse provisions of T.C.A. § 36-3-301.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 418 (SB1666/HB1201). Child endangerment by neglect. Amends T.C.A. Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 4 by creating the offense of child endangerment, defined as when a parent of a child eight years of age or less exposes such child to or knowingly fails to protect such child from abuse or neglect resulting in physical injury to the child. Also amends provisions dealing with aggravated child neglect and aggravated child endangerment.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 455 (SB0314/HB1225). Domestic violence offenders to turn over firearms. Amends T.C.A. Title 36, Chapter 3, Part 1 and Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13 by requiring the respondent to an order of protection that complies with the provisions of U.S.C. § 922(g)(6) to, within 48 hours, transfer possession of all firearms in respondent's possession to a third party who is not prohibited from possessing firearms. Respondent is prohibited from possessing any firearm while the order of protection is in effect. Violation is a Class A misdemeanor.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Chapter No. 510 (SB0510/HB0714). Criminal trespassing statute amended. Amends T.C.A. § 39-14-405 by redefining criminal trespass as entering or remaining on property without the consent of the owner. Consent may be inferred where property is used for commercial activity available to the general public or where the owner has communicated his or her intent that the property be open to the public. Exception for entering or remaining on railroad or utility right-of-way property for agricultural activity by an adjoining landowner. Exception does not apply for recreational and educational activities or where adjoining landowner has been notified to cease activity.
Effective July 1, 2009.

Economic Development Chapter No. 180 (SB1667/HB1211). Central business improvement district project. Amends T.C.A. § 7-53-101(13)(B)(i) by expanding the definition of "project" in a central business improvement district to also include any hotel, motel or apartment building located within the "center city area" as designated by resolution or ordinance. In any municipality the term "project" is expanded to also include any hotel, including related conference/convention center facilities, or motel within an area that could provide substantial sources of tax revenues or economic activity to the municipality. This will allow industrial development corporations to issue bonds for the construction of these facilities.
Effective May 7, 2009.

COMING UP

Sept. 1-Oct. 29: Abraham Lincoln: Beyond the Penny, an exhibit presented by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, on display at the library and archives building in downtown Nashville. The exhibit honors Abraham Lincoln in celebration of the 200th birthday of America's 16th president. It showcases portraits of Lincoln and discusses the continued use of the penny to commemorate his centennial, sesquicentennial and bicentennial anniversaries. For further information about the exhibit, contact Lori Lockhart at 615- 253-3457.

Sept. 23-25: Certified Municipal Clerk Institute and Master Municipal Clerk Academy, Cool Springs Embassy Suites, Franklin. For information, contact Kurt Frederick, at (615) 253-6385 or e-mail at kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu

Oct. 14-15: The East Tennessee Purchasing Association (ETPA) Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Knoxville. To benefit a wide variety of government officials who make key decisions during an emergency. For purchasing directors and staff, emergency management directors, finance officers, city managers and others with city, county and state governments. To register or learn more, visit www.etpanews.org

Oct. 22 - 23: Greening Your Community: The Urban Forestry Approach Conference; Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, Lipscomb University, Nashville. Contact: Jennifer Smith, 615-352-8985 tufc@comcast.net

Oct. 28-30: TCMA Fall Conference, Chattanooga, Sheraton Read House. For registration and program information contact David Angerer at 731-423-3710 or email him at angererd@tennessee.edu

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



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



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Sept. 25-27: Paris

Eye Full of Paris

A weekend-long celebration of the arts featuring live music, art and family fun. Music, Wild for Life art show and sale, KidZone Live! Free dance classes, Sunday, Downtown Churches Rejoice! Live music and lunch at 12:30 p.m. on the courthouse lawn and a live concert at Paris Winery that evening. For more information call 731-642-3431 or visit the website www.VisitDowntownParis.com

Sept. 25-26: Columbia

Southern Fried Festival

Enjoy live music, scarecrow contest, tractor show, delicious food, children's activities and more. Contact: Rick Alexander, 931-381-0954, www.southernfriedfest.com

Sept. 25-26: Dyersburg

Main Street Fall Festival

Includes a cruise-in, Forked Deer Antique Car Show, music, food and fun. Contact: Steve Guttery 731-285-3433.

Sept. 26: Covington

Heritage Day on the historic Court House Square. Features arts & crafts, folk art demonstrations, food, children's parade, music, antiques, Art Alley and more. Contact: Janie Cranford, 901-476-9727, www.covington-tiptoncochamber.com

Oct. 2-4: 2009 Jonesborough

National Storytelling Festival

A Historic Jonesborough tradition. For a full schedule of events, tickets and other information, visit customerservice@storytellingcenter.net.

Oct. 3: Gallatin

Gallatin's Main Street Festival at the Gallatin Courthouse Square. Arts & Crafts festival featuring two stages of entertainment, large children's area, more than 150 vendors and the Kansas City Barbeque Society cook-off. For more information call 615-452-5692, www.mainstreetgallatin.com

Oct. 3: Portland

2009 Portland Sesquicentennial

A day of fun and interesting events marking 150 years since the first Louisville and Nashville train stopped at Richland Station depot on October 31, 1859. Richland was re-named Portland in 1888, then incorporated as a city in 1905. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. with opening ceremony with dignitaries, former mayors and city council members; antique quilt display from Noon to 4 p.m.; old-fashioned recipe contest 10 a.m.; best beard and vintage costume contests; display of artifacts from local history; historical cemetery tours at 1:00, 2:00 and 3 p.m. Keepsake book of Portland's first 150 years available for sale; and burial of a time capsule. Plenty of food and parking available. For more information, call the City of Portland at 615-325-6776 or e-mail tfleming@cityofportlandtn.gov or visit the website www.cityofportlandtn.gov

Oct. 3: Nashville

Celebration of Cultures at Centennial Park. Celebrating and embracing cultural diversity through dance, music, visual arts, food, exhibits, kids area, arts & crafts and much more. Free fun for the entire family. For more information, call Paul Widman at 615-862-8402 ext.353 or e-mail paul.widman@nashville.gov or Kim Johnson at 615 340-7450 or e-mail kjohnsonscarrittbennett.org

Oct. 3: White Bluff

Apple Butter Festival

Experience the old-fashioned way to churn butter and make apple butter jelly. Features quilters, blacksmiths, bluegrass and gospel music. Contact: 615-446-2349 www.dicksoncounty-chamber.com

Oct. 8-11: Norris

30th Annual Tennessee Fall Homecoming, Museum of Appalachia

One of the nation's largest and most authentic music, craft, and folk festivals. More than 400 musicians perform on five stages. Contact 865-494-7680, www.museumofappalachia.org.

Oct 10: Cleveland

Cleveland Apple Festival

A family event on the courthouse square in downtown Cleveland. Juried arts and craft show, live bluegrass music, food booths, horse and hay rides, entertainment, an auction, and children's activities. Children's rides are free, and there is free parking. For more information, visit the website www.clevelandapplefestival.com

Oct. 10: Nashville

Germantown Street Festival

in Historic Germantown. The Germantown Festival shares the date with Oktoberfest, one of the city's most popular and longest running festivals, with one event flowing smoothly into the other. Beginning at 8 a.m., the annual Paulaner Bier 5K Run, 25 performing groups on three stages, a broad variety of musical styles. Food, wine garden, beer. For more information, call 615-975-8131 or visit the website www.historicgermantown.org

Oct. 17-19: Mountain City

Mountain City October Fest

Fun-filled weekend for the entire family. Activities include a costume parade, pumpkin eating, seed-spitting contests, arts and crafts fair, delicious food and pumpkin related activities. Free admission for most events and free parking. Live music and free hayrides. Sat. 5K Pumpkin Run children's costume contest, biggest pumpkin weigh-off, scariest pumpkin, funniest pumpkin, most creative pumpkin cash prize for the overall winners. Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. "Parade of Churches" with "Pickin' in the Park" featuring a community wide choir from local churches.

Oct. 24-25: Knoxville

Ramsey House Plantation's 45th Annual Country Market Fall Festival, 2614 Thorn Grove Pike. Sat., 10am to 5pm and Sun. 11am - 4pm. A family event with special activities for children. Old-time country fair with antiques, crafts, historic demonstrations, live music, and food. Parking \$5; no admission fee. For more information, call Ramsey House at 865-546-0745; or visit the website www.ramseyhouse.org.

TCAPWA Conference Oct. 24-27

The 2009 Tennessee Chapter APWA Conference & Equipment Show is scheduled for Oct. 24-27 at the MeadowView Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport.

The conference will feature many new and exciting events, including the first indoor equipment show drawing equipment dealers and vendors from a five state area.

Other events include educational workshop sessions, vendor exhibits, the Annual Awards Banquet, TCAPWA election of officers, a membership breakfast meeting, and a trip to the Bristol Motor Speedway.

Deadline for conference registration is Sept. 25. A block of rooms has been reserved for the conference rate of \$109 (+ tax). Contact the hotel directly at 423-578-6600.

For additional conference information contact John Calvert at 865-803-4721, or e-mail TCAPWA@comcast.net.

CRISIS LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS Emergency Management Training Program

October 9-10, 2009 • Sheraton Music City Hotel • Nashville, TN

PREVENTION PROTECTION RESPONSE RECOVERY

The National League of Cities (NLC) in cooperation with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will be conducting an emergency training program "Crisis Leadership for Local Officials" funded by the Department of Homeland Security. NLC will be providing two day training deliveries nationwide. This training program is intended to educate local leaders about their role in emergency management as well as support the National Preparedness Goal of meeting specific national priorities of expanded regional collaboration, as well as strengthening information sharing and interoperability communications. The course will help improve intra and intergovernmental coordination, communication, and mutual/automatic aid during and after a disaster.



DHS/NLC/ICMA Training Program

EARN CREDIT TOWARD THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:*

- FEMA PREPAREDNESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (www.fema.gov)
- NLC LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE PROGRAM (Earn 3 Credits) (www.nlc.org)
- ICMA CREDENTIALING PROGRAM
Address ICMA Practice Areas 2 and 3: Policy Facilitation and Functional and Operational Expertise and Planning (www.icma.org)

APPLY TODAY

Two Day Seminar 9 am - 5 pm

LIMITED SEATING!

*Must attend both days to receive credits

Crisis leadership for local officials Oct. 9-10

The National League of Cities (NLC) in cooperation with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will be conducting an emergency training program "Crisis Leadership for Local Officials" funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The training will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville from Oct. 9-10, 2009. The program is intended to educate local

leaders about their role in emergency management and support the National Preparedness Goal of meeting specific national priorities of expanded regional collaboration, strengthening information sharing and collaboration, and inter-operability communications.

This course will effectively address the four missions of emergency management: prevention, protection, response and recovery.

The only cost to participants is the travel and hotel accommodations.

To learn more about the conference and to register, visit NLC's website at <http://www.nlc.org>, or contact Lorraine Gloster, NLC Program Coordinator, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Phone: 202-626-3190 - Fax: 202-626-3043 - E-mail: gloster@nlc.org



National League of Cities
Emergency Management
Training Program



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

Municipal Administration Program October Schedule

Workplace Harrassment and Violence

This interactive session will cover the implications of both workplace harassment and violence in the workplace. It will explore the legal implications of harassment and violence in the workplace as well as the consequences of retaliation by employers when employees exercise their rights under the law.

Additionally, the session will help cities identify ways to minimizing risk by increasing safety in the workplace.

Instructor

MTAS Training Consultants

Time

Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.

Dates and locations

Oct. 7 Lakeland
Oct. 8 Jackson



MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL
ADVISORY SERVICE

Oct. 15 Johnson City
Oct. 22 Knoxville
Oct. 23 Collegedale
Oct. 29 Franklin

Training Facilities

Collegedale Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive

Franklin Williamson County Extension Office, Agriculture Expo Park

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

Boulevard
Johnson City Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St.
Knoxville UT Conference Center, 600 Henley Street
Lakeland Lakeland City Hall

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrisey at Elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu or call 865-974-0411. For program information, contact Kurt Frederick MTAS Training Consultant at 615-253-6385 or e-mail Kurt.Frederick@tennessee.edu.

Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

TMAA sponsors seminar on Voting Rights

The International Municipal Lawyers Association is presenting one-day seminar on *Voting Rights Litigation: Equal Access in a Post-Racial Nation Program*, on Dec. 10, in Columbia, S.C., at the Radisson Hotel.

The Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association is helping sponsor the event, which means that TMAA gets a break on registration fees. TMAA members can register for \$200. The regular registration fee is \$250. The program will offer continuing legal education credit.

The electoral success of minority candidates on the local, state and national level reflects our national commitment to protect voting

rights, equal access and effective participation by minority voters in the political process under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as recently amended.

Nationally recognized experts will address recent decisions, remedies and emerging trends in the protection of minority voting rights in a program designed for municipal and county attorneys not familiar with the redistricting process and its requirements under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and seasoned local government attorneys who are.

"This program is relevant for cities that elect board members from districts since redistricting will be



coming up after the census," said Dennis Huffer, TMAA executive director.

Online registration is also available at www.imla.org

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Effective citizen advisory committees can resolve problems

BY DAVID ANGERER
MTAS Management Consultant

City councils often are confronted with problems or projects where it is worthwhile to seek advice from local citizens having special knowledge and expertise. Issues involving new technology immediately come to mind — a council might seek advice from people in the community known to have experience in the operation of computers, software or other technical gadgetry.

But a city council also may seek citizen assistance for a wide variety of routine problems as well.

- A city council may want input from concerned citizens on how best to clean up areas of town where weeds, trash and other litter exist.
- A city may want advice from senior citizens to help guide city policy on providing services to the elderly.
- A city may want citizen input on hiring a new city manager, a group that can help the council focus on the skills and abilities needed in the new manager.
- The park board may want advice from park patrons on developing walking trails and exercise stations in a city park.

In every community there are residents who have credentials qualifying them to advise their elected and appointed officials on these sorts of questions. It sometimes is wise to ask these people for help when formulating city policies, especially when the governing board and the staff may lack the expertise needed to make informed decisions.

They are not the same as the various standing committees that may exist in the city government, such as the park board, the planning commission, etc. Instead, citizen panels are appointed to investigate or review a single issue and are disbanded once recommendations on that issue have been delivered to the governing body.

The value of citizen advisory committees

Properly appointed, a citizens advisory committee can provide two valuable services to city government:

- First, the committee can offer specialized, practical expertise that may not be available from the city council or city staff. Such citizens often can help guide city leaders on important issues, usually at little or no cost to the city.
- Second, the committee can lend legitimacy and credibility to the ultimate decision made by city government. Properly advised by the committee, the city council's decisions are more likely to be seen as fair and considerate of all people having a stake in the outcome. Ideally, the committee can even help "sell" the council's decision to the public.

Things to think about before creating an advisory committee

It has been said that "advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't." Before creating an advisory committee and obligating local citizens to a significant commitment of their time, city officials should consider these questions:

- Is the issue already decided? Is the committee being created simply to validate a decision that has already been made? Is it unethical to use citizens in this manner?
- Is the city governing board or staff uncomfortable with the issue at hand? Is the decision likely to be controversial? Is the committee being created simply to diffuse the anticipated public criticism? Never appoint a citizen committee to avoid responsibility for a difficult decision. The committee members will feel used and manipulated and are likely to say as much to the general public in the ensuing controversy.
- Does the city have all the information it needs to make a decision on the issue it is confronting? If not, would creating a citizen panel serve to better inform the city's decision?
- Do city staff have the background and expertise necessary to process the available information? Would a citizen panel be useful to the city in digesting the available information?
- How much time will advisory committee members need to devote to the project? Is it reasonable to expect the members to

dedicate this much time?

- Are there people in the community having knowledge of the issues involved? Or, is the issue so specialized or complex that it will be difficult finding a sufficient number of committee members to advise the city?
- Is the governing board or staff prepared to accept advice that may conflict with their long-held, established viewpoints? A Chinese proverb has it that "honest advice is unpleasant to the ears." Before asking for citizens' advice, the governing board must realize the truth inherent in this proverb. Cities should not ask for advice they have no intention of heeding.

Finding the right people for the committee

Once the decision to appoint an advisory committee is made, qualified residents must be identified and recruited to serve. This sounds much easier than it usually is. Many qualified people will decline involvement due to their lack of time to commit to the project. Others will decline service if the project is seen as controversial.

Cities are urged to avoid the "want ads" approach to finding people to serve on committees. Advertisements in the media may attract a large number of volunteers, but most will not have the expertise you are looking for. Some may have issues with the city and are looking for a platform to air these issues. Remember that you are seeking advice from known experts in your town to help resolve difficult problems. Every person on the street will have an opinion about what direction the city should take, but expertise is not evenly distributed throughout the community.

Instead, the governing board and staff should draw up lists of people recognized as having the necessary qualifications and who also are seen as community leaders. A proactive approach to recruiting these individuals should be undertaken. Professional groups, civic organizations, educators, clergy and neighborhood associations may be helpful in identifying those who possess the knowledge for the task. In making appointments to citizen panels, you generally should avoid the following types of people:

- People known to have conflicts of interest in the issue and those who want to sell the city a specific product or service and who have a stake in the final decision.
- Relatives of board members or staff.
- Obstructionists. An effective citizen panel will consist of citizens having wide and diverse backgrounds. Each member should be able to speak freely and be critical of the status quo. You should look for problem solvers and avoid those who cannot suggest reasonable solutions to the objections they may raise.
- People with political ambitions. One of the purposes of seeking citizen advice is to receive input that is not colored by politics and that provides an objective analysis of facts. Appointing politicians (or wannabes) to advisory committees defeats this purpose.

Focusing the committee

It generally is best for the committee to be appointed by the governing board. It lends legitimacy to the committee and underscores the importance of the project.

Prior to appointment, the city must provide a charge for the committee, a clearly written mission statement and set of objectives. The objectives should be provided in writing and clearly delineate the sort of recommendations being sought. Ideally, the charge to the committee would be put in the form of a question, for example, "What training, skills and experience should the city council seek in a new city manager?"

The focus of the committee will be improved if the city provides written instructions on the following:

- The authority of the committee to expend money, hire consultants, etc. Generally, it is a good idea to require that all committee expenditures be approved in advance by the appropriate city official or the governing board. Be very clear about this point. Do not let the panel spend money for which it is not legally accountable.
- Likewise, the authority to solicit donations on the city's behalf should be clearly understood by all parties. If the committee is given such authority, it is wise to



Citizen panels can offer specialized, practical expertise that may not be available from the city council or staff.

have a written policy in place on the methods and conditions of such solicitations.

- The need for the committee to comply strictly with the Tennessee Open Meetings Law and the Open Records Law. There can be no secret meetings, and all documents must be turned over to the city recorder for safekeeping.
- Some basic operating rules: where meetings are to be held, appointing a chairperson, etc.
- The authority, if any, to direct the work of city staff.
- The names of staff members and consultants available to assist the committee and how such individuals are to be contacted.
- The deadline for submitting a recommendation.

Most importantly, before beginning its work the advisory committee members must clearly understand and accept that the governing board will make the final decision on any recommendations it receives and that the final decision may be at variance with the committee's advice.

Without such explicit instructions, a citizen committee may find itself exploring issues that were never intended when they were appointed. This can result in embarrassment to the governing board and threaten the committee's success.

Staff's role

A citizen committee will benefit from having access to the city's professional staff who can help arrange and coordinate committee meetings, perform research and provide reports for the committee's study, and handle media inquiries.

Often, it is helpful to appoint a staff member (city manager, city recorder, city attorney, department head, etc.) to serve as an official advisor to the committee.

Although it is important to make staff available to assist the committee, it also is important that staff members do not dominate the committee's work. A staff member's knowledge and expertise may be used to help inform the committee, but the purpose of a citizen committee is, after all, to provide a perspective that might not otherwise be available within the usual machinery of government. Staff should assist the committee but not run it.

Making the recommendations to the governing board

In most instances, it will be best that the committee submit written recommendations to the governing board. Oral reports may suffice for minor issues, but misunderstandings can be avoided if the committee issues a written final report to the board.

It is important that each recommendation included in the report be voted upon by the committee members and that the report reflect the outcome of such voting. Reporting the outcome of these votes will enable the governing board to better evaluate the committee's recommendations. A 4 to 3 vote in favor of a recommendation may not be as impressive as one recorded as 7 to 0. When the advisory committee is sharply divided on any recommendation, it may be advisable to allow a minority report to be submitted. This is a written statement expressing the views of those not voting with the winning side. This sort of report can place the committee's



Margaret Bass Tyler, Transportation Services planner with Gresham Smith and Partners, assists a citizens group in Kingston Springs concerning a planned Interchange revitalization project. Pictured right: Laurie Cooper, Kingston Springs city manager.



Lebanon's citizen-based AIA Advisory committee members inspect a full-scale model of a proposed downtown revitalization project. Students from the UT Knoxville School of Architecture and Vanderbilt's Owen School of Management assisted committee members by designing master plans and preparing a financial analysis.

recommendation to the governing board in a useful perspective.

In addition to submitting a written report, the governing board should insist upon a presentation of the committee's recommendations at a public meeting. This is best done after the written report has been delivered to the governing board and its members have had time to read it. After the governing board is familiar with the committee's recommendations, committee members should be invited to meet with the governing board to discuss the committee's findings.

Finally, the committee members should be thanked — both publicly and with a personal note — for assisting the city. This is an important detail, especially if the city plans to ask other citizens for similar help in the future.

Making the final decision

No city council may delegate final decision-making authority to an unelected citizen advisory committee. From start to finish, this simple fact must be understood clearly by everyone involved in the issue: the committee members, the news media, the general public, the staff, and the governing board members themselves. Even when the committee report is brilliantly written and the committee members worked especially hard, it is the city's governing board that must make the final decision on the recommendations.

This often is a difficult fact for members of a citizen committee to accept, and it is not unusual for

members to feel let down if the city council rejects the committee's recommendations goes in a different direction. This underscores the importance of the governing board's initial instructions to the citizen committee, that every member of the committee knows from the outset that the governing board very well may pass on the advice it receives.

When an advisory committee's advice is rejected, it is important that it be done in a way that does not embarrass the citizens who volunteered their time to help the city. The governing board may want to emphasize that their final decision is the result of interpretational differences (politics) rather than the scholarship of the committee members.

Conclusion

However helpful they can be, there are inherent risks associated with appointing citizen groups to advise the city. Considerable care must be taken selecting committee members, and it is even more important that the committee is given specific instructions about their purpose, role and methods. Otherwise, the advice provided by these committees likely will be no more valuable to the city than the advice of any randomly selected group of citizens. A well-chosen group of citizen advisors, given clear and specific direction on the help sought by the governing board, can provide valuable suggestions to city hall and help resolve difficult problems.

Mayor Graham leads Crossville through heady days

His city works hard to be the major retirement/recreational community in Tennessee

BY GAEL STAHL

JH Graham III has researched his Graham family genealogy back to a John Graham born in 1632 in Glasgow, Scotland. He found a text that refers to that kinsman's son:

"John Graham's son, Andrew Graham, was born in the year 1658 in an ancient family house in the city of Glasgow where 15 generations of his family, father to son, have died up to this time of persecution."

In 1874, Graham's more recent relatives moved to Crossville, Tenn. But there's an earlier artifact that may or may not refer to Graham's line. About 100 yards from a still-standing bridge where the Walton Trail crossed the Obey River (where I-40 and Hwy. 127 cross) in north Crossville, there is an 1803 residence called Graham Stand. Graham's grandmother always said that the family moved back to Cumberland County in 1874. Could they be the same Grahams? Graham is intensely curious to find out.

Graham's father, JH Graham Jr., died this summer at age 83. He's the man Graham credits for his own interest in becoming a public servant. A small businessman and farmer in the Cumberland Homestead area, he served as chairman of the local Democrat Party, was in the Optimist and Kiwanis clubs, and commander of Post 163 of the American Legion. Graham says that his father's example of unselfish giving of his time and talents to others helped him form his own mantra, "It is and shall forever be my policy to provide for and protect our children."

Graham also credits the example of his mother's side. The father and mother of his mother, Marcia Rose Bilbrey Graham (now 80), were H.I. and Mary Bilbrey who arrived in Crossville in 1914—H.I. coming from Livingston and Mary from Michigan. They started the Bilbrey Hardware and Furniture Store and a funeral home on the second floor.

Having one of the few cars in town, they took people to the doctor or hospital in Pleasant Hill and many a child was born in the back seat of their car on the way to the hospital. The Graham grand-dad was on the city council in the 1940s and helped found Crossville's hospital, Cumberland Medical Center, in 1950.

Graham III's parents married in 1946 after Graham Jr. got back from serving in WWII. They bought a family farm outside of Crossville and in 1948, Graham III was born. He played football at Cumberland County High School and was team captain in 1965. He enjoys reminding Sparta Mayor Pedigo and Judge Maddox in Cookeville that his main interest was that Crossville beat Sparta and Cookeville and "how we wore them out."

On graduating in 1966, he attended Tennessee Tech to get his electives out of the way, then took business and tax law courses and graduated with a degree in accounting in 1970 from UT-Knoxville. He worked in a CPA office for 10 years, but he didn't become a CPA. He preferred working in the public sector and being involved in management. He served as treasurer of an insurance company and of an automobile-related manufacturing plant, and was on the city planning commission. He does tax returns at night to pay his bills because, he says, you're not too ambitious when you take a job making \$250 a month as mayor of Crossville.

Crossville City Clerk Sally Oglesby says Graham's focus during his 11 years as mayor so far, has always been "centered on things for children and finding ways to keep them here." The Crossville City Council puts a major emphasis on recreational outlets. Crossville bills itself as The Golf Capital of Tennessee. There are nearly a dozen 9-, 18-, and 36-hole golf courses in greater Crossville. Centennial Park's 10 softball/baseball fields and Garrison Park's two have hosted many softball and baseball tournaments. The complex was recognized as the best in the country last year by the national softball association. The city's indoor horseshoe pits, made with a special kind of clay, have made Crossville a host stop on the national professional horseshoe pitching tour. Crossville just opened a new six-field soccer complex where the city plans to sponsor statewide tournaments. For the formal opening, the Lady Vols soccer team will play an exhibition game. Crossville also received national and international

attention when it recently became the national headquarters of the US Chess Federation.

Oglesby and Graham affirm that nearby retirement communities such as Fairfield Glade and Tansi Village have contributed to the city's becoming the hub of one of the finest retirement areas in the country. They supply hundreds of volunteers when needed to help partner with the city on golf tournaments and recreational events.

Oglesby calls Mayor Graham a progressive and visionary type who is "not about band-aiding, but about looking ahead to where we need to go next." She smiles and says the mayor is an extraordinary golfer who always keeps his clubs in his car and is ready to play at any moment. She quotes one of his sayings: It is my duty and obligation to play at least one of the courses a day to make sure they are in good shape. It takes him about three and a half hours to pull his golf clubs around his favorite course. He loves to walk.

In June, the Crossville mayor won the Tennessee Municipal League Mayor of the Year award. His elective career began with two years on the city council, then was elected mayor in 1998. He has been reelected twice and plans to run again next year. He already has competition and doesn't blame them a bit saying if they love being the mayor half as much as he does he'd want to be mayor too. Graham says he loves being mayor even though he must attend 700 meetings a year.

TT&C: Is your mayoral job full-time?

JHG: It is for me. That's all I do. I do tax returns at night to pay my bills. I don't have much but I don't really care much about that. I haven't had much of a personal life since my wife and I took separate paths about 20 years ago. We are still devoted friends and have three children. The middle child, Jordan, was killed in a car wreck in August 1996 when I first ran for council. Another daughter, Jesse, is working on her master's degree at Ohio University. Her undergraduate degree from Knoxville was in dramatics and she still does some productions in the Cumberland County Playhouse.

Son Justus graduated with a degree in statistics at UT-K and minor in Farsi, a Persian language spoken in Iran. He's working toward his master's at Georgetown University. Justus was the only grandson my daddy and momma had. I named him Justus Henderson Graham IV, after Daddy.

TT&C: You like to tell stories about your parents?

JHG: Yes, and that's why I need to explain why in 1996 I supported the renovation of the Palace Theater. My momma told me to. At the dedication ceremony in 2001, I said that my momma and daddy had their first date in the Palace Theater. The movie they saw was *Gone with the Wind*. I said that the Palace was completed due to all the volunteers, Downtown Crossville Inc., all of the patrons, and the Crossville City Council. I said that the Palace Theater was saved and was not gone with the wind.

TT&C: What was it like going from the council to being mayor two years later?

JHG: To me, it was easy. I had been on the Crossville Regional Planning Commission for 10 years after college and worked with the city planners and developers so it was a natural progression. In 1996, we challenged department heads to tell us what Crossville would need 50 years from now or when we double in size. We also asked for five, 10, and 20-year capital project plans for roads, water, sewer, recreation, and fire and police protection. When I became mayor in 1998, I had a very progressive council to work with and set about financing the projects with grants and low-interest loans. That planning helped make Crossville one of the leading retirement centers in America. Industry and retail business are important to us, but the retirement business is going to be one of Tennessee's most important assets. It helped make housing 23 percent of our Crossville economy. As we grew, we doubled the size of our fire and police departments and the size of our water treatment facility. We're now doubling our sewer capacity.

TT&C: What were the water and wastewater and conservation highlights cited when you received the Mayor of the Year award?



Mayor J.H. Graham III

JHG: We secured an \$800,000 grant to provide water to Cumberland Cove area residents. That 62.5 mile water line project will water 18,000 acres in Cumberland and Putnam counties and provide water for a superlative development. We've made improvements to the Holiday Hills dam, spillway, and bridge and increased the capacity of the city's wastewater treatment plant. When we raise Meadow Park Lake and dam, it will increase our drinking water capacity. In doing this, we want to make sure the areas we serve remain pristine county land and conserve the natural beauty while we do the urban development within the city.

I spearheaded the Crossville Energy and Sustainability Initiative that resulted in Crossville's sustainable energy strategy. Key goals include greening the city's vehicle fleets with hybrids, make city buildings energy-efficient, and investing in clean renewable energy. I have also been appointed secretary of the newly founded Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council to promote renewable energy.

Our Habitat Conservation Plan will give interested parties a 'how-to' rule book with regard to development, preservation, endangered species identification and what you can do and when in regard to developing property in Cumberland County. We worked this three-year project with the U.S. Game and Fish Agency, the Tennessee Wildlife Association, and Nature Conservancy. When completed, it will be the first major Habitat Conservation Plan in the state.

TT&C: Are you behind or ahead of schedule with your 50-year capital improvements planning?

JHG: We are right on schedule—and finding everything costs twice what you expected and takes twice as long. We're the fastest growing rural community in the state of Tennessee. In the 1990s, we grew 34.5 percent, 24 percent in the last decade, and growing at that clip right now. That growth demands good planners. Our council and city employees are on board. It's a lot of fun for them. We received help on sustainability, energy, and conservation from UT's Dr. Ed Jepson and six graduate students who came to Crossville for six workshops with local people. The workshops produced a 42-page document listing 18 priorities for Crossville.

TT&C: Did any of them produce results yet?

JHG: We picked several to act on immediately, and one of my favorites was bringing the 800 Cumberland County fifth graders to a local elementary school on May 8 for an Energy Fair. They saw 30 vendor exhibits from solar panels to wind turbines to machines that changed vegetable oil into diesel. They learned how to make a compost pile and how diesel and electrical automobiles could better serve us. I realized our teachers are already teaching renewable energy sources when one of the fifth grade girls asked the vendor demonstrating the

machine that changes vegetable oil into diesel: "What do you do with the by-products?" He said: "Glycerin. Do you make soap from it?" How intelligent is that? I told Gov. Bredesen about that, and his eyes bugged out. Another project I'm developing right now is energy audits of city hall and other public buildings.

TT&C: How did that ad that featured you several time in TT&C a few years ago come about?

JHG: When I closed on a loan from TMBF, their representative Joe Muscatello used the signing as part of a bond fund marketing campaign. He had me stand like an umpire at home plate giving the palms down 'Safe' sign. The picture ran with the caption: Be like Mayor Graham and the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund – Safe at home!

I'm a big believer in trading with myself. That's how I feel when trading with the Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool and the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. The employees of both agencies do a remarkable job. As Bones Seivers said, they've loaned over \$3 billion since inception and saved cities nearly \$280 million in fees and interest. Pool President Lee Holland said that our rates are lower than anyone else's and because of our very good loss experience, we're going to be receiving a refund.

I'll be working with TML as the District 4 TML board director and as a member of the executive committee. I'm learning and looking forward to using my managerial experience as mayor and board

member of civic organizations to help the League meet cities' and the state's needs. Gov. Bredesen also appointed me to two statewide boards. It's an opportunity to form partnerships with bureaucrats and department heads. When they understand your plans, they'll help you get to where you need to be and offer advice. They appreciate knowing how their money is being spent, how their loans are being used.

TT&C: How did Crossville become headquarters of the US Chess Federation? Does it do anything for Crossville?

JHG: Here's the story. Harry Sabine, one of the leading chess players in the country and a member of the county commission, lives in Crossville. He's Mr. Chess around here and has conducted all the tournaments as long as I can remember. He is active in the national and international groups and a member of the U.S. Chess Federation Board of Directors. Harry knew USCF was thinking about leaving New York City after all those decades. He decided Crossville had a shot to get it. And, I didn't think the 25

cities or so who were in the race to land USCF were any real competition. Why would you want to live in Dallas/Fort Worth, Seattle, Los Angeles, and West Palm Beach when you could live in Crossville? So, when the USCF board of directors came to Crossville to kick the tires, we asked Gov. Bredesen to help. He sat across the table from the USCF directors and spoke about Tennessee and Crossville. He answered their few questions, then said: You know, I used to live in NY myself. I moved to Tennessee. I think I'm doing pretty well. I'll never forget him saying that as long as I live. We gave USCF land to build their facility here.

What has it meant to us? Their publications go out to every state in the union, to 162 foreign countries, and to about 88,000 members. I consider it the greatest single stroke of advertising ever. I loved it. Their facility here is home to the national offices and employs about 20. It arranges chess tournaments, chess news, information, and rules for members across the nation and world. Top chess players come to Crossville. The Tennessee Senior Championship was held in Crossville this year. It drew 45 topflight chess players. It used to be held in Nashville where they had nine participants last year.

Participants loved Crossville and felt welcomed. One guy from Atlanta came up to me after I gave the welcoming speech and said he changed pants at the hotel and went to the Taco Bell to get some supper but had left his wallet in the other pants. He was embarrassed to have to tell the waitress he'd ordered and didn't have any money. She said: Oh, don't worry about that. It's on me. That could happen to anybody; you just go on and eat your supper and enjoy yourself. He said: I'm moving to Crossville.

TT&C: What makes Crossville such an attractive retirement community?

JHG: One of the top five questions retirees ask when looking to retire is about your medical facilities. We have the Cumberland Medical Center that is recognized as one of the top 100 in the nation. You can see how that helped Crossville be rated one of the top 20 cities in America to retire. What I am emphatic about when I talk to visiting retirees from Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Florida, and California is that when we invite you to Crossville, it's not just to retire. It's to live. When people come here, they suddenly realize they haven't really lived at all.

We need our retirees. I want to close by saying that we have the greatest retiree volunteer program of any community in Tennessee. We have 150 volunteers for Hospice. We have 62 mentors from areas in and around Crossville that go to elementary and high schools to work with disadvantaged youth and children needing help in their studies so they may graduate from high school. We need 50 more. We're going to work on our dropout rate not by throwing money at it, but by tying folks who need help to volunteers, most of whom are retired.



With nearly a dozen golf courses in Crossville, Mayor Graham is considered to be an extraordinary golfer.