

More TML initiatives approved

Two more of TML's 2010 legislative priorities have been approved by the Tennessee General Assembly, with others still pending.

TML's fuel stabilization bill - SB 2688 sponsored by Sen. Jim Tracy and HB 2766 by Rep. Harry Tindell - has passed both chambers. The legislation amends existing law to remove the "sunset" date and provides local governments with clear and permanent authority to enter into fuel stabilization contracts with a financial institution - provided the term of any single contract does not exceed two years.

SB 3428 sponsored by Sen. Lowe Finney and HB 3659 by Mike Stewart has been approved by the Senate but is still waiting House action. The new law would grant a certified administrative hearing officer the authority to conduct hearings, issue orders, and to assess penalties for non-compliance of city building codes.

See **LEGISLATION** on Page 7



Sen. Tracy



Sen. Finney



Rep. Tindell



Rep. Stewart

Senate rejects bid to block federal financial aid for states

BY CHARLENE CARTER
and NIELS LESNIEWSKI
Congressional Quarterly

The U.S. Senate last week rejected a proposal that would bar federal aid to financially struggling state and local governments.

Judd Gregg, R-N.H., offered his plan as an amendment to a broad overhaul of the nation's financial system (S 3217). Gregg said his amendment was aimed at preventing federal bailouts for states just as the underlying bill aims to end such payments for failing financial institutions.

The overhaul measure — encompassed in a substitute amendment — would establish a council of regulators to guard against systemic risks to the economy and create a process to dissolve large businesses on the verge of failure. It also would establish a new consumer regulator to police financial products such as home loans and credit cards.

Gregg's amendment would have prohibited federal funds from being used to purchase or guarantee obligations, issue lines of credit or provide direct or indirect grants and aid to state or local governments that have defaulted, are at risk of defaulting or are likely to default absent assistance from the federal government.

Many states, battered by the economic downturn, face significant budget shortfalls.

Gregg's amendment was voted down 47-50. By agreement, 60 votes were required for amendment adoption.

Gregg said he was hoping to block assistance to states such as California, where the risk of their debt default was spurred by irresponsible financial decisions.

"There's no reason that our taxpayers should pay for inappropriate fiscal action by some other state or some other community," Gregg

See **FEDERAL AID** on Page 6

Is Health Care Reform a good deal for local governments?

BY NEIL BOMBERG
Nation's Cities Weekly

While the jury is still out on whether America's cities and towns will benefit from health care reform, here are some things cities can know for certain.

First, NLC's goals and objectives were achieved by the health care reform act (P.L. 111-148). The law is expected to contain costs, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), will ensure access for the vast majority of Americans to appropriate and affordable health insurance, according to the CBO, will permit cities and towns to maintain their existing health insurance systems according to Senate Finance Committee staff, and will not shift the costs of health care reform onto America's cities and towns.

Second, while local governments will need to review their



health plans to determine if they comply with the new law and may have to modify their plans to meet new requirements, two fundamental and basic aspects of the way in which cities and towns provide health insurance will be retained: Local governments will be able to continue to self-insure and partici-

See **HEALTH CARE** on Page 6

Long-term flood recovery: the next stage for cities

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Whether it's labeled the one hundred or one thousand year flood, it can happen today. That's what flood-ravaged communities across Middle and West Tennessee are learning this UN-merry month of May, as record rain-falls May 1st and 2nd quickly morphed into a deadly catastrophe of historic proportions.

At last count, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has given out more than \$100 million across the 45 counties declared disaster areas, \$90 million, so far, has gone to helping residents with rent and home repairs and another \$640,000 has been awarded in small business loans.

In the aftermath, as informative town hall meetings attended by representatives of FEMA, the Tennessee Emergency Management Association (TEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) take place to help answer questions from affected citizens and business owners across the state; many city officials are also navigating their first flood experience.



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, and U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper flank Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as she tours devastated flood areas in Nashville.

"I know we have a lot of local officials who are asking what is the next step? What do we do? What does all this mean for my constituents?" said Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator.

The answer, according to the

International City/County Management Association (ICMA,) lies in municipal responsibility and preparation. "Regardless of community size or the nature of the disaster, local government leaders are re-

See **RECOVERY** on Page 3

Improvement in state revenues comes too late to close current budget gap

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Finally some good news when it comes to tax revenues. The general fund collections came in at \$51 million above expectations in April — the first time Tennessee has experienced growth in sales taxes since May 2008.

Sales taxes grew by 5.6 percent, compared with the first nine months of the budget year. Corporate franchise and excise taxes came in almost \$48 million above expectations for the month.

The state's general fund, however, is still about \$154 million below original projections for the budget year that ends June 30.

With two months left in the current fiscal year, the improvement in revenue comes too late to forestall a third straight year of cutting spending, trimming state job positions, tapping reserves, and proposing new ways to raise revenues.

To close the budget gap, Gov. Bredesen has proposed several revenue measures, including a \$2 in-

crease in driver's license fees, lifting a sales tax cap on big-ticket items, eliminating a tax exemption for the first \$15 on cable bills, and closing a sale for re-sale loophole, referred to as the "free breakfast tax."

Senate Republicans have offered alternatives to Bredesen's plan, that would instead begin to phase out a retirement investment match program for state employees and eliminate a planned 3 percent bonus. It also would dissolve the Career Ladder program for teachers and it strips out approximately \$16 million from the Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Funds and diverts it to the General Fund.

The GOP plan passed the Republican-majority Senate Finance Committee earlier this month through an amendment to the Administration's bill, SB390.

Other budget proposals include a newly revealed plan by Senate Democratic Leader Jim Kyle. His plan would give state employees a 2 percent bonus and restores the Career Ladder pro-

gram for teachers. Kyle's proposal accepts that none of the major revenue-generating measures proposed by Bredesen will be enacted because of Republican opposition. Instead his plan would spend about \$142 million more from the state's reserve funds.

House Democrats have proposed using the rainy day fund to restore \$34 million in teacher pay cuts, \$6 million in cuts in farm investments, \$100 million in state employee pay bonuses and \$3.5 million in cuts to public safety.

State Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz testified earlier this month that about \$330 million should remain in the state's rainy day fund at the end of the next fiscal year, and another \$170 million is expected in TennCare reserves.

Closing the books on this year's budget and approving a budget for FY 2010-11 is one of the final task the General Assembly must agree upon before convening for the 2010 session. At press time, state lawmakers were still not ready to vote on a state budget.

Sustainability Fair, recycled cooking oil help bring Crossville's energy goals to life

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

The children were mesmerized as two volunteers standing at opposite vanities went through the motions of brushing their teeth. With buckets underneath both sinks, one left the water running the entire time and the other turned the water on only if needed. Then the water buckets were measured. "The students were amazed at how much water actually goes down the drain," said Tim Begley Crossville's Public Works director. Begley's water conservation booth, sponsored by the Department of Public Works, was just part of a number of interesting displays at Crossville's second annual sustainability fair held April 29 at the Cumberland County Community Complex.

The fair, attended by 625 Cumberland County 5th graders along with groups of high school students and the general public, is part of Crossville's overall initiative to develop green energy sources and to become one of the most energy-efficient cities in Tennessee.

Attendees viewed the latest green technologies designed to make households and businesses more energy efficient with topics ranging from energy efficient buildings and natural energy sources such as solar panels, wind turbines and rain barrels to wildlife, carbon footprints, composting and hybrid vehicles.

"There was lots of energy," said Louise Gorenflo, volunteer coordi-



Photo courtesy of Louise Gorenflo

Hundreds of Cumberland County 5th grade students learn about green energy initiatives at Crossville's Sustainability Fair.

nator with the Sustainable Crossville initiative. The displays were highly interactive and there were some great questions from the students."

"Our nation has enjoyed over a century of relatively inexpensive energy, with what seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of oil reserves and a relatively forgiving environment," said Crossville Mayor J.H. Graham III. "We have seen, though, that we can't rely on past practices to meet our energy needs. We will have to be proactive and lead the way in crafting a sen-

sible, sustainable, clean-energy future."

The city's sustainability project began in 2007 when Mayor Graham took part in the National Conversation on Climate Action signing the Climate Protection Agreement along with other mayors across the country. Then, in 2008, the city joined forces with the University of Tennessee's Master of Science in Planning program, which held six meetings with the community for feedback on how Crossville can become more sustainable.

See **CROSSVILLE** on Page 6

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

Gov. Bredesen is proposing funds for right-of-way acquisition for the widening of a 3.2-mile stretch of Alcoa Highway to three lanes in both directions. The proposal is one of the four planned projects that will lead to the widening of Alcoa Highway from Woodson Drive in Knox County to south of the Little River in Blount County. All the projects will widen the existing Alcoa Highway to three lanes in each direction with 12-foot wide shoulders.

BRISTOL

Officials are sporting fluoride-brilled smiles over the near-flawless, 99 of 100 score the city’s drinking-water supply received from Tennessee. Bristol received the rating from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Water Supply Division, which did a two-year review of the city’s water plant. The study covered every area of how Bristol gathers, cleans, maintains and provides its water supply. Among other steps, Tennessee checked water samples and conducted lengthy on-site inspections of Bristol’s facilities. It also did an intense review of city water records, examining more than 10,000 pages of daily reports. Bristol provides drinking water to some 13,000 city water taps, which are used by an estimated 45,000 people. In addition to its main water-treatment plant, the city has numerous water tanks and pump stations, as well as more than a thousand hydrants. “We use the least amount of chemical needed to properly treat the water and keep it at a high quality,” said David St. John, superintendent of Bristol’s water plant.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga is working on an ordinance to combat an increase in unregulated “pop-up parties,” gatherings of hundreds that take place within days of being advertised online. These events often create a nuisance to neighbors and a danger to partygoers, city leaders said. Fire department and police are worried because lack of regulation means a building designed for 50 occupants could see a flood of 300 or more people. Some recent gatherings have ended in large-scale fights, gang clashes and gunfire. And a fire in such an environment could be disastrous, officials said. Chattanooga Police Capt. Randy Dunn said the parties have been happening for

at least three years, but in the last six months it seems like there is one every weekend.

CLINTON

Robots manufactured in Clinton are doing hazardous duty for U.S. forces in Iraq. Remotec Inc., a division of Northrop Grumman, supplies robots for the military, law enforcement and first responders. About 25 to 30 percent of its business is in robots for the military. Many are used in first encounters with potential explosive devices, just like the Remotec HD-1 robot seen in Academy Award-winning movie, “The Hurt Locker.” “We’ve got about 2,500 vehicles in the field, and about 700 to 800 in the military fleet. Not all of them may be in Iraq at the same time,” said Mike Knopp, Remotec’s president. “We do have equipment in Iraq and equipment possibly in the future going into Afghanistan.” Remotec has annual sales of about \$40 million and employs about 100 people.

FRANKLIN

The grand opening of the new Franklin Police Headquarters was held May 15. The old headquarters at city hall on Third Avenue, where the department has been for the last 26 years, is a former 1970’s shopping mall. The new facility is about five minutes away, at 900 Columbia Avenue, and offers green/sustainable features. A performance by country musician Lee Greenwood kicked-off the event .

FRANKLIN

The city and the Tennessee Department of Transportation made a formal request to the Federal Highway Administration to buy flood-damaged houses in the path of a future bypass around the city. Buying the houses will require the government to waive rules requiring completion of formal appraisals. Eleven houses will be needed for the extension of the Mack Hatcher Parkway. The city already has purchased one of the houses and has done appraisals on about half of those remaining. The houses in the path of the future road also were in the path of the Harpeth River as it overflowed its banks.

JOHNSON CITY

The Johnson City board of commissioners will be considering five to 15 appointments to the newly established Public Art Committee. This committee will advise the Board of Commissioners on public art and will develop a public art policy and plan for approval by the board. All

matters concerning public art, monuments, murals, or other creative efforts of individuals or groups will first be referred to the Public Art Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

KINGSPORT

Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Sullivan County constables have joined efforts to help discourage people from littering along the region’s roadways through “50 and Go,” a new program in which those that litter can be fined. Constables will issue citations to any individual throwing litter from a vehicle. The person will be fined \$50 if the litter amount is less than 5 pounds and will avoid a court appearance and further costs. If the charge is disputed, the accused can face additional fines and possible further action.

KNOXVILLE

City officials want to use goats to eat kudzu plants on public land. The Metropolitan Planning Commission is scheduled to take up the matter. Knoxville Public Service Department planning coordinator Chad Weth says he’s “ready to see goats on the ground” in a program similar to one Chattanooga has used the past few years. Department Deputy David Brace says goats are a more environmentally friendly way of controlling invasive kudzu and they’re more effective because they pull up the plant’s roots and eat them, too. Under the plan, the city would use a \$10,000 grant from the UPS Foundation to pay a contractor, who would provide the goats.

MARYVILLE

The city is moving swiftly to create a new zone and annex 30.1 acres along the U.S. 129 Bypass, hoping that retail shops and restaurants will locate in the corridor. The Maryville City Council approved the creation of a High Intensity Retail Zone that would encompass about 63 acres on both sides of the bypass. The council hopes to increase sales tax revenues and expand the city’s property tax base.

MEMPHIS

Sitel will lay off most of its remaining workers — 135 people. The site is ramping down due to the changing business needs of clients being supported at that location, according to officials for the Nashville-based Sitel. The Memphis center generally handles outsourced customer service calls for its clients, which include a health care business and some communications companies. Some of the work done from Memphis consisted of temporary, seasonal projects that are ending, and other work was affected by the

“economy, in terms of overall call volume.

MEMPHIS

Memphis’ growth as a major rail hub is getting Chicago city leaders and Illinois politicians to launch an ambitious program to remove rail transportation bottlenecks. “We saw competition emerging from Memphis and looked at a potential loss of 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in economic activity a year,” said Joseph Clary, who recently stepped down as director of public and intermodal transportation for the Illinois Department of Transportation. “Memphis business and civic leaders began marketing the Bluff City as a freight hub and logistics center in 1979. With more of the nation’s consumer markets reachable in one day’s drive from Memphis than from any other city, rail carriers picked Memphis as a place to begin building intermodal facilities.

MILLINGTON

When flooding crippled the telephones and computers that serve the Navy base in Millington, Facebook provided an Internet-age way to communicate. The social media website is being harnessed by the Naval Support Activity Mid-South base to help residents and some 5,000 people who work there stay informed and ask questions. The NSA Mid-South Facebook page: facebook.com/NSAMidSouth was introduced in December. Facebook has also emerged as an important way to inform the military community as the base recovers, from help available for displaced families to when buildings reopen and computer systems are restored.

NASHVILLE

Nashville home prices continued to decline in March, according to data released by CoreLogic. According to the real estate research company, the average prices of homes sold in the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin area in March dropped by 1.85 percent compared to one year ago. That’s a smaller decrease than the 3.97 percent drop seen in February. However, it does run counter to the national average, where prices increased by 1.7 percent in March.

NASHVILLE

National hotel chain Loews is moving more than 200 jobs to downtown Nashville as part of a “financial shared services center” that will occupy approximately 40,000 square feet of Class A office space in the Fifth Third Center. Loews Hotels Chairman and CEO Jonathan Tisch was joined by Mayor Karl Dean and Matt Kisber, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic

announcement. The company announced hiring associated with the project begins immediately with need for managers, accounting supervisors, accountants and accounting clerks. Job postings will be available on the company’s web site at www.loewshoteljobs.com.

SEVIERVILLE

State officials are celebrating the opening of Sunny Side Trail as part of a tourism development initiative. The trail is a mapped driving route starting in Sevierville covering 12 East Tennessee counties with nearly 300 points of interest. It’s the second of 15 regional trails that make up a campaign called “Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways.” The initiative is designed to showcase wineries, historic main streets, quaint restaurants and scenic spots for outdoor adventure. According to The Greeneville Sun, state officials worked on the project with the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and tourism organizations in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties.

SMYRNA

An urgent-care clinic has a new vending machine in its waiting room for acute-care prescription medications — antibiotics, inhalers and other short-term medicines — for sick patients who don’t want to wait in line at a pharmacy. Tennessee Urgent Care Associates installed the ATM-like medication dispenser about two months ago to become the second urgent-care clinic in the state to offer prescription medications in a vending machine. If a patient seen at the urgent clinic needs a prescription, the doctor can send one to the machine during the visit, and the medicine is retrieved on the way out. Urgent Care is piloting the device at its Smyrna location, but if patients use it, the company will expand it to every clinic.

WARTRACE

The town of Wartrace and the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce is looking to raise funds for civic improvements with their non-profit 5th annual MusicFest, a celebration of acoustic Americana and Bluegrass music, which will take place June 4-5 at the Wartrace Horse Show grounds. The event will kick off Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. International Bluegrass Music Association’s (IBMA) female vocalist of the year Claire Lynch and her band will close the festival June 4. The Saturday night headliner will be Grand Ole Opry stars Riders In The Sky at 9 p.m. The performers’ schedule and ticket information is available at www.wartracemusicfest.org.

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Long range flood recovery: The next stage for cities, victims

RECOVERY from Page 1
responsible for overseeing all four phases of emergency management—preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation,” writer Christine Becker explains in the article *Disaster Recovery: A Local Government Responsibility*. Becker coordinates association relations for the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS).

“Citizens look to their local government managers and elected officials to lead the immediate response, guide the longer-term recovery, and reassure them that life will be normal again . . . someday,” Becker adds.

According to FEMA, long-term recovery refers to the “need to re-establish a healthy, functioning community that will sustain itself over time. Becker notes that this

navigating the construction and permitting processes.

Nashville Planning Department head Rick Bernhardt announced more than 11,000 structures suffered damage. The codes department has issued close to 900 building permits, most for homes. The total impact of the flooding on local government is still unknown, with some of the most heavily damaged city structures including the Metropolitan Transit Authority’s Administration and Maintenance building at \$3.1 million, the Bridgestone Arena at \$3 million and LP Field at \$2.3 million.

The city plans to conduct an aggressive home buyout program for people who live in flood way or flood plain areas. Currently, the Metro Planning Department has compiled a list of more than 3,000

stantial Damage Assessment for Residential and Commercial Properties May 26-27, provided as a service of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Local Planning Assistance Office.

According to Brett Kriger, director of the Institute for Building Technology and Safety’s (IBTS) Disaster Management Group, the recovery process begins even before the response stage is complete because decisions made while responding to the emergency can affect the recovery process. Community leaders in Quincy discovered this to be true in a positive way. Located along the Mississippi River, Quincy, pop. 41,000, the large city within the Tri-state area of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, suffered a record flooding catastrophe in 1993, then another flood in 2008, when its mayor, John Spring, declared a state of emergency.

“We’re fortunate that most of the residents that live on the Illinois side of the river, live on a bluff,” said Spring. “In 2008, we learned some very important things. The first, is that you want to keep track of every single cent, no matter how small. We developed an Excel spread sheet to actually log on a daily basis all of our expenses. It didn’t matter if somebody ran and got a roll of masking tape, we put that down. That way, you are ready to submit all of your expenses to FEMA for reimbursement. Your chances are far greater that you’re going to get a lot more dollars.”

According to Gary Sparks, Quincy’s director of Administrative Services, mobilization of volunteers is key. “In 1993, I was our street superintendent and flood coordinator,” he said. “We set up a sandbagging site on Quincy University parking lot and enlisted volunteers from various communities and all around the Quincy area. We bagged more than 1.2 million sandbags by hand and shipped them out to communities within a 75-100 mile radius in Quincy.” The process was streamlined in 2008 to an indoor arena in case of inclement weather.

In the 2008 flood, the city notes that they have learned the value of keeping a volunteer registry. “It was the most important decision we made,” said Spring. “We had about \$600,000 in city expenses and were able to use the 8,000 plus volunteers as our match to FEMA. That meant



Nashville neighbors help salvage items from Clare Baker’s flood-damaged home.

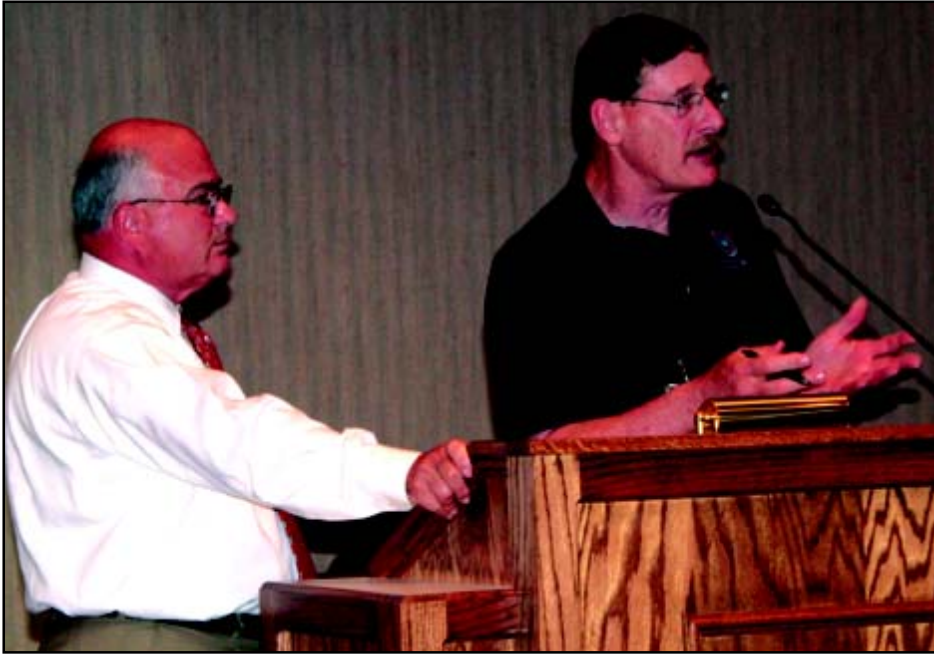
we didn’t require any dollar matches. We could use the contributed services of these volunteers. Thanks to the registry, Spring said the city submitted and collected 95 percent of its costs.

The city also can’t stress enough importance on working with FEMA. “I definitely used them for requisition of equipment. Spring said. “Anything that we needed we ran through them. If we could get it quicker, we went ahead, but they were made aware of how we secured the equipment or the materials that were needed. It’s really important to work with them and get their support to help with your federal

people tell their story, tell us what was wrong, how we should be handling things, what we should do. We compiled all that information.”

Last November, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and Department of Security Secretary Janet Napolitano headed the White House Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group in Memphis.

“One of the things we clearly learned is that we needed to follow local leadership,” Donovan said. A draft of the working group’s product: *National Disaster Recovery Framework Initiative*, can be



At a town hall meeting, Goodlettsville Mayor John Finch (left) listens as a representative from FEMA explains the process of registering flood damaged properties for assessment.

stage of the recovery process “involves more than debris removal and restoring power, which are considered short-term recovery actions.”

As unfortunate as disaster can be, it is often at this time that cities refine their preparation and recovery processes, streamlining components and learning what works and what doesn’t. Fortunately, cities without flood experience can call upon municipalities in their neighboring states for guidance.

In Nashville, where the city is estimated to have suffered more than \$1.9 billion in damage to privately owned buildings, Mayor Karl Dean announced a series of new housing clinics with a team of professionals giving guidance on issues including housing options, personal finance,

homes in a 100-year flood plain which sustained damage. If the home sustained less than 50 percent of its value, the homeowner should be able to obtain a permit, but beyond 50 percent, the city is offering to buy out homeowners, paying pre-flood appraisal values, and demolishing the property. FEMA provides 75 percent of the funding with TEMA and Metro paying 12.5 percent of the costs.

So far, as Nashville digs its way to the surface, crews have picked up 31,000 tons of debris, which is being dumped into three huge FEMA-monitored piles.

“In the beginning of a disaster, you’re dealing with the emergency nature of the situation, so there’s not a lot of environmental rules that get followed,” said Bernard Hurley, president and CEO of Family Environmental, an environmental company that specializes in environmental hazards such as asbestos and hazardous waste out of Cedar-Rapids, Iowa. Hurley serves as Demolition Project Manager for the city of Quincy Ill., which suffered a devastating flood in 2008 with more than 7,000 parcels affected.

“A lot of the properties, depending on when they were constructed, could have asbestos and lead-based paint issues,” said Hurley. “Realistically, if houses were built prior to the late 70s, many contain asbestos. You not only have debris, but an environmental issue as well.”

Hurley strongly encourages homeowners performing their own home repairs to assume caution and wear appropriate protective wear. “Each state has its own regulations,” Hurley notes. “Tennessee has a more stringent set of environmental regulations than the minimum federal requirements.”

However, homeowners performing their own repairs, according to Hurley, are typically exempt from regulations, which could cause long-term health and safety issues. “If you have asbestos-containing material in houses and those houses get gutted and the debris is put out onto the sidewalk and is scooped up and hauled off to a landfill, typically, by federal law, asbestos has to be disposed of appropriately,” Hurley said. “It can’t go to just any landfill. It has to be taken to a landfill that will accept that type of debris. Financially, if they can afford it, it’s best to have these issues dealt with by a professional.” Although Asbestos removal is not cheap, Hurley notes that having a home inspected for asbestos is relatively inexpensive.

“You can’t get sick by touching asbestos,” he said. “You get sick when the building material gets disturbed, like the wall and flooring material, which becomes airborne and you breathe asbestos fibers. That’s where the danger comes from.”

Tennessee flood and codes officials will receive training on Sub-



According to environmental professionals, most properties constructed prior to the late 70s, contain asbestos, which is in flooring, ceiling and insulation materials.

reimbursement as well.”

Spring stresses the key to recovery for municipalities of any size is forming a recovery team, mobilizing beyond the city into the county and other entities, including hospitals, health and social welfare agencies and societies and to develop a long-range plan.

“We formed a long-time flood recovery commission that I co-chaired,” said Spring. “The task of this commission was to review the processes and how effective they were and how the state of Illinois can be better prepared for future floods. We conducted Listening Sessions at the University of Illinois and invited anyone who could benefit and we let

viewed at www.fema.gov/recoveryframework.

“The one thing we learned is that the Mississippi River that’s at our doorstep everyday didn’t really divide us, it brought us together,” concludes Spring. “We reached out and helped smaller communities. I went there. I talked to their mayors and council members. While each state has a set up to get FEMA reimbursement, we still tried to help them. The one thing you’ve got to keep in mind, it can happen again. It will happen again, so we have to be better prepared. We have to know we will be better prepared because we’ve gone through this experience.”

The roles FEMA, TEMA and Local Governments play during disaster

FEMA

After a presidential declaration of disaster has been made, FEMA designates the area(s) eligible for assistance and announces the types of assistance available. FEMA provides supplemental assistance for state and local government recovery expenses, with the Federal share always at least 75 percent of the eligible costs.

TEMA

TEMA provides multipliers of assistance by reaching out for mutual aid or assistance from other departments or agencies of the state, counties and municipalities, from other states and from the federal government. TEMA manages the flow of material, special teams and services to the incident commander. TEMA performs as the staff of the Governor when a state declaration of emergency exists. It becomes TEMA’s job to ensure that the orders of the Governor are implemented and enforced. TEMA purchases materials and supplies through the state department of General Services, Purchasing Division.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

According to the Federal



Government’s “National Disaster Recovery Framework Initiative,” the responsibility for responding to incidents, both natural and manmade, begins at the local level, with individuals and public officials in the county, city, or town affected by the incident. Local leaders and emergency managers prepare their communities to manage incidents locally. Chief elected or appointed officials must have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for successful

emergency management and response. At times, these roles may require providing direction and guidance to constituents during an incident, but their day-to-day activities do not focus on emergency management and response. Elected and appointed officials may be called upon to help shape or modify laws, policies, and budgets to aid preparedness efforts and to improve emergency management and response capabilities.

TML

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In response to the catastrophic flooding that has hit the middle and western regions of Tennessee, the TML Risk Management Pool would like to extend its sympathy and support to all affected.

This unprecedented event has touched the lives of everyone in Tennessee either directly or indirectly with the many cities, towns, and municipal entities around the state being some of the hardest hit.

We would like to encourage all members of the Pool to be sure to document all damage and to contact our claims department if you have not already done so, in order to begin the claims adjusting process. Again, our sympathies are with all those who have been affected by this event.

The TML Pool Claims Department can be reached at: 1-800-288-0829 or Fax: 1-877-469-7611.

Flood Resources

For a comprehensive list of Flood Recovery Information, visit TML’s website at www.tml1.org and click on Hometown Connection.

Training for Tennessee flood and codes officials on “Substantial Damage Assessment for Residential and Commercial Properties” will be held May 26, from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Williamson County Extension Office, Ag Expo Park at 4215 Long Lane in Franklin and May 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.T. West Tennessee Research and Education Center, 605 Airways Boulevard in Jackson. To register, contact Stan Harrison, State Local Planning Assistance Office, stanley.harrison@tn.gov or call 615-946-4756.

STATE
BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

An annual report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shows 14 percent fewer hate crimes were reported in 2009. The FBI defines a hate crime as “a criminal offense committed against a person, property or society which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity/national origin.” The 27-page report shows that 69 percent of all reported race-based hate crimes in the state were against blacks. Racially motivated hate crimes comprised 28 percent of all hate crimes. The report compiles data sent from local law enforcement agencies across the state each year. There were 359 reported hate crimes, which was less than 1 percent of all crime reported for the same period in Tennessee. Most frequently, hate crime victims fell within the 25- to 34-year-old group, according to the report, and 51 percent of the reported crimes were against men.

Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte has announced that dozens of items from The Tennessee Residence are currently for sale online at www.tn.surplus.us. Highlights of the online auction include salvaged marble, oak hardwood flooring, bathroom and light fixtures, wool rugs, desks, chairs and sofas. The online auction website includes photographs of available items. The online auction continues until June 1. Registration is required to participate as detailed on the website. Proceeds from the sale of the items will benefit The Tennessee Residence Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization responsible for collecting funds for the restoration and preservation of the Tennessee residence on behalf of the state.

Scammers and computer hackers are breaking into the bank accounts and online identities of Tennesseans with increasing frequency, new crime statistics show. Cases of wire fraud in the state rose by 19 percent between 2008 and 2009, according to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation’s annual Crime in Tennessee report. Authorities say, as more people are willing to share personal information on the Internet, they often unintentionally

open themselves up to hackers. Crimes that involve the use of telephone lines or electronic communication to rip someone off can be considered wire fraud.

The state’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program received high marks in the National Institute of Early Education Research’s (NIEER) annual report State of Preschool 2009. Ranking among the top for percentage of children enrolled and funding per child, the program met nine out of ten quality standard benchmarks. The state increased enrollment of 4-year-olds to 22 percent and earned an overall ranking of 15 for funding per child at \$4,520.

The House joined the Senate in unanimously approving legislation that will require more drunken driving convicts to have their vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock system. The bill (HB2768) states that any offender who has been cited for having a blood alcohol content of 0.15 or higher must have one of the devices installed on his or her vehicle. The interlock system prevents starting of the vehicle if the driver’s breath shows the presence of alcohol. The measure went to Gov. Bredesen for his signature. Under current law, judges have discretion to require the devices, but in practice they are rarely deployed. The bill will make Tennessee the 14th state to require first offenders to use the devices.

Gov. Bredesen is reminding people that federal “Race to the Top” funds can’t be used to plug budget holes. Tennessee was chosen to receive a federal \$500 million for classroom innovation, which Bredesen says he hopes establishes new programs that a future governor would want to continue, even after the federal money goes away. Budget planners can set a timeline and end dates for the various education programs Race to the Top will fund. That includes extra training for teachers, help for failing schools, and specialized classroom work in science, technology and math.

The Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission is concerned that scam artists may purchase flood damaged cars and try to sell them without warning the buyer. Whether it’s a bad alternator or water damage, water can do serious damage to a car, and sometimes that damage can be easily hidden. The Commission suggests buyers look

for mud and rust or a mildew smell in the car. They also say buyers should test drive the vehicle on hills, highways, and stop and go conditions, and should always get the vehicle inspected.

The number of mass layoff actions in Tennessee dropped dramatically in the first quarter compared to a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were 27 lay-off events for the quarter ended March 30, down from 86 events a year ago. The number of initial claims for unemployment insurance declined to 2,572, down from 14,084 claims a year ago. The number of events in the first quarter was equal to the previous quarter, but the number of claims also fell on a quarter-by-quarter basis. There were 5,320 in the fourth quarter 2009. Tennessee was one of 20 states that reported a year-over-year decrease in the number of separations.

The state’s monthly sales tax collections have grown for the first time in nearly two years. General fund collections came in at \$51 million above expectations in April, reflecting economic activity in the previous month. Sales taxes, which account for two of every three tax dollars collected by the state, grew by 5.6 percent, compared with the first nine months of the budget year, when they decreased by 4.1 percent. The last time Tennessee saw a growth in sales taxes was in May 2008. Corporate franchise and excise taxes came in almost \$48 million above expectations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing \$174 million in funding for wetlands conservation assistance, \$6.1 million of which will be spent in Tennessee. It’s part of the National Resources Conservation Service’s Wetlands Reserve Program, which will add 75,000 additional acres to the 2.2 million acres currently enrolled in the program. The funding will go to wetlands conservation projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico. Funded through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, the Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program which helps landowners address wetland and wildlife natural resource concerns on private lands. Wetlands Reserve Program participants limit their future use of the land, but retain private ownership. The Wetlands Reserve Program offers permanent easements that pay 100 percent of the value of an easement and up to 100 percent of easement restoration costs, and 30-year easements that pay up to 75 percent of the value of an easement and up to 75 percent of easement restoration costs.



The Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission is concerned that scam artists may purchase flood damaged cars, clean them up, and try to sell them without warning the buyer.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Nashville Police Chief **Ronal Serpas** will accept a position as superintendent of police in his home town of New Orleans. Metro police veteran **Steve Anderson** will take over as interim chief.



Serpas

Crossville’s new city manager, **Curtis Adams**, was honored by the Tennessee Legislature for his 22 years of service on the Hamilton County Commission and his career in the newspaper business in Chattanooga. State Rep. Vince Dean had previously introduced and had passed a resolution in February honoring Adams after he announced his plans for retirement from the Hamilton County Commission. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Adams.



Adams

Jerry Martin, a partner in the law firm of Barrett Johnston & Parsley, has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the next U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee.



Martin

Scott Brewer, Farragut engineering technician, was awarded the Edward C. Archer Young Public



Brewer

Works Leader of the Year Award at the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association’s (TCAPWA) annual conference in Kingsport. Brewer was also awarded a \$750 scholarship toward his civil engineering technician degree at Pellissippi State Technical Community College. The award is presented to an individual, who over the person’s young professional career, has contributed to the advancement of public works and TCAPWA.



Gerald Stump, PE, vice president and chief operating officer of Wilbur Smith Associates in Franklin, has been elected chairman of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) through 2011. ACEC represents approximately 5,500 independent engineering companies throughout the United States. Having served in several ACEC leadership positions, at both the state and national level, Stump is an ACEC Fellow, a former ACEC vice chairman, a past co-chair of the ACEC/PAC Champions Committee, and a former member of the ACEC/Tennessee Board of Directors.

Former Vice President **Al Gore** has received the University of Tennessee’s third honorary doctorate at a graduation ceremony in Knoxville



Gore

Hendersonville Police Chief **Terry Frizzell** announced that he would retire effective July 2.

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The Pool insures:

- 40,575 municipal employees for workers’ compensation representing more than \$951.7 million in annual payroll exposures;
- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million for liability coverage; and provides
- general liability coverage for 16,407 miles of streets.

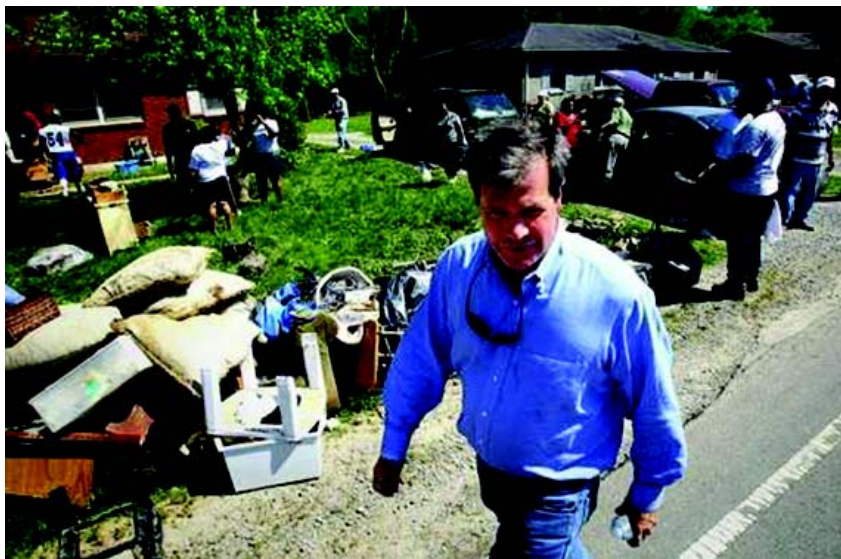


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The Tennessee Municipal League applauds the extraordinary, heroic and tireless efforts displayed by city leaders, first responders, and other city personnel during the 2010 flood.



Photos by *The Tennessean* and *The Commercial Appeal*

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CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SOMERVILLE: The town is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Administrator, whose responsibilities will include the administration of all city services and departments, including but not limited to finance and administration, personnel, budgeting, code enforcement, police, fire, natural gas, water, sanitation, streets, sewer, industrial development, recreation, planning, and zoning. The position is responsible to a seven member Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The person hired must have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field, and five years experience in local government management of multiple departments. Legislative issues, economic development, storm water operations, and planning are high priorities. The position requires a leader and a team player with excellent communication skills. The applicant must be willing to relocate to the town of Somerville corporate limits within the first year of employment. The city has an annual operating budget of \$ 9,000,000 with 48 full time employees. Salary: DOQ, plus excellent benefits, including automobile expenses. Send letter of application, resume, and salary demand to: Town of Somerville, Attention Judy Sides, Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 909, Somerville, TN 38068. References will be checked. Position open until filled, priority to those resumes received by June 4th, 2010.

Somerville is in compliance with the Title VI Civil Right Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF
CARTHAGE. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Fire Chief. Twenty-one (21) firefighters, (1) administrative staff. To plan, direct, manage and oversee the activities and operations of the Fire Department including fire suppression, hazardous material mitigation, fire and life safety code compliance, emergency management and emergency medical services and administrative support services. Experience: Ten (10) years extensive experience with at least four (4) years experience at rank of Lieutenant or higher is desirable; Education: BA Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or Fire Science. Salary Range starts at \$49,637 +benefits DOE&Q. Detailed job description available upon request. Send resume and five (5) references to: Tom Short, City Administrator, City of Carthage, 326 Grant St., Carthage, Missouri 64836 by June 11, 2010.

ACCEPTING BIDS
Marshall County and its four municipalities, Lewisburg, Chapel Hill, Cornersville and Petersburg, are taking proposals for a local planning service. For a copy of the RFP, contact Don Nelson at 931- 359-0567 or Greg Lowe at 931-359-1544. A Pre-Proposal conference with prospective local planning services will be held on May 28 beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Marshall County Courthouse Annex Building located on the South Side of the Lewisburg Square. Proposal Opening will be held June 4 at 2 p.m.

Senate rejects bid to block federal aid

FEDERAL AID *from Page 1*
said.
His provision would also have barred the Federal Reserve from providing emergency funding to those state and local governments.
After critics said the amendment could block aid to states struggling from the results of a natural disaster, Gregg modified his measure to ensure that states and local

governments could receive federal aid for relief efforts.
But Senate Banking Chairman Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., still said the amendment's wording was too vague and that it could end up barring funds for needed social programs. "The idea that we'd be depriving states of these resources would only be exacerbating the problem," he said.

TML Board to meet June 12, 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. at the Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg Room A & B for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Thursday, June 10, 2010, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.

Bond Fund Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. EDT in the Board Room of the Gatlinburg Convention for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before said board. Some members of the Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Thursday, June 10, 2010, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, Nashville, Tenn. Additional information may be obtained from Lisa Shelby, at 615-255-1561.

Sustainability Fair, recycled cooking oil help bring Crossville's energy goals to life

CROSSVILLE *from Page 1*
Ideas were assigned to five task groups under the headings of: energy, natural community, local economy, healthy community, and community information. The sustainability fair is just one of the projects conceived during the process. "When I was growing up, conservation was a way of life. We saved everything we touched," said Graham. "Because our teachers are teaching renewable energy and recycling today, we'll be better off for it when these children are adults."

On Earth Day 2010, the Mayor unveiled the community's report: *Sustainability Vision 2015*, which is a work in progress. "Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and that's the city's goal with this initiative," said Graham. The city's sustainability initiatives can be viewed at the website <http://crossvilletn.gov>.

Another major step toward energy efficiency brought city officials to Hoover AL., a city of about 75,000, that has produced more than 20,000 gallons of bio-diesel since March 2007. The field trip convinced Crossville officials to jump on board with their own recycling program collecting used cooking oil from citizens, restaurants and the school system.

"The bio-diesel project will be a win-win situation on many fronts," Graham said. "It will benefit our businesses and residents and is another step in the city's continuing initiative to be as environmentally friendly as possible."

Working with Bio-diesel Logic, Inc., Begley said Crossville's new bio-diesel generator should be powering municipal equipment such as mowers, graders and dozers with bio-diesel made from recycled household cooking oil by the end of summer. A \$12,000 state grant will



Students attending Crossville's Sustainability Fair saw displays and demonstrations of the latest green technologies designed to make households and businesses more energy efficient.

help make the current machinery compatible with bio-diesel. The system will be housed at the city's maintenance garage and drop-off points for used cooking oil will be established across the community.

City officials are excited that the project will also cut down on the amount of grease in the city's sewer systems. According to experts, even after emptying used cooking oil into a container, washing a pot or pan without wiping out the excess grease can put as much as a tablespoon of oil into the sewer system.

Officials estimate that based on the number of households in Crossville's city limits, that adds up to 75 fifty-five gallon drums of oil a year.

Crossville is in good company in their initiative. The city of



Crossville's bio-diesel generator will transform recycled household grease into biodiesel fuel to run municipal machinery.

Clarksville has also purchased a biodiesel system and will operate public transit vehicles and other local government vehicles with bio-diesel.

Does Health Care Reform affect cities?

HEALTH CARE *from Page 1*
pate in statewide risk pools through which they can provide health insurance to their employees, retirees and their families.

Third, the new law is not without its controversial requirements, including a requirement that employers pay penalties if they decide not to provide their employees with health insurance; minimum coverage standards that apply to all health plans; public statewide health insurance exchanges, where health insurance will be sold to individuals and small businesses of 100 or fewer employees; and a 40 percent excise tax on "Cadillac" health care plans that exceed a certain dollar level of benefits beginning in 2018.

Fourth, while nothing in the law has surfaced that would likely force cities and towns to dramatically change the ways in which they currently provide health insurance to their employees, cities and towns, like all employers, will have to meet

the following requirements over the next several years:

- Local governments that self-insure will have to demonstrate in about two years that their self-insurance plans are sufficiently funded or capitalized to cover all likely medical claims.
- The health care insurance local governments provide, like that provided by all employers, will need to meet coverage minimums as outlined in the law and will be established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- All plans will have to provide, at a minimum, an "essential health benefits package" that will provide each insured person with a comprehensive set of services that covers no less than 60 percent of the cost of the covered benefit. The "essential health benefits package" components will be defined and annually updated by the secretary of Health and Human Services, but will have to include hospitalization and gen-

eral health care by primary and specialty physicians.

- Under the law, out-of-pocket expenses for any plan will be limited to no more than \$6,000 for an individual and \$12,000 for a family and all plans will have to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for lower-income individuals and households by nearly 40 percent, without increasing overall costs.
- Public sector employers, like all employers, may opt out of providing employees with health benefits, but if they do they must either provide subsidies for the purchase of insurance or may face penalties as high as \$3,000 per full-time worker depending on the nature of non-compliance.
- A 40 percent excise tax will apply to employer-sponsored health plans with premiums exceeding \$10,200 for single coverage, \$27,500 for a family plan, \$11,850 for retirees, and \$30,950 for employees in high-risk professions such as police officers and firefighters.

While some of these changes may not go into effect until 2018, there will be a number of immediate changes that will make a huge difference in the quality of health care coverage.

Health insurance will no longer be able to exclude some children because of a pre-existing condition or drop individuals from coverage because they become seriously ill. Lifetime limits on benefits will have to be eliminated, as will restrictive annual limits and all plans will have to cover enrollees' dependent children until age 26.

All new plans will have to cover preventive services and immunizations without any type of cost-sharing and insured consumers will have to have access to an effective appeals process. Finally, the federal government will establish a temporary \$5 billion program that will help pay the medical bills for early retirees like police officers and firefighters who have health insurance provided by their former employers.

Over the next several months, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor, and the Internal Revenue Service will publish interim and final regulations governing the implementation of the health care reform law. NLC will monitor the development of those regulations to help ensure they take into account a local government perspective and will keep you informed each time a new and important regulation is promulgated

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Associate Profile: First Tennessee



First Horizon National Corporation, parent company of First Tennessee Bank, is a premier financial services company with a long history of success and traditions dating back to 1864. For more than 145 years, First Tennessee has provided full-service financial services to customers across Tennessee. Today, the company, one of the top 30 bank holding companies in the U.S., is known for exceptional customer service and a deep commitment to our people. The strong relationships we forge with our customers and employees provide the foundation for our future success as we grow our strong, community-focused regional bank and develop our specialty businesses in selected mar-

kets. Our 6,000 employees work hard every day to improve our products and services for more than one million individual and business customers. Being a good corporate neighbor is important to us. The way we interact with our communities is based on our culture, which we call Firstpower – working together to take ownership in everything we do and having the freedom to make decisions that directly benefit our employees, customers, shareholders and communities. The same Firstpower effort we put into making our business successful is also applied to social responsibility and community investment. First Tennessee/ First Horizon

National Corp (FHN) has been recognized as one of the nation's best employers by AARP, Working Mother and Fortune magazines. FHN also was named one of the nation's 100 best corporate citizens by CRO magazine. In 2008, First Tennessee was further honored by the Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. by being named to THE BCA TEN: Best Companies Supporting the Arts in America for 2008.

With more than 200 offices across the state, First Tennessee is the leading full-service provider of financial services in the 17 Tennessee counties in which we do business, offering deposit products, loans, investments, insurance, financial planning, trusts, asset management, credit cards and cash management services. First Tennessee offers expanded evening and Saturday hours to provide added convenience to our customers.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.firsttennessee.com



June 11-19: Chattanooga Riverbend Festival
A nine-day music festival located on the 21st Century Waterfront along the Tennessee River. Six stages of world class entertainment, 100 artists ranging from classic rock and jam bands, to country, urban and bluegrass. Highlights include a Children's Village, 5K & 10K runs, Starfighter Jet flyovers and a fireworks finale'. For more information visit: www.riverbendfestival.com

June 18-19: Oak Ridge Secret City Festival
Held at A.K. Bissell Park, includes daytime activities, historic displays, evening concerts, and off-site events presented by the city of Oak Ridge, the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Arts Council of Oak Ridge. The theme is "From the 40's to the Future." Features festival food; Chubby Checker and the 50th Anniversary of The Twist, Daryl Stuermer, Genesis Re-wired, expanded areas for toddlers, children, and teens; the south's largest WWII Reenactment; Oak Ridge history exhibits; Manhattan Project site tours; regional exhibitors and vendors; arts and crafts; *TN Creates* juried arts show; antiques and collectibles, Snoopy as the WWI Flying Ace exhibit at the American Museum of Science & Energy, and the 65th Anniversary of the End of WWII with special tours of Y-12, K-25 and X-10 facilities. For more information, visit the website www.secretcityfestival.com or call the information line at 865-425-3610.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Nearly three million overseas and military voters from at least 33 states will be permitted to cast ballots over the Internet in November using e-mail or fax, in part because of new regulations proposed by the federal agency that oversees voting. The move comes as state and federal election officials are trying to find faster ways to handle the ballots of these voters, which often go uncounted in elections because of distance and unreliable mail service. About 22 percent of military and overseas voters surveyed were unable to return their ballots in the 2008 election because of such problems, according to the Overseas Vote Foundation, a non-

partisan advocacy group. Cybersecurity experts, election officials and voting-integrity advocates, however, have raised concerns about the plan. They point out that e-mail messages can be intercepted, that voting Web sites can be hacked or taken down by malicious attacks, and that the secrecy of ballots is hard to ensure once they are sent over the Web.

Gas prices are poised to fall as Memorial Day approaches, a welcome change for motorists who have gotten used to seeing increases cut into their summer vacation money. Experts who had been predicting a national average of more than \$3 per gallon by Memorial Day now say prices probably

have peaked just beneath that threshold. Rising supplies and concerns about the global economy have helped send wholesale gasoline prices plummeting by 22 cents a gallon since last week. "Gasoline supplies are about as good as they've ever been going into the summer driving season," said oil analyst Phil Flynn of PFGBest in Chicago. The decline in prices is starting to filter down to motorists, but it will take several weeks for the full effects to be reflected in pump prices, which average \$2.90 nationwide. By summer, the nationwide average could be below last summer's peak of around \$2.70 a gallon, according to Oil Price Information Service. In July 2008, the retail price of regular gasoline peaked at \$4.11.

TML legislative initiatives approved

LEGISLATION from Page 1
Fuel stabilization bill
This legislation provides local governments with authority to enter into and renew fuel hedging contracts, affording local governments with budget certainty and protecting against the effects of fluctuations in fuel prices.

In June of 2008, the General Assembly authorized municipalities and counties, upon the approval of the local governing body, to enter into contracts with other local governments and financial institutions for the purpose of stabilizing the net expense incurred in the purchase of gasoline and/or diesel fuel during the 2008-09 fiscal year only. In 2009, lawmakers voted to extend this contract authority to June 30, 2011.

The extension adopted in 2009 was enacted on May 12 and provided only for those contracts that were to terminate on or before June 30, 2011. As a general rule, these contracts cover a period of at least two years. Therefore, any municipality seeking to enter into a contract for the purpose of stabilizing the net

expense of fuel purchases would have had from May 12 to June 30, 2009, or just 20 business days, to exercise this authority.

Local governments seeking to enter into one of these contracts after June 30, 2009, would require a contract that covered less than the standard industry minimum of 24 months and, thus, would have been unable to find a willing partner in the financial industry. This would have precluded local governments from exercising this authority until after June 30, 2011.

Administrative Codes Officers
This bill offers certain cities the opportunity to create an administrative process—modeled after the state administrative hearing procedures—to promote compliance with building and property maintenance codes. Under current law these hearings are held in municipal court and fines are up to \$50. This legislation authorizes fines up to \$500. Codes officers must complete an initial training program conducted by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service within six months of appoint-

ment and six hours of continuing education in subsequent year.
Other Pending Legislation
TML's cooperative purchasing bill – SB 3194 by Sen. Lowe Finney and HB 3175 by Eric Swafford – passed unanimously in the House on April 5 and is still waiting Senate approval. The legislation provides municipalities with clear authority to participate in cooperative purchasing alliances, and thus save money through the benefits of volume discounts.

Approved Legislation
And as previously reported, the legislature has also approved two other TML initiatives. SB 2792 by Sen. Diane Black and HB 2870 by Rep. Mike McDonald will allow municipalities to receive property tax payments in installments, provided they first file a plan with the state Comptroller's office that indicates the trustee's office has the technology to receive payment of property taxes on installment. SB 2933 by Sen. Jack Johnson and HB 2842 by Rep. Charles Sargent prohibits the unauthorized use of government logos and symbols.

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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.

TML 2010 conference sessions focus on growing prosperous cities during tough economic times

Workshops scheduled for Monday, June 14

Monday, June 14

10:15 – 11:15

Concurrent Workshops

1) *Creating Healthy and Sustainable Communities for an Aging Population*

Speaker: Dr. Jim Johnson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

America and its communities are aging and aging rapidly. To respond to the rapid rise in their aging population, communities will need to provide larger street



signage, accessible housing, age appropriate fitness programs, as well as lifelong learning and job re-training opportunities. Although targeted to an aging population, these services would improve the quality of life for citizens of all ages. Many communities have some programs to address the needs of an aging population, but very few have a comprehensive assessment of what it would take to make their community “elder friendly.” This session will focus on how cities can better meet the needs of their aging population.

2) *The Top 10 list for Issuing Debt*

Speaker: Mary-Margaret Collier, Director Office of State and Local Finance

Before your city approves the issue of debt, there may be numerous questions that should be asked and answered. This session will feature a top 10 checklist of questions that should be answered prior to voting for a bond issue.



3) *Great Leaders are Great Communicators.*

Speaker: Brian J. Polansky, Ph.D.

Effective leadership requires skills of facilitation, interaction and cooperation. Learn what great leaders say to encourage cooperation, enhance professionalism, improve morale, and lead cities and municipal agencies to greater success. This workshop will identify proven strategies to implement the principles and philosophies of verbal excellence in leadership.



4) *Community Success in the New Economy*

Speaker: Dave Ivan, Community & Economic Development Specialist, Michigan State University

Our world has changed and past strategies to add vitality in our cities and towns are failing in a globalized society. Based on the successful approaches from real people in real communities, this interactive and engaging presentation provides city leaders with meaningful ideas to position their community for success in today’s new economy. Participants will learn about global trends and structural economic changes impacting community vitality and success; gain an understanding of the five pillars of success within the new economy; and learn specific strategies to attract talent, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, retain youth, and foster regional cooperation to enhance community competitiveness.

5) *Dispute Resolution*

Speaker: Thomas Stovall, Director, Chief Administrative Judge

The state’s Administrative Procedures Division provides professional administrative judges to resolve disputes between citizens and governmental agencies in an impartial manner. In the state’s fiscal year of 2007/2008, more than 5,000 hearings were docketed or scheduled, including property tax appeals and

cases that involved the Department of Environment and Conservation, to name a few. Come learn about how this state service can benefit your local government.

2:15 – 3:15 Workshops

6) *Health Care Reform Update*

Speaker: Mark Morgan, President, Sherrill Morgan

This presentation will address your questions and concerns about the new Health Care Reform Act. Learn the immediate and long term effects this legislation could have on employer group health plans. The specific areas that will be covered are: exchanges and effects on insurance industry; plan design & administrative mandates; and financial implications for employers.

7) *Navigating the Fiscal Crisis*

Speaker: Toni Shope, Regional Director, Alliance for Innovation

Elected officials have the responsibility to govern their communities wisely and link residents to the governmental process. The current fiscal crisis that is threatening local governments makes these tasks harder but even more important. Citizens look to elected officials to address serious problems, not just hunker down and wait out the storm. The Alliance for Innovation has looked at the current financial crisis and reviewed strategies that local governments used to address the challenges of past economic recessions. The current economy has made it essential that local governments approach all aspects of service in new ways and utilize the crisis as an opportunity to change their organizations. This session will show city officials how to focus on the most important programs and services and encourage changes that will make communities stronger in the future.

8) *On the Frontline: Media Communications in a YouTube World*

Speakers: Brad & Janet Ritter
Brad Ritter Communications

The pressure on municipal leaders to communicate with their constituencies has never been greater, nor more challenging. Financial shortfalls, combined with an increasingly critical public and media, require leaders to have a strong understanding and command of media communications skills. This interactive, two-part workshop combines presentations with hands-on, table-top exercises and even mock media encounters. Each session will have a separate focus. Attendees are encouraged to participate in both portions, but each will be presented as a stand-alone program for those who can attend only one.



Session 1: Working Effectively with Today’s Media will cover: media trends and implications for municipal leaders; managing media opportunities and challenges; dealing with bloggers and green reporters; and conducting print, web and electronic interviews.

9) *TTDC: A Catalyst for Innovation and Economic Growth*

Speaker: James Stover
Director of Capital Formation

Tennessee Technology Development Corporation is an economic development organization focused on transformational strategies that create jobs and wealth in Tennessee. Designed to improve the statewide business climate for innovation and entrepreneurship, TTDC serves as a complement to ongoing business recruitment and expansion efforts of state and local officials. Come learn how public-private approaches can lead to innovative economic development.

10) *Building Codes and the Tennessee Clean Energy Act*

Speaker: Jim Pillow, TN State Fire Marshall and Assistant Commissioner of Fire Prevention

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) oversees building codes and plays a central role in implementing the Governor’s vision of safer and more-energy-efficient homes in Tennessee. Through the work of Governor’s Task Force on Energy Efficiency, TDCI helped develop a minimum one- and two-family residential code to protect all the citizens of Tennessee.



3:30 – 4:30 Workshops

11) *Partners for Health: State Group Insurance Benefits*

Speaker: Brian Haile, deputy director of Benefits Administration

Comprehensive, affordable and dependable health care coverage is becoming hard and harder for the state of Tennessee to provide to its members. Health care costs are rising while state revenues are falling. The State’s solution for preserving affordable and dependable coverage is to reduce plan costs by making changes to the health insurance options. The new plans will help members get and stay healthy, and therefore, reduce unnecessary use of health care services, while providing a more efficient delivery of care. This workshop will focus on what’s changing and what will remain the same in 2011.

12) *Navigating the Fiscal Crisis Session 2: Resilient Response to the Fiscal Crisis*

This session will focus on specific case study examples that address six strategies that local governments are focusing on to better position themselves to meet the demands of the future. The six strategies are: reassessing community priorities; re-engineer your organization; fix structural deficits; advance technological solutions; increase revenue partnerships; and manage flexibility and transparency. Participants will also have an opportunity to share their own success stories.

13) *On the Frontline: Media Communications in a YouTube World Session 2: Crisis Communications*

will cover analyzing your city’s vulnerabilities; what to do before a crisis strikes; and crisis communications strategies.

14) *Estate Planning*

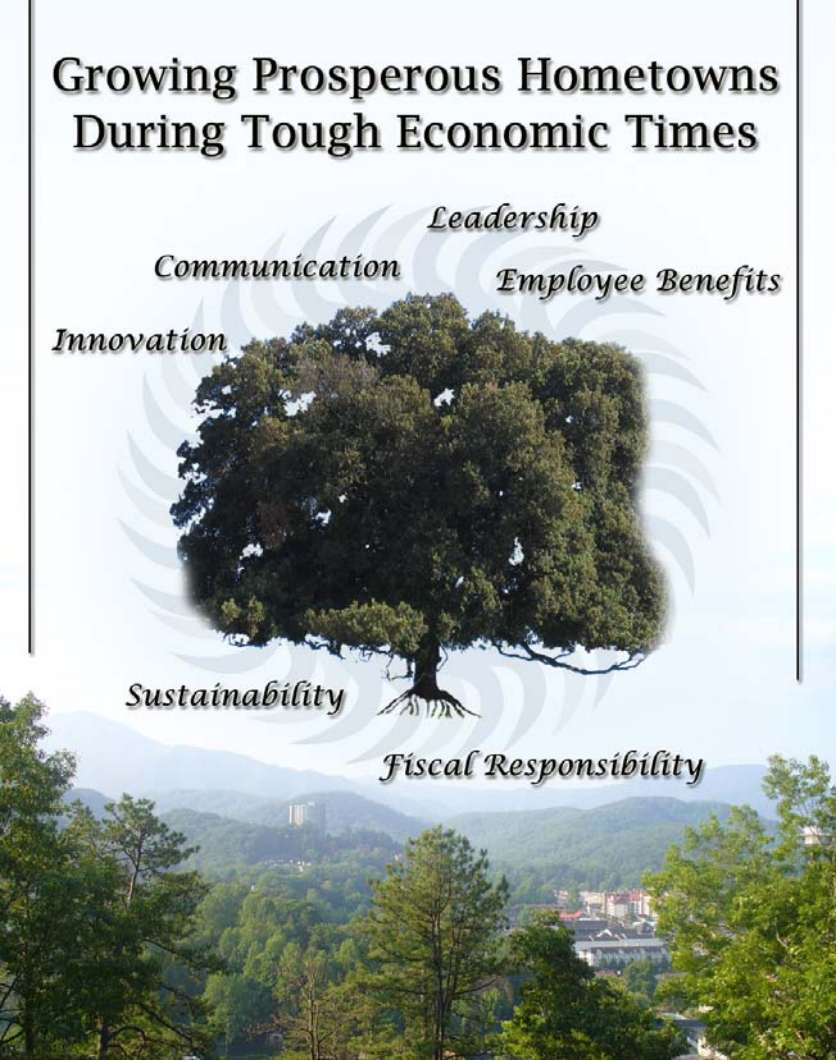
Speaker: Angelia Morie Nystrom, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz

Every person, no matter how rich or how poor, can benefit from effective estate planning. Estate planning refers to the continuing process of coordinating an individual’s financial affairs to secure the greatest economic security for the individual during his or her life and for his or her family at death. For some, estate planning may amount to little more than preparation of a simple will. For others, it may involve a more complex scheme. For all, however, an effective estate plan can bring peace of mind.

15) *Murphy’s Law is Not Your Friend: the Basics of Local Government Liability*

Speaker: Judy Housely, Loss Control Consultant, TML Risk Management Pool

Is your estate adequately protected from unnecessary liability claims? Have you addressed the risk management needs of your organization for the complex operations it undertakes? In this session, we will address legal liability, insurable interests and how to identify and address exposures. We will also discuss critical insurance issues, including exclusions, as well as current loss trends in claims and the loss control techniques that can be employed to protect your city.



New Conference Highlights

Welcome Reception

Saturday, June 12 • 7 - 11 p.m.
Summit Manor Event Hall, 125 Leconte Creek Road

Come enjoy a fun evening of dancing and karaoke. Sponsored by TML vendors.

The Municipal Feud Game

Sunday, June 13 • 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Center Stage in the Exhibit Hall.

Come test your knowledge of Tennessee Trivia. You must be a registered municipal official to play the game.

To register, go to the League’s website: www.TML1.org. Please make checks payable to TML Annual Conference and mail to:
TML Municipal League, Attn: Annual Conference,
226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219
For questions, please contact Sylvia Trice at (615) 425-3903
Fax # (615) 255-6488 / Email: strice@TML1.org

Cutoff date for making your hotel reservations is **May 27, 2010.**

Schedule At-A-Glance

Saturday, June 12		Monday, June 14		
1- 5 pm	MTAS / EOA	8 - 8:45 am	Breakfast	
7 - 9 pm	Reception	9 - 10 am	General Session	
		10:15-11:15 am	Workshops	
		11:30 - 12:15	Business Meeting	
		12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch	
		2:15 - 3:15 pm	Workshops	
		3:30 - 4:30 pm	Workshops	
		6:30 - 11 pm	Pool Party	
Sunday, June 13		Tuesday, June 15		
9- 5	Registration	8 - 10	Annual Awards Breakfast	
10:30 -11 am	Feud Game			
11-11:45 am	Vendor Workshop			
12 noon	Lunch			
1 -2 pm	Vendor Workshop			
2:15-2:45 pm	Vendor Workshop			
3 - 3:30 pm	District Meetings			
4 - 5:30 pm	General Session			
6:30- 8:30 pm	Host Reception			

Pre-TML Conference Session an Elected Officials Academy Event Retail Economic Development

Saturday, June 12 • 1 - 5 p.m
Gatlinburg Convention Center (Meeting Rooms 2-3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION – In today’s competitive world to attract retail development, it is important that each city knows how to compete. This course focuses on the “basics” of how to attract retail business to your city. It provides numerous tips on how to maneuver in the world of retail development and to be competitive. To assist cities in preparing themselves for economic development, it also introduces a detailed economic assessment tool and provides assistance in its completion and use. This class will provide the participants information that will have immediate and long term benefits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – Upon completion of this course you will be able to:1. Explain the advantages of retail business to municipalities and broadly assess what is needed to attract retail businesses to communities.2. Conduct an economic development needs analysis of your specific municipality using the MTAS Economic Development Assessment tool.3. List local, state, regional, and federal resources available to assist municipalities in the area of economic development.4. List the action items in developing an economic development action plan.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND – This event is open to all municipal officials. You do not have to be a graduate of the Elected Officials Academy to attend this event.
COST – \$50, which includes all materials and refreshments.

To register for this course, contact
UT- Municipal Technical Advisory Service
Attention: Sandy Selvage, TML Pre-Conference session
120 Conference Center Building • Knoxville, TN 37996-4105
Phone: (865) 974-9844; Fax: (865) 974-0423
To register online visit www.mtas.tennessee.edu