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A jubilant Mayor Tom Rowland celebrates with ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber, Cleveland officials and Whirlpool executives following Whirlpool's announcement that the company planned to replace its century old facility with a new \$125 million, LEED certified plant.

Keeping industry at home

Giant— Whirlpool— sticks with Cleveland

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Today's shifting economy presents an economic balancing act for the most seasoned of local governments. Despite U.S. domestic manufacturing and reshoring trends, retaining industry on the home front, while beckoning new business opportunities takes frequent and frank assessments, strong partnerships and a willingness to go the distance,

something Cleveland, in Bradley

County, knows from experience.

As the state's 5th largest industrial city and home to 12 Fortune 500 manufacturers, once again, the city of Cleveland has received a vote of confidence from a major corporation. The county's largest employer, Whirlpool Corporation of Benton Harbor, Michigan, will reaffirm its long-standing alliance with Cleveland and Bradley County by building a brand new \$125 million, 1-million-square-foot, LEED certified plant and 400,000 square foot distribution facility at the corner of Benton Pike and Michigan Ave.

The plant, which will produce innovative, energy efficient cooking products, will add 130 jobs to Whirlpool's current workforce of 1,500 and replace the company's century-old manufacturing facility at 740 King Edward Ave. Construction is set to begin by the fourth quarter of 2010, and the company expects to be online by 2012.

In 2009, alone, the state welcomed more than 21,000 new jobs and \$6 billion in new capitol. Now, Whirlpool rounds out a series of announcements, Volkswagen's auto assembly plant in Chattanooga and a

cutting-edge polysilicon factory, Wacker Chemical, to be built in Bradley County, confirming the manufacturing allure and viability of East Tennessee.

"The best compliment a city can have is when a company decides to expand instead of moving some place else," said Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland. "Whirlpool has seen the quality of the workforce in Cleveland and sees it is a community they can do business with and a community that really wants them here as well."

In 2008, Rowland, Whirlpool and the city's seven-member Industrial Development Board (IDB) were faced with a major dilemma, flooding at the 100-year old facility. "Flooding was taking place when there was a heavy rain," explains Rowland. "When the plant flooded, they would have to close, people couldn't work and they lost a lot of merchandise. We immediately started the wheels turning with the state and federal government, including Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matt Kisber and U.S.Congressman Zack Wamp. We were able to get three detention ponds that not only stopped flooding at the plant itself, but the general neighborhood."

According to Rowland, it was the first step in getting Whirlpool's attention that the community wanted them there and was ready to work with the corporation in any way necessary. The second opportunity came when Oxford, Mississippi offered heavy incentives for Whirlpool to relocate the Cleveland plant to their city.

See WHIRLPOOL on Page 5

FY2011 Transportation and Housing bill passes U.S. House, awaits Senate action

Prior to the August recess, the U.S. House passed H.R. 5850, the FY2011 appropriations bill for federal transportation and housing programs, by a vote of 251 to 167. The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Following are highlights of the

legislation: **Transportation**

The most contentious debate in the House centered on a proposed transfer of \$200 million from highway programs to fund new Livable Community grants. Representatives agreed to an amendment specifying that these funds would not become available to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) until Congress passes a reauthorization of federal surface transportation legislation, which expired in September 2009.

The House boosted funding for federal highway programs to \$45 billion, an increase of \$4 billion above the President's request and \$3 billion more than in FY2010. Other program funding levels approved by the House include: \$400 million for the TIGER grant program, less than the \$600 million allocated for the program in FY2010; \$1.4 billion for high-speed rail programs; \$1.79 billion for Amtrak; and \$8.36 billion for federal transit programs, such as transit formula and bus grants. The bill rejects the Administration request for \$4 billion for a proposed National Infrastructure Innovation and Financing Fund. Several amendments to cut funding for all housing and transportation and Amtrak funding were also rejected. **Housing**

The House maintained overall Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding at \$46.6 billionnearly \$1 billion more than the President requested-and agreed with the Appropriations committee's decision to maintain funding for existing housing programs at the expense of new initiatives proposed by the President. The bill maintains \$19.5 billion for the Section 8 Tenantbased rental assistance program; \$4 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Program; \$200 million for HOPE VI program for public housing; \$2.1 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants; and \$150 million for the Sustainable **Communities Initiative**

Although NLC is encouraged that the House defeated most amendments that would have reduced funding for federal programs important to cities, ongoing concerns over the federal deficit mean that fiscal conservatives in Congress will continue pursuing opportunities to cut funding as the appropriations process moves forward.

For more information, contact Mike Wallace, wallace@nlc.org, 202.626.3025 or Leslie Wollack, wollack@nlc.org, 202.626.3029.

ML

TML Policy Committees will meet on Wednesday, Oct 20, at 10 a.m. in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville. This meeting will begin the process by which TML's legislative priorities are established for the first session of the 107th General Assembly that begins in January 2011

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

A TML Policy Committee registration form must be completed and returned for those who will participate. An online form can be found on the website at www.TML1.org

Categories for Submissions

Since this is the beginning of a legislative session, each committee will establish a new agenda and separate the issues into three catego-

Policy Day set for Oct. 20

ries: "Non-Controversial," "Here and Now," and "Over-the-Horizon."

Non-controversial – These should be simple, straightforward changes that are unlikely to garner any opposition and that will not pass on costs to the state or counties. Examples would include technical corrections, elimination of obsolete and/or duplicitous laws, rules and regulations, simplifying or streamlining state and municipal processes.

Here and Now – This category would include any initiative that must be pursued this year/session to provide immediate benefit, assistance, clarification and/or relief from existing statutes or regulations or to avoid being harmed by impending statutory or regulatory action.

Over-the-Horizon – Those issues that pose a future challenge or present a future threat to cities. Initiatives in this category are not intended for passage this year or next but legislation would be filed this year with the hope of initiating debate and raising the profile of such

issues among TML members, the General Assembly, the press and the public.

Only those initiatives sponsored by a city/town and submitted, in writing, to TML by Friday, Oct.1, will be considered by the policy committees. A city may either send their policy initiative directly to TML or submit their initiative to TML via their MTAS consultant.

Should you elect to submit your proposal via your MTAS consultant, you should note that MTAS will not accept any policy submissions after Friday, Sept. 24. Any proposals prepared after Sept. 24 must be submitted directly to TML by the Oct. 1 deadline.

Each submission must include a summary of the problem, a description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities pursuing the proposed action. A "Proposed Legislative Initiative Form" must be completed and submitted by Oct. 1.

Presenting Initiatives to Policy Committees – The sponsoring city See POLICY on Page 3

Mayors charged up over electric cars

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Recharging electric vehicles will become commonplace in the Memphis region, if a group of mayors in Shelby County have their say. As part of the Promoting Electric Vehicles Act, city mayors throughout the region jointly signed their names on an application to make the Memphis metropolitan area one of 15 proving grounds in the nation for electric vehicles. The group, calling themselves the Mid-South CHARGE (Council to Help Advance the Regional Growth of Electrification,) are eager to accentuate Memphis' reputation as a transportation hub.

"The energy policy and transportation policy of this region and our nation is not going to be perfected on a county-by-county and city-by-city basis," said Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton. "It's going to be regional, particularly when it comes to the technology needed to make electric cars and other nonfossil fuel sources of energy available to the masses."

The "Promoting Electric Vehicles Act 2010," won bi-partisan

approval by the U.S. Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee and features initiatives to increase the introduction of electric cars and trucks throughout the country, significantly reducing gas consumption and creating domestic jobs.

If chosen by Congressional Committee, select communities across the

nation will be eligible for consumer incentives and grants to help develop charging stations and convert municipal fleets to plug-in vehicles.

"Our goal should be to electrify half our cars and trucks within 20 years, which would reduce our dependence on oil by about a third, from about 20 million to about 13 million barrels a day," said U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, a proponent of the bill.

Deployment communities appointed by the "Promoting Electric Vehicle Act of 2010" would help



The 5-passenger LEAF all electric car will be produced by Nissan in Smyrna in 2012.

demonstrate rapid market penetration and determine what "best practices" would be helpful for nationwide deployment of electric ve-

"Even as the city of Germantown is aggressively pursuing measures to improve our own environmental sustainability, we also need to look at the bigger picture," said Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy. "Diminishing our dependence on petroleum, particularly foreign sources, just makes sense economically and See ELECTRIC on Page 7

Shining Star Awards help celebrate Tennessee's fitness trailblazers

VICTORIA SOUTH

There's a lot of "10s" walking around Cookeville these days where residents are accepting the challenge of walking 100 miles in the "Power of 10" walking program, just one of nine quality Tennessee programs and organizations spotlighted as fitness trailblazers by the Tennessee Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health. All nine received the 2010 Shining Star Award in Nashville on August 2nd in celebration of their efforts to improve the lives of citizens of every age through

healthy initiatives.

The Tennessee Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health was created to address the health and lifestyle needs of all Tennesseans through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and to be successful, enlists the help of government agencies, businesses, communities and individuals throughout Tennessee.

The award goes to the group, agency, and program or individual who has made extraordinary efforts in promoting healthy lifestyles in the community, especially for those citizens who might otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in health and fitness activities.

The City of Cookeville received a Shining Star in the "Where We Live" category for the year round program. Two other categories include "Where We Work" and "Where We Learn."

"If you walk two miles per day, five days a week, in 10 weeks you would have walked 100 miles and



Gov. Bredesen awards Cookeville's Leisure Services with a Shining Star Award for the Power of 10 walking program. Pictured with Gov. Bredesen are: Rachel Wheaton, Commissioner Cooper, Mildred Garrett, and Rayma Ewing.

earned your entry into the 100-mile club," explains Mildred Garrett, recreation programmer at The Cookeville Department of Leisure Services. As they log the miles, participants may win various prizes including a Power of 10 T-shirt.

Under the guidance of wellness leader Rachel Wheaton, a health educator for Putnam County and White County Health departments, participants may walk outdoors, along the track, by instructional video, with weights, learn stretching exercises and calorie counts or learn how to relax with a therapeutic mas-

sage administered by LMT, Rayma Ewing. Registered nurse, Kelly Collins, of the Putnam County Health Department, is also on hand to monitor blood pressure.

"I am very excited and thrilled that we won," said Wheaton, who prepared the written description of how the program meets Shining Star Awards objectives. "This program has changed lives."

"Our Shining Star Award winners are encouraging Tennesseans to make simple changes that can lead to big improvements in the health of See STAR on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CLEVELAND

The Whirlpool Corporation of Benton Harbor, Michigan has decided to invest \$125 million in a new, one million square foot manufacturing facility to produce premium built-in cooking products in Cleveland. Company officials plan to build a new, LEED-certified manufacturing facility producing innovative, energy efficient cooking products to replace the 100-year old manufacturing plant at 740 King Edward Avenue. Whirlpool will also build a 400,000 sq. foot distribution facility on the site of the new plant, adding 130 new positions to the currently existing 1,500 manufacturing employees. Construction is expected to begin in the 4th quarter of 2010.

FARRAGUT

The town has partnered with the Tennessee Stream Mitigation Program and the University of Tennessee in a research effort aimed to improve the tools that engineers, biolo-

gists and planners use for restoring degraded streams in East Tennessee. Little Turkey Creek in Farragut has been selected for this three-year study due, in part, to its stable condition in a partially urbanized setting. At no cost to the town, this research effort involves the installation of small and large scale devices for measuring sediment load, flow rate, water stage and various other stream parameters. The small scale devices have been installed in various portions of Little Turkey Creek and are largely unnoticeable. Marked with an interpretive sign, this instrumentation will be continuously collecting data including water surface elevations, stream flow and bed load transport rates.

HENNING

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke and Tennessee Historical Commission Director Patrick McIntyre joined elected officials and members of the community August 13 for the official dedication of the Alex Haley House and Museum



The upcoming Hyperflite Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championship will be held Sept. 25-26 at AT&T Field in Chattanooga. The free event features the top canine disc teams from around the world battling for World Championship titles in five divisions. The Championship series consists of more than 100 competitions held in the U.S., Japan, Canada and Europe.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee Revenue Commissioner Reagan Farr has left his administration to return to the private sector following his



tenure at the Department of Farr Revenue, which began in 2003. Farr was named commissioner in 2007.

Tennessee's Economic and Community Development department has named Jamie Stitt as Three-Star Director. Prior to



being named director of the Three-Star program, Stitt served ECD as a Regional Economic Development Specialist and was Joint Economic and Community Development Director for Marshall County.

Victor Ashe, former Knoxville mayor and U.S. Ambassador to Poland, has been appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the federal agency that supervises all U.S. civilian

international



Ashe

broadcasting. Ashe was a former member of the Tennessee Municipal League Board and served as the League's president in 1996.

Tracy Trott has been selected as the new Colonel of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Department of Safety. A resident of Rutherford County, Trott replaces Colonel Mike Walker, who has retired after 30plus years of distinguished service. Trott has served as a

member of the THP



Walker

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since 1978 as a road trooper, county enforcement sergeant and troop lieutenant.

Interpretive Center. The 6.500square-foot Interpretive Center, owned by the Tennessee Historical Commission, features interactive exhibits, interpretive education, artifacts from Haley's life and mementos from his career. Located behind the Alex Haley House and Museum, the new center will welcome visitors to Haley's childhood home and final resting place.

JAMESTOWN

The new 725-acre Rugby State Natural Area was dedicated at Historic Rugby and the first trail in the natural area opened. The 1.2 mile Massengale Homeplace Loop Trail, funded by a \$32,200 Recreation Trail Program Grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, includes outdoor exhibits. The Massengale Homeplace, features a three-panel kiosk with original art, historic photographs and drawings and extensive archival materials of "Uncle" Dempsey Massengale and the rest of the Appalachian family who lived on the ridge top from the 1860s to early 1900s.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City Railroad Depot will begin the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Depot Stabilization project with a transportation enhancement grant of \$211,963. The project will stabilize a historic depot building for use as a railroad museum in conjunction with East Tennessee State University along with a recreational trail. The CC&O Depot is one of two remaining depots and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

JOHNSONVILLE

A ground breaking ceremony was held recently for the new Johnsonville State Historic Park Visitor Center. Slated to open in the spring of 2011, the Visitor Center will house several interpretative displays that will detail the rich history of the area and will serve as a reminder of the important role the area played as a supply depot during the Civil War, and in Tennessee's transportation history. Located approximately three miles from the park's entrance, the new Visitor Center also will accommodate park offices and meeting space.

LEBANON

Lebanon held a ground breaking on a long-awaited, new high school on South Hartman Drive. Citizens have been pushing for a new building for years. The current school was built in the 1950s and has had several problems, including leaky roofs, mold and fire code violations.

LAKEWOOD

By one vote, residents voted to dissolve the city's charter and be governed by Metro Nashville. The issue of independence has divided locals for months and brought so many voters to the polls that two additional voting machines had to be brought to city hall. A lawsuit challenging the certified results is underway, according to commissioners, based on a belief that ballots were cast by individuals who should not have been allowed to vote along with questionable wording on the ballot.

MANCHESTER

Project Management

VIAM Manufacturing, Inc., a subsidiary of Japan Vilene, Tokyo, announced plans to expand the company's headquarters facility in Manchester. The 21,500 square foot expansion representing a \$4 million investment, will provide additional manufacturing capabilities for automotive interior products and create 34 new jobs. The expansion is expected to be complete by Oct. 1. VIAM is a producer of high quality, custom design floor, trunk and cargo mats and is a supplier for many big automotive companies, including Nissan North America, Inc.



Several members of the Tennessee Historical Commission attended the recent dedication of the Alex Haley House and Museum Interpretive Center in Henning. Pictured left to right: Norman J. Hill, Executive Director Patrick McIntyre, Joanne Cullom Moore, Ronald A. Walter and Theodore B. "Tim" Sloan. Not pictured is Derita Coleman Williams.

MEMPHIS

American Snuff Co. is laying off 45 people and releasing tax incentives it was awarded in 2009 to create new jobs. The company, a division of Reynolds American Inc. announced in late May that it would expand its Memphis operation and open a \$133 million facility in January 2012. Those plans are still in place, according to American Snuff. The new facility will house the company's manufacturing, research and development and headquarters operations. The 45 layoffs primarily are occurring in the company's service departments, including human resources, information management and trade marketing.

MT JULIET

Mt. Juliet is the only city in Tennessee to earn the distinction of being a 2010 Playful City USA. The KaBOOM! organization, a national nonprofit dedicated to getting kids back outside for playtime and taking measures to fight childhood obesity. Since 2007, cities that have earned the Playful City designation have been awarded \$3.8 million in recreation grant funding.

NASHVILLE

The Grand Ole Opry is returning home to the Opry House at Gaylord Opryland a few days earlier than expected after historic flooding the first weekend of May inundated many of Gaylord's Nashville properties. The Opry, a major tourist draw that has been held in alternate locations since the flooding, returns

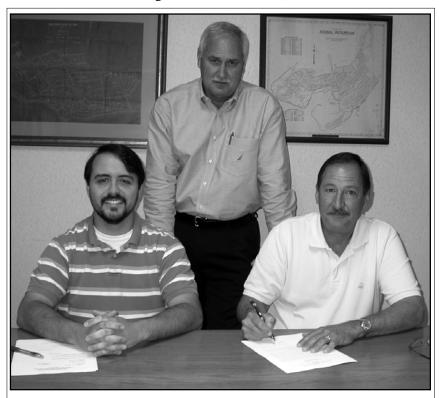
to the Opry House Sept. 28 for an Alist show. The show will be broadcast on Nashville-based cable network Great American Country and followed by events throughout the month of October in celebration of the Opry's 85th anniversary.

NASHVILLE

A comprehensive study on bicycle and pedestrian mobility by the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has been awarded the "best project" honor by the national Planning Council on the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study included input from more than 2,100 individuals who helped establish the plan, which includes an all-inclusive vision for improving the overall climate for walking and bicycling across the MPO's seven-county planning area. This is the first time ITE has given the honor to a project focused exclusively on non-motorized modes.

SHELBYVILLE

SMW Automotive, a Tier 1 supplier of automotive chassis and suspension parts and subassemblies, will open a production facility in Shelbyville. The 131,000 square foot Bedford County plant will represent a \$26 million capital investment by the company and will create 170 jobs over five years. Michiganbased, SMW, has eight manufacturing plants in the US and other operations in Europe, South America and Asia. Production is scheduled to get underway this fall.



The town of Signal Mountain closed a \$600,000 loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used for vehicle replacement. Pictured are (L to R): Mark Johnson, Signal Mountain finance director/and recorder; Steve Walker, TML Bond Fund representative; and Bill Lusk, Signal Mountain mayor.

Town&City_

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BY TML STAFF REPORTS

A year after suffering record investment losses, many of the nation's largest public pension plans are reporting double-digit percentage gains for the budget year that ended June 30. Although the improved returns in fiscal 2010 did not wipe out the damage funds suffered in the previous two years, the figures confirm how the financial industry has been stabilized and liquidity has increased since the Wall Street crisis battered state pension plans. A review of 20 public employee pension plans in 19 states shows preliminary returns ranging from 10.8 percent to 18.7 percent. Wilshire Associates, a Californiabased investment adviser, reports a 13.09 percent median return among public plans with more than \$1 billion in assets for fiscal 2010, compared to an 18.76 percent loss in fiscal 2009. Most state public pension systems assume an annual yield of about 8 percent.

Americans, known for moving to where opportunity lies, today are unable to uproot themselves, adding a frustrating wrinkle to the causes behind the sputtering housing market. Their lack of mobility - caused by an unwillingness, fear of or inability to sell their homes — is delaying a recovery in the housing market and contributing to higher unemployment. In a report for Washington, D.C.-based Brookings Institute, demographer William Frey said interstate migration is at its lowest level since World War II. Frey estimated that 1.6 percent of Americans moved out of state in the 12 months leading to March 2009. Frey's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data showed that Nashville, the 20th fastest-growing metropolitan area in 2008-09, grew by 1.7 percent that year, down from 2.7 percent in 2005-06, which Frey describes as the last year of "the

With federal stimulus funds set to dry up later this year and into 2011, local construction companies and national observers are anticipating another slowdown in the building industry. The situation is predicted to worsen the sector's recent job losses and hinder the region's economic recovery. As privately funded construction largely ground to a halt, many general contractors pivoted to chase publicly funded projects, an area aided by the federal stimulus package. Now those funds are set to disappear, long before anyone expects a rebound in the private sector.

TML Policy Day set for Oct. 20

POLICY from Page 1 must attend the policy committee meeting to present an initiative to the policy committee, without exception. If the sponsoring city is not present to explain the initiative, the committee will not consider the proposal. In such cases, the proposal will be forwarded to the TML Legislative Committee with the note that the sponsoring city was not present and the proposal was not reviewed, ranked or approved by the policy committee.

Lightnin' strikes twice in Tennessee

Legal moonshiners hope to propel culture, legacy

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

In the Cannon County Mountains, they have bright and growing fountains, on every hill they have a still. But you just remember, one hundred days from next November, they'll be moonshine in the Cannon County *hills.* — Uncle Dave Macon

In the first T.V. broadcast of the Grand Ole Opry in 1939, famous Cannon County resident and country music star, Uncle Dave Macon, charmed America with his sweet homespun homage to Tennessee moonshine, Cannon County Hills.

In 2010, moonshine is entering a whole new phase in Tennessee... legality. Since the change in state law easing restrictions on distiller-

been a part of the culture here," Baker said in a recent interview.

'When the law changed a year ago, I was excited to provide a glimpse of what the mountains had to offer." In addition to original unaged corn whiskey moonshine, the distillery makes other products such as apple pie and peach flavored moonshine, sweet tea moonshine, and moonshine cherries at Christmastime. An authentic working still allows visitors to learn the science of the distilling process as well as the history and lore of moon shining in East Tennessee.

Now, a united charge to create a distillery in Cannon County led by 38-year-old organic farmer Billy Kaufman at his historic 300-acre farm, Short Mountain, in Liberty, Tennessee, is bringing Uncle



Moonshining, popular In the 19th century and latter part of the 20th century, saw increased demand due to the rise of local and state-wide prohibition movements.



Photo by Patrick Murphy-Racey

Ole Smoky Distillery in Gatlinburg is East Tennessee's first legal moonshine distillery.

ies, "White Lightning," as it's affectionately called, is showing up at some most unusual places, A-list parties, trendy bars and eclectic restaurants throughout the south. Legal moonshine is inspiring next generation entrepreneurs and providing economic hope in rural areas where the product's illegal roots run deep.

Before the change, production of distilled spirits in Tennessee could only take place in Moore, Coffee, and Lincoln counties where distillers Jack Daniels, George Dickel and Prichard's Distillery operate.

In Nashville, after setting up shop in Kentucky, Corsair Artisan Distillery got the go ahead to produce liquor in Music City. A tall bottle and hip logo replace the trademark Mason jar and a 240 gallon circa 1920 copper still, which survived the prohibition era, is in operation at Corsair's new distillery, located inside a historic building on Clinton Street. Moonshine flavors Wry Moon and Pumpkin Spice are among Corsair's latest launch and offered in local bars and liquor

In July, three attorneys, Joe Baker, Tony Breeden and Cory Cottongim, created a stir in Gatlinburg when they opened East Tennessee's first legal distillery, 'Ole Smoky'at a strip mall at 903 Parkway. The business saw more than 100,000 visitors on opening week, where the trio discovered tremendous public interest, not only with the history of moonshine, but how it is made.

"I have had family members generations ago that made moonshine, and moonshine has always

Dave's lyrics back to life.

A referendum process put in place by state lawmakers in 2009, for counties that do not already allow liquor by the drink or package stores, prompted Kaufman supporters to collect the right amount of signatures, more than 800, to put the distillery idea on the ballot for the county's November 2 general election. Five hundred fifty four signatures were needed to hold the liquor referendum, which is Tennessee's first under the new state law.

"This is about jobs," said Kaufman, who is the great grandson of iconic Samsonite Luggage founder Jesse Shwayder. "It's also about tourism, revenue, and the kind of sustainability we need to preserve our way of life. We want to share our local history with the world, and we want tourism to bring new opportunities for local businesses."

With Cannon County's rich agricutural heritage, Short Mountain Farm is revered by old-timers for the quality of its moonshine, made from ice cold spring water, which still flows from three springs on the property. Kaufman is hoping to tap this renewable energy source for the distillery's operations.

"I had been looking for a way to make farming profitable," he said. "One of my strongest drives is making farming sustainable, having it make sense again. It's the best way of life there is, but that doesn't mean it makes financial sense, as it's structured now. You have to be incredibly skilled and lucky to make a living."

Heavy regulations and substantial start up costs of several hundred thousand dollars or more could be a formidable obstacle for legal moonshine distillers. "Just getting through all the red tape and hurdles makes it a community endeavor," Kaufman explains. "It's also my commitment to my community." As part of that committment, Kaufman plans to hire locally and use locally grown agricultural products. "Cannon County is full

of qualified hard working farmers, factory workers, industrious people, who are already telling me what they can do," he said. "It's a great time to harness this tremendous energy of a community doing something that relates to their values close to where they live."

An increased interest in Tennessee culture and heritage prompted the state Department of Tourism to launch a tourist attraction dubbed "White Lightning Trail," where drivers traverse

a network of roadways spanning hundreds of miles across nine counties in northeast Tennessee. Along the trail, vistors can travel the same routes where bootleggers in hopped up cars, transported illegal moonshine whiskey, rumored to be the inspiration for NASCAR. As tourists visit the various sites, neighbors along the way might be more than willing to swap a moonshining tale

"If people would be willing to drive a little farther, they could come



This circa 1920s copper still survived prohibition and is in operation at Corsair Artisan Distillery in Nashville.

to the place where the history of moonshine is rich and the living history of moonshine, the people, are still alive," said Kaufman. "Let me tell you, the stories here are rich. Almost everyone in Cannon County can tell you a great story about the moonshine in this area, whether it be the law enforcement against it, or their family struggle to make a living at a time when there was really no other way to make a living. It's part of this area's heritage and goes back much further than you think."

Fitness programs receive state Shining Star Awards

STAR from Page 1

our state," said Health Commissioner Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN.

"We support the efforts of groups like these to find strategies that help motivate people in their communities to become more active and lead more healthful lives.'

Other Shining Star Award winners include: Where We Live Category: Giles County Health Council and Wayne County Health Council, Where We Work Category: Freed Hardeman University Fitness for U

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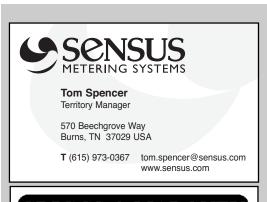
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ROANOKE, VA ASHEVILLE, NC ATHENS, GA

Wellness Program; McKee Food Worksite Wellness Program and Lenoir City School Staff Wellness Program. Where We Learn Category: Lawrence County Health Council; Roane County TNCEP Coalition Tasty Tuesday; and Fit Kids Ready for Action at East Tennessee State University.

For more information, visit the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health website http:// health.state.tn.us/governorscouncil/index.shtml

Surveying





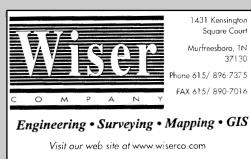
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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee has launched a new website to help keep the public informed about the "Race to the Top" education program. Located online at www.TN.gov/FirstToThe <u>Top</u>, the site includes Tennessee's application and related documents, resources for educators, school systems and vendors and other details. "Race to the Top" aims to boost student achievement by rewarding states for adopting a slate of education reforms, including common academic standards across state lines, tying teacher pay and tenure to student achievement, fixing failing schools and creating data systems to track student performance. Delaware and Tennessee were the only states to win grants in the first round of doling out funds, splitting \$600

Starting next year, homeowners in Tennessee will be able to pay variable rates for electricity, paying less over night and more during the day when power demand is **high.** The TVA board has approved the transition to so-called time-ofuse rates. Next April, TVA will allow its 155 power distributors to begin buying electricity at variable rates. It would be up to the distributor to get its customers on board. Homes and businesses would need special equipment to monitor power prices in real time. And without a little education on how to keep power use low during the middle of the day, customers could actually see more expensive bills instead of less. Overall, the move is meant to encourage conservation during times of peak demand when electricity is most expensive to produce. TVA says all distributors will have to participate by October 2012.

Mass layoffs in Tennessee ticked up in July after falling in June and earlier this year, according to a report issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the number is still lower than the year-ago month. In July, there were 23 mass layoffs, defined as a layoff of 50 or more employees by a single company. That compares to 13 in June and 27 in July 2009. For the month 1,413 people made initial claims for unem-

ployment insurance, compared with 1,140 in the prior month and 1,898 a year ago. In the first quarter of the year there were only 27 mass layoffs. That climbed to 30 in the second quarter.

The Tennessee Department of **Economic and Community Devel**opment announced the launch of a new \$50 million Energy Efficiency Loan Program to help Tennessee companies finance investments in energy efficient technology, energy retrofits and renewable energy systems. The program will be administered by Pathway Lending and will offer access to below-market rate loans, financing up to 100 percent of improvements aimed at reducing energy consumption, lowering overall costs and improving profitability. Pathway Lending plans to offer below-market rate loans at 5 percent with terms extending to 10 years. Loans can finance up to 100 percent of costs on projects including building retrofits, equipment replacements or upgrades, lighting and renewable generation projects and can be repaid with the energy costs savings derived from each project. Free informational workshops will be hosted by Pathway Lending throughout the state in September. Any business interested in applying for a loan is welcome to attend. A schedule of these events is available www.pathwaylending.org.

Business Facilities, a national economic development publication, has issued its annual 2010 Rankings Report and Tennessee, along with many cities throughout the state, has earned top honors. The Volunteer State was ranked number one in the nation for Automotive Manufacturing Strength, number two for Economic Growth Potential and number five for Best Business Climate. The key metric used in Business Facilities' 2010 rankings was growth, giving special emphasis to the growth potential of each location's economic development strategy. Other mentions Tennessee received in the 2010 Rankings Report include: fifth for Quality of Life, seventh for Cost of Labor and ninth Best Transportation Infrastructure.

A state program offering rebates for energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment is now open to applicants in Tennessee. Rebates of up to \$250 are available on a firstcome, first-served basis for residents — whether they were flooded out or not — to replace old systems with Energy Star-labeled units. Tennessee has access to \$5.9 million in federal stimulus funds for the rebates, which apply to equipment purchased on or after April 22. Other financial incentives, including a federal tax credit, are possible, too, making a swap even more attractive.

The Tennessee Education Lottery Corp. has launched a new website designed to spotlight the programs funded from the \$1.77 billion raised since ticket sales began in January 2004. The website. www.seehowitaddsup.com, offers information about the scholarships and grants available and a countyby-county breakdown of the number of students who benefit. According to Rebecca Hargrove, president and CEO, there may be students that don't know they are eligible for the funds. Visitors to the site can sign up to join a Twitter feed that will provide facts about Tennessee under the heading of "Learn Something New Every Day."

More people are falling behind on their mortgages in Tennessee, just like the rest of the nation. The Mortgage Bankers Association said 10.47 percent of the state's mortgages were past due in the second quarter, an increase from 9.89 percent in the first quarter. The national average was 9.4 percent in the second quarter. The news means more foreclosures could be ahead, even though foreclosure notices slipped in the second quarter nationally and in Tennessee. Just 0.78 percent of mortgage holders in Tennessee had foreclosures started in the second quarter, compared to one percent in the first quarter. "As we work through the bucket of troubled loans, we're seeing an increase in a new crop of troubled loans," Mortgage Bankers Association chief economist Jay Brinkmann said. "It's primarily driven by the jobs market. It still takes a paycheck to make a mortgage payment."



The Fairmount Neighborhood Historic District in Bristol represents a variety of architectural styles dating from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Eight Tennessee sites added to National Register

The Tennessee Historical Commission has announced eight Tennessee sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of a nationwide program that coordinates and supports efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic resources. The Tennessee Historical Commission administers the program in Tennessee.

"These listings highlight some of the diverse places that tell the story of Tennessee's unique history," said Patrick McIntyre, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission. "Our office is proud of its role in ensuring recognition of these time-honored places that help give Tennesseans a sense of pride in their communities."

Sites recently added to the National Register of Historic Places include:

• **Beasley Mounds** – This important archaeological site contains a prehistoric Mississippian period (A.D. 900-1450) mound complex, habitation areas and cemeteries. The property has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information on prehistoric Mississippian life ways. Special Advisory: Due to the nature of this particular archaeological site, addresses and locations of the site are not publicized.

• Fairmount Neighborhood Historic District – Containing nearly 500 buildings in Bristol, Tenn., the Fairmount Neighborhood Historic District represents a variety of architectural styles dating from the 1890s to the 1950s. The majority of the properties at this Sullivan County site are houses, with styles including Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, bungalow and Minimal Tradi-

• First Congregational Church

- Built in Chattanooga in 1905, the
First Congregational Church is a
noteworthy example of the late
Gothic Revival style in the city. The
church building was designed by
Chattanooga architects George
Adams and Charles Bearden. Large
stained glass windows with Gothic
Revival tracery and a brick, narthex
tower are primary design features of
the church. The church building
served as a religious and community
center for the neighborhood for
many years. First Congregational

Church's congregation disbanded in 2001. The building stood vacant until the current owners purchased it in 2006 and began rehabilitating it for use as an events venue.

 Long Rock Methodist Episcopal Church, South – The circa 1886 church is a one-story brick building located near Huntingdon in Carroll County. Built by local carpenter Hezekiah James Wilcox, the building's segmental arch windows, main entry and corbelled brickwork, are examples of Italianate detailing. Inside, elegant but simple details include the chancel railing, wainscoting and paneled wood of the pews. Since its construction in 1886, the church has served as a community center in this rural part of Carroll County.

Memorial Stadium – The stadium was built in Johnson City around 1933 to 1935 as a project of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Since that time, Memorial Stadium has been a central part of the city's recreation department. Many high school football games, collegiate games and practice games have been held on the field. The National Register nomination states that "the facility serves as a reminder of the changes in the construction of public venues from small and intimate community-based facilities to the larger commercialized facilities of today."

Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church – The late Gothic Revival-style Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1925 at the base of Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga. Principal design elements of the church building include the arched stained glass windows, engaged buttresses, steeply pitched roof and dark stained wood interior trim. Costing \$85,000 to build, the church was not officially dedicated until 1939 when the construction debt was paid. The First Baptist Church of Bozentown holds services there now.

Varsity Theatre – Located in Martin, the Varsity Theatre was completed and opened to the public in 1949. Designed by Speight and Hibbs, the building is important for its Art Deco and Art Moderne styling. It features the characteristic streamlined appearance of Art Moderne designs, such as the rounded edges and horizontal lines on the exterior and the Art Deco features of interior - such as the lighting and wall décor. Considered the premier theater in Martin and Weakley County, the air-conditioned, 1,000-seat theater was opened with great fanfare, including broadcasting the opening ceremonies on the radio.

• Woman's Club of Nashville – Constructed circa 1927 for John Beauregard Daniel, the Classical Revival house in Nashville is 2.5 stories, constructed of hollow-tile blocks and faced with stucco. The most prominent feature of the house is the one-bay, two-story pedimented portico with Corinthian columns.

Multi-light windows, a gabled roof with wide eaves and parapet walls on the side elevations are other character defining features. Classical Revival interior elements include marble fireplaces, original wood doors and moldings, tiled bathrooms and the main stairway. The building is important as an example of twentieth century Classical Revival design in Nashville. Used as the headquarters of the Woman's Club of Nashville since 1957, an addition was placed at the rear of the building in 1977 and the kitchen has been remodeled, with no substantial changes to the building.

For more information about the National Register of Historic Places or the Tennessee Historical Commission, please visit the website at www.tn.gov/environment/hist.

Recycling equipment grants available

The Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Solid Waste Management is accepting applications for recycling equipment grants. Grant applications are due Oct. 8, 2010.

Recycling equipment grants are available to local governments and non-profit organizations working with local governments. Grant funds may be used to purchase key pieces of equipment to establish new recycling programs, to improve existing operations or to prepare recyclable materials for transport or sale. The grant program helps encourage re-

cycling and reduces the amount of solid waste going into Tennessee landfills

This grant program was authorized by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 and is funded by the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Fund. The fund, which is administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation, receives its revenues from a state surcharge on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed in landfills and from a fee collected from new tires sold in Tennessee.

Equipment purchased through

Recycling Equipment Grants can include roll-off containers, skid loaders, shredders, balers, scales and other items. Local governments receiving recycling rebates are not eligible for this grant offering. Each recipient is required to match the state grant on a sliding scale basis.

The application deadline for the grants is Oct. 8, 2010. For more information or to obtain applications, please call Loretta Harrington at (615) 532-0086, Larry Christley at (615) 532-0744, or visit the wesite at www.tn.gov/environment/swm/grants/forms.shtml.

Cities awarded TDOT transportation enhancement grants

Gov. Bredesen joined Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely to announce the award of \$18,536,915 in transportation enhancement grants to 34 communities and the Department of Tourism to fund projects across the state.

Transportation enhancement grants are made possible through a federally-funded program administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Cities included in the grant funding are:

Clarksburg-Highway22 Streetscape—\$219,374.00 Tullahoma-Downtown Revitalization Project—\$291,752.00

Maury City- Downtown Revitalization - Phase I—\$234,039.00

ization - Phase I—\$234,039.00 Crossville- Downtown Enhancement Project—\$1,067,974.00 Glen Leven -Historic Highway

Program\$482,636.00 **Nashville**- Warner Parks Trail Linkage Improvements - Phase I— \$1,273,143.00

Parsons- Downtown Improvements - Phase III— \$702,544.00 **Dyersburg-** Downtown Improvement Project - Phase III— \$663,940.00

Decherd - Community Walkway— \$190,160.00

Winchester -Gateway Improve-

ment Project—\$584,803.00 **Milan-** Downtown Revitalization -Phase I—\$635,123.00

Tracy City- Pedestrian Traffic Enhancement Project - Phase IV—\$521,883.00

Chattanooga- Manufacturers Road/Hamm Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities - Phase I— \$1,080,148.00

Whiteville -Sidewalk Enhancement Project—\$161,957.00 Halls- Park to School Link - Phase

II— \$501,282.00

Halls- Downtown Improvement Phase III— \$200,888.00

Ripley- Downtown Improvement Project - Phase IV-B—\$741,842.00 Lenoir City- Downtown Streetscape—\$80,242.00 Jackson- East Chester Street Improvements - Phase II—

\$974,729.00 **South Pittsburg-** Riverwalk— \$72,000.00

Lewisburg- Community Walkway—\$64,800.00

Mt. Pleasant- Community Walkway - Phase II— \$259,200.00 **Clifton-** Main Street Streetscape— \$601,124.00

Martin -Downtown Improvements - Phase III—\$1,191,017.00 **Lebanon-** Cedar City Trail - Phase VI—\$500,526.00

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MTAS employees recognized for service to cities

The University of Tennessee 2010 Institute for Public Service (IPS) annual awards were presented at the Annual Conference in Murfreesboro. Among the award recipients, staff members from the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) were recognized. Warren Nevad, MTAS consultant, was presented a Vice Presidential Citation for his work with the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) of which he is executive director. The Excellence in Service to IPS Customers Award went to Margaret Norris, MTAS Municipal Management consultant. Gail Cook, MTAS Finance & Accounting consultant, received the MTAS Public Service Achievement Award. Brett Ward, MTAS Utility Operations consultant and Melissa Ashburn MTAS Legal consultant each received the Five Franklins Award and Michelle Buckner, administrative specialist, received the Horizon Award

Award recipients are pictured with IPS Vice President of Public Service Dr. Mary Jinks.







Margaret Norris







Melissa Ashburn



Cleveland keeping industry on the home front

WHIRLPOOL from Page 1

"There was a chance we would lose our plant to Oxford," Rowland said. "So we put together an incentive package with the state and came up a little better than the state of Mississippi did." In the end, Whirlpool closed the plant in Oxford, adding approximately 500 jobs to its operations in Cleveland, another exciting time for the city.

"Less than a year ago, when we received word that Whirlpool was going to add a premium range line and they wanted to be in a more modern facility, the Industrial Board immediately began putting together property," said Rowland. "We gathered several property owners, who became willing sellers, and were able to put the property package together. Whirlpool also had to have infrastructure and sewer. We were putting sewer in a new elementary school just past the site and just completed the line that went through their new property. It was almost perfect."

Rowland is also pleased that the Tennessee Department of Transportation agreed to provide an access road to the property at the state's expense. "It's good to have someone from the state to represent the governor and say we're going to do whatever it takes to make it work," he

According to Rowland, Whirlpool has stepped in to help market the old plant. "With Volkswagon suppliers looking throughout this entire area, I feel we'll have some good prospects," he said. "Just keeping the jobs you have is so important. We have a good workforce. The one thing that stood out when talking to Whirlpool officials were their employees. They attribute so much to the work ethics of the people. That's what we appreciate and try to instill in all of our people. If you go to work for somebody, give them a good days work for the dollar you get. They were impressed with that, and it's been a good working relationship."

"Tennessee's partnership with Whirlpool is a strong one and we appreciate the openness and honesty which characterized our dialogue with the company," agrees ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber. "Clearly Whirlpool believes the workforce in Southeast Tennessee and Cleveland can and does get the job done."

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) webcast "Five Keys to Positioning Your Community for Economic Success After the Fiscal Crisis is Over," stresses that recovering from a bruising economy and positioning your city for future economic growth requires strategic planning covering five points.

With a new 400-acre industrial Park close to the Volkswagen plant and the future interchange on the way in the southern part of Cleveland, Doug Berry, Cleveland/Bradley County Chamber of Commerce vice president of Economic Development will have plenty of continued practice. Born and raised in East Tennessee, Berry, an urban planner with 25-plus years in economic development experience, relocated to Cleveland about 16 months ago and also serves as a staff liaison with the Cleveland IDB.

TT&C: Does Cleveland regularly assess the community's economic strengths and weaknesses?

DB: We began a specialized assessment this past year, that is taking a comprehensive look at potential growth implications over the next 25 years based on the community's major investments and our existing pattern of development. We've tried to look at alternate approaches and do it from a capitol needs perspective.

This community has a long standing tradition of advanced and strategic planning to provide infrastructure to provide industrial sites and to adequately service them with natural gas and electricity.

Today, the thing we don't have much of is available industrial land because the successes over the last couple of years have eaten it up and that's the next step for us. I have a meeting scheduled with a community group who we've optioned property for our next business and industrial park. We're hoping to end up with that property and make it quite possibly the region's, if not the state's, first LEED certified publicly owned industrial business park.

TT&C: Where does Cleveland stand in building networks for resource sharing?

DB:Projects of this caliber don't happen without multi-jurisdictional cooperation. For example, the city and county jointly work to secure the incentive package and to both invest as governmental entities to attract and maintain the operation here. The state has played significant roles, both in economic and community development, as well as the Deptartment of Transportation. We also work with the Southeast Development District.

One entity that you don't hear about too often is the Department of Environment and Conservation. who did everything in their jurisdictional authority to help us pick up the pace in order to keep up with Whirlpool's timelines. They've got

to push a product out the door at a certain time so it can enter the market and get to their retail customers.

TT&C:Does the city foster green business activity?

DB:We have a heightened awareness for green business primarily because Wacker is coming here to build a product for the solar industry. We're still trying to figure out how to translate that into an economic development program. We've got to figure out where we can fit ourselves in and are suited to capture more of that green energy industrial opportunity.



Five keys to positioning your community for economic success after the fiscal crisis is over

BY STEVEN KOVEN AND THOMAS LYONS ICMA webcast presenters

The current fiscal crisis has many communities focused on maintaining current programs with shrinking budgets. But recovering from the economy also requires strategic planning to position your community for economic growth in the future.

Here are five strategies for economic development that will position your community for

1) Assess your community's economic strengths and weak-

Start with a full SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) assessment of your community's current business climate and ask the following key questions:

- How is your infrastructure? Do you have sufficient highways and airports for efficient transportation? Do you have any manufacturing facilities or office buildings currently in place that a business could quickly and easily move into?
- What are the key benefits of your community's location? Do you have natural resources? Are there any unique amenities that may attract a business?
- · How is your business environment? Are you business friendly? Are you willing to be flexible, i.e., give tax
- Are your citizens ready to meet the challenges that busi-

ness needs them to make? Do they have the appropriate training or education for the business you want to attract?

Only seek opportunities after a careful analysis. Leaders should also look for opportunities with federal grants or local entrepreneurs as economic building blocks in addition to attracting existing busi-

2) Build Networks for Resource Sharing

Transformation requires deep change and synergy. In order to be competitive on a global scale, local communities may need to partner to pool resources or reduce the cost of attracting business.

Communities may band together to build infrastructure, such as roads, or to provide more or highly specialized training to community members. Two or more contiguous states may unite to protect and leverage a high-value natural resource that would be attractive to investors.

The key to collaboration is to build a cooperative relationship that will increase each partner's competitiveness in the global economy. 3) Support the Development of **Entrepreneurs and Enterprisers**

Entrepreneurship should be central to any economic development plan. Small businesses currently make up 99 percent of all employers in the United States and account for about 75 percent of all net jobs. Small businesses generate wealth that is reinvested in the community, draw on local resources, and create roots to the community. In essence, encouraging entrepreneurship is a low-cost strategy for economic development.

4) Learn the Principles of Economic Development Bootstrap-ping

Economic bootstrapping is the practice of attracting investment that the economic developer can control and use to achieve community goals. This could involve simple arrangements such as attracting investors to local businesses. Entrepreneurs are natural bootstrappers, as they already have their "skin in the game," which is attractive to investors.

5) Foster Green Business Activ-

Finally, communities should be prepared to take advantage of the green revolution. Current green technologies are already in place that will cut your costs and increase efficiency, but beyond that, communities need to attract these green industries as a way of creating jobs.

Communities should ask themselves if residents are prepared to work in green jobs ranging from installation, to manufacturing, to research and development.

Editor's note: Steven G. Koven and Thomas Lynons are coauthors of *Economic Development*: Strategies for State and Local Practice. Koven is a professor of urban and public affairs and director of the masters program in public administration at the University of Louisville. Lyons is the Lawrence N. Field Family Chair in Entrepreneurship and professor of management in the Zicklin School of Business of Baruch College, City University of New



Sept. 18: Pittman Center

Heritage Day

From 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at City Hall, Webb Creek Rd. off Hwy 416. Free admission. Enjoy rides, face painting, auction, and exhibits. Visit the entertainment pavilion for clogging, "old harp" singing, gospel and bluegrass. Vendors sell jams, baskets, carvings, quilts, black smith items and much more. Enjoy delicious foods from roasted corn, fried green tomatoes and strawberry shortcake to barbeque and chicken & dumplings. Historians and genealogy experts will help trace your families' roots. For more information, call 865-436-5499 or visit www.pittmancentertn.com.

Sept. 18: Franklin

3rd Annual Celebration of Nations An open-air market held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the campus of O'More College of Design at 423 South Margin Street in historic downtown Franklin. At least 30 booths showcasing the culinary delights, handcrafted wares, art and performances of dozens of countries and cultures. Admission is free. For more information, contact Merry Sedlak at 615-794-4254, ext. 294, or email merry1208@yahoo.com.

Sept. 24-25: Tullahoma

1st Annual 41A Music & Arts Festival Historic Downtown Tullahoma. Opens at 6 p.m. and continues through the 25th until 10 p.m. Musical entertainment includes: The Dyamites, Space Capone, Jeremy Lister, How I Became the Bomb and more. Artists, food vendors and environmental, non-profit booths. For more information, visit www.41 afestival.com, the 41A Music and Arts Festival Facebook page or contact Troy McFarland at tontomc50 @ yahoo.com

Oct. 1-10 Chattanooga

River Rocks 10-day Festival Designed to celebrate the area's natural resources. Includes more than 90 events: hot air balloons in Coolidge Park, IMAX adventure films, kids activities, canoe jousting, kayak races, paddle rides, geocaching, bike rides, bird watching, rock climbing, mountain biking, trail running and much more. For the complete schedule and information, visit www.RiverRocks Chattanooga.com

Oct. 1-3 Historic Jonesborough 38th Annual National Storytelling *Festival*

A three-day extravaganza of performances by world renowned story tellers. For more information, visit www.storytellingcenter.net or call the International Storytelling Center at 800-952-8392.

Oct 1-2: Kingston

Kingston Country Fair Southwest Point, 1225 S. Kentucky Street. Crafters, car shows, music, 4-H and youth activities, baking, quilting and food competitions, tours and reenactment. For more information, call 865-376-1356.

Oct 1-2: Knoxville Hot Air Balloon Festival

Held at 10915 Hardin Valley Road. Hot air balloon glows and flights, tethered balloon rides, entertainment, crafts and kids' activities. For information, call 865-694-6400

Oct 2: Nashville

Celebration of Cultures Festival Centennial Park, 2500 West End Ave. Celebrating diversity through dance, music, food, and more. Free. For information, call 615-340-7501.

Oct 8 -9 Crossville Oktoberfest

2892 Hwy 70 East at Knights of Columbus Activity Park. German/ Polka music from three bands, great German food. For more information, call 931-707-7291.

Oct 8 -9: Lenoir City

State Bar-B-Q and Street Festival Downtown. Fun for the entire family. Bar-B-Q cook-off, car show, food. For more information, call 865-389-6106.

Oct. 9: Parrotsville 13th Annual Heritage Day

Parrott-LaRue-Myers Memorial Park. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Crafts, food, quilt show, live blue grass, pumkin carving contest, and much more. For more information, contact Sheilah Strobel, 423-623-9380.

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2010 Summary of Public Acts that affect municipalities

BY JOSH JONES MTAS Legal Consultant

Boards, Authorities & Commissions Chapter No. 1078 (HB0193/ SB0131). Medical school authorities. Amends T.C.A. Title 7 by enacting the Medical School Authorities Act of 2010. Authorizes, in a city with a population of not less than 91,800, the creation of a medical school authority upon the petition of three qualified voters. Municipality must approve the applicant's submitted charter via resolution. Grants broad power to authority including power to issue bonds for the purpose of facilitating the creation of new medical schools. Effective June 23,

Chapter No. 1126 (HB3443/ SB3415). Development authorities may be considered housing authority. Amends T.C.A. Title 13, Chapter 20 by authorizing a development authority created by private act, if so designated by its municipal housing and development authority, to be considered a housing authority for purposes of entering into economic development agreements containing tax increment financing provisions. Removes similar authority specific to Johnson City. Municipality must obtain the consent of the housing authority, if any, created by the municipality before designating a development authority as a housing authority for purposes of redeveloping blighted areas. Effective June 29, 2010.

Building, Housing & Utility Codes Chapter No. 630 (HB0378/ SB0670). Construction of school may begin while awaiting state fire

marshal approval. Amends T.C.A. § 68-120-101 by authorizing the construction of a school to begin upon the approval of building plans by a local government, while awaiting final approval of state fire marshal, where the city enforces its own codes and whose codes are the same as or more stringent than those adopted by the state fire marshal. In a conflict between the local government and state fire marshal regarding the sufficiency of local codes, the determination of the state fire marshal shall prevail. Effective March 10, 2010.

Chapter No. 749 (HB2767/ SB2645). Unlicensed contractors may not obtain lien. Amends T.C.A. Title 66, Chapter 11, Part 1 by stating that an unlicensed contractor may not obtain a lien on residential property if the jurisdiction where the work was performed requires the contractor to be licensed. Effective July 1, 2010, and applicable to liens filed for residential construction performed on or after that date.

Chapter No. 850 (HB3156/ SB3019). Swimming pool alarms required. Amends T.C.A. Title 68, Chapter 14 by requiring a pool alarm on any swimming pool installed after the effective date of this bill. Requires dealers or installers of swimming pools to post notice of this requirement in place of business. Municipality cannot issue a permit for construction or substantial alteration of a swimming pool unless the project includes a pool alarm. Makes violation a criminal offense. Requirements not applicable to public swimming pools. Effective January 1, 2011.

Chapter No. 923 (HB2827/ SB2983). Community groups may remedy overgrown lots in Shelby County. Amends T.C.A. § 6-54-113 by authorizing a municipality in a county with a population in excess of eight hundred thousand (800,000) to, via resolution passed by a 2/3 vote of the governing body, allow a community organization to remedy overgrown vacant lots. City must contract with community group. Purports to relieve municipality from liability for injury to or actions of community group and its members. Effective July 1, 2010.

Business Regulation

Chapter No. 614 (HB0950/ SB1092). Local regulation of nutritional information posting prohibited. Amends T.C.A. § 68-14-303 by prohibiting a non-elected body of any city, county or metropolitan government from enacting any legislation, rule or regulation pertaining to the nutritional information or menu of any food service establishment. States that the Department of Health is responsible for implementing any subsequent federal legislation regarding nutritional information at food service establishments. Effective February 8, 2010

(Vetoed by the Governor on July 1, 2009 and subsequently passed by both houses over the veto).

Chapter No. 871 (HB3770/ SB3706). Revocation of massage license. Amends T.C.A. § 63-18-108 by adding mental incompetence and being found guilty of unethical or unprofessional conduct to list of grounds for revocation, suspension or denial of massage license. Effective May 13, 2010.

Chapter No. 939 (HB3167/ SB3608). Blasters must notify Department of Commerce and Insurance. Amends T.C.A. § 68-105-103 by requiring a person who conducts a blasting operation to notify the Department of Commerce and Insurance at least 72 hours prior to the commencement of the operation. Creates civil penalty for failure to comply. Effective May 26, 2010, for purposes of promulgating procedures. Effective July 1, 2010, for all other purposes.

Chapter No. 963 (HB3191/ SB3155). Tennessee Appraisal Management Company Registration and Regulation Act. Amends T.C.A. Title 62, Chapter 39 by enacting the Tennessee Appraisal Management Company Registration and Regulation Act. Prohibits a person from engaging in the practice of appraisal management without registration with the Real Estate Appraisal Commission. Appraisal management services include: administering or staffing an appraisal panel; delivering or tracking appraisals; and providing completed appraisals. Not applicable to banks, savings institutions, state or local governments who order appraisals for tax purposes, licensed attorneys or accountants. Effective May 26, 2010, for the purposes of promulgating rules and regulations. Effective July 1, 2011, for all other purposes.

Chapter No. 1038 (HB1323/ SB0954). Regulation of automotive mobility dealers. Amends Title 55 by requiring a person engaged in the business of an automotive mobility dealer on or after March 1, 2011, to obtain a license from the Motor Vehicle Commission. This includes selling, offering or installing adapted vehicles or components for use by aging or disabled persons. Also amends provision regulating automobile clubs and associations. Effective June 11, 2010.

Municipal Administration Program **October Schedule**

This course covers all aspects of drug fund administration. Discussion will include the accounting process required for confidential expenditures; allowable expenditures; budget requirement; maximizing drug fund revenues; and how the special revenue account (drug fund) differs from the confidential expense account.

Participants should include city recorders, sheriffs, county finance directors, city clerks, finance directors, police chiefs, command officers, and investigation supervisors responsible for confidential drug fund expenditures. This workshop will be useful for anyone within local government with other responsibilities relating to the drug

Instructors MTAS and CTAS, Police and Finance Consultants

Public administration courses be-

Drug Fund



gin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 12:30

Dates and locations

Smyrna Oct. Cookeville 13 Lakeland Oct. Oct. Jackson Athens (This class 20 Oct. is from 1 p.m. until 5p.m.) Johnson City 22 Knoxville Oct.

Training Facilities Athens, Conference Center, 2405

Decatur Pike Cookeville, Leslie Towne Center, One West First Street Jackson, West Tennessee Center sion, and Public Service, 605 Air-Lakeland, International Harvester

for Agricultural Research, Exten-

Club House, 4523 Canada Road

Johnson City, Johnson City Municipal Building, 601 East Main Street

Smyrna, Town Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East

Knoxville, University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

The registration fee for MAP courses for Tennessee city officials is \$25 each. A fee of \$55 is charged for non-city officials. Registration is required. Seating is limited at all sites, so please register in advance. Submit payment with your registration.

MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Elaine Morrisey at 865-974-0411.

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE STAFF Margaret Mahery, Executive Director Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst Carole Graves, Communications Director &

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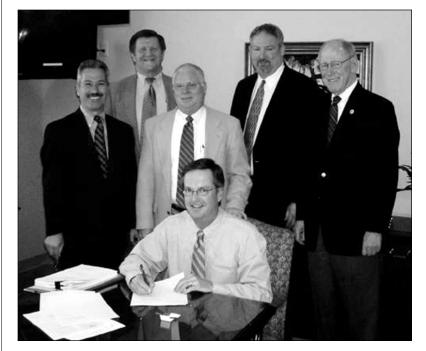
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The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.



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



CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@ TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

MORRISTOWN. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Administrative Services Director. This position is the city's authority on all aspects of financial management and requires a comprehensive understanding of city government finance. The director manages the city's accounting, accounts payable, payroll, tax collection, purchasing, debt service and cash management functions. The position also oversees human resources, information systems, and risk management. Candidates should demonstrate management experience involving responsibility for the planning, organization, implementation and supervision of varied administrative work programs. A bachelor's degree with major coursework in public or business administration, accounting or a related field is required. Preference will be given to candidates with professional certification. If not certified, must be able to attain compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007 within 18 months of hire. Salary DOQ within a pay range of \$60,000 to \$89,000; comprehensive benefit package offered, including TCRS pension. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Mail resume and cover letter to: City of Morristown, PO Box 1499, 100 W 1st North St., Morristown, TN 37816-1499, attn: City Administrator. Information about the city can be obtained from the website www.mymorris town.com.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER

COLUMBIA. Columbia Power and Water Systems, a municipal utility located in Maury County, seeks a full-time employee

for the exempt position of Assistant Controller to assist in maintaining accountability for financial controls and activities of the water systems, preparing monthly and annual financial statements, budgets, and other financial reports and analysis for management. Requires a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, finance, or related field; 3 years prior work experience in accounting (municipal utility accounting experience preferred); and CPA certification in state of Tennessee preferred. Essential functions include: good work attendance; maintain valid Tennessee driver's license; abide by residency requirement as determined by the Board; perform duties safely without endangering self, others, and the public; lift 20 pounds maximum; frequent lifting and/or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds; operate computer keyboard quickly and accurately; talk, see and hear; perform repetitive tasks; read and understand accounting guidelines and literature; sit for 2 hours at a time. Applications available in front lobby at Columbia Power and Water Systems, 201 Pickens Lane, M-F, 7 AM - 5 PM, or visit our website at www.cpws.com, "General Information", "Careers at CPWS", and "Click here for current job opportunities" to print the Application for Employment and job description. CPWS will only consider original, fully completed applications that are mailed or hand delivered to Columbia Power and Water Systems, 201 Pickens Lane, Columbia, TN 38401, ATTN: Personnel Department. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications and will be discussed only at interview. Position open until filled. Excellent benefit package. Minorities and females encouraged to apply. EOE/ Drug Free Workplace.

BUSINESS OFFICE COORDINATOR

DANDRIDGE. The town is seeking applicants for the position of Business Office Coordinator. Responsibilities include keeping financial accounts and records of all funds for the town: reconciling asset and

liability accounts, recording of fixed assets. payroll, payroll reports and the coordination of business tax functions, reconciling bank statements and invoices, drafting checks and accounts receivable/payable. Work involves basic governmental accounting principles, state and federal reporting requirements. The position maintains personnel records including timesheets, leave balances, and payroll deductions among other essential functions. Qualifications: High school diploma plus two-years of college with major course work in accounting, business administration or finance, or at least 5 years of progressively responsible experience in accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and budgeting. Significant experience with computerized accounting systems and governmental accounting experience desired. Salary will be negotiable DOQ/E + benefits. Application forms and more detailed specifications may be picked up at Town Hall, 131 East Main Street, Dandridge, TN during the hours of 8am-5pm, Mon.-Fri. ending Fri., Sept. 24. All resumes must be accompanied by a signed application. For more information, call 865-397-7420 x12. EOE. The town does not discriminate based upon all applicable federal, state, and local law.

CHIEF OF POLICE

MCKENZIE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Police Chief. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree in related field or at least three to five years experience at police command level. Responsible for leadership and development of police department consisting of 15 commissioned officers and dispatchers. DOO, salary negotiable, DOE and training. Successful candidate will have a combination of training and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, & abilities; initiative and experience and strong commitment to community policing, staff training, officer development and motivation of the department, consistent with the values and leadership philosophy of the city. Position requires a team player who can work well with employees, other city departments, the Mayor, the Board of Mayor and Council and other police agencies. Candidate must have the ability to obtain valid TN driver's license and to meet current TN police officer certification standards, (P.O.S.T). To apply: send resume to Mayor, City of McKenzie, P.O. Box 160, McKenzie, TN. 38201. Deadline for receipt of applications: Oct. 01, 2010. City of McKenzie is EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

RED BANK. The city is seeking an experienced and visionary leader for Chief of Police, who will lead the Police Department, with a staff of 25 sworn and nonsworn personnel and an operating budget of \$1,7 million, in a community of approximately 12,400 people, which is completely surrounded by the city of Chattanooga, a city of approximately 171,000 people. Qualifications include a high school diploma and bachelor's degree from an accredited university majoring in police science, criminal justice, police administration or closely related field. A minimum of 10 years of law enforcement experience with a minimum of three to five years in a command position. Must have a Tennessee law enforcement certification or obtain certification within one year after appointment. Additional specialized training, such as FBI National Academy, SPI or Northwestern University is desired. Demonstrated skills in the following areas; personnel management, budgeting, community policing, investigation and community relations. A Demonstrated ability to work with various community leaders and local officials. Knowledge of communications system, desktop computer networks, word processing, statistical methods, spreadsheets, email and internet. Familiarity with local, state, and federal laws, including labor laws. Must have or be able to obtain a valid driver's license. The selected candidate will be a proactive and a solution oriented individual who can demonstrate a history of creative problem solving and forecasting for the future. Candidate should understand the nature of how smaller cities work and be able to look at issues from a city-wide perspective. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and supervisory skills: understanding of community policing strategies; experience in dealing with elected officials and the general public; experience in developing and implementing training

programs; a working knowledge of municipal finance procedures and understanding of procurement and maintenance of equipment and facilities; grant writing experience and the ability to communicate effectively with city officials, employees, citizens, various agencies and media. Resume may be submitted to: Christopher J. Dorsey at Red Bank City Hall, 3117 Dayton Blvd., Red Bank TN. 37415 or citymanager@red

CITY MANAGER

ETOWAH. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. The position is responsible to a five member board of mayor and commissioners for the administration of all city services and departments, including but not limited to administration, personnel, finance and budgeting, code enforcement, public works, sanitation, streets, public safety, industrial development, recreation, planning and zoning. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in public administration, business or related field and five years experience in local government management. Experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, economic development, storm water operations and planning are high priorities. The City has an annual budget of approximately \$2,500,000 with 39 full time employees and 19 part time. This position has an excellent benefit package. Salary DOQ. We are an EEO Employer. Send letter of application, resume and salary demand to: City Manager Search Committee, City of Etowah, 723 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, TN 37331.Applications must be received in Etowah City Hall by 10 a.m. on Oct. 1, 2010. We will request references and will conduct a national agency background check on finalists.

CITY PLANNER

KINGSTON SPRINGS. The town is accepting proposals from certified planners or planning groups to provide full, contracted planning services to Kingston Springs and the town's Regional-Municipal Planning Commission. The proposal/specifications package can be obtained online at www.kingstonsprings.net or at city hall during business hours (8 am to 4 pm, Monday-Friday) at 396 Spring Street, Kingston Springs, TN 37082. (Mailing address: P.O. Box 256, Kingston Springs, TN 37082). A faxed copy may be obtained by calling 615-952-2110. Application packages will be accepted at City Hall through 4 p.m., Wed., Sept. 22. Interviews for applicants selected as finalists will be Wed., Oct. 6, at city hall. All application expenses and travel are borne by the applicant. Applicants must submit six (6) printed copies and one electronic proposal. Applicants must have a Title VI endorsement policy. Proposals submitted to the town must be valid for 60 days from submission deadline. The selected City Planner will not be an employee of the town and must meet the IRS requirements for designation as an independent contractor or firm. The town reserves the right to alter the specifications and/or terms of this request.

REQUEST FOR RFP

MT. JULIET. The city is requesting proposals from qualified Architectural and Planning Firms to provide professional services in regards to a proposed Public Safety (Police) Building. Details can be found on the city website at www.cityofmtjuliet.org.



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Mayors charged up over electric cars

ELECTRIC from Page 1

environmentally. We believe there are considerable advantages to using our metro region as proving ground for vehicle electrification. Multiple counties and three states, all cooperative; a mix of urban, suburban and rural population; diverse transportation modes as an environment for examining the impact of a change in car and small truck fueling, and more."

Goldsworthy joins Mayor Wharton along with West Memphis Mayor Bill Johnson, Hernando Mayor Chip Johnson, Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner and Shelby County Mayor-elect Mark Luttrell.

The venture falls on the heels of the recent ground breaking by Nissan North America Inc. for a 1.3 million-square-foot lithium-ion battery plant in Smyrna, a component of a \$1.7 billion investment to produce the LEAF, a five-passenger, all electric car, by 2012. The battery plant and the assembly plant re-tooling are being funded from a \$1.4 billion low interest loan that Nissan won from the Department of Energy in 2009.

Obama Initiative

President Obama, through a \$2.4 billion grant program to develop next-generation batteries, pledged to bring 1 million plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to U.S. highways by 2015. Bolstered by federal funding and tax incentives, every major auto manufacturer is currently working on an electric strategy. However, lithium-ion batteries are still very expensive, even with a \$7,500-per vehicle federal tax credit. A battery with a 100-mile range costs about \$33,000. Federal



The state installed a \$180,000 20kW solar carport/electric vehicle charging station at a site in Pulaski.

stimulus funds could bring the costs down to \$10,000 by the end of 2015.

The EV Project

On Aug. 5, 2009, ECOtality North America, a subsidiary of ECOtality, Inc., was awarded a \$99.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to embark on the EV Project, the largest deployment of electric vehicles and charge infrastructure in history.

The goal of the project is to "develop, implement and study techniques for optimizing the effectiveness of infrastructure supporting widespread electric vehicle (EV) deployment; how drivers actually use vehicles and the charge infrastructure; study the effect on the electrical grid; develop sustainable business models for EV infrastructure; and more.

ECOtality North America will install more than 15,000 vehicle charging stations nationwide in conjunction with launches of the Leaf and Volt within the next 14 months as part of the project. In Tennessee, ECOtality plans to install about 1,000 charging stations in homes of Leaf or GM Chevrolet Volt owners starting in December. Another 1,535 stations will be scattered across state rest areas, welcome centers, downtown parking lots and businesses.

Gov. Phil Bredesen, as well, announced the state, through its participation in the EV Project, will offer a \$2,500 rebate on the first 1,000 electric vehicles purchased in Tennessee. The state rebate will complement the federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of electric vehicles.

Charging Stations

The cities of Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga have been selected as participants in the EV project, with charging stations to be placed in towns along the triangle between the metropolitan areas. Shelbyville has been selected as one of the communities for a future recharging hub along with other select communities: Tullahoma, Manchester, Murfreesboro and Columbia.

In August, Tennessee took its first step toward leading the way in renewable EV charging by installing its first 20kW solar carport/electric vehicle charging station at a site in Pulaski. The power produced by these panels can charge electric cars or be channeled to the regional electric grid for a fee.

The parking array produces enough energy to run nearly four typical American homes and features two level one plugs and two level two, J1772 plugs, designed to charge the Nissan LEAF and the Chevy Volt.

Independant charging stations are appearing on the local scene as well. A Nashville charging station opened Aug. 27 by a company called EV Charge America. The company installed what it calls the "first public access electric vehicle (EV) charger in Nashville."

The charger is located at the electric scooter maker Nogas Electric on Winford Avenue. No-GasAmerica sells home charging equipment, electric scooters, electric motorcycles and other items. Upon registration, customers are issued scanner cards, such as those for libraries or stores, which allow use of the charging station.

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



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

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



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Steve Thompson hits the road for Tennessee cities

BY GAEL STAHL

On July 19, Steve Thompson became the designated sparkplug overseeing dozens of specialized and general municipal field consultants that the University of Tennessee's Public Service Division has made available to municipal officials since 1949. In fact, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is the only agency in the nation that offers field consultants to all 346 towns and cities every week of every year. One can't imagine a mayor, manager, or municipal department head that doesn't know the phone number and name of their area MTAS consultant

The roles of those 50 consultants have evolved over the decades, so no surprise that Thompson was on the road nearly all of his first month seeing if more changes are called for. He visited MTAS staff at offices in Knoxville, Jackson, Johnson City, and Nashville. In Nashville, he met with Tennessee Municipal League Executive Director Margaret Mahery and Deputy Director Chad Jenkins. Between MTAS cities, he stopped at various municipalities to meet with elected officials and staff and learn of their particular needs, challenges, and plans that will require MTAS input.

Thirty days later, Thompson is taking a breather from non-stop travel to make plans for a second round of visits to firm up new relationships. It is a Saturday afternoon when the call comes from TT&C requesting an introductory interview. He and his wife are in the middle of unpacking chaos but he willingly lets her deal with that while he introduces himself to TT&C readers and tells how things look so far.

Thompson brings to Tennessee almost 30 years of city management experience in Florida, South Carolina, and Virginia. He was born in 1955 in New York but his parents, Martha Pitts and Broadus Thompson (deceased), relocated back to the Columbia area of South Carolina. There, in the middle of the state, Thompson graduated from Irmo High School in 1973. He earned a BA in political science at the College of Charleston (CofC) in 1977 and an MPA from the University of South Carolina (USC) at Columbia in 1980.

His first management job was in Aiken, southwest of Columbia, home to the Savannah River Site, owned and operated by the Department of Energy, similar to DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. During 16 years at Aiken (1982-1998) Thompson served as assistant finance manager, assistant city manager, and city manager.

He next served two years as manager in upstate Greenville and then moved to much larger Virginia Beach where he served as assistant city manager and chief financial officer for five years. His last two stops before Tennessee were as city manager at two Florida cities, Deltona and Marco Island for four years. He says that every city manager has areas of specialization, and that during his career with great cities his greatest successes have been with downtown and resort area development and redevelopment, community strategic planning, and community engagement.

He met his wife at CofC. Charleston is Chris's home town - a Navy family that moved around the world before settling in Charleston. Both sides of Thompson's grandparents were from upstate northwest South Carolina in the Spartanburg area. His grandparents were hard working people who influenced their grandson. One pair worked in a mill by day, delivered newspapers at night, and worked their farms in between. Thompson learned just how hard they worked when he went to stay with them for two weeks. They worked him until he knew he never wanted to shell another bean in his life if he could avoid it. His other grandfather was injured in WWI and was often bedridden due to the effects of mustard gas.

Thompson's father, a superintendent and lineman with a utility construction company, did overhead power lines. His mother was a telephone operator with Southern Bell. An older brother is a lineman with SC&G utility in Columbia, another works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture out of Washington, and a third brother runs a small trucking company out of Greenville. They grew up with a sister who passed away some time ago.

Steve and Chris Thompson have two daughters. Darryl, 24, is a third year law student at Florida Coastal Law School in Jacksonville, and Ryan, 21, is a senior at the CofC majoring in elementary education.

TT&C: What part of your schooling and upbringing brings back your warmest memories?

ST: The College of Charleston was just a great place to be in the mid-1970s. It's a good school in every sense; it was where I met Chris. Charleston was just a nice place and a wonderful city to enjoy – a great place to be during my four years of undergraduate work. Later, while living in Aiken, we were only two hours from Charleston and my wife's parents, so we were back and forth all of the time. We still go to Edisto Beach south of there and have a lot of close ties to Charleston and the low country.

TT&C: What do you and Chris enjoy besides the beaches?

ST: Chris and I like to play tennis, kayak and fly fish, in addition to the time we spend with our daughters. I quit playing tennis for a long time after she started beating me, but we're back to playing again with both team and singles play.



Steve Thompson

With regard to our fly fishing, I like to say that I haven't caught any fish in some of the prettiest places in the country. We also travel including some great areas for fly fishing in Chris' role on the Board of the National Wildlife Federation. Our main focus now is spending time with our daughters every chance that we get.

TT&C: You've lived and seen the romance side of South Carolina, not so much its down side?

ST: We've lived in some great communities and areas of South Carolina. After Chris and I met in Charleston, she helped me through Spanish and biology – both weak areas of mine. I started off in marine biology and switched to political science in my senior year. Chris and I dated for 10 years and married in 1984 not long after I began my first job in Aiken as assistant city manager. Chris graduated from the College of Charleston with a bachelor's of science in biology, and then attended both the University of Florida and Clemson Graduate School. She is an environmental engineer, and after 15 years at the Savannah River Site she became a consultant, working across the country with a number of high-profile projects and clients. About three years ago, a friend of ours with a software company in Virginia needed somebody to head up a customer service program. Chris gave it some thought and decided that she was ready for a change. She enjoys it and may or may not go back to environmental engineering. Making that career shift three years ago has been very good for her. Since she can work remotely, she continues to work for the software company from Knoxville.

TT&C: When you found biology wasn't your best suit, why did you switch to political science?

ST: I took a class in political science with a local town manager, and hearing what he did and hearing what local government was all about made all the difference in the world for me. Biology is a great program; my minor was in political science. But after that class I reversed the two, and majored in political science. I knew that city management was the field for me. I went to USC for my Masters in Public Administration and after an internship with Richland County where Columbia is situated turned into a job, my career was off and running.

TT&C: What did you do at Aiken, your longest stint?

ST: In Aiken we really had a great deal of success with strategic planning, which in turn led to a lot of success in economic development, downtown redevelopment, and community transformation. The planning effort took six months and involved 300 volunteers. Groups met, argued, and discussed the future of that community throughout a hot summer and fall in unairconditioned rooms throughout the city. The volunteers came out of

the process with a great civic experience and consensus on what the community wanted to be. This was truly a great experience. Out of that we developed a strategic plan for a series of projects to move the city forward. We identified economic development efforts. We created three industrial parks. We decided to renovate the downtown, and did it. We strengthened the local hospital with a certificate of need on heart surgery. We improved the airport and lengthened the runway. All of that was enjoyable.

I've also worked with councils at other cities where the councils preferred to do the strategic process themselves. That model can also be successful; I have had some good experiences with that as well. The process can take a different tone in each city. The building of consensus to

move forward is what's most fascinating to a city manager. I've been fortunate to have seen successful planning focus on economic development or the redevelopment of a downtown or resort area. It is intriguing and rewarding to help a city council or community successfully decide what they want their community to be: economically viable, sustainable, energetic, moving forward.

Photo by Victoria South

TT&C: You've had plum city manager stops during your career and worked in somewhat famous cities, some with ocean views. What triggered the change of direction from managing individual cities to managing dozens of municipal specialists serving Tennessee's towns and cities?

ST: When I saw the MTAS opportunity on the Internet, I couldn't wait to tell Chris that this was really the perfect opportunity for me. I've had a chance to do some great things and work with great teams, and I've just been looking for something that would take my work with cities to a new level. This clearly is it.I've always liked Tennessee and have been familiar – from a distance – with the work of MTAS for years. When I first got out of graduate school, I worked with the then Bureau of Governmental Research that was roughly the South Carolina equivalent of MTAS. I loved it. I like the work of the University of Tennessee and of MTAS, and appreciate and like the work of cities, so this was a perfect fit for me. I like to think that my experience offers something to MTAS and to the cities and towns of Tennessee as well.

TT&C: What features of your municipal expertise do you think UT's Institute for Public Service found appealing?

ST: I assume that what Vice President for Public Service Mary Jinks and Assistant Vice President Chuck Shoopman found attractive about my resume is extensive and broad experience in city-related projects including economic development and redevelopment, and utilities and financial management. Along the way I have been the assistant city manager and chief financial officer for Virginia Beach, a major city of about 400,000 people where we had many opportunities, including the construction of projects of more than \$1.5 billion, with development of a new downtown for a big city, resort marketing and improvements, and opportunities to work with major developers and designers. I have to think that the building of consensus and working with councils and communities on strategic planning in various places was also attractive.

TT&C: When Jinks and Shoopman interviewed you, did they ask what your approach to MTAS's work with cities would be?

ST: They did. We talked about continuing the good work that MTAS has historically provided to support the cities and towns in Tennessee with research, consulting, and training

We also talked about taking a strategic look at the future of MTAS and how we can change the organization to better help both larger and smaller cities deal with their challenges. The issues facing large and small cities are usually the same, but smaller municipalities often do not have staff depth to offer expertise to explore a wide variety of issues. An experienced member of the city staff, or a good consultant, can usually identify best practices based on personal experience or training. Although there are usually other resources available, the professionals of MTAS bring this experience and training as value to these smaller communities.

In Tennessee about 58 percent of the population, or 3.5 million people, live within incorporated cities and towns. Of these municipal residents, 30 percent live in cities under 25,000 population. These smaller communities consume, in terms of time devoted to issues and requests, roughly 84 percent of the resources available through MTAS. MTAS provides advice and training on traditional city services and challenges for these smaller communities, but also brings expertise and support for many of the complex issues facing cities of all sizes, including resource sustainability, smart growth, community engagement, social services, and education, to name a few.

Larger cities usually have a competent technical staff, but often rely on MTAS for training, codification, and other services. There certainly may be other ways MTAS can assist these larger and all cities. That's a strategic discussion. While I do have ideas, we will be adjusting the services of MTAS based on feedback that we will receive from an upcoming survey of cities and towns in Tennessee.

TT&C: How do equivalent services in South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and North Carolina compare to MTAS services? **ST:** While the universities and municipal leagues around the country often offer some of the services offered by MTAS and the Tennessee Municipal League, the other organizations simply do not meet the depth and expertise offered by the MTAS/TML partnership. Many of the organizations in other states focus only on single services or a few consultants, or focus only on policy research. The Municipal Association of South Carolina offers good consultants and services in South Carolina, and a number of organizations in other states, including Georgia and North Carolina, support municipalities in those states, but there really is nothing comparable to MTAS anywhere else in the country.

TT&C: Is the availability of MTAS to cities much of an advantage for Tennessee mayors, councils, and staffs over their counterparts in other states?

ST: Absolutely. We have consultants working in communities across the state building relationships, getting to know the officials and their needs and issues, and trying to be agile and responsive to those changing needs. This is a great model and we have great people with the right training and experience working to support the cities and towns of this state.

Most of the cities appreciate our services, and there is a genuine financial savings for the cities that use the services of MTAS. We essentially offer staff and expertise at little or no cost, and help cities and towns meet specific needs faster and cheaper than they would otherwise find in the private marketplace.

TT&C: Do you see any common threads running through the various kinds of cities you've worked for?

ST: I've observed how cities go through life cycles. Cities age and need to attend to maintenance and face the need for redevelopment of the downtown, utility system, or facilities. Other cities are younger or have already faced the current need for redevelopment. They do not require a lot of investment in infrastructure. In these cities time and funds can be focused on building the future, or addressing the complex problems that do not have simple answers, such as social services, education, or a host of issues. I've always found it fascinating that every city goes through cycles and that different cities struggle in their own distinctive way with these issues.

TT&C: Have you had time to think about how you and MTAS can work even better with TML to improve municipal services?

ST: TML and MTAS offer a very strong partnership to the municipalities of this state. I have enjoyed discussions with the staff and leadership of TML and its related agencies involved in this partnership. Margaret Mahery and Chad Jenkins are constantly focused on the legislative affairs and other services of TML to help these cities and this state, while Dawn Crawford and the folks at the TML Risk Management Pool have been wonderfully supportive of MTAS and in the development of insurance and other services to protect and assist cities. We also have the great work of the folks at the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. The list of groups and people supporting towns and cities with services, innovation, and assistance is ever expanding.

Our new comprehensive survey will show how MTAS services are meeting the needs of municipalities in this state. I will close by saying that the staff at MTAS will be using the information provided through the survey to identify how to improve and meet these changing needs.



Steve with daughters Darryl and Ryan, and wife Chris.