

New state revenue numbers reflect improving economy

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

The State Funding Board met earlier this month to review again revenue estimates prior to the adoption of the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget.

Based on the board's consensus recommendation, the official budgeted estimates for the current year were revised to reflect growth rates of 3.9 percent to 4.15 percent in total taxes for the current year and 3.1 percent to 3.35 percent in total taxes for fiscal year 2011-2012.

The revised estimates reflect a slight change from when the Board had previously met in February to set growth rate estimates. The new numbers reflect a possible gain of \$15 million for the current year and about \$18.5 million increase for the budget year ending June 2012.

"Recovery has stabilized and the economy is moving forward," said Finance Commissioner Mark Emkes. "We just need to keep an eye

on gas and food prices."

He reported that for the eighth consecutive month of this fiscal year, state tax collections have exceeded budgeted estimates of more than \$153 million dollars.

"The sales tax growth rate for March – almost eight percent – gives us the best indication of consumer optimism," Emkes said. "That's the largest monthly growth we've seen in the last 61 months, dating back to February 2006."

Revenue Commissioner Richard Roberts reported that retail sales and consumer consumption are improving but that there are still several unresolved issues such as the unstable real estate market and the recent crisis in Japan that cause some uncertainty.

"To sum things up, we are cautiously optimistic," said Roberts.

UT Economist Bill Fox also expressed some concern over the current situation in Japan, stating that short-term it could hurt the U.S. and See **REVENUES** on Page 6

U.S. Congress passes 2011 budget, city funds affected

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
NLC Federal Relations

After weeks of partisan bickering and a near government shutdown, the U.S. House and Senate passed a fiscal year 2011 spending bill with the largest cuts in domestic discretionary spending in history. The compromise bill, H.R. 1473, which House and Senate leadership and the White House agreed to shortly before a midnight deadline, slashed nearly \$40 billion from federal programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Throughout the negotiation process, cities and towns fought hard to preserve funding for the CDBG program, one of the most effective federal programs that serves as a catalyst for economic recovery and job creation in communities of all sizes. Under the agreement, CDBG would be funded at \$3.3 billion or \$600 million less than in fiscal year 2010, but \$1.8 billion more than the program would have received in an earlier House-passed measure, H.R. 1.

In response to the vote, NLC Executive Director Donald J. Borut,

said, "While we are grateful that the House and Senate agreed to fund CDBG and other programs important to cities and towns at higher levels than in H.R. 1, cuts to these programs of any amount will mean that cities will be forced to cut programs and services at the local level, which will very likely lead to layoffs and a drag on economic recovery in our communities."

In addition to cuts to CDBG, the HOME program loses nearly \$200 million in funding, but the Choice Neighborhoods and Sustainable Communities programs, both of which would have been eliminated under H.R. 1, would each be funded at \$100 million for fiscal year 2011.

Under the measure, the federal highway program is cut by nearly \$900 million and funding for high speed rail, a priority for President Obama, would be eliminated. However, the measure does include \$528 million for the National Infrastructure Investment Grants program, which would be modeled after the popular TIGER program; under H.R. 1, this program would have been eliminated. See **CONGRESS** on Page 3

Conference workshops to focus on rural innovation

Economic development practitioners are struggling to find strategies that can bring hope to their rural communities—strategies that offer the promise of new jobs, more income, and increased wealth and capacity in rural hometowns across the country.

Entrepreneurism has emerged as an important economic development strategy for rural America.

In many rural communities, leaders have embraced the case for entrepreneurship and are developing and implementing strategies to make this case a reality. In other places, however, rural leaders need help articulating the objective in a way that can garner support within the community and from state policy makers.

In partnership with the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation, the Tennessee Municipal League will offer two conference workshops that focus on rural entrepreneurship and innovation in rural communities. The TML Annual Conference is scheduled for June 11-14 at the Murfreesboro Convention Center.

On Sunday, June 12, Dr. Scott Massey, one of the country's foremost regional economic strategists, will lead a workshop on innovation-based economic growth in rural Tennessee entitled *Renewing Hope: Innovation in Rural Community Economies*.

His workshop will highlight the See **CONFERENCE** on Page 6



Scott Massey



Michael Wilcox



Alison Davis

Nashville fast-tracks redistricting process

44 districts — 17 hours — 15 days

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Seventeen hours of public meetings, 10,000 website hits, and four different versions later, Nashville's Planning Department successfully redrew 44 district lines in record time—just 15 days. That's more than four weeks before candidates must file qualifying papers for the Aug. 4 council elections and less than a month after the city received 2010 census data indicating that Nashville and Davidson County grew by 56,790 people, or 10 percent, in 10 years.

The Metro Council gave unanimous final approval of the new redistricting maps for the city's 35 council and nine school board districts, which must be redrawn, according to the city's charter, after each US Census to reflect changes in local population.

After the 2000 census, population of each council district must be equal — 17,905 residents per district— give or take five percent. Current population figures in Metro Nashville reflect districts as much as 24 percent under or 61 percent over that "ideal" figure. The most significant growth is in southeast Davidson County near Antioch, which gained a council seat after the redistricting process was completed, while the northeast part of the county lost a seat.

"The thing to remember is when you have this kind of change, there's definitely a ripple effect," said Craig Owensby, public information officer, Metro Nashville Planning Department,



Photo courtesy of the Metro Planning District

Planning Director Rick Bernhardt and community members examine a map at a redistricting meeting in Nashville. According to Metro's charter, population of each council district must be roughly equal — 17,905 residents per district— give or take five percent. Current population of some districts were as much as 24 percent under or 61 percent over that "ideal" figure. The department completed the redistricting process in a record 15 days.

the office charged with drawing the new district boundaries and presenting them to the Planning Commission and Council for approval. "Every time you change one district you change the one next to it, change enough, and it ripples across the county."

Traditionally, the Metro Nashville planning department would facilitate the redistricting process after the election following each census. However, after 20 years, the decennial census data and the date of Metro's election collided—too close for comfort for citizens such as civil

rights attorney George Barrett—who was concerned that residents in larger growth districts would have less access to their elected representatives. Barrett threatened to sue the city if it didn't redraw district lines in time for the elections. The redistricting process is not expected to collide with an election year again until 2031.

In addition to hours of public meetings, metro's planning department also received at least 400 e-mails from concerned citizens. "The most common concern was why See **REDISTRICTING** on Page 3

Tennessee's Career Coaches hit the road

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Some do not own a computer and have never conducted an online job search. Others have never compiled a resume and face a 30-minute drive to the nearest career center. Meet the unemployed in rural Tennessee. Entering a new, and sometimes "intimidating" global marketplace, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey describes them as "our state's most vulnerable jobseekers."

It is for these citizens that three state-of-the-art buses, unveiled by Gov. Bill Haslam and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will hit the trail as career centers on wheels, bringing job counseling, education and most importantly, hope for a positive future in a bruising economy.

"Job growth is my priority, and one of our four focuses must be tackling unemployment in rural counties," said Gov. Haslam. "The Career Coaches take career counseling, job training and technological resources on the road to meet applicants where they need it most and will help put us on the road to economic recovery."

Funded by a \$4.6 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



The state unveiled three career center buses that will travel to assist job seekers in rural areas of Tennessee. The service is free.

grant Tennessee received in 2009, each "Career Coach" is customized with 10 computer work stations with Internet access, printers, fax machines, and flat screen TV's with Smart Board overlays to facilitate classroom instruction. Based in Huntingdon, Nashville and Knoxville, booking the free service is just a phone call away.

"We're focusing on counties that don't have career centers. Currently, there's six in West Tennessee," said Sandy Barnett,

Huntingdon, who will serve aboard the coach as a career coordinator in West Tennessee, as will two other Tennessee Department of Labor employees Lynn Gibbs, of Nashville, serving Middle Tennessee and Sarah Beane, Knoxville, for counties in East Tennessee.

The three have been trained in career counseling and unemployment benefits and will conduct workshops on resume preparation, job searching and interviewing See **COACHES** on Page 5

Sen. Jamie Woodson steps down; Sen. Bo Watson appointed to position Senate Speaker Pro Tem

After 12 years in the General Assembly, where she serves as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate, Sen. Jamie Woodson will resign from the Tennessee General Assembly at the end of the legislative session to pursue her passion—education—as president and CEO of the Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE), chaired by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Woodson chaired the Senate Education Committee from 2005 until 2009, where she led successful efforts to overhaul the Basic Education Program, the mechanism for funding K-12 public education in the state. She also sponsored key revisions to the Tennessee Public Charter School Act and served on Tennessee's five-member Race to the Top team, helping to secure more than \$500 million in grant funding for Tennessee's schools.

In her new role, Woodson will advise SCORE's Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and part-

ner organizations.

"Improving public education has been the hallmark of Jamie Woodson's career in public service and her commitment to student achievement and growth has been remarkable," Frist said. "As SCORE's President and CEO, Jamie will not only lead one of the nation's most innovative education reform organizations, but will have the unique opportunity to continue bringing about meaningful change for Tennessee's children by working with educators, policymakers, philanthropists, business leaders, and parents."

"I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to lead SCORE at such a critical time for Tennessee," Woodson said. "As a legislator, supporting and improving public education in Tennessee has truly been my passion. There is no higher priority for parents, school systems, and our state. While I will miss my work in the legislature, this new opportunity See **PRO TEM** on Page 4



Woodson



Watson

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHARLESTON

Wacker Chemie AG officially started construction on its \$1.5 billion plant at a 550-acre site near the Hiwassee Industrial Park in Charleston. The formal groundbreaking ceremony was attended by area business, state and local government representatives with Gov. Bill Haslam as the keynote speaker. The plant will process hyper-pure polycrystalline silicon, a product used in hundreds of applications including solar panels and photo-electric devices, coatings and computers. Wacker is one of the top polysilicon makers in the world.

CHATTANOOGA

After shedding nearly one of every 10 jobs during 2008 and 2009, Chattanooga appears to be on an economic rebound. *The Kiplinger Letter*, a weekly financial publication, has named Chattanooga as one of its "Comeback Cities for 2011." The financial publication predicts Chattanooga should gain back more than one-third of the 20,800 jobs lost during the Great Recession primarily due to the addition of new Amazon distribution centers in Hamilton and Bradley counties and continued expansion of the Volkswagen auto plant and its suppliers.

CLEVELAND

Funded with a \$250,000 Tennessee Department of Health grant, Bradley County schools are waging a battle against childhood obesity and diabetes. It's part of the state's Project Diabetes, with a focus on innovative education, prevention and treatment. Called Fit4Life in Bradley County public schools, the goal is prevention of obesity and Type 2 diabetes in eight targeted schools and their communities by promoting lifestyle and behavior changes. Before and after school fitness clubs are the second part of the program. The total Fit4Life program includes the Bradley County Schools Coordinated School Health and Child Nutrition offices, a health educator, a project nurse, child nutrition staff, 10 extended contract teachers, YMCA fitness instructors, school administrators and an outside evaluator. Two health fairs are being planned for spring, and a coupon class is scheduled to improve the affordability of nutritious foods. The Fit4Life grant, plus a grant from the Bradley County Healthy Community Initiative, will be used to build or expand walking trails and a low ropes course at eight schools.

FRANKLIN

Franklin recently installed several additional directional signs as part of the Way Finding Sign Program. The signs direct visitors to various historic sites as well as to City Hall, Downtown Franklin, and O'More College of Design. In 2008, the city contracted with consultants to design comprehensive signage to direct visitors and citizens to destinations around the city. The signage would connect historic sites, historic districts, attractions, and services. After researching materials needed for the signage, the city's Streets Department discovered they could produce the signs for more than 73 percent less than a commercial company, including labor. There are now 10 Way Finding signs throughout the city.

GATLINBURG

Emergency workers contained a leak at the Gatlinburg Wastewater Treatment Plant that had been spewing millions of gallons of largely

untreated sewage into a river. An estimated four million gallons of wastewater poured into the Little Pigeon River after a holding tank wall at the plant collapsed killing two workers, John Eslinger, 53, and Don Storey, 44. Officials in Gatlinburg, where the plant is located, are now focused on the environmental and economic toll. The state is warning people to avoid swimming or fishing in the river. No drinking water comes from the contaminated portion of the river, city officials said. "We're doing extensive sampling upstream and downstream to determine the whole impact," said Tisha Calabrese-Benton, a spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "We don't yet know the environmental effect."

JOHNSON CITY

Organizers of a "Zombietag" event in downtown Johnson City said they were unprepared for the thousands of people who showed up and the young ages of the participants. The event was an attempt at a world record and a way to draw business to the downtown area. According to estimates, the crowd quickly swelled to around 4,000 people, turning into what police deemed a serious safety hazard. Organizers are sitting down with police and local officials to think of ways to improve safety so that the game can eventually become an annual event.

MILLINGTON

A diverse crowd of politicians, business and community leaders gathered for the long-awaited Veterans Parkway Groundbreaking Celebration in Millington on April 7. The \$26,000,000 project is expected to pave the way for enhanced economic and industrial growth for Millington and West Tennessee. In attendance to mark this milestone in Millington's progress were Gov. Bill Haslam, representatives from the TN Department of Transportation and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell among other representatives from local, county, state and federal levels. Millington Mayor Richard Hodges was joined by Terry Jones and George Harvell, both former Millington mayors, who also worked on this project since the inception in the 1990's. According to Darek Baskin, Millington's engineer and director of Planning and Development, both phases of Veterans Parkway are expected to be completed by November 2012.

NASHVILLE

The U.S. Postal Service is moving more than two dozen jobs out of Bowling Green, Ky., sending some of them to Nashville. A Postal Service spokesman says it's a cost-cutting move forced by a reduced mail volume, but isn't a reduction in the workforce. The 26 jobs will continue, but in other cities. The changes are effective July 1.

NASHVILLE

The North Nashville area has been awarded a \$4.5 million federal HUD grant to help low income families with children under six replace old windows, doors and lead painted walls. In low income areas, such as North Nashville, it's estimated that three out of every four homes is lead contaminated. Experts say all it takes is the amount of lead dust common to the amount in a sugar packet, spread across a 1,500 square foot home, to contaminate a child. Grant applicants must meet certain income requirements, have a child six years old or younger and live in a home built before 1978.

NASHVILLE

Representatives with Opry Mills say they have worked out an agreement with their bank to reopen in the spring of 2012. Renovations began on the mall but came to a halt while the mall owner fought with the insurance company over flood claims.

OAK RIDGE

An insurance call center in growth mode is in the process of immediately adding 150 more people to the payroll, officials announced. Sitel boosted its staff by a similar number of workers a year ago, and there are now 500 employees at its Commerce Park offices in Oak Ridge. According to company spokespersons, a new customer, only identified as a "leading consumer loan banking and casualty insurance company," sparked the need to add more employees.

SMYRNA

Valeo, a producer of front-end modules for Nissan, whose North American headquarters is based in Franklin, plans to locate a manufacturing facility for automotive parts in Smyrna. The company is renovating a building at 611 Enon Springs and plans to invest up to \$5.4 million, creating 63 jobs within a year of



Millington Mayor Richard Hodges and Aldermen join Gov. Bill Haslam for the long awaited Veterans Parkway Groundbreaking Celebration in Millington on April 7. The \$26,000,000.00 project is expected to pave the way for enhanced economic and industrial growth for the city and West Tennessee.

occupancy. Front-end modules typically encompass the bumper, radiator and various others parts and act as a body frame, taking in and cooling air, protecting the vehicle and its occupants.

TULLAHOMA

Tullahoma received its 14th Tree City Award April 1 at the city's Arbor

Day Ceremony. To commemorate the occasion, a Cloud Nine Dogwood memorial tree was planted on the city right-of-way. Tullahoma Memorial Tree donations can be made for \$100 in honor or memory of a loved one. Each donation will be recognized by a "leaf" on a memorial tree plaque at City Hall and cross-referenced in a "key."



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Prominent health care industry lawyer **Bill Young**, most recently general counsel for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, was selected to work for Attorney General Bob Cooper. Young, a former senior counsel with the office, will oversee appellate litigation in state and federal courts, review written opinions, and advise the attorney general. Young was also serving as head of the commission that helps select judicial nominees for the bench in Tennessee, leaving a vacancy that will lead to shifts on that body as the General Assembly debates how the state should pick judges.

Janie Conyers, has been selected as chief administrative officer for Mayor Karl Dean. Conyers served as chief administrative officer for former Gov. Phil Bredesen, starting when Bredesen was inaugurated as Tennessee's 48th governor in January 2003. Before then, Conyers served as executive assistant to Bredesen during his two terms as Nashville mayor from 1992 to 1999. Conyers will work directly with Deputy Mayor Greg Hinote.

Brig. General **Robert Alan Harris**, of Chattanooga, has been named Assistant Adjutant General of the

Tennessee Army National Guard. Harris brings more than 35 years military experience to the job. He currently commands the 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee



Harris

Army National Guard, headquartered in Jackson. The Assistant Adjutant General is the commander of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and is responsible to the Adjutant General for recommendations on the proper employment of land forces, planning, and coordinating land operations. He is responsible for the manning, training, equipping, welfare, and readiness posture for all Tennessee Army National Guard units.

U.S. Sen. **Bob Corker** of Chattanooga was recognized as a champion of music makers during the 10th annual "Grammys on the Hill" awards in Washington. The



Corker

ceremony spotlights political and music leaders who have worked to improve the environment for the nation's music community. Corker has been a consistent proponent of music creators and intellectual prop-

erty rights during his five years in the U.S. Senate. He was an original co-sponsor of the Performance Rights Act, which, if approved, would mandate that performers receive royalties when their music is played on the radio. He also pushed for a 2008 law that raised penalties for copyright infringement of intellectual property, such as software, films and music.

Mt Juliet Vice Mayor **Ed Hagerty** has been sworn in as the city's new mayor. Hagerty will complete the term of Mayor Linda Elam, who won a seat in the state legislature during the November elections.



Hagerty

Hamilton County Jail Chief **Tim Gobble** has been selected as East Ridge's new city manager.



Gobble

Debra Craig, of Union City, has been selected as South Fulton's new city manager. Craig most recently worked at the University of Tennessee, Martin for the Department of Human Resources in the Department of Education.



Craig

MTAS Consultant Ray Crouch retires

After 19 years with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and a total of 38 years with the state of Tennessee, Ray Crouch Sr. is retiring May 1.

Crouch, a graduate of Austin Peay State University and lifelong resident of Kingston Springs, joined MTAS as a fire management consultant in 1992. He began his career with the state in 1973 as a systems analyst for the Tennessee Department of Transportation where he stayed until 1978. He also worked in the State Fire Marshal's office from 1978 through 1986 and was assistant commissioner of administration for the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance from 1986 through 1992.

Crouch is a former mayor and fire chief of Kingston Springs. Through his career he has served as

a member of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association and of the Mid-State Mutual Aid Association and has served on the advisory board of the Tennessee State Fire School.

Away from work, Crouch has been dedicated to his church by serving as a Sunday School teacher for many years and to the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as assistant council commissioner for the Boy Scouts' Middle Tennessee Council and as the district commissioner for the Highland Rim District consisting of Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman and Humphries counties.

Crouch joined the Boy Scouts in 1960. While a scout, Crouch advanced to the rank of "Life" scout, and served as a Den Chief. As an adult, he served as assistant scoutmaster and eight years as scoutmaster for Troop 594. Troop 594 is the same scout unit where his father,



Ray Crouch

Marvin W. Crouch had been his scoutmaster and where his son, W. Ray Crouch, Jr. obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. According to Crouch, "scouting just runs in our family."

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Nashville completes redistricting process in record time

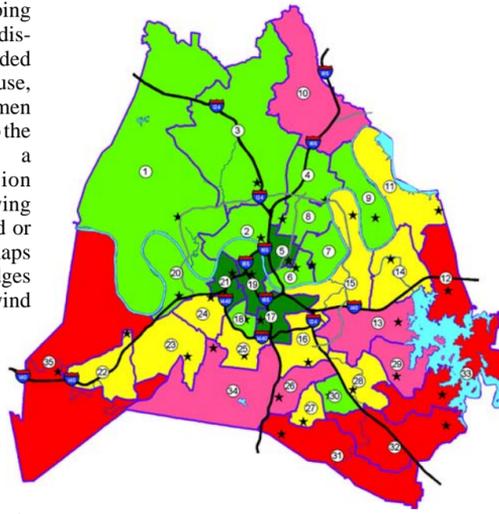
REDISTRICTING from Page 3
they were or were not in a certain district," Owensby said. "Questions ranged from 'I live on this street, why do I have to be in that district?' Or people who thought changing the school board districts would change where their children go to school, and it doesn't."

The lines were redrawn utilizing existing GIS mapping software with an added flair; an application created in house by the planning commission specifically geared to facilitate citizen involvement. "A lot of municipalities just draw up a plan, then roll it out and have comments, but it was vitally important to us to have public participation throughout the process," said Owensby. "We created a feature that allows you to put the current and proposed versions of the district maps next to each other on the screen along with search and zoom components. Public comments can be made either by attaching text to the map or by marking the map up like a pen and sending it back to us." The website was popular, receiving up to 10,000 hits throughout the process. "We don't know of another municipality that has redrawn 44 districts and had this much public involvement so quickly," Owensby adds.

It's also happening across the country. In Stateline.org's *The Rise of Do-It-Yourself Redistricting*, local governments are developing web

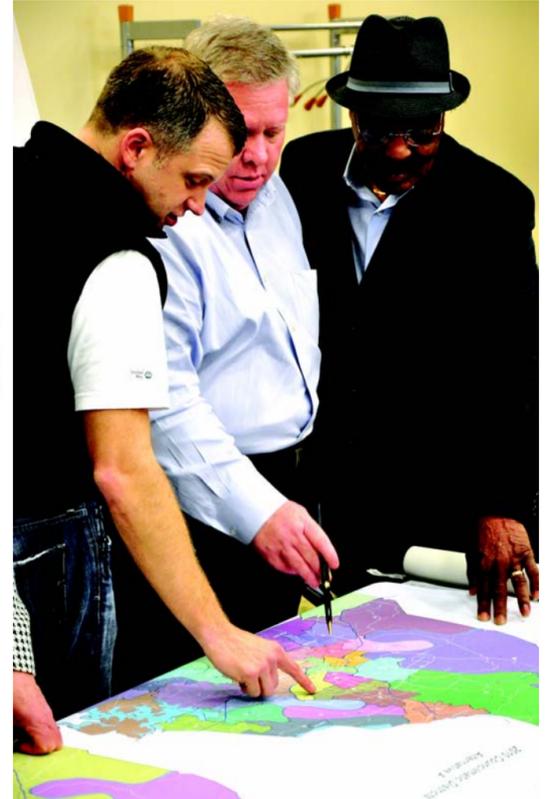
tools to provide citizens the mapping power they need to influence redistricting outcomes. A reform-minded group in Indiana, Common Cause, along with The League of Women Voters and AARP have taken it to the next level, uniting to sponsor a citizen redistricting commission with a sole purpose of drawing shadow maps that could be used or adapted by legislators. The maps could even be considered by judges in states where official maps wind up in court disputes. Then there's grassroots applications, like Dave's Redistricting App—www.gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting/launchapp.html—a free online mapping tool built by Dave Bradlee, a former Microsoft software developer. According to Stateline, hundreds of people are using it to draw their own versions of redistricting maps.

While GIS is a powerful mapping tool, it does not do all the work, the state comptroller's Office of Local Government cautions in the *Guide to Local Redistricting in Tennessee*. "Local officials must have a strong understanding of the state and federal redistricting laws, and recent attorney general opinions. Also, redistricting standards of equal population and minority representation are addressed that provide direction and guidelines for drawing district lines."



The map above reflects the population change in Davidson county from 2000-2010; with red as the highest increase and green the highest decrease. The most significant growth is in southeast Davidson County near Antioch, which gained a council seat after the redistricting process was completed, while the northeast part of the county lost a seat.

"Redistricting can be difficult in reality because of political and technical considerations," said Gary Jaeckel, MTAS Municipal Management consultant. "The process should resemble the methods used by the state's General Assembly and county governments," he said. "At-large and multi-member voting districts have been successfully challenged in federal courts. While such voting plans are not unconstitutional, per



Metro Council members Jamie Hollin, Michael Craddock, and Walter Hunt review a map at a community meeting.

se, courts historically have carefully examined them for evidence of denying

minority populations the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice."

For municipalities that wish to redistrict, Jaeckel recommends the software provided by the Office of Local Government that accesses detailed Census Bureau data for creating maps and drawing district and voting lines.

"We're very pleased with the approved redistricting plan and it was a wonderful opportunity for public comment," concludes Owensby. "At the end of the process, we received a very nice letter from the party who was talking about suing, thanking us for being open and doing a good job."

The Office of Local Government provides assistance to local governments in support of the local redistricting process and the ongoing maintenance of voting precincts.

For more information and a downloadable version of *A Guide to Local Redistricting in Tennessee*, visit the state comptroller's website www.comptroller.state.tn.us/cpdivlg.htm or contact your MTAS management consultant.

Federal funding of programs important to cities

CONGRESS from Page 1

The legislation calls for nearly \$1 billion in cuts to workforce training programs, but includes \$700 million for Obama's Race to the Top education reform initiative; a program that would have been zeroed out had H.R. 1 become law.

After completing their work on the fiscal year 2011 spending, members of Congress headed home for a two-week recess.

When they return in May, they will face potentially even more contentious debates involving fiscal year 2012 spending, the country's debt

ceiling and disagreements on how to reduce the country's \$14 trillion deficit.

"Clearly, there will continue to be pressure on Congress and the Administration to reduce federal spending," Borut said. "That's why city officials must continue to im-

press upon federal policymakers the essential nature of these programs have in our communities and for our families. Now is not the time to be silent hoping they already know this to be the case."

Below, the chart lists funding levels for targeted local programs.

Federal Funding Levels for Targeted Local Programs						
Issue Area	Federal Program	Enacted FY 2009	Enacted FY 2010	Proposed FY 2011 (President)	H.R.1 FY 2011 House Passed CR	H.R.1473 Compromise Agreement
Emergency Management	State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) ¹	\$950M	\$950M	\$1B	\$900M	\$725M
	Transportation and Infrastructure Protection Grants	\$862M	\$712M	\$650M	\$105M	\$600M
	Urban Area Security Initiative	\$837.5M	\$887M	\$1.1B	\$800M	\$725M
	Assistance to Firefighter Grants	\$775M	\$810M	\$610M	\$810M	\$810M****
	Total	\$3.43B	\$3.36B	\$3.36B	\$2.11B	\$2.86B
Children and Families	Elementary and Secondary Education Act/Title I	\$15.8B	\$15.9B	\$14.5B	\$14.8B	\$14.5B
	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	\$12.6B	\$12.6B	\$12.8B	\$12.1B	\$12.8B
	Race to the Top ²	N/A	N/A	\$1.35B	\$0	\$700M
	Workforce Investment Act	\$3.6B	\$3.8B	\$3.9B	\$1.9B**	\$2.9B
	Head Start	\$7.1B	\$7.2B	\$8.2B	\$6.1B	\$7.6B
	Social Services Block Grant	\$1.7B	\$1.7B	\$1.7B	\$0	\$1.7B
	Total	\$40.8B	\$41.2B	\$42.45B	\$34.9B	\$40.1B
Transportation	Highways	\$40.7B	\$41.8B	\$42.1B	\$41.5B	\$41.1B
	Mass Transit	\$10.3B	\$10.8B	\$10.8B	\$10.3B	\$10B
	Airport Improvement Program	\$3.5B	\$3.5B	\$3.5B	\$3B	\$3.5B
	Amtrak	\$1.5B	\$1.6B	\$1.64B	\$0	\$924M
	National Infrastructure Bank	N/A	N/A	\$4B	\$0	N/A
	High Speed Rail	N/A	\$2.5B	\$1B	\$0	\$0
	National Infrastructure Investment Grants (TIGER) ²	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$528M
	Total	\$56B	\$60.2B	\$63.04B	\$54.8B	\$56.05B
Housing	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	\$3.64B	\$4B	\$4B	\$1.5B	\$3.34B
	Sustainable Communities Initiative Grants ³	N/A	\$150M	\$150M	\$0	\$100M
	Section 8 Tenant-Based	\$16.8B	\$18.2B	\$19.6B	\$18B	\$18.4B
	Section 8 Project-Based	\$7.1B	\$8.5B	\$9.4B	\$9.3B	\$9.3B
	HOME	\$1.8B	\$1.8B	\$1.65B	\$1.65B	\$1.6B
	HOPE VI / Choice Neighborhoods	\$120 M	\$200M	\$250M	\$0	\$100M
	Homeless Assistance Grants	\$1.7B	\$1.86B	\$2.1B	\$1.86B	\$1.9B
Total	\$31.16B	\$34.71B	\$37.15B	\$32.31B	\$34.74B	
Public Safety	Byrne Justice Assistance Grants	\$546M	\$519M	\$512M	*	\$431M*
	Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring	\$550M	\$791M	\$600M	\$298M	\$496M
	Second Chance Grants	\$25M	\$100M	\$100M	*	\$83M*
	Juvenile Justice Programs	\$374M	\$423M	\$290M	\$365M	\$276M
	State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)	\$400M	\$330M	\$330M	*	\$274M*
	Total	\$1.895B	\$2.16B	\$1.83B	\$365M	\$1.13B
Energy	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	\$0	\$5.1B	\$5.3B	\$4.7B	\$4.7B
	Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program	\$200M	\$210M	\$300M	\$0	***
	Total	\$200M	\$5.31B	\$5.6B	\$4.7B	\$6.54B
Environment	Clean Water SRF	\$689M	\$2.1B	\$2B	\$690M	\$1.5B
	Drinking Water SRF	\$829M	\$1.4B	\$1.3B	\$830M	\$965M
	Superfund	\$1.3B	\$1.3B	\$1.29B	\$1.27B	\$1.28B
	Brownfields	\$97M	\$100M	\$138M	\$70M	\$100M
	Climate Showcase Communities	\$10M	\$10M	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total	\$2.93B	\$4.91B	\$4.73B	\$2.86B	\$3.85B

¹ Includes many former "stand-alone programs" including: Citizen Corps, Operation Stonegarden, and Metropolitan Medical Response Teams were folded into the SHSP program.

² Program not authorized prior to FY 2011 appropriations

³ Program not authorized prior to FY 2010 appropriations

** H.R. 1473 provides \$1.12 billion for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, a 17% across the board cut which includes Byrne grants, Second Chance Act grants, and SCAAP funding.

*** This amount would only fund WIA programs through June 30, 2011, although FY 2011 does not end until September 30, 2011.

**** H.R. 1473 provides \$1.835 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). DOE EERE has the flexibility to allocate the funds to specific programs.

***** H.R. 1473 eliminates NFPA standard requirements, allows DHS to alter the cost-share, and allows supplanting of local funding.

Metro Planning homepage displays redistricting data plus interactive map

The Metro Council unanimously approved new district boundaries April 12, which took effect upon Mayor Karl Dean's signature April 13. Final versions of the individual district maps are posted on the Planning homepage <http://nashville.gov/mpc/>. An interactive map shows both the new and previous Council district lines.

The Planning Department follows eight basic guidelines in the drawing of new Council and school board districts:

- Districts must be, as nearly as possible, equal in population;
- Districts must be as much like current districts as possible;
- Neighborhood boundaries must be maintained to the greatest extent possible;
- Natural boundaries must be utilized as much as possible.
- Districts must be as compact as possible, in one piece, with no "islands" of additional territory; • "Satellite" cities within Davidson County must not be split by Council districts;
- Redistricting must be done in compliance with the 1964 Voting Rights Act, which ensures equal representation for all citizens. • The map shows current ethnic makeup of existing Council districts as drawn following the 2000 census;
- The public must have an opportunity to comment during the redistricting process.



TVA agrees to settlement to improve air quality



Tennessee is expected to receive more than \$26 million to fund energy conservation, alternative energy and/or pollution reduction projects, which will also reduce air pollution. The agreement with EPA calls for TVA to make improvements throughout its system to reduce air emissions. The agreement stipulates that emissions such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides will be reduced by more than 48,000 tons per year and 208,000 tons per year, respectively.

Tennessee is expected to receive more than \$26 million to fund energy conservation, alternative energy and/or pollution reduction projects, which will also reduce air pollution as the result of an agreement approved by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors.

The Tennessee Attorney General's Office, on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, joined Alabama, Kentucky and North Carolina in filing an agreement in the form of a consent decree, resolving years of allegations that the utility violated the Clean Air Act. A coalition of citizen groups filed their own complaint, which will be consolidated with the states' complaint, allowing the citizen groups to join in the agreement with the states.

Tennessee's agreement coincides with an agreement filed between TVA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). TVA will pay the states and the EPA a combined total of \$350 million to fund environmental projects, as well as \$10 million in civil penalties.

The \$350 million is payable over the next five years, and the civil penalties are payable 30 days after the date the agreement is entered by the court. Tennessee will receive the largest state's share, \$26.4 million for environmental projects and \$1 million in civil penalties.

"This agreement is important in not only making our air cleaner but it also helps to provide predictability

for TVA and its commercial users," Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam said. "This certainly will assist in economic development efforts in the state and region and is a complement to our efforts in making Tennessee's business climate as attractive for investment as possible."

The agreement calls for TVA to make improvements throughout its system to reduce air emissions. Specifically, the utility has agreed to reduce air emissions from its 11 coal-fired power plants and retire 18 older units. Ten coal-fired units will be retired at the Johnsonville plant in New Johnsonville, two units at the John Sevier plant in Rogersville and six units at the Widows Creek Fossil plant in North Alabama.

TVA has already been working to update plants with new air pollution control measures for several years and has plans to implement new emissions controls as part of the agreement. The agreement stipulates that emissions such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides will be reduced by more than 48,000 tons per year and 208,000 tons per year, respectively.

In addition to the court agreements with the EPA and other states, the case will conclude actions by the National Park Conservation Association, the Sierra Club and Our Children's Earth Foundation. The consent decree lodged with the court by the states and the citizen groups, and EPA's agreement with TVA will be available for public review and comment for 30 days.

doubled. According to a Pew Research Center report released in June 2010, one in seven new marriages in the United States is interracial or interethnic.

Drug recall to change penalty?

Like other states, Tennessee has had to turn over its stock of sodium thiopental to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration because of allegations it may have been illegally obtained from an unregulated overseas supplier. Now, the state has to make a death penalty decision. If it doesn't change its lethal injection drug or the legislature doesn't pass a law allowing the state to use alternative means of executions — death row inmates will remain indefinitely imprisoned.

State examines electric car fees

Transportation Commissioner John Schroer said he thinks the owners of electric vehicles should pay their fair share and is looking for ways to get electric car drivers to contribute to road maintenance — something that is usually paid for from the gas tax. Since electric cars don't use gas, their drivers don't pay. That means less money for the state's roads. Schroer said a possible electric car fee should be part of an overall discussion about better ways to fund roads, calling the current system that relies on fuel taxes "archaic."

House approves sales tax refund

The House has given final approval to a measure to extend a sales tax relief measure for flood victims sending the bill for the governor's signature. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gary Odom, would allow a sales tax refund of up to \$2,500 for sales taxes paid on major appliances, furniture and building supplies needed to recover from last year's floods. Refunds would be available for items bought through April 30.

State ranks tax friendly

Tennessee ranks in the top third of U.S. states that are tax-friendly to small business, according to data released from the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. The state came in at 17 in the "Business Tax Index 2011," which ranks the states from best to worst in terms of the costs of their tax systems on entrepreneurship and small business. The ranking is based on 18 different tax measures including income and property taxes.

have to choose between direct deposit or a debit card from the state. According to The Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the change will save the state about \$3 million a year, as sending benefits through the postal service leaves too much room for error. Delivery can take too long, and sometimes checks are stolen from mailboxes. It should be an improvement for people who don't have bank accounts, too, since they will no longer have to pay check cashing fees.

THP considers name change

The Tennessee Highway Patrol's leadership says it wants to rename the agency the Tennessee State Patrol because its role has evolved beyond traffic enforcement in the years since it was established in 1929. The name change is supported by the THP leadership, but is not officially endorsed by Gov. Bill Haslam's administration.

IQ tests for executions ruled out

Tennessee judges can no longer rely on a standard IQ test score to see if a prisoner is too intellectually challenged to be executed. The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that testimony from mental health experts should also be considered to see whether a prisoner is intellectually disabled. Tennessee law bars the execution of intellectually disabled people. An IQ test score of 70 or below is one of several factors that determine whether a prisoner is intellectually disabled. However, the court said experts were needed to see if the test score accurately reflects the defendant's functional IQ.

Teens lack summer jobs—again

For the first time in two summers, there are virtually no federal stimulus funds to fuel teens' summer work programs over the next few months, which will have an impact on a young labor force already suffering through a high unemployment rate. "More experienced adult workers who lost jobs in the recession took many of those positions and have held on," said Ellen Zinkiewicz, director of youth and community services at the Nashville Career Advancement Center.

March revenues positive

Tennessee's March revenue collections were again above budgeted expectations. State Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes announced that overall March revenue was \$815.5 million, about \$9.5 million more than had been budgeted. It marks the state's eighth consecutive month this fiscal year of positive growth. Sales-tax collections were \$32.8 million more than the March estimated. For the fiscal year, sales-tax collections are over collected by \$117.9 million.

Census, mixed-race increase

Tennessee's mixed-race population has grown 74 percent between 2000 and 2010, according to the latest census data, making it one of the country's most rapidly expanding. In some Middle Tennessee counties, the growth is even greater. Rutherford's multiracial population is up 187 percent, Williamson's has increased 161 percent, Wilson's is up 126 percent and Sumner's has

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tenure reform signed into law

Gov. Bill Haslam signed his tenure reform bill into law, marking his first legislative victory and helping solidify Tennessee at the forefront of education reform in the country. The legislation, SB 1528/HB 2012, changes a teacher's probationary period before becoming eligible for tenure from three to five years as well as links tenure status to performance evaluations, utilizing Tennessee's extensive student data that is the envy of states around the nation. The legislation also gives principals the flexibility to keep a non-tenured teacher after the five year period. Previously a teacher would either receive tenure or be fired after three years.

Beekeeping boom in TN

The number of beekeepers has doubled in the past two years, the state's agriculture department says. Some beekeepers do it as part of a sustainable lifestyle, while others rent bees to farmers to pollinate large vegetable fields. The growth has prompted bills this legislative session to limit liability for beekeepers but increase state oversight, including a limit on hives on small lots. And honeybees are showing up in some decidedly non-rural settings. Davidson, Williamson, Rutherford and Wilson counties each have hundreds of beehives registered with the state, among the top counties in Tennessee.

State Treasurer bios collected

The Tennessee Treasury Department has a new project — gathering information about all the state treasurers. The undertaking is getting biographical information about current Treasurer David H. Lillard Jr. and all those who preceded him. The state says it will be the first time the data has been available in one place. There are four living former treasurers: Thomas A. Wiseman, Harlan Mathews, Steve Adams and Dale Sims. Portraits of past treasurers will become part of a permanent exhibit in the 11th-floor conference room at the Andrew Jackson State Office Building.

Museum hosts history project

The Tennessee State Museum has begun a hands-on history project for schools. "Tennessee Traveling Treasures" provides teachers with real and reproduction artifacts, books, posters, music CDs, film DVDs and other objects to use in their classrooms. They come with lesson plans developed by teachers and the museum's staff. The program covers topics in various eras of Tennessee history including: First Tennesseans, the Cherokees, the frontier, Andrew Jackson and other Tennessee leaders, slavery, the Civil War, women's suffrage, the home front during World War II and the civil rights movement. The museum received a \$59,259 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to help with the project.

Paper benefit checks phased out

Unemployment checks will soon be a thing of the past in Tennessee. People will still get their benefits, but instead of a paper check, they'll

Watson appointed Speaker Pro Tem

Pro Tem from Page 1
is a natural continuation of the work in which I have already been engaged, and gives me the opportunity to dedicate 100 percent of my efforts to improving public education in our state."

Senate Speaker Ramsey called Woodson a "pioneering and passionate advocate for education reform," and congratulated her on her new position.

Woodson will resign from the Senate effective July 1, or the close of business on the last day of the current legislative session — whichever comes first — to begin working with SCORE. One of her first tasks will be leading a strategic planning process to chart the

organization's future. The planning process, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will help define and expand SCORE's ongoing activities in advocacy, policy, research and technical assistance.

Woodson will be replaced by Sen. Bo Watson, who was first elected to the Senate in 2006. He currently serves as chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee and the vice-chair of the General Welfare, Health & Human Resources Committee.

"It is rare that you find someone who works as hard for the people of Tennessee as Bo Watson," Ramsey said in a news release. "His tireless work on issues of government reform has been an inspiration to all of

us striving to make state government as small, efficient and transparent as possible. I'm extremely pleased he has agreed to take the job."

The speaker pro tem has a key leadership role in the General Assembly, both in terms of operations and policy. Among other things, he presides over the Senate when the speaker is absent.

"I'm humbled and honored that Lt. Gov. Ramsey has placed this kind of faith in me," said Sen. Watson. "I look forward to serving my speaker to the best of my ability in this new role."

Prior to his election to the Senate, Watson served one term in the House. He represents the 11th Senatorial District.

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Tennessee's Career Coaches hit the road

COACHES from Page 1

skills. The three Career Coaches are already booked for 120 events across the state.

"We're booked 45 days out now and plan on being on the road four to five days per week," said Barnett. "Employers, schools, festivals libraries, any event, we can go there and assist."

In addition to mature workers, high school seniors who have chosen not to take a college career track is another demographic the program recognizes. "We hope to work with the students, enrolling them for work in our data base to get them ready for the job market," Barnett said. "We're finding so many people who have never been without a job before. They have forgotten how to interview or write a resume. Most older people are not computer savvy and it's overwhelming when someone tells you to go out on a website to find a job when you don't have a clue what that means."

Northwest Tennessee received devastating news recently when the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. announced plans to close its manufacturing plant in Union City at the end of the year. The plant, which makes radial tires, opened in 1968 and employs 1,900 people.

"The Goodyear closing will surely exacerbate those numbers, not only in Union City and Obion County, but also in the surrounding counties that have lost manufacturing jobs over the years," said Barnett. "We know we will be needed there."

A former middle Tennessee native, Beane moved to East Tennessee to take part in the Career Coach program, while also working on her masters degree in social work at the University of Tennessee. She will handle career coaching events from Crossville to Mountain City.

"The last time most of these

people were looking for work, they were able to walk in and apply. That has changed dramatically," she said. "Also, whenever I go out to rural communities, I talk to the library directors and they don't have enough computers or staff to assist everyone. A big problem is that people don't know how to use computers or have e-mail addresses."

"I'm working closely with local governments and libraries to see what they need and bring that to them," said Gibbs, who formerly worked at the Lebanon Career Center. "The biggest factor when I worked in Lebanon was the fact that it was difficult to get to a career center," she said. "The center in Wilson county served two counties. People in Trousdale would have to drive either to Wilson or Smith Co., which is a good 30 minute drive one way. It's hard to look for work when you have to drive 30 minutes and spend that gas money."

Gibbs said she is receiving requests from mayors, workforce entities, vocational rehabs and libraries for Career Coach services.

"Anyone can call on us," said Beane. "All we really require is a place to park the bus and restroom facilities."

To book one of the Career Coaches, visit the website at <http://getonthecoach.tn.gov/index.html> or call Sandy Barnett in Huntingdon at 731-986-8217 ext.125, Sarah Beane, Knoxville, at 865-403-1122, or Lynn Gibbs, Nashville, at 615-741-0634.



Barnett



Beane



Gibbs

2011 Tennessee NEXT Conference to focus on innovation-based economic development

Tennessee Technology Development Corporation (TTDC) will hold the 2011 Tennessee NEXT Conference on May 5-6 at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel.

The conference, previously known as the Tennessee Innovation & Venture Showcase Conference, is the state's premier event devoted to innovation-based economic development with a focus on commercially promising technologies, early-stage businesses and the resources required for highly effective translation of technology to the marketplace. The conference, which drew more than 300 attendees in 2010, is expected to gain greater participation this year through a strong program featuring nationally recognized leaders in innovation, entrepreneurship and capital investment.

Tennessee NEXT will include more than 40 panelists, presenters and special guest speakers discussing "what's next" driving economic growth and job creation in Tennessee.

Gov. Bill Haslam will deliver the keynote luncheon address to be hosted at War Memorial Auditorium for meeting attendees and participants. "The scientists, inventors and entrepreneurs partici-

pating in this conference represent the future of Tennessee's economy and are essential to the state's long-term economic competitiveness and prosperity," said Haslam. "The small businesses launched and the technologies commercialized as a result of Tennessee NEXT fuel our state's economic growth and are critical to establishing Tennessee as the leading state in the Southeast for knowledge-based businesses and high-quality jobs."

Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty will moderate the opening-day panel, "Driving Economic Growth in Tennessee". Joining Commissioner Hagerty as panelists are nationally prominent leaders in innovation Bill Bates, chief of staff, Council on Competitiveness; Barry Johnson, senior advisor and director of Strategic Initiatives, U.S. Economic Development Administration; and Ray Leach, CEO, JumpStart Inc.

The conference will also feature an Innovation Showcase featuring 18 scientists and inventors who will present their early stage innovations, as well as 24 high-potential early stage businesses "pitching" their ideas to a panel of venture capitalists during the Venture Showcase

In addition to TTDC, Tennessee



NEXT is presented by the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Entrepreneur Center and partners of the Tennessee Enterprise Network.

For more information about the conference and to register, please visit www.tntechology.org/conference. As an added bonus to TML members, TTDC is offering a 50% discount on registration, which will bring the fee down from \$200 to \$100. To receive the special registration code, contact Mona Lawrence at mlawrence@tml1.org.

TTDC is a private, non-profit organization focused on transformational economic development strategies that create jobs and wealth in Tennessee. Designed to improve the statewide business climate for innovation and entrepreneurship, TTDC serves as a complement to ongoing business recruitment and expansion efforts of state and local officials. TTDC is funded under an agreement with the state of Tennessee.

Making Great Cities Even Better



The city of Martin closed a \$1.5 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) to finance a new municipal building. Pictured are Chris Mathis, city recorder, and Randy Brundige, mayor. Standing is Tommy Green, TMBF representative.

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ANIMAL SHELTER DIRECTOR

KINGSPORT. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Animal Shelter Director. Salary DOQ, but in the \$40,000 range. The director is responsible for the operations of two facilities and animal control services serving the cities of Kingsport, Bluff City, and Sullivan County. This is a new position and a new quasi-governmental agency. Position answers to nine-member board representing the cities, county, Humane Society, and ARC (Animal Rescue Coalition). Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and organizational skills. Demonstrated success in shelter management, leadership and intergovernmental coordination desired. At least three years' experience as Shelter Director/Assistant Director or equivalent. Application is a public record. Send resume by May 2, 2011 to Judy Smith, City of Kingsport, 225 West Center Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. Phone: 423-224-2828 Email: smithj@ci.kingsport.tn.us

CITY MANAGER

SHELBYVILLE. The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Manager. Population is 20,335 with a Private Act City Manager Charter; \$12 million budget and no utilities. Requires five years of city management experience. Salary range is \$60,000 - \$80,000 plus benefits. Application closing date is May 12, 2011. EOE. Send Resume to Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 606, Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1804, Attention Ron Darden: e-mail dardenr@tennessee.edu or call 615-532-4942.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES CONSULTANT

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service has an outstanding opportunity for a fire and emergency services professional to serve as a consultant to the cities and towns of Tennessee. This position serves a statewide territory, and extensive travel is required. Relocation to a specific area is not presently required, and is expected to be based from an MTAS office in Knoxville, Nashville, or Jackson. Provides day-to-day technical assistance to elected officials and staffs of the cities and towns, and develops and supervises original research for fire and emergency services in the state. The applicant will have five years or more experience with fire or emergency services departments, preferably in a position comparable to chief or assistant chief, and should have expertise in emergency medical response and emergency management. Outstanding communication skills are required. Requires a bachelor's degree in fire protection, public administration, criminal justice or a related field, and a related master's degree is preferred. Graduation from the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program at the National Fire Academy is preferred, and research conducted as part of the EFO may be reviewed. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Cover letter, resume and references should be submitted by e-mail to Tess Davis, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, tess.davis@tennessee.edu. Position is open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and

services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

POLICE CHIEF

DRESDEN. The city is accepting applications for Chief of Police. This position is responsible for the planning, organizing and directing of all activities of the Police Department. Applicants should meet the following qualifications: Graduation from an accredited high school or equivalent, preferably graduation from a college or university with major course experience in police administration or related field; Have at least five year's (5) experience in law enforcement with administrative experience and be P.O.S.T. certified. Salary is dependent upon qualifications. A job description and application may be obtained at Dresden City Hall. Applications should be submitted by Noon on Monday, May 2, 2011 to the following address: City of Dresden, Attn: City Recorder, 117 West Main St., Dresden, TN 38225.

POLICE CHIEF

WAYNESBORO. The city is accepting applications for the position of Police Chief. Applicants must be POST Certified, have an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice or related field, and have a minimum of five (5) years in Police Administrative Position or equivalent. Resumes should be submitted detailing applicants experience and training to Waynesboro City Hall or can be emailed to jhickman@cityofwaynesboro.org by April 29, 2011. Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance, paid vacation and holidays, retirement plan and deferred compensation plan. The city reserves the right to reject all applications. EOE.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The Public Library Board of Trustees seeks an experienced and energetic leader to direct the Spring Hill library and its staff of 10. The library has a service population of approximately 32,000 from the city and surrounding area. The director reports to a seven member Board of Trustees and is responsible for planning and directing the overall operations and management of the library; implementing the mission and goals of the library as set by the Library Board; and functioning with a maximum degree of latitude for independent action within the scope of policy as set by the board. Essential duties include: ensuring a high level of customer service; implementing strategic plan, goals and objectives; preparing annual budget for approval by the board; directing the expenditure of library funds; establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with various agencies and community groups; and effectively leading and supervising staff and volunteers. Minimum qualifications include: three years of progressively responsible leadership; excellent interpersonal and communication skills; experience in providing sound fiscal planning and management, and thorough knowledge of current trends, technology, and best practices for organizational management. Preferred qualifications include a Master's Degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited program or its equivalent. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications, with a range of \$45,000-\$65,000. Benefit package including health insurance, retirement, vacation and sick leave. Please send resume and names and contact information of three references by electronic submission in PDF or WORD format to dana.deem@tennessee.edu. Submission deadline May 15, 2011. EOE

Conference workshops to focus on entrepreneurship

CONFERENCE from Page 1

work he is doing with The Cumberland Center (TCC). Massey was commissioned by Cumberland University to create and lead TCC – a University-based business alliance focused on innovation and prosperity in Middle Tennessee and the state. The mission of the Cumberland Center is to compete globally by advancing innovation and prosperity through targeted university-business engagement and enterprise creation.

Today every county, every community, and every business are on the front lines of global competition – and global opportunity. Tennessee possesses strengths that position it well for this competition. However, there is a missing link in efforts to drive growth, jobs and new opportunities. The new race is won by regions with the capacity to innovate and with the brainpower—education and skills—needed to create and sustain a competitive advantage over the long run. Massey will discuss how successful regions build on their own unique qualities and will present case studies where entrepreneurship is working in communities across the country.

On Monday, June 13, Dr. Michael Wilcox, University of Tennessee professor with the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and Dr. Alison Davis, director of Community & Economic Development Initiative with the University of Kentucky, will lead a workshop entitled *Aligning Entrepreneurship Resources in the Rural South* that will focus on how to foster an entrepreneur system at the community level.

Governments and other service providers are a necessary element in a comprehensive entrepreneurial system. However, direct technical assistance to entrepreneurs is not a sufficient condition for success. Support in the rural areas of our region have traditionally been reliant upon external service providers and hampered by the lack of community-based programming that serves to foster an environment in which entrepreneurship can thrive. This presentation will examine best prac-

tices and discuss current issues facing rural entrepreneurship in the rural South.

Other workshop topics will include Retail Retention & Economic Development, Civility in Government, Trends in Public Pension Plans, Succession Planning, Fuel Stabilization, Sign Reflectivity Regulations, Leadership and Public Trust, Social Media, and Effective Communications Practices.

New this year are several added networking opportunities including a special fun-filled evening on Saturday night to welcome you to the conference. Scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, the *Murfree Carlo Night* will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee and will feature games, refreshments, and both a silent and live auction. On Sunday, the city of Murfreesboro is hosting a golf tournament at the Old Fort Golf Course. The tournament will include 18-holes of golf, prizes, refreshments and more.

The conference will kick off Sunday, June 12, with registration, vendor presentations, district meetings, and the opening general session followed by the host city reception. An awards breakfast on Tuesday will conclude the conference.

To register, go to TML's website to download a registration form, www.TML1.org.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 11	
7 - 10 pm	Murfree Carlo Night
SUNDAY, JUNE 12	
9 am - 5 pm	Exhibit Hall / Registration
11-11:45 am	Vendor Workshop 1
12 noon	Lunch
1 - 1:45 pm	Vendor Workshop 2
2 - 2:45 pm	District Meetings
3 - 4:15 pm	Opening Session
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Concurrent Workshops
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Host City Reception
MONDAY, JUNE 13	
9 - 11:15 am	Mobile Workshop: Murfreesboro Public Works Facility
9 - 10 am	Concurrent Workshops
10:15 - 11:15 am	Concurrent Workshops
11:30 - 12:15 pm	Annual Business Meeting
12:30 - 2 pm	Lunch
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Concurrent Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Concurrent Workshops
6:30 - 11pm	Pool Party
TUESDAY, JUNE 14	
8 - 10 am	Annual Awards Breakfast

Growing revenues numbers reflect improving economy

REVENUES from Page 1

Tennessee, but long-term it may actually help our economies as the Japanese rebuild and need products for the U.S. Fox, director of U.T. Center for Business and Economic Research, was among four presenters making revenue projections to the State Funding Board.

Economists cited Tennessee's growing sales tax collections and an increase in auto sales as signs of economic improvement, but expressed caution due to stubbornly high unemployment numbers, foreclosures, and lack of new home construction.

Based on the projections presented from the various economists, the Funding Board concluded that it was not unreasonable to assume that revenues for the upcoming year will be slightly higher than originally adopted.

Along with Emkes, the Funding Board includes Gov. Bill Haslam, and three constitutional officers: Comptroller Justin Wilson, Secretary of State Tre Hargett and Treasurer David Lillard.

The board's revenue estimates are used by the governor, members of the General Assembly and their staffs for budget planning purposes.



April 30: Millington
2nd Annual All Things Art Festival
Held at the Millington Farmers' Market located on Easley Ave from 10 am – 5 pm. Showcases great food and local artisans and performing groups including bands, choirs, dancers, theatrical programs, storytelling and cultural arts. See demonstrations from the Ornamental Metal Museum, Dixon Art Gallery, Draw Dog from Art Center of Memphis, a student art show and hands on art activities for people of all ages. Also see the 2nd Annual "Get Your Goat" public art exhibition design competition. For more information, contact Millington Arts Council at MillingtonArtsCouncil@xipline.com or call 901.481.3021.

May 1-7: Humboldt
74th West TN Strawberry Festival
For a complete schedule of activities, visit the festival website at www.wtsf.org/contactus.html.

May 6-8: Nashville
TACA Tennessee Craft Fair
The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists 40th anniversary at Centennial Park. Painters along with 160 Tennessee craft artists, Nashville Public Library's Puppet Truck showing two performances of Hansel and Gretel on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., art and craft activities for young and old in the TACA Kids Tent. For more information, visit the website www.tennesseearts.org.

May 12 - 21: Millington
The American Legion Fair
Held at the USA Stadium Complex located at 4351 Babe Howard Blvd. Monster midway of rides, food, games, circus acts, camel rides, monkey races, rodeo, magic shows and a variety of musical performances. For more information, visit the website www.AmericanLegionFair2010.com.

May 14: Town of Cumberland Gap
Semi Annual Crazy Aunt Sadie's Yard Sale
Find some great deals. Enjoy the sites around Cumberland Gap. Cost to set up \$5 for residents, \$10 for non-residents. Proceeds go to the Cumberland Gap Volunteer Fire Department. Rain Date: May 21. For more information call Town Hall at 869-3860 or visit www.townofcumberlandgap.com

May 14: Clifton
Smoke on the River: Backyard Barbecue Cook-off
Art and antique car show held from 9am until 3pm. Enjoy competition barbecue and local artisans showcasing their work in the Clifton City Park on Highway 128E. For questions, e-mail skeltonb@tds.net about barbecue; Artisan inquiries e-mail to brenda_cauley@hotmail.com and WhitsEndRanch@gmail.com for cars.

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

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State revenues are showing signs of recovery, but persistent budget gaps remain a daunting obstacle

State budgets have been under constant pressure since the Great Recession first began in 2007. Legislators continue to make difficult budget decisions as it remains uncertain when states will be free of the budget gaps that have dogged them for several years.

A new state budget report from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) sheds some light on the shifting fiscal picture for states. *NCSL's State Budget Update: March 2011* shows that state revenues continue to stabilize or even grow, which is a welcome change after some of the most challenging budget years ever faced by states.

The general improvement in state tax collections is tied to the strong performance of personal income and sales and use taxes. Thirty-eight states reported personal income tax collections were performing at or above estimate. Additionally, 37 states reported general sales tax collections are on target or above estimate.

"Legislators are not ready to unroll their sleeves just yet," said William Pound, NCSL executive director "Even though revenue collections are up, almost half the states are not expecting to return to peak revenue collections until sometime between FY 2013 and FY 2016."

Fiscal conditions are still considered weak and NCSL's report shows that budget gaps continue to persist. Twenty-three states reported spending overruns in programs like Medicaid, K-12 education and public safety in fiscal year (FY) 2011 budgets. Additionally, new FY 2011 budget gaps have opened in at least 19 states since the beginning of July 2010.

"The improving national economy did help more states close budget gaps in FY 2011," said Arturo Perez, director of NCSL fiscal affairs division. "But some states still have a long road ahead of them."

Following on the heels of the significant shortfalls already closed in FY 2009, FY 2010 and FY 2011, projected budget gaps for FY 2012

continue to present an ongoing challenge for states. At least 31 states and Puerto Rico project cumulative budget gaps of \$86.1 billion in FY 2012. The loss of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), increases in caseloads and tepid revenue growth that continue to put the squeeze on state budgets. For FY 2013, 19 states anticipate a cumulative budget gap of \$30.9 billion.

NCSL's new report, *State Budget Update: March 2011*, provides information on budgets in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. It is based on data collected from legislative fiscal office directors in March 2011.

It includes extensive information on:

- New FY 2011 budget gaps.
- FY 2011 tax performance.
- Spending overruns in FY 2011.
- A summary of the current state fiscal situation.
- Projected budget gaps in FY 2012 and FY 2013.
- Projected return to peak levels in revenue collection.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Just like American workers, whose pay has slipped in recent years, the average salary of U.S. governors also has begun to slide. According to the Council of State Governments' most recent compensation survey, the average governor's salary was \$130,595 in 2010 — down 4 percent from the year before. Between 2007 and 2009, nearly half of the states increased their governor's compensation, according to the survey. Some did so dramatically. Tennessee, for example, set its governor's salary at \$85,000 in 2007 — the third-lowest in the country. Pay for other high-ranking state officials also lagged what was offered in other states, not to mention the private sector. In order to make it easier to attract and keep talent, Tennessee substantially

raised salaries for top executives, including the governor, whose pay went to \$164,292 in 2009 and bumped again last year, to \$170,340. (Former Gov. Phil Bredesen always returned his salary to the state after paying taxes on it, as does the new governor, Bill Haslam.)

A key credit agency issued an unprecedented warning to the United States government, urging Washington to get a grip on its finances or risk losing the nation's sterling credit rating. For the first time, Standard & Poor's lowered its long-term outlook for the federal government's fiscal health from "stable" to "negative," and warned of serious consequences if lawmakers fail to reach a deal to control the massive federal deficit. An impasse could prompt the agency to strip the government of its top investment rating in the next two

years. A loss of the triple-A rating would ripple through the American economy, making loans more expensive and credit more difficult to obtain. The government is on pace to run a record \$1.5 trillion deficit this year, the third consecutive deficit exceeding \$1 trillion.

The Federal Aviation Administration said that it would change scheduling practices for air traffic controllers in an effort to combat excessive fatigue. The decision was announced after a controller was discovered napping while on duty — at least the sixth controller to be caught doing so in recent months. "We are taking important steps that will make a real difference in fighting air traffic controller fatigue," the F.A.A. administrator, J. Randolph Babbitt, said. "But we know we will need to do more. This is just the beginning."

COMING UP

May 3-24: Healthcare Legislative Update, MTAS Municipal Administration Program. These workshops will cover the implications of the health care legislation and subsequent clarifications to the law as it relates to Tennessee municipalities. 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. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Elaine Morrissey at 865-974-0411.

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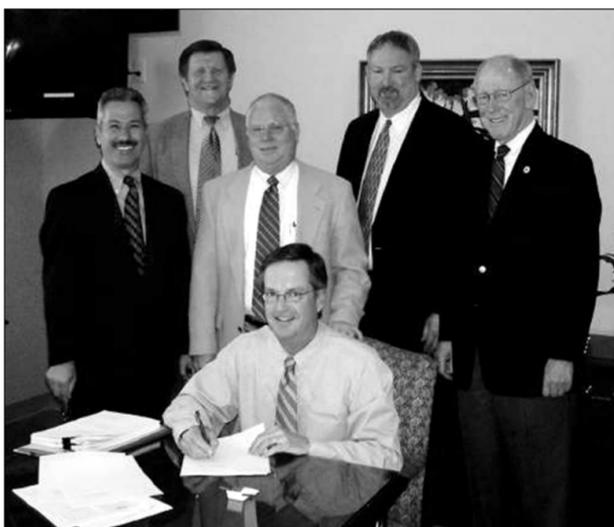
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The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.



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

Failures spark Schroer's successes, from mayor to TDOT commissioner

BY GAELSTAHL

Most achievers find a guardian angel or two to nudge them to achievement. For others, like John Schroer, it was flunking college on first try that helped him refocus, return to the starting gate, and try again.

Born in Evansville, Ind., in 1951, the youngest of three boys, his mother a school teacher, his father was a former door to door vacuum cleaners salesman in Kentucky who became an automobile salesman in Evansville. His youngest boy inherited just enough about sales to learn how to make his negatives pay off, sell himself, and jumpstart a career.

On graduating from William Henry Harrison High School in 1969, Schroer went to Indiana University to play on the golf team. Unfortunately his limited focus on golf, chasing girls, playing bridge, and drinking beer resulted, in a little over a year, in an improved handicap and a 1.1 grade point average that ended with his father putting him to work loading railroad cars. Perilously close to being shipped to Vietnam where a war was winding down, he abandoned that path, got back in school, focused on studies, made the Dean's List every semester, married at age 20 with two years left in school, and graduated in 1974 with a major in marketing – on “the five-year plan.”

His GPA still wasn't worth mentioning but 35 years later it gave him the perfect parable of lost opportunity to warn his daughter at UT with the story of how difficult it is to bring up a grade point average. If you start at 1.1, it can't be done.

Luckily, Indiana School of Business, one of the best undergraduate business schools in the nation, had a great recruiting program and Schroer did numerous interviews with top companies. He knew that the only way he could survive his school records was to turn his negatives into positives. He did. He'd walked into each interview with a bit of a smile and tell the recruiter, “I know that you know from my resume that I flunked out of college my first year! I sure did. Let me tell you that I learned a lot from that. Not everyone does. I learned that I needed to motivate myself and refocus my life. I've proved that I could do that.”

Schroer's interviews went well; he received numerous career opportunities to choose from, and went with PPG Industries (formerly Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company), a multi-million dollar corporation based in Pittsburgh. Hired to take an executive management training program and given his pick of regions to work in, he chose Nashville, the only city with a business school where he could earn an MBA degree at night. He wanted a graduate degree so he could have the experience of starting a degree program with a 4 point grade average. He graduated with an MBA in 1978 from then UT-Nashville (now Tennessee State University's Avon Williams downtown campus).

Just before, graduating, PPG closed its Nashville office and offered to transfer Schroer to Youngstown, Ohio. He declined and went to work in a Third National Bank mortgage company making loans for shopping centers, apartment buildings and other commercial endeavors. He found that the maze of rules and regulations that banks had to go through wasn't his style. He preferred to be on the other side of the desk, left lending in 1980-1981 and, with a partner that owned Sharondale Construction Company, started Sharondale Properties, a real estate development company in the Franklin/Williamson County market. When the real estate market crashed in the late 1980s, Schroer crashed and burned with it, went through some tough times, had to file bankruptcy, lost everything he owned, and had to start over again. It was a struggle for awhile, but he got back into the real estate business and, also, began to wonder if working more than 60 hours a week was all there was.

He decided to focus on personal things instead of making money. Having remarried in 1982, he got more involved with his wife Marianne and their kids. He went to kindergarten activities and school lunches and in 1992 decided to run for the Franklin Special School District school board, a volunteer non-paid job. In 1994, he was elected chairman of the board and re-elected three more times, about 15 years in all. Asked to join the Tennessee School Boards Association,

he was named its treasurer and was its vice president moving up to president when he decided to run for mayor of Franklin in 2007. He beat an incumbent mayor 2-1 and was sworn in that November.

He still has his real estate development company but adds “that's kind of a nonpaying job too, you know.” As Franklin mayor he received \$800 a month for what was often a full-time job but called “part-time” position. He had just completed his third year as mayor last fall when Gov. Bill Haslam named Schroer commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) with its thousands of employees and close to \$2 billion budget.

The Schroers' have three children. Their youngest, a daughter, Carly is at UT Chattanooga. Their sons Matt and Luke live in Middle Tennessee. Marianne is head of the Judicial Drug Court in the 21st District, which includes Williamson County and three other counties. A therapist with a master's degree in psychology, she is a licensed psychological examiner. They live in downtown Franklin in an historic house they renovated.

TT&C: Why did you run for mayor in 2007?

JS: I thought the previous mayor was leading the city in the wrong direction. I hoped to bring city officials together with united vision to bring “directed growth” to Franklin and to develop certain areas before crucial needs inevitably arise. A group of us felt we needed a change in leadership and I was the only one with the political experience and name recognition to beat an incumbent mayor. I'd been chairman of the school board for a long time. People liked our school system. It's probably the best one in this state and one of the tops in the nation.

TT&C: Normally, being on the school board is a political dead-end?

JS: Yes. But I'm not really political or do these things for political reasons. I was truly concerned about the direction Franklin was taking. People felt change was needed. So, I gave it to them. We worked hard on establishing a financial policy that the city had never had and, for the first time, ranked capital improvement projects, CPI projects, cut \$10 million out of a \$60 million budget, and many other things while there. Probably the best thing I did as mayor was in January 2009, when we brought in Eric Stuckey to manage the day-to-day operations.

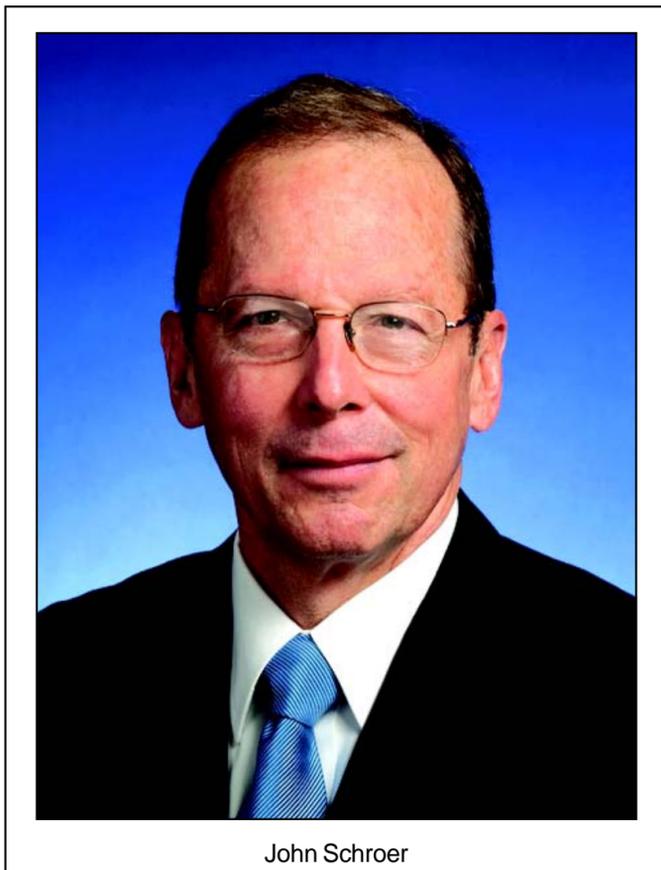
TT&C: What was your main focus as mayor?

We work with city and county mayors and legislators. With regard to roads, all local politics is local and nonpartisan. There's not a single legislator in the House or Senate, not a single city or county mayor that doesn't have a pet road project. We consider them all, rank them, and decide which fits best within our long-range transportation plans based on corridor studies, best needs in-state assessment, and safety assessments.

— John Schroer

JS: The first thing I did was set up an Affordable Housing Commission. It was a critical issue for me because I learned while on the Franklin School District board that nearly 25 percent of our children qualify for the national school lunch program. They are below the poverty level. Most people don't know that Franklin has anybody below the poverty level, but we do. Our focus then was to try to narrow the gap between the haves and the have nots in the school system. I'm proud of all the effort we spent on that.

As mayor, I learned that a lot of children of Franklin residents cannot afford to live in that town. Not just poor children, but most children. My children, for example, can't afford to buy a house in Franklin and so live in nearby towns where homes don't cost so much. What that means is Franklin is going to be losing a whole generation of young people. That's a shame for a town like Franklin that was founded in 1799 and is a true city in that it has all the demographics. Not many outlying cities do. It is appalling people can't afford to live in the town they grew up in. It's not the city's fault, but the city has to help. To that end, our Affordable Housing Taskforce initiated policies to help people build affordable workforce housing and created zon-



John Schroer

ing ordinances to permit more density for workforce housing. Otherwise, a generation of children will move to Spring Hill or Murfreesboro or Dickson. Franklin will not become their home.

TT&C: That's a new twist. When towns lose their youth, it's usually for lack of jobs. You have the jobs to keep people in Franklin?

JS: Sure. But it's not a new problem for people who want to pay attention to it. We have a large African American population that has a wonderful history. In fact, I live a block away from the city's first African-American subdivision that dates to right after the Civil War, the Hard Bargain community, an historical two-block area. A lot of renovation is going on there, not tearing down and gentrifying but providing affordable, appropriate homes in the neighborhood.

TT&C: Your community involvements seem to have specifically prepared you to be a TDOT commissioner. You served on the executive committee of the Middle Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and were treasurer of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and a founding board member of Franklin Tomorrow to improve

the future of the city.

JS: Franklin is an automatic member of the MPO, a federally funded planning organization that focuses on transportation. As mayor I had an automatic seat on the Middle Tennessee RTA. I participated on both boards. Because of my financial background – my MBA – I was asked to serve as treasurer of the RTA and on the School Boards Association. As commissioner of TDOT, I also have a seat on both RTA and the MPO.

Another thing that helped was my real estate development background. I built things, know the processes of the construction business, and know how architects and engineers work. I've done a lot of that myself.

When I had lunch with the governor today, he also said that when he thought about his appointing me that my career was perfect for being TDOT commissioner. I told him I thought so, too and that I tell people that Bill Haslam is really smart or it was divine intervention. He said, it was probably divine intervention. But, yes, I do believe that my career has led me to this position.

TT&C: You and the governor both have business and mayoral backgrounds. How does that af-

fect your relationship?

JS: I supported Bill Haslam early on because one, I liked him, and two, because he was a mayor. I believe the governor has to be an executive. Haslam was the only one running on the Republican side that had executive experience. I met with him when we were mayors a couple of times, and as mayor you have to know a lot about a lot of governmental services, from police and fire to garbage and sewer and water and roads. A governor also has to know about a lot of things, so being mayor is great training. Some of our best governors and presidents have come from an executive background. So I attached to him early on, followed his campaign, and watched him work really hard. We share some of those similarities and can converse about the similarities of being CEO of a city, of TDOT, or of the state.

TT&C: How does TDOT prioritize road repairs and new road planning?

JS: Maintaining the infrastructure we have is our prime responsibility. Tennessee has some of the best roads in the Southeast, and I want to make sure we maintain that. That gets harder and harder every year. Our revenue levels aren't going down or going up, but our maintenance costs for salaries and asphalt go up every year.

We prioritize projects in various ways. We work with MPOs and RPOs since planning is what they do. We work with city and county mayors and legislators. With regard to roads, all local politics is local and nonpartisan. There's not a single legislator in the House or Senate, not a single city or county mayor that doesn't have a pet road project. We consider them all, rank them, and decide which fits best within our long-range transportation plans based on corridor studies, best needs in-state assessment, and safety assessments. Safety is obviously the No. 1 concern. A bridge that needs repairing or an interchange that's unsafe gets higher priority.

We have about \$6.5 billion worth of road projects underway now and about \$1 billion a year to build them with. Most people don't know that federal dollars don't go into maintenance and can be used only to enhance or enlarge the infrastructure. Every year we get \$900 million in federal dollars and \$900 million a year in state dollars. Only state dollars can be used for maintenance.

TT&C: The TDOT complex in northwest Nashville complex is vast with buildings branching off in all directions. You oversee a huge operation, don't you?

JS: We have 4,100 employees, a \$1.82 billion a year budget, and what you saw is one of four operation centers. Others are in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Jackson. We do dozens of things including urban interstate cameras in your cities and HELP trucks to keep traffic flowing, but the two biggest monetary items are new construction and maintenance. We're also in charge of 20,000 bridges in Tennessee, of all the short-line railroads, all the port facilities on the rivers, and about 75 noncommercial airports. Anything that has to do with transportation

comes out of this department.

TT&C: Has the growing use of electric cars cut into state gas tax collections dedicated to road maintenance?

JS: It's not an issue right now. There aren't enough cars being made to put a dent on what we do. But, that's going to change. I compare the combustion car we're driving now to the horse and buggy 100 years ago. We're going to develop different modes of transportation. It only makes sense to have engines driving our cars not putting out emissions or using fuel that increases our costs and dependence on foreign oil.

I've seen nothing negative about an electric car or electric anything. Chattanooga has been driving electric buses for years. Electric tractor trailers are being used. We are only restricted by the size and capacity of our batteries. You can now drive 100 miles on a charge. In three years, probably 200 miles. What we have to do is be prepared for that.

With regard to funding, I think people should pay for what they use. You pay your electric or water bill for the amount you use. The road system is an infrastructure similar to an electric or phone or sewer system. You should pay for what you use, not ask other people to pay for your road use.

We need to look at the archaic way we tax gas not only in Tennessee but nationally. Charging for vehicle miles traveled makes more sense to me than anything else, but I'm open for discussion. It's something we need to be aware of and prepare for.

TT&C: You've hit the ground running. In just the last few days you've activated the TDOT Smart Way Mobile service, co-hosted sustainable business and tourism and trade and transportation studies for improving regional freight transportation, launched the Jack Trail at Columbia that features 328 tourism sites, a community growth conference at Knoxville, and toured traffic infrastructure needs in Clarksville and Montgomery County. Is that what a commissioner does?

JS: That's what this one does. When the governor asked me to do this, I said, I'll promise you two things. I can't promise you I'm going to do a great job but I'll promise you that I'll work very hard and I won't embarrass you. I can promise that. Every day.

TT&C: Do you see any daylight with regard to federal funding and how the recent stopgap agreements by Congress will affect us?

JS: They've passed a continuation bill for transportation that goes to Sept. 30. We're trying to work out a traditional six-year transportation plan, but the last one expired Sept. 3, 2009, and we've been operating under continuing resolutions since then. It's hard to project long-term planning when we don't know what our funding levels are going to be. House Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica has pledged a six-year transportation bill that we hope to see between now and Sept. 3 when the federal government fiscal year runs out.

TT&C: Did the governor's budget hearings affect TDOT?

JS: No. TDOT is the only agency that doesn't get any money from the General Fund. We are self-funded by the dedicated state gas tax and the federal gas tax. My job is to spend every dollar that we get – not a penny more, not a penny less – on road construction and maintenance.

TT&C: What's your main goal for your term at TDOT?

JS: I inherited a great department that has room for improvement. I hope that I find what that room for improvement is and do it. Looking at my political career, you can say we left Franklin Schools District better than it was when I came in and that the city of Franklin is better prepared to handle the future than it was before I became mayor.

When I turn TDOT over to my successor, my main hope is that TDOT is better prepared to handle the future than it is today. I've got a short-term job here. At most, eight years. I could be fired tomorrow. Every day I know I'm a short-term. I don't have a long time to wait. You said that I hit the ground running. I've got to do a lot in a short period of time.