

TENNESSEE Town & City

6,250 subscribers

www.TML1.org

Volume 62, Number 11

June 27, 2011

Morristown's Kay Senter elected TML President

The Tennessee Municipal League recently elected its 2011-2012 board of directors during its annual conference in Murfreesboro. Morristown's Mayor Pro-Tem Kay Senter was elected president.

As president of the League, Senter will lead the organization as it determines and proposes legislation cities want passed into law. She also plays a major role in the National League of Cities, which represents municipalities with Congress and the Federal administration.

Other board elections include three vice presidents: Portland Mayor Ken Wilber, Humboldt Mayor Allen Barker, and Cleveland Councilmember David May. TML vice presidents are traditionally in line to serve as president.

The TML board also includes past TML presidents, mayors of Tennessee's largest cities, eight district directors, and six at-large directors. The chairmen of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund -- offering low-interest loans for capital improvements -- TML Risk Management Pool -- providing affordable, dependable liability coverage to municipalities -- also sit on the board.

The eight district directors, representing their section of the state, were nominated and elected during district caucuses. They are: District 1: Margaret Feierabend, Bristol



Kay Senter

mayor; District 2: Bill Hammon, Alcoa assistant city manager; District 3: Bo Perkins, Athens vice mayor; District 4: Norman Rone, McMinnville mayor; District 5: Kevin Helms, Oak Hill city manager; District 6: Betsy Crossley, Brentwood councilmember; District 7: Vance Coleman, Medina mayor; and District 8: Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor.

The eight at-large directors were nominated by an eight-member nominating committee composed of municipal officials statewide. They were then elected for a one-year term by a majority vote of the entire membership. Those directors are: Ben Atchley, Sevierville mayor, J.H. Graham, III., Clarksville mayor; David Gordon, Covington mayor; Curtis Hayes, Livingston mayor; John Holden, Dyersburg mayor; Dot LaMarche, Farragut vice mayor; Ron Washington, Murfreesboro councilmember; and Troy Beets, Kingston mayor.

Bill filed to stop FHWA unfunded road sign mandate

BY CAROLE GRAVES,
TML Communications Director
and JOHN HOLLOWAY,
TML Government Relations

Members of Tennessee's Congressional Delegation have introduced legislation that would rollback an unfunded mandate on Tennessee local governments pertaining to new Federal standards for road signs.

The new requirements put forth by the Federal Highway Administration would mandate that Tennessee cities and counties update and replace road signs by 2015 and 2018 in order to meet minimum nighttime visibility standards, known as "retro-reflectivity."

On June 16, U.S. Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander introduced legislation to stop this unfunded mandate by the federal government by waiving the compliance dates and instead permitting state and local governments to comply with the new standards when they replace signs at the end of their normal life cycle. U.S. Representatives Chuck Fleischmann and Scott DesJarlais filed companion legislation in the House.

"Obviously, everyone wants our roads to be as safe as possible, but the arbitrary deadlines assigned by Washington amount to an unfunded mandate on local governments at a time when they can least afford it," said Sen. Corker. "Instead of asking local governments to shell out \$50 million, it seems like a much more reasonable approach to replace road signs when they need to be replaced instead of an arbitrary deadline assigned by some Washington bureaucrat."

"This is certainly a prime example of an untimely, unfunded federal mandate," Rep. DesJarlais said. "Local governments have already had to tighten their belts and carefully manage every dollar in their budget. Unlike the federal government, most local governments have to balance their budget and can't engage in spending beyond their means. During these difficult economic times, I think it's simply unreasonable for the federal government to mandate a new standard to force the replacement of road signs that are still safe and usable. This bill is quite simple: it allows localities to replace signs at the end of their life cycle instead of forcing an unnecessary change that our local highway authorities neither need nor can afford at the present time."



sary change that our local highway authorities neither need nor can afford at the present time."

The new FHWA standard is contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), a compilation of national standards for all traffic control devices, including road markings, highway signs, and traffic signals. It is updated periodically to accommodate the nation's changing transportation needs and address new safety technologies, traffic control tools and traffic management techniques.

The updated rules raises the minimum reflectivity of road signs to increase sign visibility, especially at night. The sheeting used on traffic signs is "retro-reflective," which is designed so that light bounces back from the sign to enable nighttime visibility. Over time, the sign sheeting degrades.

Agencies were given until January 2012 to implement a method for maintaining traffic sign retro-reflectivity at or above the minimum levels. Traffic safety signs, such as stop and yield signs, must be replaced by 2015, and all signs must be replaced by 2018.

Future phases of the required upgrading will include changing the lettering on street name signs from all capital letters to upper and lower case letters and making the letters larger where necessary.

The potential impact on road and highway department budgets -- which could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for some cities and counties -- has spurred an outpouring of concerns and disapproval. Concerns expressed by state DOTs and local highway agencies prompted the U.S. Department of Transportation to open up a new round of comments about the potential

See SIGNS on Page 9

Livingston's Mayor Curtis Hayes named TML Mayor of the Year

Recognized for the city's many significant accomplishments under his leadership, Livingston's Mayor Curtis Hayes was named the 2011 Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League at their 72nd Annual Conference in Murfreesboro.

Each year since 1954, the League honors a city mayor that typifies the attributes of intelligence, effectiveness, hard work, dedication, and sacrifice.

Among Hayes' list of accomplishments include infrastructure improvement to the town's water system, economic and educational achievements, and Intergovernmental relations, along with an enhanced quality of life for Livingston's residents.

"Often the difference between a good mayor and a great mayor typically lies within the heart. That could be said of Mayor Curtis Hayes," said Sam Tharpe, TML president and Paris Mayor.

who's spent a lifetime building relationships and a love for his hometown community. Hayes' working career started at the tender age of 11, hauling hay at the local dairy farm. Later on, he served as town police officer then as a sheriff's deputy before becoming mayor in 2006.

2010 was a great year for Livingston, due in large part to the tenacity exhibited by Mayor Hayes. Whether in the face of budgetary challenges or recessionary hardships, Hayes chose to step up to the plate parlaying his volunteer spirit and extraordinary interpersonal skills to lead his town to victory. As a result, Livingston has experienced significant improvements and achievements in infrastructure, education and economic development.

When Livingston determined that its water system had outgrown its water supply source, a man-made lake reservoir originally constructed in 1963, Hayes successfully navigated the town's construction of a 20-inch water transmission line, which was placed in



Photos by Victoria South

Mayor Curtis Hayes named Mayor of the Year

Clay County at the Cumberland River and built 20 miles to the municipal limits. The 10-year project consisted of acquiring 62 individual easements, installation of more than 101,000 feet of 20 inch ductile iron pipe and a surge tank to deliver the new water supply to Livingston's 6,000 water customers. Today, Livingston residents say they are enjoying a much improved water quality.

Hayes was also instrumental in the development of the Highlands Initiative, a collaborative, public/private program in 2006 between Overton, Putnam and White counties designed to boost economic and community development in the region. The Tennessee Economic and

Community Development Agency data (Q4 2009) reflects direct (new and expansion) job creation for 45 Highlands-based companies at 2,575 jobs with a net gain of 739 jobs during the four-year period.

Under Hayes' leadership, a newly expanded Volunteer State Community College in Overton County as well as a vocational program offered through Tennessee Technological Center has transformed the educational offerings throughout the region. The Tennessee Technology Center, a skilled-trade school, offers vocational programs such as auto mechanics, LPN nursing, and cosmetology. Two-year degrees are easily accessible.

See MAYOR on Page 10

Tullahoma's Jody Baltz honored as top 2011 TCMA city manager

In honor of his outstanding performance and 30 years of public service, Tullahoma's City Manager Louis J. Baltz III was named Manager of the Year by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA). Baltz was presented the award at the 72nd Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) held at the Murfreesboro Conference Center.

The award is presented by TCMA each year to acknowledge Tennessee managers, administrators, or assistants who have made exceptional contributions to their profession.

Throughout his illustrious career, Jody Baltz has worn many hats in the public sector. He has streamlined city operations and guided Tullahoma through the recent economic downturn, finding innovative ways to fund progressive projects, even during difficult budget years. He has most recently been instrumental in the formation of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation, which will serve to bring further prosperity to the city.

Baltz served as Director of Public Works and Assistant to the City Manager for the city of Brentwood and is Chairman of the Coffee County Joint Economic and Community Development Board and a member of the Franklin County Joint ECD Board. In addition, he is Chairman of the South Central Tennessee Rural Transportation Authority Technical Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Tri-County Railroad Authority.

A 1995 alumnus of Tennessee State University Institute of Government, where he received his Master of Public Administration de-



Jody Baltz (R), Tullahoma city manager, receives the TCMA City Manager of the Year award from James Lewellen, TCMA president and Collierville city manager.

gree, Baltz was recognized by the Institute in 2008 with the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award. He also served as 2009-10 President of the Tennessee City Management Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League.

During his tenure, Baltz has been involved in many civic projects through the Rotary Club that have benefited the citizens of Tullahoma. A member of the Tullahoma Noon Rotary Club, where he is a Paul Harris Fellow, in 2011 the Tullahoma We Care Committee presented Baltz the Dr. Martin Luther

King Citizenship Award for his work with the African-American community. He is also past president of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and a member of the International City Management Association and the Arnold Community Council.

"The city of Tullahoma has benefited greatly from Jody Baltz's many years of experience and excellent organizational, administrative and management skills," said James Lewellen, TCMA president and Collierville city manager. "He truly deserves the title of 'Manager of the Year.'"

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHATTANOOGA

German automaker Volkswagen, which just marked the opening of its only U.S. production plant in Chattanooga, is now considering production of its Golf model in the U.S. According to German media reports, Volkswagen may produce some of the models in the U.S. rather than exporting them from Germany. The Golf is an important model for Volkswagen's main plant in Wolfsburg.

CLEVELAND

Athens, Oak Ridge, Nashville and Chattanooga all have an official nickname. Cleveland should have one too, according to Mayor Tom Rowland. The mayor recently announced his plans to name a committee to seek ideas for a city nickname. "I would like to search for something that signifies what the internal workings of this community really are," Rowland said.

FRANKLIN

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Nashville District honored Franklin's Police headquarters with the Excellence in Development Award and the Green Building Certification Institute has awarded the headquarters the LEED® Gold established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The headquarters was chosen by ULI for the use of cost-effective and cost-efficient sustainable architecture and its decision to reinvest into a disinvested part of downtown Franklin. The project featured a public/private partnership throughout the entire design process with public use of the building and on-going public education on sustainable living and building practices.

JACKSON

The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the chambers of eight surrounding counties for a different strategy in trying to attract new businesses to West Tennessee. The chamber is looking to promote the region around Jackson including Carroll, Chester, Crockett,

Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson and McNairy counties along with the megasite in Brownsville as a place to bring new businesses. The group said it is trying to achieve results similar to those of the efforts of nearby metropolitan areas in recent years.

JACKSON

Automotive supplier U.S. Farathane announced plans to expand its Jackson facility. The company will invest \$4 million and create 50 new jobs. U.S. Farathane has eight U.S. manufacturing plants and employs 1,000 nationally. Primarily serving the automotive market, U.S. Farathane's expertise as a two-shot injection molder has made it a leading supplier of niche solutions that incorporate leading edge technology. U.S. Farathane has been supplying the automotive market for more than 30 years.

JEFFERSON CITY

Distribution Company M. Block & Sons Inc. has opened a 500,000 square-foot distribution center in Jefferson City and will be hiring 100 workers. The Bedford Park, Ill.-based company will provide distribution services to retailers in the southeast U.S. and plans to hold a job fair later this month to recruit employees.

JEFFERSON CITY

More than 130 people had to tell their families they're losing their jobs. BAE Systems announced that the company is cutting its workforce in Jefferson City. "We just don't have the workload for the number of employees in the facility," said Jay Tepe, director of Operations at BAE Systems. Tepe said there are 132 employees at the plant—a number that's gone down compared to years past along with the company's government contracts and defense budget.

KINGSPORT

Kingsport, which has been nationally recognized for its innovations in furthering economic development through education, recently hosted its second annual "Straight To The



On June 2, Johnson City leaders officially dedicated a \$23.6 million upgrade to the city's Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RWWTTP) near Gray, Tenn. The expansion took the plant capacity from 2.25 million gallons per day (MGD) to 6 MGD. The renovations, which began in early 2007, allow for continued growth in that area of the city and benefit the long-term protection of water quality in Boone Lake. Completely funded through local dollars, the expansion also includes a UV treatment system that has replaced the chlorine as the means by which bacteria is killed.

Top" conference, a two-day summit of thought leaders from the economic development and education arenas. The conference provided educators and economic and community development officials an opportunity to ask questions of the leaders in their fields and get a glimpse into the future of education.

KINGSTON

In a bid to curb vehicle break-ins, 14 surveillance cameras will be installed on existing light poles in parking lots for city parks and walking trails. The city council voted to use \$48,000 in state grant money for the cameras. The cameras will operate around the clock, City Manager Jim Pinkerton said. Police will be able to review recordings to obtain evidence in vehicle break-ins, he said. The cameras, which will be clearly visible, will be installed at Fort Southwest Point, the city park, Brentwood Landing and the area known as the Gravel Pit near the Kingston Community Center.

KNOXVILLE

Academy Sports and Outdoors, based in Texas, is heading to West Knoxville, bringing 150 new jobs. The sports, outdoor and lifestyle store has more than 130 outlets across the southeast. The store will be located on 75,000 square feet on Kingston Pike.

LA VERGNE

Auto parts manufacturer Tottser-Iroquois Industries is coming to La Vergne. The company, which is a joint venture between Iroquois Industries in Warren, Mich. and

Tottser Tool & Manufacturing in Philadelphia, provides various metal stampings and assemblies to the automotive industry. Operations at the facility are slated to begin operations on July 1. Tottser-Iroquois said that it plans to create 25 jobs in the first year of operation.

MEMPHIS

Gov. Bill Haslam held a ceremonial signing of his charter schools bill, HB 1989/SB 1523 at Freedom Preparatory Academy in Memphis, lifting the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in the state and opening enrollment to more students. The changes will make charter schools an option for more districts that seek to take advantage of this tool and for more parents who seek educational options for their children. The initiative is part of his first legislative package that focused on continuing the state's progress in education reform geared toward Haslam's first priority: making Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high-quality jobs.

MORRISTOWN

Morristown has been chosen as the site for a new coal gasification plant that developers expect to be operational late next year. Freedom Energy Diesel announced that it will build a \$405 million plant that will employ about 450 people when completed and add another 150 jobs in a second phase 18 months later. The plant will use new plasma technology to create extremely high temperatures to turn coal into gas, then converted to diesel fuel. The process also removes harmful by products such as mercury and sulfur, and retains valuable ones such as zinc, platinum and iridium, which will be sold.

MT.JULIET

The city recently hosted a community forum at Mt. Juliet High School to gather citizen's comments regarding the vision for the community. Citizens provided their input via electronic response system about subjects ranging from improved fire and police service, to expanded park systems. Each person had a device with which selections can be made allowing people to vote on a topic or answer a question with more privacy. Mt. Juliet is among the first cities of its size to utilize the electronic response method.

MURFREESBORO

Eight Rutherford County arts organizations will receive a combined total of \$67,850 in grants from the Tennessee Arts Commission. The organizations include Kids for the Creative Arts, Youth Empowerment Through Arts and Humanities, Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County, Tennessee Opportunity Programs, Main Street Murfreesboro, International Folkloric Society Planning Council, Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and Center for the Arts. The grants will be used to promote the arts in the community. The Arts Commission's matching grants are

made possible through an appropriation of state funds by the General Assembly, federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts, and by Tennesseans who buy specialty license plates.

NASHVILLE

IQT, Inc., a major player in the smartphone industry, announced it will establish its U.S. headquarters and create a customer relationship and technical services center in downtown Nashville. The company expects to hire more than 900 people over the next five years and occupy approximately 60,000 square feet of space at the C.B. Ragland Building at 300 2nd Avenue South. IQT is a leading provider of customer relationship management services and e-commerce solutions for Fortune 500 companies in the technology and telecommunications industries. The move would be one of the largest corporate relocations to downtown in the city's history.

NASHVILLE

The Metro Public Health Department's five general sanitation inspectors will transfer to the Metro Department of Codes and Building Safety, effective July 1. The move, according to Mayor Karl Dean, will reduce the duplication of services offered by the two departments, including permitting and inspection, as well as enforcement and abatement of public safety issues, unsanitary living conditions, illegal dumping, and properties with high grass and weeds.

OAK RIDGE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the licenses necessary for EnergySolutions to bring up to 1,000 tons of Germany's low-level radioactive waste to Oak Ridge for incineration. The ashes and any leftover products following incineration at EnergySolutions' Bear Creek processing plant would be returned to Germany.

PITTMANCENTER

First Lady Michelle Obama recently designated the town as a Preserve America Community. The program is part of a federal initiative to encourage and support efforts to preserve and enjoy America's cultural and natural heritage. Preserve America designees receive national recognition for accomplishments in preserving special places and telling the nation's story.

SPRINGFIELD

Robertson County's first higher education facility has been officially opened, The Highland Crest campus. Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin will offer classes at the center this fall. VolState, a two-year institution, will have 60 courses at the site. Austin Peay will offer bachelor's degree programs in professional studies and criminal justice/homeland security. The schools have an agreement authorizing transfers from Vol State to Austin Peay, a four-year school.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Metro Nashville Police Commander Robert Nash, the 33-year police veteran who oversees the department's East Precinct, will retire at the end of June. Police Chief Steve Anderson tapped Capt. David Imhof to succeed Nash on July 1. Imhof, 44, is an 18-year Metro police veteran and currently heads the department's Criminal Investigations Division. He has worked as a patrol officer, a child sex abuse detective, a supervisor in the Central and South precincts, a field supervising captain and as head of the CID, which includes the Cold Case/Homicide, Sex Crimes, Fraud and Auto Theft units.

Long time Chattanooga Police Department Deputy Chief Mike Williams plans to retire effective July 4. Police Chief Bobby Dodd named Williams as Deputy Chief in July 2010. "I have enjoyed my 28 and 1/2 years at the Chattanooga Police Department immensely," said Williams. "And I am proud of what we have accomplished during my time here."

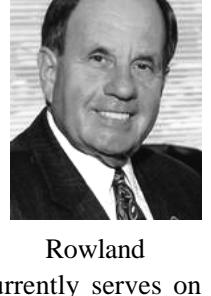
Freshman state Rep. Julia Hurley has accepted a customer service job with the Lenoir City Utilities Board. Hurley, whose 32nd District includes Lenoir City and Hurley Roane County, will work part time in the customer service department. She will work at different locations, including the LCUB offices in Lenoir City and Farragut.



David Rahinsky has been selected as Franklin's new Chief of Police. He has served as Interim Police Chief since February 2011 when former Police Chief Jackie Moore retired. Hired by the city in 2006, Rahinsky has also served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Investigations Division and as Deputy Chief of Operations. Prior to his service with Franklin, Rahinsky served as Chief of Police for Oakland Park, Florida.



Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland has been reappointed to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for another four-year term.



Rowland, who currently serves on the TACIR state commission as vice chairman and on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League, was first named to the commission in 1994.



Lt. Col. James Delapp will become the new commander of the Nashville district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, succeeding Lt. Col. Anthony Mitchell, who is taking a post in Baghdad. Delapp has been in the Pentagon working under Gen. George Casey, the Army chief of staff. The Nashville district encompasses the Cumberland and Tennessee River basins and includes a workforce of 800.

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Chattanooga's Albert Moore honored with Murphy Snoderly Award



The 2011 recipient of the Murphy Snoderly Award, Albert Moore, an employee of the city of Chattanooga Recycling Center, is flanked by TML President Sam Tharpe and Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association Administrator John Calvert.

Recognized for his dedication to his department, community and its citizens, Albert Moore with the Chattanooga Public Works Department has been awarded the Murphy Snoderly Award by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association (TCAPWA). He was presented the award at TML's Annual Conference in Murfreesboro.

Moore, an employee of the city of Chattanooga, has worked in the public works field for 34 years and continues to do an outstanding job. Moore's admirable ambition has driven him to excel by having his recycling convenience center rate as the No. 1 center in his city and has resulted in his center having the highest participation rate of any of the city's five recycling centers.

As part of his daily routine, Moore reports to work early just to ensure the center is in proper order for the coming day. Regardless of the weather, whether, hot or cold, raining, or snowing, he always takes his job personally and has made certain any other employee working with him makes the same effort in helping the customer.

In 2009 his recycling center served more than 37,000 participants and collected 498 tons of recyclable materials. Each day, every customer Moore serves is greeted with a smile and a handshake; and he ensures that he has all of the latest information pertaining to recycling in his city so he can assist customers with any questions they may have. He particularly takes the time to help the elderly and to educate children regarding the environmental benefits of recycling.

In fact, the city has received numerous calls and comments from citizens regarding his demonstrated performance in doing an excellent

job and seeing that customer's needs are always met.

"I am confident this year's award recipient would have made Mr. Snoderly very proud," said John Calvert, TCAPWA chair, Education/Training Committee. "Mr. Snoderly would have been the first person to thank him and congratulate him on receiving this year's award."

The award is named for the late Murphy Snoderly, a longtime engineering and public works consultant for the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service. TCAPWA established the award in 1972 as a means of sharing his appreciation for the dedicated efforts given by the many long time public works employees. The recipient is selected from a slate of statewide candidates and is considered the state's most outstanding non-administrative public works employee.

Currently there are more than 200 public works and related departments across the state that employ an estimated 5000+ workers.

TCAPWA has more than 400 members from cities and counties across the state. A major goal of TCAPWA is to promote the public works profession and aide in helping every public works department across the state by providing a network through which its members can contact other members to discuss and strategize how to manage various public works issues, concerns and projects.

Since its establishment in 1954, the state chapter has provided various educational opportunities as a means of allowing public works leaders and employees to stay aware of methods and technologies that can be used to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in public works operations.



Pictured are: James Lewellen, TCMA president; Mike Walker, Brentwood city manager; Vernon Gerth – our, Franklin assistant city administrator; Brian Goss, Brentwood assistant fire chief; Paul Webb, Brentwood mayor; Ken Moore, Franklin mayor, Rocky Garzarek, Franklin fire chief and Rod Freeman, Brentwood vice mayor.

Brentwood, Franklin fire departments honored with TCMA Excellence in Government Award

While the concept of mutual aid is a long standing practice in fire service, the fire departments of Franklin and Brentwood have demonstrated exemplary cooperation and innovation through an Automatic Aid agreement that has resulted in added resources and greater security for the residents of both communities.

The cities of Brentwood and Franklin were recognized by The Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) with an award for Excellence in Municipal Government at the 72nd Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League in Murfreesboro.

The award is presented by TCMA each year to cities that operate with professional management and have increased the effectiveness of local government through the development of unique and creative programs.

In 2008, the cities of Brentwood and Franklin completed a feasibility study on the formation of an Automatic Aid Agreement between the two cities. Both departments had long provided mutual aid to one another under both state and interlocal agreements which offered assistance with equipment and personnel from one jurisdiction to another during a significant incident, such as a structure fire, when requested. Automatic aid takes this level of cooperation one step further. Under this agreement, targeted areas or zones within each city deemed as "significant risk" are designated for simultaneous dispatch and response from both Brentwood and Franklin fire units, regardless of whose jurisdiction the incident falls within.

A study was conducted to determine the most significant fire risk areas that could be responded to in each city by both fire departments considering factors such as population density, type of construction,

required fire flow (water supply), and historical response data. Significant areas of concern covered in Brentwood include the commercial area north of Cool Springs Mall, the Heritage senior living community and Ravenwood High School.

Significant areas of concern covered in Franklin include the entire Cool Springs Mall and adjoining commercial and office development areas.

These areas were agreed upon by both parties and mapped as "Automatic Aid Response Zones". The automatic response does not apply to all emergency calls received by each fire department. Automatic Aid response into the neighboring department's jurisdiction within the designated zones is limited to confirmed or "probable" structure fires as determined by the dispatcher based on information obtained from the reporting party.

The original automatic aid agreement was approved by both cities in June 2009. Both departments have continued to improve operations between jurisdictions through inter-agency training, simultaneous dispatch, and enhanced radio communications.

Among the numerous mutual benefits to such an agreement are:

- Simultaneous dispatch of both departments within the designated area, thus providing a higher concentration of resources to an incident more quickly.
- Provides better service to both communities by increasing available first-alarm fire protection at no additional cost.
- Facilitates an opportunity to communicate, work, and train with the neighboring department which helps satisfy interoperability requirements set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Enables both departments to count the other's resources toward their available firefighting force, which can translate into additional ISO rating points with no additional investment from either community.

The agreement requires "annual" and "as-needed" reviews of the document in order to ensure continued relevance and recommend modifications as needed. This was done in July of 2010 and again in March of 2011.

During a recent meeting, the Franklin Fire Department requested an amendment to the agreement to incorporate additional high-density commercial area within their jurisdiction. As a result, both cities recently approved an amendment to the automatic aid agreement to expand the existing coverage area to incorporate most of the Cool Springs commercial area located south of the Mall.

In the 22 months since the agreement was authorized, Brentwood has responded into Franklin on automatic aid calls 19 times. Franklin has responded into Brentwood on automatic aid 10 times. In addition, Franklin has provided a traditional mutual aid response into Brentwood 12 times, whereas Brentwood has responded into Franklin on mutual aid 5 times. "It just makes sense," the chiefs of both fire departments told Tennessee Town & City in a 2009 interview. "It's working well," said Franklin Fire Chief Rocky Garzarek. "I've had at least four cities contact me recently for information about the agreement to see if it would work in their communities." "In a fire, every second counts," agrees Brentwood Fire Chief Kenny Lane. "Our goal is to reduce response times and ultimately improve safety in both cities."

Mayor McDonald's wife recognized

Patty McDonald, wife of Keith McDonald, mayor of Bartlett, received the Tennessee Municipal League's "Stand by your Spouse" Award at TML's 72nd annual conference in Murfreesboro. The award is given each year to the spouse of an elected official in recognition of the many sacrifices they give in the name of public service.

This year's Stand By Your Spouse considers herself a "behind the scenes" woman, but she's much more than that. She's a person that wears many hats, putting everything together, but never wanting the credit. Much more than a spouse; to everyone whose life she touches, she's a trusted friend. Back in 1970, a young college student at Freed-Hardeman University needed this type of friend. Keith McDonald was 17 years old and trying to cope with the recent loss of his mother, when Patty first entered his life. Forty years later, he can attest that the loss was much easier to bear because of her.

By the late 70's and early 80s and then again from 2000-2003, Patty McDonald began transforming the lives of elementary school children as a school teacher. She has served on the committee for Heartlight which is a fundraiser dinner for Agape Child and Family Services. Additionally, she and Keith have provided foster care for six years with Agape, helping to ensure children are in a safe and loving



Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald accepts the "Stand by Your Spouse" Award on behalf of his wife, Patty, who was recovering from foot surgery. Through Skype software, she was able to be apart of the ceremony via the Internet.

home while waiting for adoption.

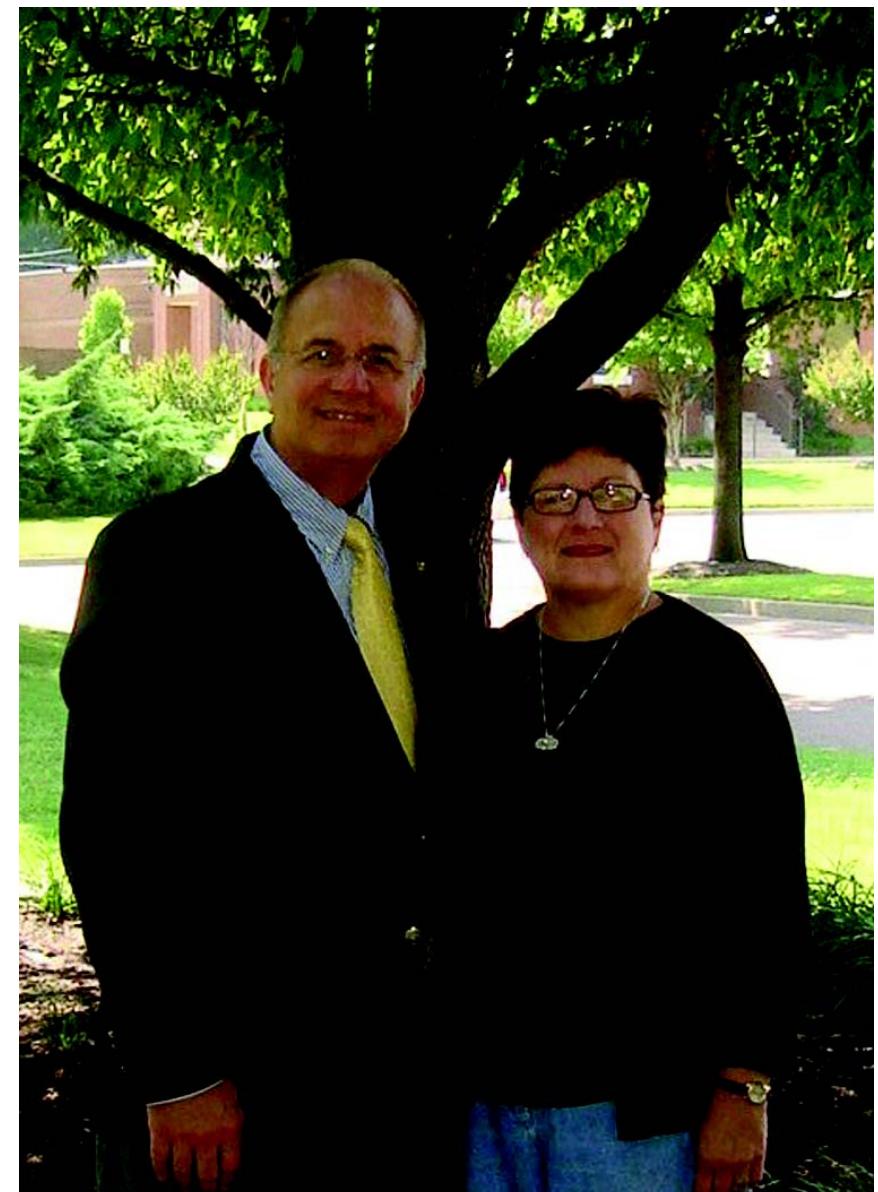
Active within her church, Patty is known as the 'go to' person for anything creative, leading her to be the organizer of the Visual Aids room as well as Vacation Bible School for many years. On any given day, her duties might range from teaching to distributing care bags at ICU waiting rooms. McDonald has also been active with Kids, Daughters, and Sons, a home for the mentally challenged. Freed-Hardeman Associates could always depend upon her to help raise money for the University and she has been active in PTA at Oak Elementary and Appling Middle Schools, as well as the Cub Scouts

and Boy Scouts of America.

Since 2001, McDonald has been instrumental in assisting a close family friend diagnosed multiple times with cancer. Yet all the while, she has maintained her position by her husband's side at Tennessee Municipal League, National League of Cities and Municipal Technical Advisory Service meetings.

The McDonalds have been married for 40 years and have two adult children Ryan, 32, and Brooks, 27, along with three grandsons.

Unfortunately, Patty had surgery on her foot and was not be able to attend. Mayor Keith McDonald accepted the award on her behalf.



Mayor Keith McDonald and his wife Patty have been married for 40 years and have two adult children Ryan, 32, and Brooks, 27, along with three grandsons.

STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Halting human trafficking

Gov. Haslam has signed legislation that aims to stop human trafficking in Tennessee. The law will require certain businesses to post a sign with information regarding the national human trafficking resource center hotline. Affected businesses include massage parlors, spas, restaurants, taverns, hotels or clubs licensed to sell alcoholic beverages or that have a permit to sell beer; establishments required to be licensed as adult oriented; any hotel, motel or other building or establishment that has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a common nuisance; airports, train stations and bus stations; welcome centers and rest areas operated by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; and truck stops designed for and primarily used by long-haul truck drivers.

TN 6th for economic growth

Tennessee's growth in its gross state product in 2010 was sixth best in the country, according to an analysis of data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis by On Numbers, a Nashville Business Journal affiliate. Tennessee's gross state product — a measurement of the total output of goods and services, akin to gross domestic product — grew by 3.52 percent in 2010. Only five states saw greater growth. Forty-eight of the 50 states enjoyed economic growth in 2010, with states seeing an average increase in GSP of 2.6 percent.

THP steps up big rig safety

Some trucks haul up to 80,000 pounds, driving hundreds of miles at high speeds. Last year, in the area alone, there were almost 700 accidents involving tractor trailers. For two days recently, THP and highway patrol agencies nationwide stepped up inspections, to make sure all of the trucks that hit the road are safe. "That's our main objective, to maintain a safe road, and to make sure that person or persons that are not in compliance with the law, come in compliance with the law," said Tennessee Highway Patrol Sgt. Randall Martin. "The level one inspection is a bumper to bumper, front to rear, top to bottom, inside and out inspection." And if the truck doesn't pass, THP logs the defects and in some cases, takes the drivers out of service.

Online photo law on the way

You've heard, what you put online can end up costing you in the future. Now it could land you in jail. A Tennessee law that goes into effect next month bans 'offensive or distressing' images online. It's a move that could make your twit-pics, even your facebook photos, a potential crime. The amendment is an update to previous harassment laws that governed communications over the phone or through email. The state passed an amendment that means your online images could be a crime if they, "frighten, intimidate or cause emotional distress." Anyone who sees the snapshot can be a victim.

Storms equal rate increase

The Tennessee Valley Authority says the late April storms are going

to hit ratepayers in July, with fuel costs adding up to \$6 to monthly residential bills. A TVA statement said the 4.5 percent increase in the average wholesale price is mainly due to the storms. Damage to TVA's transmission system caused all three reactors at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in North Alabama to be offline for much of May, and the replacement power cost was almost \$90 million. Favorable hydrogeneration helped offset some cost. TVA previously said the storms were costing the utility up to \$200 million to replace lost power generation and to repair damaged transmission lines. TVA supplies power to about 9 million people in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

TSLA opens Civil War exhibit

The Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville has opened a new exhibit about the Civil War. The free display is part of a year-by-year examination of the war. The current one focuses on events leading up to the war and the first year of conflict in 1861. An exhibit next year will highlight 1862. The exhibit will illustrate the impact of slavery on the Union, the divisive election of 1860, the beginnings of Southern secession and Tennessee's gradual shift toward becoming a Confederate state. Tennessee was the last state to secede from the Union and first to rejoin. Tennessee had more Civil War battles than any other state except Virginia.

TN chosen for meal program

Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois have been chosen as the first states for a new federal program making it easier to provide school meals to children in low-income areas. U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Kevin Concannon said that it will give needy children better access to healthy school meals and reduce paperwork for schools and parents. Under the option, schools can use the percentage of children from households receiving food stamps as the basis to provide free meals to all children free of charge. The schools will be responsible for paying costs above the federal reimbursement amount. The program will be available in all states by the 2014-2015 school year.

TVA's new app provides lake info

The Tennessee Valley Authority has announced an application for smartphones that will provide real time information about its lakes. The app, initially available to iPhone users, offers lake elevations, water release schedules, yearly operating guides and Google-based maps. It's available for free at the iPhone App Store. It will also work on the iPod Touch and the iPad. The information can also be accessed on a smartphone.

State unemployment rate 9.7 %

Tennessee's unemployment rate rose again in May with the nation's, according to Tennessee Department of Workforce and Labor Development data. The state's jobless rate increased to 9.7 percent, up slightly from April's revised rate of 9.6 percent. The nation's unemployment rate rose to 9.1 percent in May from 9 percent in April. The unemployment rate in Tennessee was higher

even though the number of employed Tennesseans also posted gains. The number of employed Tennesseans increased by 78,500 from May 2010 to May 2011, or 2.8 percent, according to a state labor department survey. The U.S. employment growth rate for the same period was 0.3 percent. Labor Commissioner Karla Davis pointed to reasons the state's jobless rate is rising in spite of a growing work force and economy. "The slight increase in the unemployment rate is attributed to significant growth in the labor force."

THP wins PSA awards

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has won two first place awards for traffic safety public service announcements this month at the 2011 Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop in Louisville, Ky. The winning spots were "Nailed" on television and "We'll Be Everywhere" on radio. Both were funded and produced by the Governor's Highway Safety Office in 2009. "Nailed" has



The Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville has opened a new free exhibit about the Civil War. The display is part of a year-by-year examination of the war illustrating the impact of slavery on the Union, the divisive election of 1860, the beginnings of Southern secession and Tennessee's gradual shift toward becoming a Confederate state.

won several awards, including a regional Emmy.

State crime report promising

Tennesseans are less likely than a decade ago to be a victim of a crime.

according to a 10-year study released by The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The results are mostly promising, with a large drop in property crimes and some categories of violent crimes statewide.

ECD team members to lead regional base camps; recruit companies to TN

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner (ECD) Bill Hagerty announced the selection of eight new regional directors as part of the reorganization of ECD resulting from the Jobs4TN initiative.

The new regional directors will serve as the primary point-of-contact for Tennessee companies seeking state assistance with expansion or with accessing state services. In addition, ECD announced members of its national project management team, the division within ECD responsible for the recruitment of new companies to the state.

ECD's regional directors will reside in each of the nine regions outlined in the Jobs4TN plan and will have primary responsibility for working with existing companies, aligning workforce development strategies and developing a regional strategic plan.

Northeast Tennessee — Former real estate executive Allen Borden, a Tennessean relocating from Beech Mountain, NC, will represent ECD in the region. Borden generated more than \$1 million in annual sales in addition to founding an investment company with \$165 million under management. He also served as director of economic development for the city of Knoxville under former Mayor Victor Ashe and was an executive vice president for the Blount County Chamber of Commerce.

East Tennessee — Kirk Huddleston will represent Knoxville and the surrounding region. He is the former director of corporate and community development for Blaine Construction Corporation and worked with Fortune 500 companies, as well as Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the UT, Scripps Networks, Denso and others. Huddleston also served as chair of the Metro Knoxville Airport Authority.

Southeast Tennessee — The director of this region will be named at a later date.

Upper Cumberland — Former ECD specialist Rebecca Hargrove Smith will represent the upper Cumberland region. A graduate of

the UT and the Nashville School of Law, Smith administered the Three-Star program in 14 counties and previously worked in a senior role within local government affairs.

Northern Middle Tennessee

The region extending from Nashville north will be represented by former Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores COO Reggie Mudd. Rising through the ranks from store manager trainee to COO, Mudd's tenure with the company coincided with Cracker Barrel's expansion from 28 to 320 stores. A graduate of Centre College in Kentucky, he has extensive experience managing commercial, industrial, residential and historical properties. Mudd is also a member of the Gallatin Economic Development Advisory Board and the board of Cumberland Region Tomorrow.

Southern Middle Tennessee

Current ECD Three-Star Director Jamie Stitt has been named regional director of Southern Middle Tennessee. A graduate of Illinois State University, Stitt has been responsible for the development and implementation of community development strategies in more than 90 Tennessee counties as part of the Three-Star program. Prior to joining ECD in 2007, Stitt was director of Joint Economic and Community Development for Marshall County where she focused her efforts on new business creation.

Northwest Tennessee

Blake Swaggart has been a jobs development specialist since 1996 and was previously an economic development analyst with the South Carolina Department of Commerce. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and has a master's degree in city planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as economic development certification from the University of Oklahoma. Swaggart has experience successfully developing projects in Shelby, Lauderdale, Dyer, Lake, Obion and Tipton counties.

Southwest Tennessee

Cary Vaughn comes to ECD from his position as president and CEO of the Millington Area Chamber of Commerce. Previously, Vaughn was

president and CEO of Covenant Staffing Solutions in Memphis and was vice president of sales for a national technology company where he supervised a team of 28 managers generating more than \$30 million in revenue. A graduate of Lambuth University and the Moench Center Leadership Institute at Belmont University, Vaughn led Millington's move to the highest certification level in the Three-Star program.

Greater Memphis

J.-Edward Townsend, III is the co-founder and former COO of arGentis Pharmaceuticals, Inc of Memphis. During his tenure, the company successfully raised \$2 million in capital from angel and institutional investors. A graduate of the University of Memphis, Townsend also served as executive vice president and managing partner of Agile Minds, LLC, a consulting firm in health care and life sciences and currently sits on the board of directors of arGentis and Life Science Tennessee.

Project Management

The following have been named to ECD's Project Management team, responsible for the recruitment of new industry to Tennessee:

- Lori Odom will serve as the team leader of the Project Management Team.
- Gina Brown currently works as a jobs development specialist at ECD with responsibility for projects in the Middle Tennessee region.
- John Butler is currently an international projects specialist for ECD with responsibility for handling foreign direct investment projects in Tennessee and manages a portfolio totaling more than \$500 million in capital investment in the state.
- Toby Compton comes to ECD from the Office of the Mayor in Nashville where he has served as legislative director since 2007.
- Brenda Pfeiffer is currently a national recruitment specialist for ECD, having successfully managed more than 100 economic development projects since 2007 with capital investments totaling more than \$500 million.

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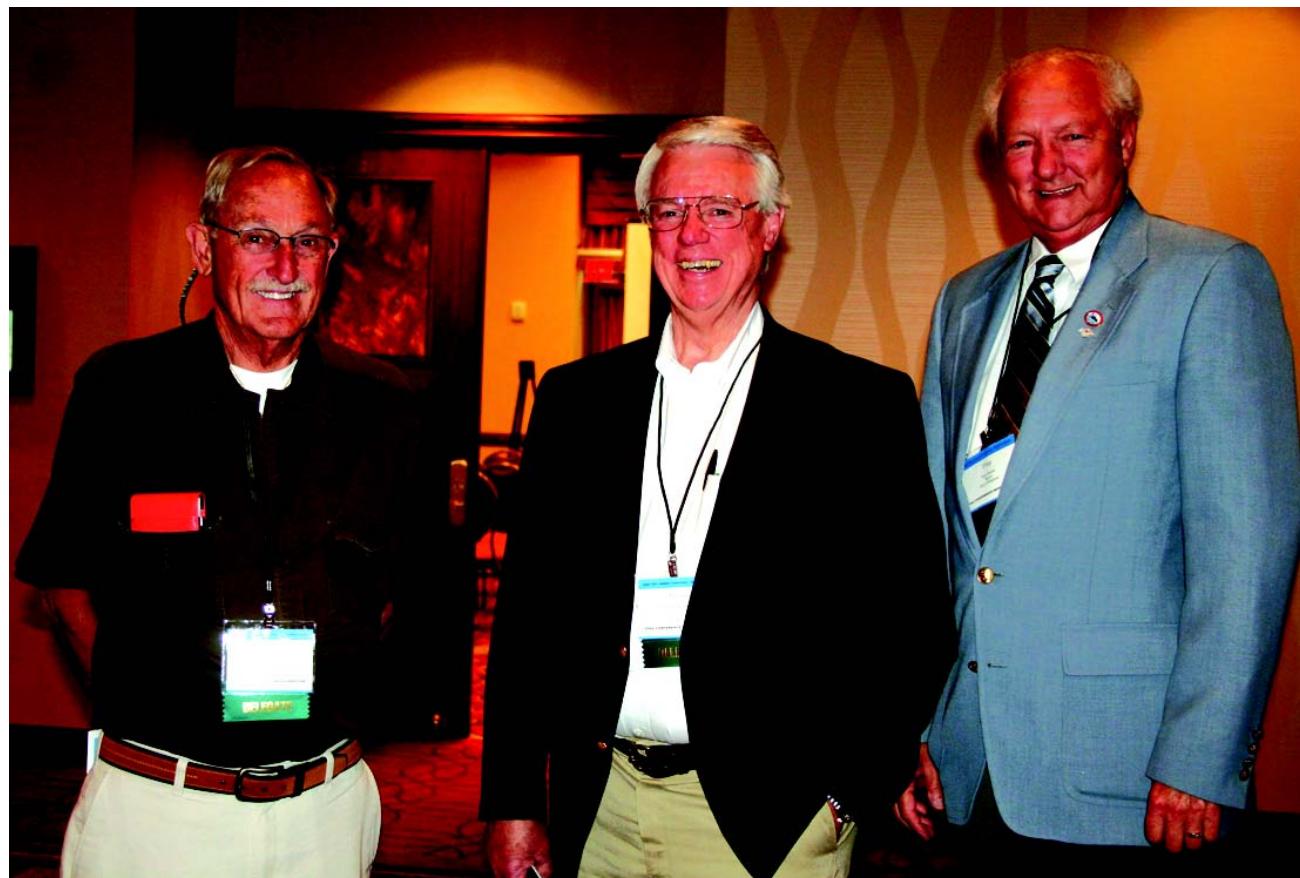
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2011 TML Annual Conference Highlights



Norman Sugarman, Kingston alderman; James Pinkerton, Kingston city manager; and Troy Beets, Kingston mayor



The colors are presented at the First General Session by members of the Murfreesboro Fire Department Color Guard.



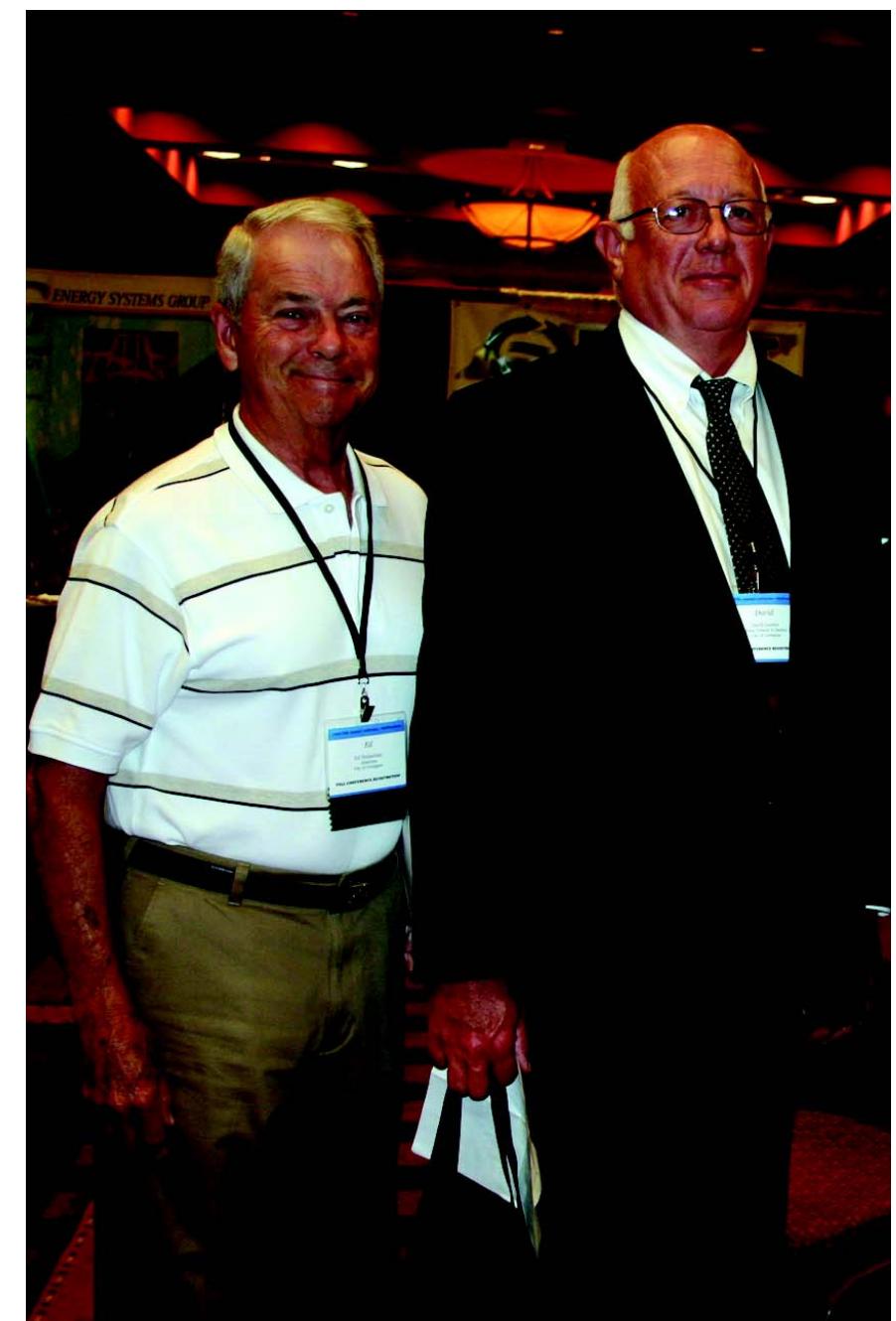
Gayle Griffith, Paris vice mayor, Allen Barker, Humboldt mayor and Vance Coleman, Medina mayor



Past TML President Sam Tharpe and Kay Senter, incoming TML president



The Air EvacTeam lands at the Murfreesboro Convention Center as part of a vendor presentation.



Ed Timberlake, Covington alderman, and David Gordon, Covington mayor



Betsy Crossley, Brentwood councilmember, and James "Jim" Lee, Fayetteville city administrator

Photos by Victoria South

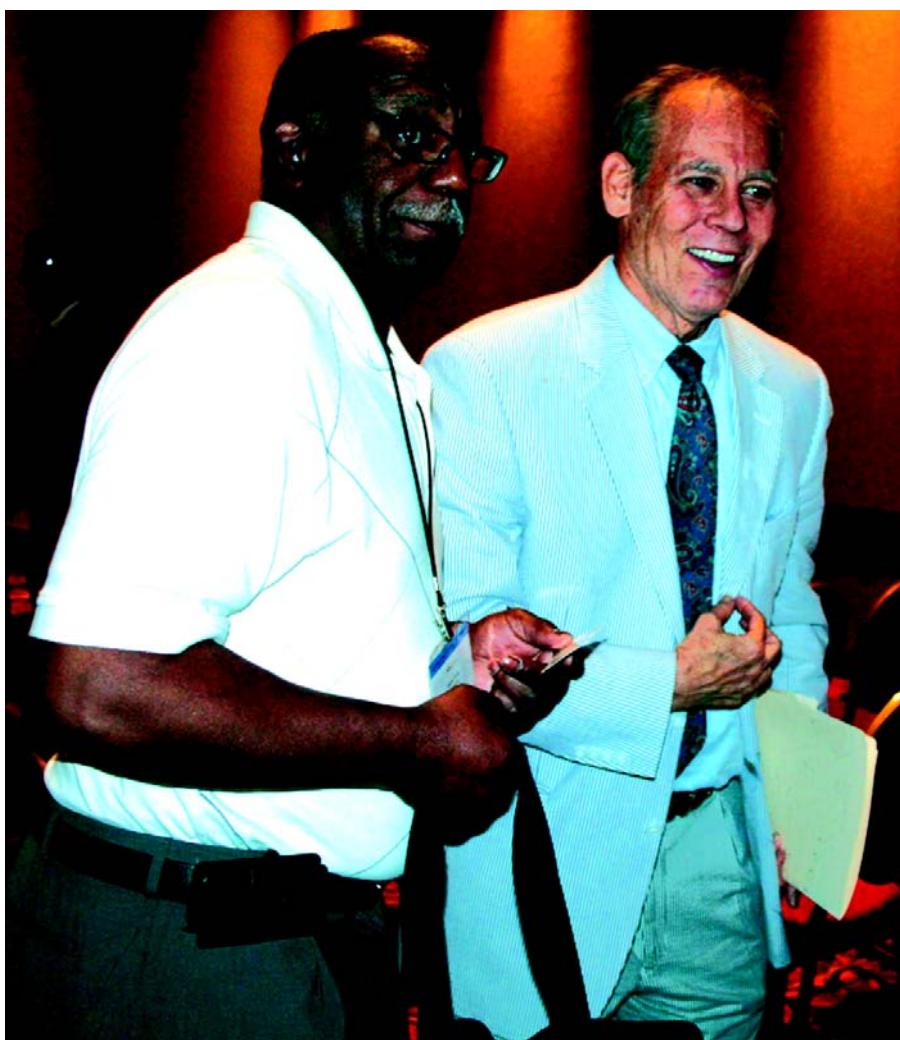
Rising to Meet Today's Challenges



Kay Senter, Morristown councilmember; Dot LaMarche, Farragut vice mayor; and Brenda Thomas, wife of Morristown Mayor Danny Thomas



From the city of Murfreesboro: Glen Godwin, human resources director; Mark Kimbell, chief engineer Murfreesboro Electric Department; Rob Lyons, city manager; Madelyn Scales Harris, councilmember; and Tommy Bragg, mayor



Shelvie Rose, Covington alderman, and State Comptroller Justin Wilson



From the city of Kingsport: Chris McCartt, assistant to the city manager; Dennis Phillips, mayor; and Mike Billingsley, city attorney



2011-2012 TML Board Members prepare to take the oath of office.



Fred Simbeck, Loretto mayor; Margaret Norris, MTAS management consultant; and Keith Smith, Loretto city manager

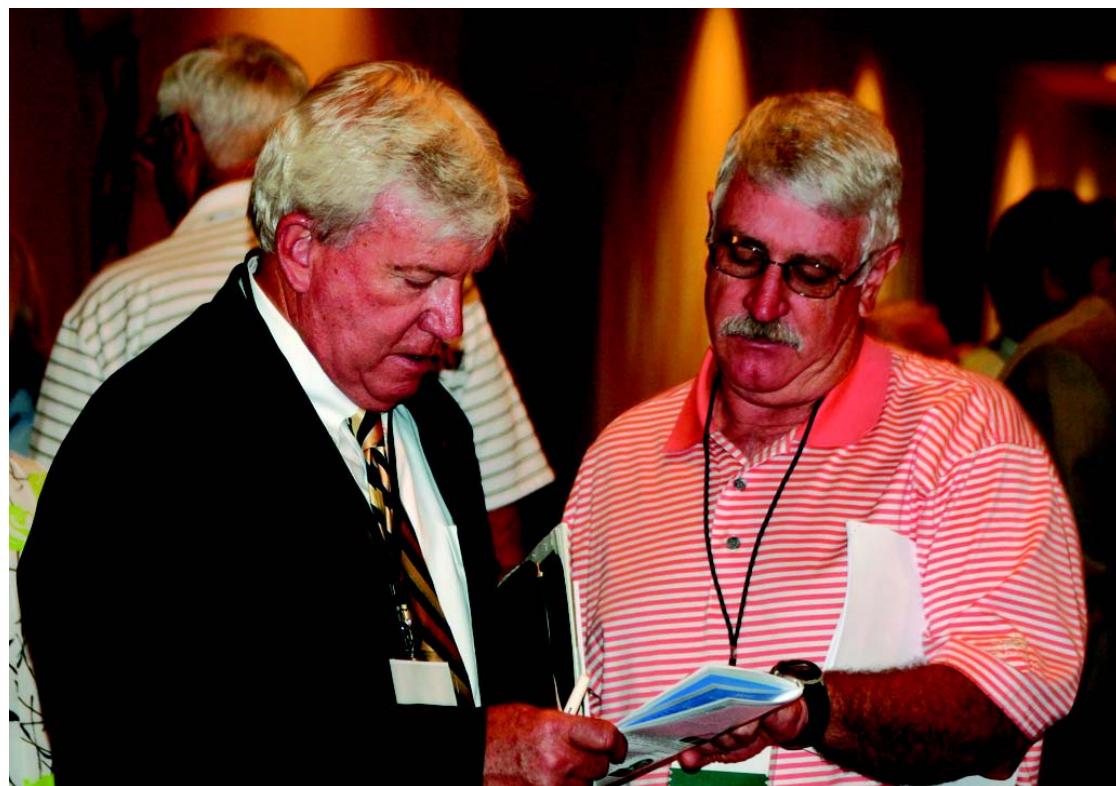


Conference attendees check out Murfreesboro's electric fleet.

Pictured to the right: Gale Tharpe, wife of Paris Mayor Sam Tharpe; Carol Kirk, wife of Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk; Jackie Wilber, wife of Portland Mayor Ken Wilber; Linda May, wife of Cleveland Alderman David May; Bettye Seivers, wife of TMBF CEO Charles "Bones" Seivers; Carol Green, wife of Alamo Mayor Tommy Green; and Sandra Rowland, wife of Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland.



2011 TML Annual Conference highlights



Hal Butram, Athens mayor, and Mitch Moore, Athens city manager



David May, Cleveland councilmember, and Linda May



Hoyt Jones, Sparta alderman, (center) enjoys chatting with the vendor representatives.



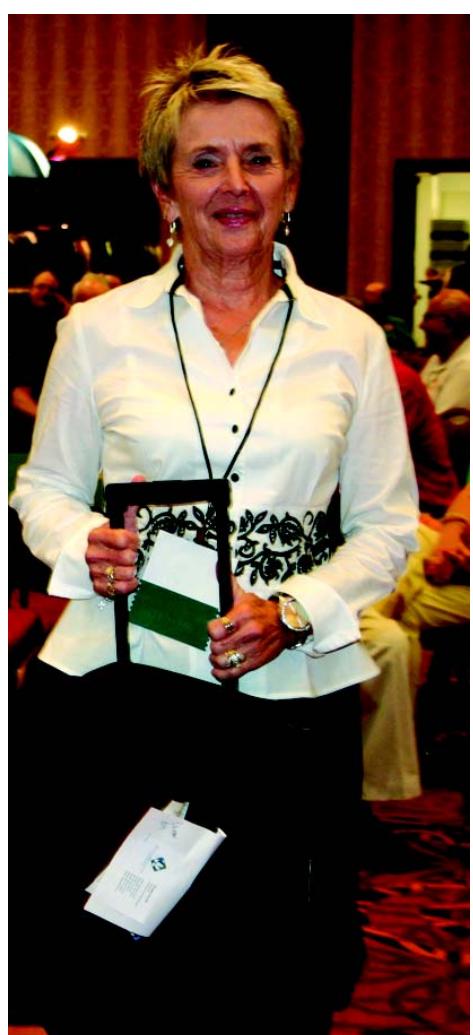
John Luthy, Conference Keynote Speaker



Darwin Branam, East Ridge councilmember; Tom Rowland, Cleveland mayor; Tim Gobble, East Ridge city manager; and Denny Manning, East Ridge councilmember



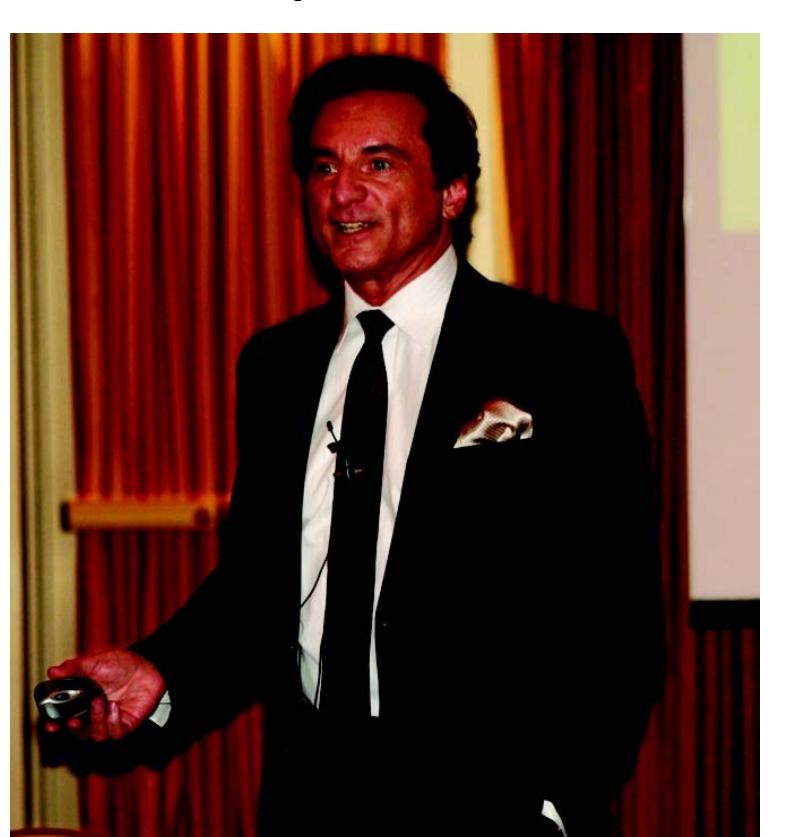
Marne Green, Management Education, Inc., conducts a workshop on Succession Planning.



Kay Rose, Shelbyville councilmember



Dawn Crawford, TML Risk Management Pool President, and Honna Rogers, Signal Mountain town manager



Scott Massey, Cumberland University, conducts a workshop on Renewing Hope Through Innovation.

Photos by Victoria South

Congratulations to the 2011 TML Achievement Award Winners!



The city of Livingston received the TML Award for Excellence in Public Works.



The city of Memphis received the TML Award for Excellence in Green Leadership.



The city of McMinnville received the TML Award for Excellence in Police Services.



The city of Knoxville received the TML Award for Excellence in Human Resources.



The city of Bristol received the TML Award for Excellence in Governance.



The city of Kingsport received the TML Award for Excellence in Community Progress.

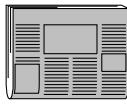
Good Risk Management is just Good Management



The TML Risk Management Pool is one of the largest providers of workers' compensation coverage in Tennessee. The Pool insures more than 40,500 of Tennessee municipal employees, including those who perform some of the most dangerous jobs like utility line workers, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

Controlling accidents through an effective loss control program is a vital foundation of the Pool's program. By each member taking responsibility to continuously reduce risk exposures through good risk management practices, municipal governments are helping taxpaying citizens get the very best for their tax dollars.

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COMMUNITY PLANNER

Monroe County is looking for a qualified community planner to serve the Monroe County government and its cities including Madisonville, Sweetwater, Tellico Plains, and Vonore. The ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree in Planning or related field and have at least 5 years of field experience. Salary and benefits are competitive, including TCRS retirement. Qualified applicants shall submit a resume with references and completed application no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, July 1, 2011. Job Description and applications may be obtained by emailing shanh@monroegovernment.org at the Monroe County Economic Development Department, 103 College Street, Suite 6, Madisonville, TN 37354.

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, MTAS, tess.davis@tennessee.edu. Position is open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/A/A>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.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city is seeking applicants for a full time Human Resources Director. Bachelor's degree in human resources management or related field required.. Three to five years experience of professional human resources work, preferably in municipal government; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential job functions. Pay DOE/Full Benefits. Interested applicants should send cover letter, resume, and references via email to cshelton@cityofwhitehouse.com, fax to 615-616-1058, or mail to 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Position is open until filled. EOE.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city is looking for an innovative and experienced Planning and Development Director. The position is responsible for leading a staff of 28 employees and managing a \$2.5 million department budget. This position oversees planning, building codes, development, GIS and M.T.P.O. Candidates should possess strong interpersonal and communication skills; demonstrated leadership experience; extensive experience of a progressively responsible nature in planning, community development and building codes; and a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, master's degree preferred. Send a confidential resume and application to City of Johnson City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605. Visit our website at www.johnsoncitytn.org to access an application, and view the full ad and job description. EOE

Legislation filed to stop Federal unfunded mandate for road signs

SIGNS from Page 1

tial impacts of compliance dates in the current economic downturn.

In announcing the new comment period, U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood noted that asking for additional input is the right thing to do given the difficult economic conditions. "I believe that this regulation makes no sense," LaHood said. "It does not take into account the high costs that local governments would have to bear. States, cities, and towns should not be required to spend money that they don't have to replace perfectly good traffic signs.

"We want to be sure these safety requirements are reasonable, fair and cost-effective," he stated.

On the state level, Rep. Phillip Johnson, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, introduced HJR304 this year urging appropriation of adequate funding by Congress for local governments to implement the new minimum retro-reflectivity standards for traffic signs. Sen. Jim Tracy, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, presented this resolution in the senate. The resolution passed unanimously in both houses and was signed by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam on June 1.

"I would like to thank Sen. Alexander and Sen. Corker for recognizing the burden the federal mandate places on the local communities. This is exactly why I sponsored this resolution. Local governments budgets are strained and un-



The FHWA has raised the minimum reflectivity of road signs to increase sign visibility. Local and state agencies were given until January 2012 to implement a method for maintaining traffic sign retro-reflectivity at or above the minimum levels.

funded federal mandates only add to this strain," said Sen. Tracy.

"I hope the Federal government will listen to our message and stop sending unfunded mandates down to the states and local communities," said Rep. Johnson. "In Tennessee, we make the tough decisions and balance our budget. It's time for the Federal Government to stop their over-reaching regulations and excessive spending of our citizens' tax dollars. I am appreciative of our congressional delegation's willingness

to address this unfunded mandate and am hopeful this legislation will be enacted."

In anticipation of the new federal standards, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) have already been specifying signs that meet the new requirements for several years. "Neither the federal requirements nor the new proposed legislation will have much effect on the department, as we are already in compliance," said Lyndsay Botts, TDOT communications director.

TDOT announces statewide "Projects Tour"



meet the public.

The "TDOT Summer Projects Tour" schedule is as follows:

- June 28-July 1: REGION 2
(based in Chattanooga)
- Aug. 8-12: REGION 4
(based in Jackson)
- Sept. 12-16: REGION 3

(based in Nashville)

- Sept. 26-30: REGION 1
(based in Knoxville)

For more information, contact Lyndsay Botts, TDOT community relations & communication director at 615.741.7736, or email Lyndsay.Botts@tn.gov

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White House sees value in nationwide public safety communications network

BY MITCHEL HERCKIS
NLC Government Relations

Last week, Vice President Joe Biden and a number of members of the President's Cabinet welcomed NLC and other public safety stakeholders to the White House to discuss the benefits of transitioning to a nationwide wireless broadband network for public safety. The meeting included presentations by Biden, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Attorney General Eric Holder, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

The meeting came on the heels of Sens. John D. Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) passing the bipartisan Strengthening Public-safety and

Enhancing Communications Through Reform, Utilization, and Modernization Act (S. 911) through the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee by a vote of 21 to 4. The legislation would create a nationwide public safety broadband network, one of the few remaining recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that has yet to be acted upon.

"We owe it to you," Biden said to the first responders in the audience during his opening remarks. "This is our shot to increase the safety and security of the American people. It's about the most important thing you can do in a piece of legislation."

The event coincided with the release of a White House report entitled "The Benefits of Transitioning to a Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network for Public Safety."

The report highlights the President's Wireless Innovation and

Infrastructure Initiative and how it can transition public safety "from the traditional, fragmented world of public safety communications to a next generation system."

This system would provide sufficient dedicated spectrum to first responders, enhancing inter-operability and functionality of public safety communications while decreasing the costs of infrastructure and devices.

Creating a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network has been a key public safety goal of NLC this year.

Attorney General Holder explained that with the bipartisan bill gaining support in Congress, "We've never been closer to realizing our goal of enabling public safety officers to take full advantage of the benefits of broadband technology."

U.S. House passes Homeland Security Appropriations Bill; makes to cuts critical programs

BY MITCHEL HERCKIS

Recently, the House passed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2012 (H.R. 2017). NLC opposes the bill, as it contains severe cuts to critical homeland security programs and drastically alters how funding is distributed to states and local governments. The bill now goes to the Senate, which has not yet begun to consider appropriations bills.

H.R. 2017 would reduce funding for state and local homeland security grant programs by more than \$1.5 billion from the current fiscal year and merges funding for several key grant programs—such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)—into a single \$1 billion fund. UASI and SHSP were each funded at close to \$1 billion in FY 2010.

UASI and SHSP, which have formed the backbone of support for first responder preparedness and response, are currently distributed in a manner that was authorized by Con-

gress with the support of state and local governments. The spending bill would direct the DHS Secretary to distribute the funds on a discretionary basis across nine key grant programs, a move that NLC opposes without significant consideration and debate.

In a minor victory for cities and towns, two important amendments were offered and adopted on the House floor. The first, by Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio), partially restored funding for firefighter grants and increased House-recommended funding for fiscal year 2012 from \$350 million to \$670 million. Despite the increase, the final number is still a substantial cut from fiscal year 2011's funding of \$810 million. The second amendment, offered by Rep. Hansen Clarke (D-Mich.), removed language that would have limited UASI grants to the 10 "highest risk areas" in the nation.

NLC is working in concert with its allies in the Senate in an effort to restore funding for these critical programs. To help illustrate the importance of these programs, NLC is collecting examples of how SHSP and UASI funding prepares communities for emergencies, saves lives or otherwise makes the nation safer. Please send any examples to herckis@nlc.org.

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Hayes TML Mayor of the Year

MAYOR from Page 1 through the expanded branch of Volunteer State Community College, built with town, county and private monies matched by state funding. For those seeking four-year degrees, the Tennessee Technological University is just 25 minutes away. Hayes also helped facilitate a recent level 4 ISO rating for Livingston's Fire Department.

As a people person, Mayor Hayes takes an active part in the community while also representing Livingston in various professional organizations across the state. While serving as a board member of the Livingston/Overton Chamber of Commerce, the Rural Area Development Committee and the Tennessee Technology Center General Advisory Committee, children of all ages throughout Livingston have come to know the Mayor as "Coach." For the past 17 years, Hayes has been the president and volunteer coach for

the Overton County Outlaws Football League that serves youths from ages seven to 12 years old. He also coaches Little League Baseball and basketball for grades 5-8 at the local middle school.

Youth sports are also a driving force for the Hayes household. Mayor Hayes and his wife Julie are the proud parents of two sons, who are both excellent athletes. Creede is 16 and a junior at Livingston Academy and Carter is 12, and a 6th grader at Livingston Middle School.

"His visionary leadership, excellence in intergovernmental relations and love for his cherished hometown of Livingston during tough economic times is commendable," said TML President Sam Tharpe and Paris Mayor.

"Livingston represents family, truth and togetherness, especially in hard times," Hayes said. "Our infrastructure is set. The future is bright. The best is yet to come."

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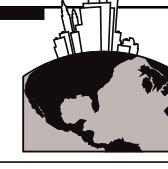
NATIONAL BRIEFS**BY TML STAFF REPORTS**

Ever since the interstate system was built, Congress has prohibited states from charging tolls on highways built with federal money. The constraint posed fewer problems when transportation money was easier to find. But now almost every other source of road funds is drying up, and several states are eyeing the possibility of collecting tolls on interstates that drivers now use for free. Virtually every state faces a funding crunch for roads. The federal piggy bank for highway maintenance, a major funding source for states, is nearly empty. The bulk of its money is raised through the federal gas tax, which has not been increased since 1993. Despite several moves by Congress in the last three years to replenish the Highway Trust Fund, that money to run out again by late 2012. That puts further pressure on

states to find other sources for road repairs. States have been hesitant to raise their own gas taxes, too, and their poor fiscal conditions leave them with few options for finding money elsewhere in their budgets. Under current law, states are allowed to toll interstates if the roads had tolls before they became part of the national network. They also are allowed to put tolls on new roads that are not part of the Interstate Highway System. States can even add new carpool lanes to existing interstates, and charge money to use the faster lanes. But they generally cannot put tolls on previously toll-free interstate stretches built with federal money. With the highway bill being rewritten and states scrambling for more road money, the issue of tolling interstates is not likely to go away soon. So far, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has been skeptical. "If a state or a governor or DOT wants to add capacity or two

lanes on each side, we think that's a good use of tolls, and we have supported that kind of approach." "We don't support the kind of approach, though, for roads that have already been built with taxpayer dollars then to be tolled."

About one in four of the nearly 7,400 elected representatives across the country do not possess a four-year college degree, according to a report released by The Chronicle of Higher Education in Washington. That compares with 6 percent of members of Congress, and 72 percent of adults nationwide, said the report, which is based primarily on the officials' self-reported biographical information. Arkansas has the least formally educated Statehouse, with 25 percent of its 135 legislators not having any college experience at all, compared with 8.7 percent of lawmakers nationwide.

**TENNESSEE FESTIVALS****July 2- Waynesboro****July 4th Celebration**

Called one of the best home-town fireworks shows around. All day festival with games and food. Free admission. For more information, call 931 722-5458 or visit www.cityofwaynesboro.org .

July 2: Millington**Flag City Freedom Celebration**

Held at Navy Lake. Spectacular fire works show, two musical stages featuring Mustang Sally and the Navy Band, children's play area. For more information, call 901-874-5555.

July 4: Munford**Celebrate Independence**

A free fireworks display with a performance by the Naval Support Activity - Mid-South Naval Band in City Park on College Street. For more information, visit the website www.munford.com or call 901-837-5972.

July 4: Kingston**Smokin' The Water**

A July 4th celebration from 11 am - 10 pm at Kingston City Park. Live music, Wakeboard Expo,|barefoot skiing, rock climbing|, games and fireworks. For more information, call Debbie Russell at 865-376-1356.

July 10: Ten Mile**Half Moon Music Festival**

A musical showcase of the area's best talent held at 118 Christley Lane. Acts include The Streamliners Big Band, the East Tennessee Concert Band, (semi-classical) and The Possum Hunters Bluegrass band. For more information, call Dr. Wayne Tipps at 865-717-0584.

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TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
(ISSN No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420

— Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable.

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

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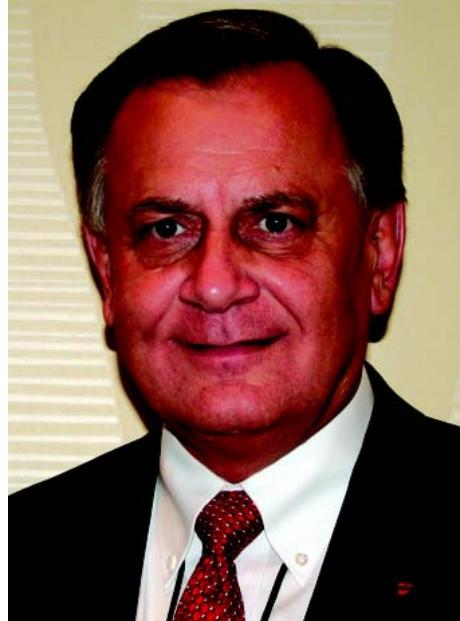


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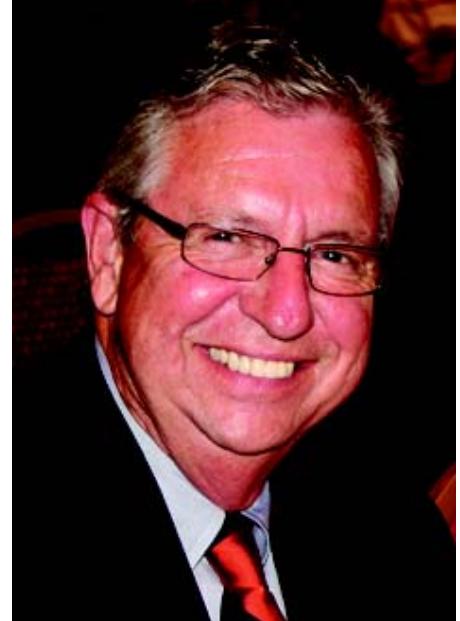
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Oak Ridge (2008)

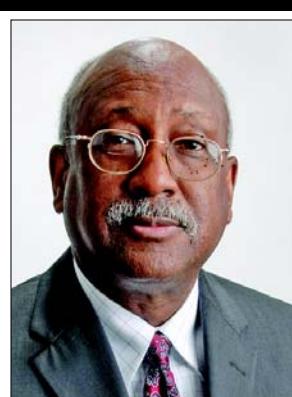


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Mayor
Huntingdon (2010)

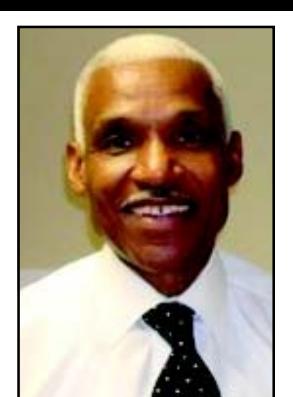
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