



Photo by Victoria South

A beautiful fall weekend was the setting for this year's Tennessee History Festival at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall in Nashville. The festival commemorated the Civil War Sesquicentennial in Tennessee, allowing visitors to experience day-to-day soldier life during this important time in history. In year's past, the festival has drawn more than 6,000 visitors to the park. Pictured are: Mike Cole, superintendent of the Capitol Bicentennial Mall State Park portraying Confederate Colonel Corn, CSA, Dr. E.C. Fields as General Ulysses S. Grant, Daniel E. Hughes as Major General George H. Thomas and Bob Steele, as a Federal artilleryman. For more photos, see Page 8

Ramsey named chair, Local, State Government Committee

House Speaker Beth Harwell announced the appointment of Rep. Bob Ramsey (R-Maryville) as chairman of the House State and Local Government Committee. Ramsey previously served as vice-chairman of the committee.

"Bob Ramsey will do an excellent job as chairman of the State and Local Government Committee," said Speaker Harwell. "His past experience as chairman of the Blount County Commission will benefit the committee tremendously, and I look forward to working closely with him next year."

Speaker Harwell also announced the appointment of Rep. Ryan Haynes (R-Knoxville) as vice-chairman of the full committee, meaning that he will serve as chairman of the State and Local Government Subcommittee.

"Rep. Haynes will be an asset to Chairman Ramsey as vice-chairman of the full committee, and chairman of the Subcommittee," said Harwell. "Rep. Ramsey and Rep. Haynes have both the skills and passion to guide the committees through the remainder of the 107th General Assembly," Speaker Harwell stated.

The House State and Local Government Committee is often referred complex legislation addressing such matters as local and municipal affairs, powers to tax and raise revenue, local ordinances, local government employees, local government expenditures, and election laws.



Rep. Bob Ramsey



Rep. Ryan Haynes

Conference Committee will decide funding fate for host of local priorities

Last chance for local officials to impact CDBG, transportation, COPS, other essential programs

**BY NLCFEDERAL
RELATIONS STAFF**
Nation's Cities Weekly

On Nov. 1, the Senate voted 69 to 30 to approve H.R. 2112, a "mini-bus" spending bill composed of FY 2012 appropriations for the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, and State. Senate passage sends H.R. 2112 to conference with the House, which adopted bills in subcommittee prior to the debt ceiling agreement reached last summer.

As a result, the House bills conform to a lower overall funding cap for domestic discretionary programs than was provided for under the debt ceiling agreement. The Senate bills, by contrast, would expend the full amount of funding available under the cap by providing \$128 billion for the agencies listed above.

The fate of FY 2012 funding for several of the most fundamental federal programs to local governments will be determined by the

House and Senate members appointed to the conference committee. This is the last chance for local officials to weigh in with their Members of Congress on programs under the agencies listed above before the mini-bus is finalized and enacted by the President.

Housing, Community Development

Several outstanding differences between the House and Senate bills demonstrate the different approaches the two chambers took to the challenges of allocating limited federal funds tied to the ongoing deficit reduction initiatives. Proposed funding levels for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a top priority for cities, provide a good example of these differences.

Under the House bill, CDBG funding would be maintained at the FY2011 level of \$3.5 billion. The Senate bill, by contrast, would cut CDBG to \$2.85 billion, \$485 million below the House and the lowest

amount since 1990, when CDBG was funded at \$2.81 billion. However, the Senate bill preserves funding for other priority programs such as the Sustainable Communities Initiative, The Choice Neighborhoods Program and housing counseling programs that would be completely eliminated under the House bills.

The HOME program, which cities use to construct and rehabilitate affordable housing, would also receive more funding under the House bill (\$1.2 billion) than in the Senate, (\$1 billion). Both amounts, however, are significantly below last year's level of \$1.6 billion, which is believed to be in response to several highly publicized cases of HOME funded projects that had apparently been abandoned or forgotten before completion.

The Senate also voted against an amendment that would have severely limited funds for rural development programs administered by the Department of Agriculture. Defeated by a vote of 13-85, the *See LOCAL FUNDING on Page 9*

Massey elected to state Senate

Knox County voters elected Becky Duncan Massey to the state Senate in a special election to fill the 6th District Senate seat. She garnered nearly 64 percent of the votes against her democratic challenger Gloria Johnson.

The 6th District seat, which represents portions of Knoxville and Knox County, was vacated this summer by Republican Jamie Woodson — speaker pro tempore of the Senate — who resigned to become president and CEO of State Collaborative on Reforming Education. The special election coincided with the regular city election. Massey will now serve the remainder of the term until next year's election.

Massey listed job creation, regulatory relief, and improving education as some of her top priorities for Tennessee.

Massey is the executive director of the Sertoma Center, a non-profit agency that serves adults with intellectual disabilities by providing vocational training, part-time employ-



Sen. Becky Duncan Massey ment, and residential services. She received her BA in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee.

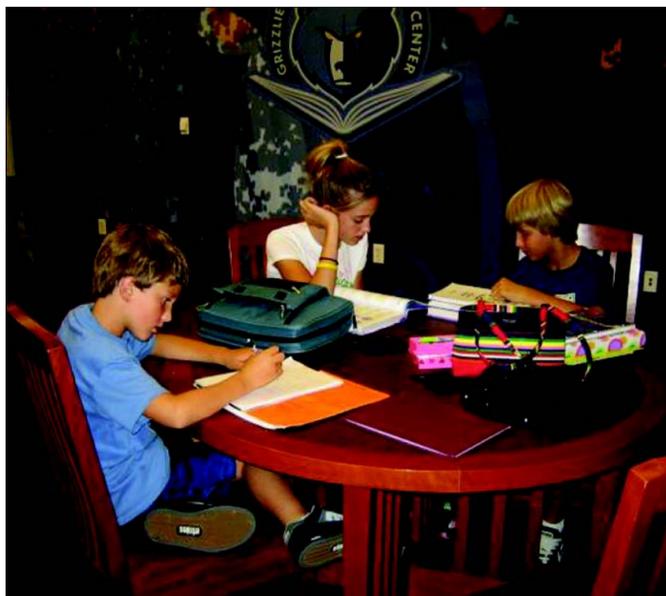
Her brother is U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., R-Knoxville; and her late father John J. Duncan, Sr., served as mayor of Knoxville from 1954-1964 and as United States Congressman from 1965-1988.

Successful public/private partnerships produce cost-saving city programs

BY AMBER WILLIAMS
MTAS Intern

Challenging economic times necessitate that municipalities explore creative and diverse avenues of providing services for citizens. One option municipal leaders have that creates cost savings and encourages private sector involvement and job creation is public private collaboration. Partnering with private entities is not easy to implement, there are challenges; however, when done right there are many positive outcomes for both sectors. Exploring the achievement of public private partnerships in cities like Athens, Kingsport and Collierville highlights several key factors for successful implementation.

First, technology — use of modern and updated information technology resources can streamline processes and enable faster communication among stakeholders. Second, working with a trusted and vetted partner lessens the risk and bolsters a positive public perception of the deal, which should always be sealed with a tested contract. Speaking of risk, this third factor entails that all entities must be willing to accept and plan for any event and outcome. Fourth, public officials must invest considerable time in the education process for themselves



The Collierville Lucius E. and Elsie C. Burch, Jr., Library subcontracted with the Maryland based firm Library Systems and Services (LSSI) LLC for staffing. Collierville's example of public private partnership was born out of economic challenges.

and the public at-large; having citizen buy-in is important and can speed along the process.

Lastly, creation and implementation of reasonable accountability measures and regulation for all involved ensures safety, minimizes risks and allows for long-term

growth. Instituting these key factors among other best practices allow for a win-win situation, like Athens has experienced.

The city of Athens was awarded a \$30,000 grant to partner with YMCA, TVA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and



The city of Athens was awarded a \$30,000 grant to partner with YMCA, TVA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Southeast Watershed Forum to build a \$163,000 green parking lot to serve both the city and the YMCA clientele.

Conservation and the Southeast Watershed Forum to build a \$163,000 green parking lot to serve both the city and the YMCA clientele. A rain garden featuring native, water-lov-

ing plants was planted along the middle of the lot by local Eagle Scouts. Athens is an example of citizen/community buy-in and using *See PARTNERSHIPS on Page 6*

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BARTLETT

A medical device product development company announced it will relocate, making a multi-million dollar capital investment in the process. Launch Medical, currently located on Kate Bond Road, has plans to expand into the former American Clothing Express headquarters building. With the \$4.8 million move, the company will also create 40 jobs. The company focuses on assisting surgeon inventors develop their ideas into marketable products.

BELLBUCKLE

The water and sewer problems which have plagued the Town of Bell Buckle may soon be eased, with help from a pair of low-interest loans awarded by the state's Revolving Fund Loan program. The town will receive \$1.2 million for projects that include wastewater treatment plant upgrades and collection system rehabilitation, as well as a project that includes the Wartrace road waterline rehabilitation. The projects will be funded with a pair of 20-year loans totaling \$1 million with an interest rate of 1.26, with a total of \$200,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid. Through the SRF program, communities, utility districts, and water and wastewater authorities can obtain loans with lower interest rates than most can obtain through private financing. Interest rates for loans can vary from zero percent to market rate based on each community's economic index. Loans utilizing the 2010 EPA grant funds include 20 percent principal forgiveness for water and wastewater projects, while 2011 EPA grant funds include 30 percent principal forgiveness for water and 10 percent principal forgiveness for wastewater projects. Bell Buckle is one of five communities in the state to be approved for the loans.

BLOUNTVILLE

Sprint will relocate its call center operations to Sullivan County from its current Bristol, Va. facility. The move will bring more than 600 new jobs to Tennessee and represents a multimillion dollar investment in the state. The call center will be built on a site already aptly-named "Sprint Drive" in Blountville. Sprint's existing Bristol, Va. call center positions will move to the Blountville facility when operational in 2013. However, future vacancies are likely to be drawn from the Tennessee workforce along with other areas. Sprint Nextel offers a comprehensive range of wireless and wireline communications services.

BRISTOL

Exide Technologies announced that it will be idling the majority of operations at its Bristol facility. Exide officials said that the company is in the process of evaluating its other U.S. manufacturing sites to determine where the work currently being performed in Bristol will be transferred. This change will not affect the spiral-wound product line. A transition plan is being finalized with the anticipation that the discontinuation of operations will be concluded within the next 12-18 months.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga's Department of Human Services has been named as

one of 10 Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood by the Office of Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. This five-year designation validates diverse collaborations between the Chattanooga Program and the child care community to provide services to children and their families throughout Chattanooga and Hamilton County. The Chattanooga Head Start /Early Head Start Program has been recognized as a National Head Start Association Program of Excellence since 2001.

CHATTANOOGA

New three-dimensional technology will allow Chattanooga police to take jurors on a visual trip past the yellow crime scene tape, to the scene of a fatal shooting. The Chattanooga Police Department is the first in Tennessee to get a Leica Geosystems ScanStation C10, which uses cameras and lasers to reproduce a crime scene on a screen in three dimensions. It isn't like a 3D movie, where the images pop out from the screen, but it does allow the viewer — with the click of a mouse — to jump to any vantage point the scanner captured in its line of vision. The department ordered two ScanStations, assigning one to the crime scene unit and the other to traffic investigations. Each cost the department \$210,000 in grant money. When the ScanStation is started, its laser travels over every square inch within a roughly 900-foot-diameter collecting 50,000 measurement points per second. Afterward, a built-in camera takes panoramic photos of the entire scene. The measurement data — called a "point cloud" — is matched with the pixels from the series of panoramic photos. The result is a color, three-dimensional rendition of the scene from which any linear measurement can be conducted with near precise accuracy. Fewer than 100 law enforcement agencies in the country currently have the ScanStation C10.

CLARKSVILLE

One of the biggest construction projects in the state has dramatically changed pace. Hemlock Semi-Conductor in Montgomery County says it's postponing three of its four phases of building. As a result, hundreds of workers have already lost their jobs. Hemlock representatives assured local news sources that because of changes and volatility in the market, they will finish phase one, a \$1.2 billion polysilicon facility, but postponing their expansion phases two through four indefinitely. According to the Clarksville Montgomery County Economic Development Council, most workers are safe, 2,500 will keep their jobs. Three hundred to 400 contractors doing prep work for phases two and three lost their jobs. The economic development council said Hemlock planned to spend an additional \$1.2 billion for each of the three remaining phases and each phase would have created an undisclosed number of new jobs. City leaders are hopeful despite the change in pace, phases two, three and four will come eventually.

CROSSVILLE

Cumberland County leads the state and ranks 18th among 3,105 counties in the nation when it comes to the percentage of residents' total income that comes from Social Security. A new study shows that about 15.9 percent of Cumberland residents' income came from Social

Security payments. The national average for Social Security payments as a percentage of all total personal income is 5.5 percent. In Tennessee overall, it's 6.9 percent, records show. Social Security payments come in three forms: old-age pensions, survivor benefits, and disability benefits. Rural economies in general depend far more on Social Security payments as a percentage of a county's total personal income than metropolitan areas do, according to a study done by the Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University. Social Security payments in Southeast Tennessee made up 10 percent or more of most counties' total personal income in 2009. But just as more than 50 million Americans are about to get their first benefit increase in three years, Social Security could feel Congress' budget ax. U.S. lawmakers are studying a measure that could lessen future Social Security increases, raise taxes for most families and allow policymakers gradually to cut benefits. The changes could save about \$200 billion over the first decade and more afterward. "We have built our community on retirees," said Cumberland County Mayor Kenneth Carey. Retirees already are feeling a pinch from the poor economy in their investments. Changes to Social Security could make the situation worse."

DUNLAP

The city and Sequatchie County officials announced plans by MANN+HUMMEL USA to locate a satellite production facility in Dunlap. The company is expected to invest nearly \$15 million over the next three years and employ approximately 150 production workers and technicians by the end of 2013. The company decided to establish its southern operations in an existing facility. MANN+HUMMEL USA, Inc. is headquartered in Portage, Mich., and currently employs 320 people in Michigan. The company designs and produces air intake manifolds, air cleaner systems and fluid reservoirs for the automotive, heavy duty and industrial markets. The company also distributes MANN FILTER brand air, oil and fuel filter elements for vehicle and industrial applications. MANN+HUMMEL USA, Inc. is a subsidiary of the MANN+HUMMEL Group which is headquartered in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

FARRAGUT

Farragut was named the most business friendly city in the state by the Beacon Center of Tennessee. The study scores each city on economic vitality, business tax burden and community allure. Farragut is the only city to receive this top ranking twice. It also won in 2006.

HELENWOOD

In a county that has suffered the highest unemployment rate in Tennessee, Takahata Precision America Inc. is expanding its plant in Helenwood and intends to hire 25 to 35 additional employees. The Scott County plant makes injection molded plastic parts for vehicle fuel systems. The company has finished the first phase of a two-phase, 45,000-square-foot addition to accommodate additional injection molding machines and warehouse space representing a nearly \$3 million investment.

JACKSON

City ordinances recently approved by Memphis and Jackson that ban people under age 21 from retail liquor stores without a parent, legal guardian or spouse may become a state law too. The Memphis City



The city of Millersville recently held its grand opening ceremonies for a new park, playground and community center. The playground was developed by the city of Millersville with the assistance of a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant. The facility boasts more than 20 play implements.

Council passed the ordinance in September, and the Jackson City Council voted unanimously on the first of two required readings to pass its ordinance. If approved, it would go into effect immediately. State Rep. Jimmy Eldridge said he's drafting a similar bill that he will present to the legislature when it reconvenes in January. If approved there, the law would be statewide and the first such state law in the nation.

KINGSPORT

Taylor Properties of Kingsport has announced plans for what it describes as the first super-regional, Northeast Tennessee retail-shopping complex. The project, called Heritage Town Center, will include more than 1 million square feet of retail, entertainment and dining facilities when completed. Developed by Stewart Taylor and Taylor Properties, the center will be strategically located at the interchange of Interstates 81 and 26. Plans for the first phase include a major wholesale club, an outdoor outfitter, a multi-screen movie complex, multiple restaurants and retail shops. Additional phases will include major department stores, additional eateries, an electronics store, small retailers and a separate hotel complex.

MEMPHIS

Qingdao Doublestar Industrial Co. will ship about 10,000 heavy-duty truck tires per year to a warehouse in Memphis. The import deal was announced by Del-Nat Tire Corp., a long-established Memphis wholesaler. The Chinese tire maker is part of state-owned Doublestar Group, a 40,000-employee conglomerate in shoes and rubber.

MILLERSVILLE

The city of Millersville recently held its grand opening ceremonies for a new park, playground and community center. Along with the playground and community center, the park features include a walking trail, an amphitheater and pavilions with picnic tables slated to open in the spring. The playground was developed by the city of Millersville with the assistance of a Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant. The facility boasts more than 20 play implements. The community center features a reception and concert hall, a warming kitchen, and meeting rooms with various capacities. All rooms in the facility are available to rent for meetings, parties, receptions, musical entertainment, and more. The community center will also become the home of numerous park activities and classes as the department develops. The Millersville Department of Parks and Recreation began operating in July 2011 with the assistance of a Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program

(TRIP) Grant, which assists with staffing and department startup costs for the first three years of operation.

NASHVILLE

Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) recognized Nashville International Airport as the Richard A. Griesbach Award of Excellence winner in the 2011 Airport Concessions Contest. Nashville's concession program provides the opportunity for passengers and guests to taste and experience Nashville while at the airport. The program focuses on creating a travel experience that reflects the Music City's diversity and hospitable spirit, while considering the impact of existing and new security requirements on concessions and customer service convenience in the Terminal. The ACI-NA Excellence in Concessions Contest, which began in 1998, honors the contributions of Richard A. Griesbach, a long-time industry professional in airport concession programs.

SCOTTS HILL

The Town of Scotts Hill held an open house and ribbon cutting in the lobby of City Hall for its newly opened Scotts Hill Historical Collection. On display are artifacts, documents, photographs, and memorabilia of Scotts Hill's days gone by. The collection is a community project featuring items that are part of or exemplify a significant time in the area's history up to 1986. Tours may be arranged to accommodate walk ins, students, organizations and other special occasions. In attendance at the ceremony were State Rep. Steve McDaniel, Mayor Harold Britt, Henderson County Chamber of Commerce Executive Vicki Bunch, and Planning Director David Austin, who is in charge of the collection. The exhibit is open during the city hall's normal operating hours.

UNION CITY

The U.S. Department of Labor has announced a \$3.4 million grant for re-employment and support services to about 850 laid-off workers at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. plant in Union City. The 43-year-old Goodyear plant was Obion County's largest employer until its closure in July, putting 1,800 employees from West Tennessee and Western Kentucky out of work. The plant has been sold to Titan Tire Corporation, a maker of off-road equipment tires for large earth-moving equipment, farm implements and other off-road vehicles. The Quincy, Ill.-based company invested close to \$9 million in the 2.1 million-square-foot building, which sits on 480 acres. The grant was awarded to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

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The town that health built: \$50 million CityWalk project reflects Jackson's longterm fitness goals

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

Who knew that shopping, eating and living downtown could actually be good for your health? That's the goal in Jackson, where officials are building a \$50 million commercial/residential health-themed community anchored by a 75,000 square foot, state-of-the-art West Tennessee Healthcare medical wellness facility. The CityWalk development is testament to Jackson's years long commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles and combating childhood obesity.

Among the development's amenities will be a 20,000-square-foot retail center, 156 upscale apartment units, 20 single family residential lots, and the Living Fit in Tennessee (LIFT) facility, which will include fitness and wellness programs, a swimming pool, primary care clinic, the SportsPlus physical therapy rehab center and an aquatherapy program.

The city held a ground breaking

features 120 apartments, which are totally occupied.

Funded as a public/private effort, Gist and the project's stakeholders hope CityWalk will draw a variety of businesses to the downtown area, which currently has a large professional community. "We're hoping CityWalk will provide venues for specialty restaurants serving meals that support our mission for healthier lifestyles," Gist said.

Jackson has garnered state and national accolades since 2006 for its tireless commitment to fitness, beginning with resolution No.2006-13, dedicating city services, administrators and staff to assist in the implementation and coordination of a city-wide mandate to combat childhood obesity.

"About five years ago, we targeted the childhood obesity initiative because it's running rampant nationwide," said Gist. A recent report "The Color of Death" based on regional statistics, prepared by *The Jackson Sun*, uncovered West Ten-



Jackson's city officials and developers recently broke ground on CityWalk, a \$50 million downtown integrated commercial/residential community that will be anchored by a state-of-the-art, 75,000 square foot, West Tennessee Healthcare medical wellness facility named Living Fit in Tennessee (LIFT).



Jackson's CityWalk development will be in good company, as the downtown area already plays host to a widely successful farmer's market.

ceremony recently at the 20-acre site where grading has begun. "This is one of the most exciting ventures to occur in Jackson," said Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist. "CityWalk will serve as a magnet that will attract people to shop, exercise, and even live in a park-like setting within our beautiful downtown."

The property, consolidated and acquired by the city, runs along an existing TIFF development district encompassing a residential neighborhood of around 18,000 citizens, and another crown jewel, the city's recently acquired Lambuth University.

Jackson's downtown is already the site of the highly successful West Tennessee Farmer's Market, which averages about 5,000 visitors a week during the spring, summer and fall. The city has also done a lot of work in the downtown area over the past six to seven years, creating the non-profit Jackson Downtown Development Corporation to continue to build and rebuild Jackson's downtown area. Prior to that, there were no downtown residential possibilities, according to Gist. Now the city's downtown area

nessee death rates for diabetes and heart disease—two lifestyle-linked killers—as higher than national rates. Nine percent of adults in West Tennessee say they have diabetes, according to the 1998 Tennessee Department of Health *Adult Health and Lifestyles* survey. The American Diabetes Association puts the current national average at only six percent. "We in the South, especially in Jackson, tend to love our barbeque and fried chicken," said Gist. "And in many cases, there are 10, 11 and 12 year olds with onset Type 2 diabetes. It's not acceptable for our young people to be in that situation."

Jackson officials established a task force on childhood obesity comprised of the city's Recreation & Parks Department, the Jackson/Madison County School System (JMCCS), the Jackson/Madison County Regional Health Department (JMCRHD), the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club. The city was selected as one of 12 communities to participate in the National League of Cities' pilot community Childhood Wellness Project, which led to the city's selection as one of six pilot communi-

ties nationwide to participate in the NLC/Robert Wood Johnson Childhood Obesity Grant program.

Jumpstart Jackson, a month-long series of community events focusing on wellness, fitness and youth activity received the Governor's Shining Star Award. Citizens of all ages, led by Mayor Gist, gathered to walk the city's main arteries linking schools, parks, downtown etc. during the first Jump Start Jackson Community-wide Wellness Walk. The city was one of only ten communities nation-wide to receive the 2010 ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental Change) grant, \$35,000, toward professional development opportunities related to health education and community outreach. The funds were used toward an Action Institute where community leaders learned more about effective strategies to design, implement and effect community change. Jackson authorities have been planning the CityWalk development for four years.

"We have a vision for a healthier West Tennessee, a healthier Madison County and Jackson," said Bobby Arnold, CEO of West Tennessee Healthcare. "It is part of our mission and vision to improve the health of our community." West Tennessee Healthcare is one of the top ten largest public, not-for-profit healthcare systems in the U.S. with locations throughout 18 counties in West Tennessee.

The city's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) took the reins in facilitating the \$1.5 million Housing and Urban Development (HUD) loan for infrastructure improvements. Like most, the development is not without infrastructure challenges. Some can be resolved by the relocating of a few existing streets, creating adequate waste water treatment areas, handicapped

accessible sidewalks and supplying adequate water and underground utilities. Other CityWalk challenges might have toppled lesser developments.

"I think one of the top challenges has been utilizing an area of downtown previously used by the Public Works department," said Gist. "And then there's the big obstacle, which has caused other projects to be shelved, a small blueline stream running through the property." A blue-line stream is one which flows for most or all of the year. Marked along topographic

ment, the stream will be a positive amenity," Gist continues, "a small pedestrian bridge will be built over the creek and water features will be present in the creek to enhance the project." The residential area will also feature a series of greenways and trails.

"When the city established the TIFF district, it opened several new avenues of funding," Gist explains. "Federal tax credits, which our master developer Healthy Community, LLC were able to use through West Tennessee Healthcare along with the loan from HUD. "We are especially



Rather than diverting the water and filling in a blueline stream which runs along the city's 20-acre plat of property that will become the residential section of CityWalk, developers will seize this natural resource to help lend a park-like quality to the project. Blueline streams are protected by FEMA guidelines through building and zoning codes.

maps by a solid blue line, the streams are protected under FEMA guidelines through building and zoning codes. "All other efforts to develop the property called for the stream to be piped and covered over, which simply wasn't going to happen," said Gist.

CRA contracted with Healthy Community, LLC to serve as the Master Developer. Healthy Community's principal developers Hal Crocker of Crocker Construction in Jackson and Henry Turley of Henry Turley Company, Memphis contributed considerable funding toward the project. "In this develop-

appreciative to West Tennessee Healthcare for making such a significant commitment by locating their LIFT facility within the development."

According to Gist, the retail portion has already negotiated two leases. "A downtown speaks volumes about a city; whether the city cares about its heritage and historic characteristics," Gist said. "We're excited about what this development will do as far as continued growth of downtown Jackson and the redevelopment of a neighborhood." The completion date for CityWalk is targeted for January 2013.

Jackson: A timeline of wellness initiatives

- July 2006: City Council passes Resolution #2006-13

- Aug. 2006: Community Wellness and Childhood Obesity task force begins.

- Jan. 2007: Jackson is selected as one of 12 cities to participate in the National League of Cities' pilot community wellness project.

- Feb. 2007: Representatives from Jackson's Parks & Recreation Dept. and JMCCS attend the first NLC Leadership Summit on Childhood Wellness in Nashville.

- June 2007: Jackson is selected as one of six pilot cities nationwide to participate in the NLC/Robert Wood Johnson Childhood Obesity Grant Program.

- July 2007: Inaugural three-day congress of the six pilot cities and NLC/ASSA in Washington, D.C. Jackson's Community Wellness and Childhood Obesity initiative is named "Jump Start Jackson."

- Sept. 2007: Jackson hosts first site visit of representatives from NLC, American Association of School Administrators, and LaMesa, CA, Jackson's sister city.

- Oct. 2007: Jackson and NLC/ASSA representatives attend a second site visit to LaMesa, CA.

- Feb. 2008: Jump Start Jackson is awarded the TN Governor's Shining Star Award for its community wellness initiative.

- April 2008: Jump Start Jackson's first Community Wellness Month.

- Dec. 2008 Jumpstart Jackson task force drafts a Jackson-Madison County Community Wellness Policy.

- March 2009: Jackson Employee Health fair held at Fairgrounds Park.

- April 2009: City-wide Community Gardens Plan initiated.

- June 2009: Summer partnership

formed with 13 other summer youth service providers to conduct physical fitness programs for children. (1,300 youths participated in the 6-week program.)

- July 2009: City-wide Olympics Games Day for 1,300 participants and 13 agencies.

- Sept. 2009: Co-sponsored two community 5K walks; partnering with State Farm Insurance, Goody 2 Shoes and the Jackson-Madison County Schools.

- Oct. 2009: City proclaims Child Health Week in Jackson. Weeklong events, educational fairs and activities. Dedication of new walking park.

- Co-sponsor the Jingle Bell Run/Walk with Arthritis Foundation & JMCCS.

- Feb. 2010: Jackson selected as one of 10 cities nationwide to receive the 2010 ACHIEVE grant sponsored by the CDC and the National Recreation & Parks Association.



April 2008, Mayor Jerry Gist helped lead the city's first Jump Start Jackson Community Wellness Walk, which was a huge success.

- Jackson attends the Southern Municipal Leaders Combating Childhood Obesity Leadership Academy in New Orleans.

- March 2010: Representatives from Jackson attend the ACHIEVE communities orientation meeting hosted by the CDC in Washington, DC.

- April 2010 Third Annual Jumpstart Jackson Community Wellness Month.

- Jackson selected by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a pilot city for walkability/bikeability project "Walk with me Tennessee."

STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Lower tax revenue threatens state infrastructure

Gov. Bill Haslam warned that declining gas tax revenue will be a major problem for the state's infrastructure over the next decade. Transportation Commissioner John Schroer said in budget hearings that he has met with the heads of the House and Senate transportation committees about the effect of improving fuel economy and the advent of electric vehicles on Tennessee's gas tax system. "We're going to have to figure out before it's too late how we're going to systematically fund transportation in the future," Schroer said at the hearing. "We can't always rely on the gas tax to be the way that we fund transportation." Schroer said part of the discussion with lawmakers centered on what to do about electric vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf.

State applies for NCLB waiver

Hours before Tennessee submitted its final application to be granted a waiver from educational standards put in place by No Child Left Behind, Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman said he was confident the state was well positioned among its peers to be approved for exemption from the decade-old program. The road to the application submission has been five months in the making. In July, Tennessee became one of the first states in the nation to begin the process toward pursuing a waiver, when Gov. Bill Haslam, along with Huffman, wrote a seven-page letter to U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan citing frustrations with unrealistic Adequate Yearly Progress Goals. Since then, the U.S. Department of Education offered a formalized application process, which led to a significant overhaul in Tennessee's application while allowing for "significant overlap" between the original letter and the updated, 75-page submission. Tennessee is one of 11 states that has sought a waiver.

TDEC receives EPA award

The Department of Environment and Conservation was recently recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a National Notable Achievement Award for its contributions to EPA Region IV's Metric and Measurement Project, which resulted in significant improvements in the quality and quantity of reporting recycling data. The announcement was made at the recent Symposium on Recycling and the Economy in Memphis, which was organized by TDEC, EPA, the Southeast Recycling Development Council and the Tennessee Recycling Coalition. In 2010, the Region IV project team took on the challenge of developing a measurement tool for the Southeast region, recognizing the need for reliable measurement and ensuring the new system would be compatible with existing systems.

Online sales tax bill introduced

Shoppers who expect to avoid paying sales taxes for online purchases may see those savings disappear if a bill introduced by both of

Tennessee's senators becomes law. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker co-sponsored a measure that would require online, out-of-state retailers to begin collecting and remitting state sales taxes. A 2009 study by University of Tennessee-Knoxville economics and business professors Donald Bruce, William F. Fox and LeAnn Luna estimated 46 states and the District of Columbia would lose \$11.4 billion in state and local sales taxes in 2012, for a six-year loss of \$52 billion. Alexander said the Marketplace Fairness Act is not a new tax or an Internet tax but is merely an effort to collect a tax that's already owed but is often uncollected. Amazon vice president for global public policy Paul Misener said the company would work to see the bill passed, calling it a "win-win resolution."

TVA ponders wind power

TVA is considering a power-line "superhighway" that would zip wind-generated electricity from Oklahoma to Tennessee — providing clean energy equal to about three nuclear reactors. The Tennessee Valley Authority signed a nonbinding understanding last month to continue exploring the possibility of the 800-mile project that would funnel masses of electricity into the TVA transmission system. TVA could buy the power or send it on to other regions for a fee. East Tennessee has a few turbines, but winds in western Oklahoma are steadier, stronger and more widespread than here. Clean Line Energy Partners LLC, of Houston, which has proposed building the line, says wind energy from Oklahoma is cheaper than nuclear power and about equal to natural gas-fired generation.

Middle TN veterans face longer wait times

Veterans in Middle Tennessee have some of the longest wait times in the nation for a new patient mental health appointment, according to a USA TODAY analysis of Department of Veterans Affairs data. The analysis determined that nearly a third of the nation's VA hospitals had wait times longer than the agency's goal of seeing patients in 14 days or less.

East Tennessee featured in National Geographic

East Tennessee's best kept travel secrets now are available to a worldwide audience just by clicking a mouse. For the last two years the National Geographic Society and communities and businesses across the Tennessee Valley have been working to develop an online guide that showcases the region's natural, cultural and historic attractions. The new interactive guide — titled "Where Rivers and Mountains Meet" — now online, was preceded by a celebration hosted by the East Tennessee History Center in Knoxville, one of the sites showcased in the guide. The event was attended by tourism officials and businesses across the Tennessee Valley that voted online for the 600 sites selected for the guide. The new MapGuide can be accessed at www.TennesseeRiverValleyGeotourism.org. National Geographic created its

Geotourism MapGuides to promote forms of tourism that pump money into local economies while helping to preserve the natural and cultural resources that draw visitors in the first place. The Tennessee River Valley Geotourism MapGuide is the 17th in the National Geographic series, and the first to focus entirely on a region in the Southeastern U.S. The guide covers 21 counties across the Tennessee River Valley including those around Knoxville and Chattanooga as well as some in North Georgia. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is included as are state parks, music festivals, museums and restaurants that serve home-cooked food.

Hotline available to help sex trafficking victims

The qualities that make Tennessee a desirable location for businesses — proximity to large cities and a network of interstate roads — are the same factors that draw the people whose business is human sex trafficking. A recently released report by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation showed that human trafficking and sex slavery is more common in Tennessee than authorities have believed," said TBI director Mark Gwyn. The city's geographical position to Atlanta and the large number of interstates that cross the state are conducive to a traveling business. "In Tennessee, 85 percent of the (99) counties reported at least one instance of human sex trafficking in the last 24 months," Gwyn added. "Over 70 percent of those cases were minors." "This new hotline may be the beginning of a way out for young girls - but only if they, and well meaning people they may come in contact with, know about it," said Lorrie Street Malloch, chairman of The Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga. The number for the Tennessee Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline is 1-855-55-TNHTH or 1-855-558-6484.

Most Tennesseans sour on economy

Tennesseans have not grown more optimistic about the economy this year, even as they say their personal fortunes have improved, according to surveys. The portion of Tennesseans who say they expect to be better off in a year's time has remained at about 25 percent since January, and the share who say they will be worse off has dropped by only about 5 percentage points, pollsters at Vanderbilt have found. Tennesseans' views have not changed appreciably, even though the portion of people who say they are better off now than they were a year ago has grown to 11 percent from 5 percent in January. "The economy is not better and the public understands that," said John Geer, a professor of political science at Vanderbilt and a co-director of the poll. "There needs to be some good economic news before these numbers will move." Optimism was greatest among Latinos, with 43 percent saying they expect to be better off in a year's time. Latinos also were the most likely to say their economic situation had improved, with 18 percent saying they were better off.



Gov. Haslam warned that declining gas tax revenue will be a major problem for the state's infrastructure over the next decade.

Revenues grow at positive rate, up 6.5% for first quarter

Revenue collections in Tennessee for October continue to indicate consumer confidence in the state's economy. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes reported that state revenue collections for October were \$791.5 million, which is 8.01% above October 2010.

"We're satisfied with the positive growth rates experienced in our overall tax collections, especially in the sales tax, which is the best indicator of economic recovery in Tennessee," Emkes said. "The sales tax recorded a first quarter growth of 6.5 percent, which is the best first quarter growth since 2006.

"However, we continue to watch national leading economic indicators, which show that very slow recovery is in progress, and in light of that and the uncertainty surrounding resolution of the federal budget, we must continue to be diligent in monitoring our spending patterns."

On an accrual basis, October is the third month in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

October collections were \$36.4 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$34.0 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$2.4 million.

Sales tax collections were \$15.9 million more than the estimate for October. The October growth rate

was 6.17%. Year-to-date the growth rate is 6.5%.

Franchise and excise combined collections for October were \$35.1 million, and they were \$24.9 million above the budgeted estimate of \$10.2 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections increased by 1.93% and they were \$1.2 million below the budgeted estimate of \$72.8 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were under collected by \$1.6 million.

Privilege tax collections were \$600,000 less than the budgeted estimate of \$21.2 million.

Inheritance and Estate taxes were under collected by \$1.9 million for the month.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$0.9 million.

Year-to-date collections for three months were \$59.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$56.8 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$3.1 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2011-2012 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of April 15, 2011, and adopted by the first session of the 107th General Assembly in May. They are available on the state's website at <http://www.tn.gov/finance/bud/budget.html>.

Community Development Block Grants announced in West and Middle TN

Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty recently approved more than \$23 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist with infrastructure improvements in Tennessee.

The pair announced recipients of the grants in West and Middle Tennessee — East Tennessee grant recipients will be announced at a later date. The funds were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known. The CDBG program is administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The

following is a list of cities who were awarded grants:

Housing:
Cornersville: \$225,000; Parsons: \$500,000 and Stanton: \$500,000.
Community Livability:
Gleason: \$189,655 and Union City: \$300,000.

Water Lines:
Brownsville: \$500,000; Halls: \$500,000; Lawrenceburg: \$500,000; Lewisburg: \$500,000; Mason: \$500,000; Milan: \$500,000; South Fulton: \$500,000; Trenton: \$500,000 and Tullahoma: \$400,000.

Water Systems:
Wartrace: \$169,750
Water Systems:
Ardmore: \$350,000; Hartsville/Trousdale County: \$500,000; Tiptonville: \$500,000; and Tracy City: \$500,000

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The FBI has named a new special agent in charge for its Memphis division. **Aaron T. Ford** will oversee the FBI's operations in 54 counties in West, Middle and East Tennessee. Ford replaces Amy Hess, who was promoted to the FBI's Washington headquarters after serving about 16 months in the position. Ford had been the assistant special agent in charge of the Newark Division. Before that, he was a team leader in the Inspection Division, where he participated in the auditing of all FBI programs. An Atlanta native, Ford also has worked on the SWAT team and dealing with drug, violent crime, public corruption and organized crime matters in St. Louis and Newark. He began his FBI career in 1985.



Ford

Tommy Lynch, interim director of Metro Parks and Recreation for nearly two years, is now the full-time parks director. Lynch, a parks department em-



Lynch

ployee since 1971 and brother of Metro Public Works Director Billy Lynch, began his work as interim parks director on Jan. 1, 2010, after being appointed during a financial crisis within the department.

Angie Carrier, White House city administrator, will head up Johnson City's new Development Services Department. Carrier will oversee 27 employees in Development Services, which will encompass Planning, Codes Enforcement, Community Development, Geographic Information Systems, and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Carrier has served in her current position since 2005 and will resign her post effective Jan. 2. She also has served as town administrator (2002-2005) and assistant town administrator/city recorder (2000-2002) in Dandridge. Her career in city management began in Maryville in 1999, where she worked on special projects.



Carrier

Tim Ellis was recently appointed as Goodlettsville's city manager. Ellis has been with the city since 2003 serving as assistant city manager

since 2009. He has more than 25 years' experience in local governments. Ellis replaces Jim Thomas who recently became assistant executive director of the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).



Ellis

William B. Orellana has been named as the new Aeronautics Division Director for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In his new post, Orellana will oversee the division which is responsible for licensing all of Tennessee's general aviation airports, as well as administering federal and state funding grants distributed for the purpose of improving these facilities. TDOT's Aeronautics Division also provides aircraft services for state government executives, and the staffing for the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission. He is a former United States Air Force Colonel with 26 years of service. Orellana most recently served as the Logistics Construction Project Manager at Tractor Supply Company in Brentwood. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Allegheny College and Air War College. Orellana began his role with TDOT on Nov. 14.

Madeline Rogero first female elect for mayor of Knoxville

In a landmark mayoral race for the city of Knoxville, Madeline Rogero defeated challenger Mark Padgett to become the next Mayor of Knoxville, and the first woman in history to hold that position in the city. Rogero garnered 58.6 percent of the vote to succeed interim Mayor Dan Brown, who was appointed after Gov. Bill Haslam went to Nashville. Brown did not run for the mayor's post.

"All of us are Knoxville, and Knoxville will only become greater if all of us are involved," Rogero said.

The three at-large City Council seats up for election all went to the same candidates who finished first in the Sept. 27 primary voting: George Wallace in seat A, Marshall Stair in seat B, and Finbarr Saunders in seat C. Wallace and Stair each took 63 percent of the



Rogero

vote in their contests, and Saunders took 66 percent.

Rogero will be sworn in on Dec. 17.

Moore elected Franklin mayor

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore and four at-large aldermen took their oaths of office in a short, public ceremony. Local news reports that Moore and the newly sworn-in aldermen will face crucial decisions in the next four years that could define how Franklin keeps pace with the growth that's ahead. Franklin is now the state's ninth-largest city and saw a nearly 50 percent population increase in the past decade to more than 62,000.

Moore said he's focused on trying to grow jobs in Franklin while considering the other choices he and the city aldermen must make in the future. "I think probably the most pressing need is a new wastewater treatment plant," he said. "If you talk about where we're housed, we're in a building (city hall) that's outlived its usefulness. If you're talking about traffic, you've got to be talking



Photo by Jeanne Reasonover

Mayor Ken Moore pins Cecilia Melo-Romie with a city of Franklin lapel pin after he was sworn in during the city's Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting.

about more roads."

The four at-large aldermen, who were also elected in October, include incumbents Clyde Barnhill (16.5 percent) Pearl Bransford (13.75 percent), and Ann Petersen (16.75 percent) and first time Alderman Brandy Blanton (14.71 percent). The four were elected from a field of nine candidates.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Deportations in the South have increased by more than 300 percent — and even 500 percent in some areas — since fiscal year 2005, a pace much faster than the national average. Nationwide, the number of people deported reached almost 400,000 this fiscal year, the largest number in history, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The fiscal year ended Sept. 30. In the area that includes Tennessee and Alabama, deportations increased from 3,480 in fiscal year 2005 to 15,363 in 2011. In the area that covers neighboring Georgia, the increase was even more dramatic, from 4,129 deportations in 2005 to 22,963 in 2011.

2011 set a record for the number of declared disasters in one year: some 39 states are waiting for money to help rebuild their disaster-damaged roads. The Federal Highway Administration has a backlog of more than \$2 billion in requests, or 20 times the amount of money Congress sets aside every year for the agency's emergency relief program. For states struggling with budget problems, the backlog could delay repairs to damaged infrastructure, and has already pushed back timelines on other projects. The U.S. Senate included \$1.9 billion to reduce the backlog in a transportation spending bill it passed earlier this month, but the version that cleared the U.S. House does not include the money. A conference committee will try to iron out the differences and determine whether more emergency relief for states rebuilding efforts will be included. Some officials worry that the onset of winter will impact their ability to get road repairs done in time to get reimbursed under federal rules,

which picks up the entire tab for only six months after a disaster. After that, the reimbursement is for only 80 percent.

U.S. manufacturing is recovering from a slump, and inflation may be peaking. The latest government reports suggest businesses and consumers may be seeing some relief after the economy stumbled earlier this year. Industrial production rose in October at the fastest pace in three months. Factories made more trucks, electronics and business equipment. At the same time, Americans paid less for gas, cars and computers last month as overall prices fell for the first time since June. The data follow a strong report on retail sales in October and point to an economy that is growing at a solid pace in the October-December quarter. Still, the resurgence in the price of oil and a possible recession in Europe threaten to drain the economy's momentum. Output at the nation's factories, utilities and mines rose 0.7 percent last month, the Federal Reserve said. Factory output, the largest component of industrial production, increased a solid 0.5 percent. It was the fourth straight monthly gain. Production of autos and auto parts surged. Business equipment rose for the sixth straight month. Electrical equipment, appliances and transportation equipment all climbed. Higher output at auto plants has allowed dealers to stock popular models that were in demand this spring. As a result, October sales were seven percent higher than the same month last year.

A new analysis of federal data suggests the current generation of teenagers could be at risk of increased heart disease. The study, which examined children be-

tween 12 and 19 years old in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that the adolescents performed poorly overall on a set of seven criteria set by the American Heart Association for ideal cardiovascular health. Diet in particular was a problem, with not one of the 5,450 children randomly selected for the survey from the U.S. population meeting the standards for diet.

Tennessee city leaders travel to Mexico to tout benefits of city management form of government

Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan and City Manager Mark Watson recently traveled to Mexico City at the invitation of the International City/County Management (ICMA) to participate in a conference on innovation and the City Manager form of local government.

The conference was sponsored by ICMA Latinoamérica, based in Guadalajara. ICMA Latinoamérica fosters professional public administration in Mexico and in the region by providing resources, information, and training on good governance. The organization also sponsors programs that provide opportunities for interaction among Mexican administrators, officials, and local government organizations with their counterparts in Central and North America. Expenses related to the trip were paid by ICMA.

Discussion centered on the growing potential of the city manager form of government in administering Mexican cities, particularly Mexico City.

Mayor Beehan discussed his experience as mayor of two North American cities, Oak Ridge and



Mayor Tom Beehan and City Manager Mark Watson discuss their upcoming conference session with local government colleagues from Mexico, Costa Rica, and Canada

Covington, Ky. "Both Oak Ridge and Covington have elected officials who establish policies, and professional city managers who implement the policies and run the cities on a day-to-day basis," Beehan explained.

Watson acknowledged the relationship between frequent turnover among local elected officials in Mexico and the ability for their governments to be effective. He previ-

ously served as a city manager of two communities in Texas and Arizona on the U.S.-Mexico border before coming to Oak Ridge. "There has always been a strong effort to work with neighboring cities despite an international border."

The conference session also included city managers and elected officials from Victoria British Columbia, Canada and San José, Costa Rica.



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Making Great Cities Even Better



The city of Eaglesville financed a \$350,000 Capital Outlay Note with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF) for a new city hall. Pictured are Mayor Sam Tune, City Recorder Amy VonAlmen and TMBF Representative Steve Walker.

Cities benefit from successful partnerships

PARTNERSHIPS from Page 1
innovative technology like green energy resources to make a modern and useful parking lot.

Kingsport has also benefited from successful partnerships with the public sector. The city built a golf course, but contracted with the Marriott Convention Center to staff and operate it.

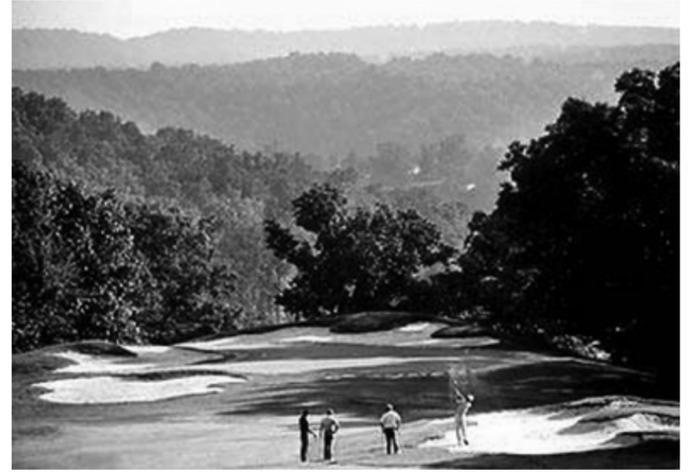
"Building a capital project is one thing. Successfully operating it is another. Partners bring different strengths to the table. When you successfully play off those strengths, everyone benefits," says Tim Whaley, Kingsport Community and Government Relations director.

By being able to offer the golf course as an amenity to hotel guests and convention goers, Kingsport is able to attract large group events that add to the local economy.

Feeling the effects of the recent Great Recession, Collierville adapted to a situation that could have potentially left residents without access to a local public library.

In 2004, Shelby County government withdrew funding for suburban library operations. Faced with a major funding challenge, Collierville researched many options to continue its library operations on a limited budget. The Collierville, fully owned, Lucius E. and Elsie C. Burch, Jr. Library subcontracted with the Maryland based firm Library Systems and Services (LSSI) LLC for staffing.

Collierville's example of public private partnership was born out of economic challenges; but, the town was able to capitalize upon finding



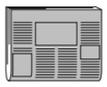
The city of Kingsport built a golf course, but contracted with the Marriott Convention Center to staff and operate it. By being able to offer the golf course as an amenity to hotel guests and convention goers, Kingsport is able to attract large group events that add to the local economy.

and working with a trusted partner in LSSI which contracts with many city governments and federal agencies to provide library services. Collierville was able to follow best practices set by other towns that experienced similar situations and establish a valuable accountability measure by designating a Board of Directors composed of citizens to guide policy.

All governments have to adjust to the ups and downs of the local economic factors.

Athens, Kingsport and

Collierville are just a few examples of how city officials make collaborations work to the advantage of both entities; there are many others success stories across the state.



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CITY ADMINISTRATOR/RECORDER

ROCKWOOD. The city is accepting applications for the position of Municipal Administrator/ City Recorder. Minimum Qualifications include: a college degree and experience in municipal management, public administration, business administration, planning, or comparable experience. Must possess good written and verbal communications skills, computer proficiency, management skills, and grant administrator experience. Responsibilities include: budgets, personnel, oversight of daily city operations, liaison officer, Council agendas and minutes, public records, collection of taxes and revenues, city court, audits and managerial reports, compliance with state and local regulations duties of the Administrator and Recorder as listed in the Rockwood Municipal Code and Charter, and other duties as assigned. Salary dependent upon qualifications. Open until filled. Send letter of interest, salary requirements, and resume to: Tennessee Career Center, Job Order #: TN5697800, 1802N. Gateway Avenue, Rockwood, TN 37854.

FINANCEDIRECTOR

FAIRVIEW. The city is accepting applications for a Finance Director. The Finance Director has general supervision over general financial affairs of the City. A complete job description and list of qualifications are available at Fairview City Hall or at www.fairview-tn.org Applicants should submit their resume to 7100 City Center Way, Fairview TN 37062 or to cityhall@fairview-tn.org. The position

is open until filled. EOE.

WASTEWATERPLANT OPERATOR/SUPERVISOR

SPRING CITY. The town is accepting applications for a full-time, operator/supervisory position available at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Qualified applicants must have a Grade 3 Wastewater Treatment and Grade 2 Collection Certifications. Five (5) or more years supervisory experience highly desirable. This is a salaried position and reports to the City Manager. The city offers a comprehensive benefit package, including TCRS pension. Proof of high school diploma or equivalent must be provided with application. An application and job description may be obtained at www.townofspringcitytn.org or from City Hall, 229 Front Street, Spring City, TN 37381, Mon. thru Fri., 8am-4:30pm. Applicants will be considered on the basis of qualification and suitability regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with interviews beginning in early Dec. 2011.

ACEC to award state, national scholarships

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (ACEC) is currently accepting applications from engineering and land surveying students in Tennessee for the 2012 national ACEC engineering scholarship program, which will award several scholarships totaling \$20,000, and for the 2012 national Council of Structural Engineers scholarship program, which will award a \$5,000 scholarship to a structural engineering student pursuing a Master's degree in Structural Engineering.

In addition, ACEC of Tennessee will award up to two \$1,000 scholarships to students at Tennessee universities or colleges – one to a student who is studying engineering or land surveying, and one to a graduate structural engineering stu-

dent. The Tennessee scholarship winner will be announced in March 2012; winners of the national scholarships will be announced in October 2012. Applications for the scholarship programs must be submitted to ACEC of Tennessee by Jan. 20, 2012. Application forms and information can be obtained at <http://www.acec.org/Scholar.htm>.

ACEC of Tennessee has awarded scholarships to Tennessee engineering students for the past 10 years. Past winners were students at Tennessee Tech, Vanderbilt University, the University of Memphis, UT-Knoxville and UT-Chattanooga. In 2009, the winner of the Tennessee scholarship also won the national competition and received an additional \$10,000 scholarship.

To qualify, a student must be a U.S. citizen pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctor of Philosophy degree in an engineering or land-surveying program in Tennessee approved by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Students must be entering their junior, senior, fifth or graduate year in the fall of 2012 to qualify. Candidates for the structural scholarship must be enrolled in a Master's degree program for Structural Engineering in the 2012 fall semester.

A student's interest and commitment to the business and management of the profession are factors that will be considered. The application process includes writing an essay on the role of the consulting engineer or surveyor in shaping and protecting the natural environment.

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Summary of 2011 TN Public Acts

BY JOSH JONES

MTAS Legal Consultant

Education (continued)

Chapter No. 219 (HB0788/SB0414). Attendance laws applicable to remedial instruction. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 30 by making school attendance requirements applicable to required remedial instruction including summer school. *Effective May 20, 2011*

Chapter No. 220 (HB0787/SB0413). Parent of truant commits educational neglect. Amends T.C.A. § 49-6-3009 by providing that a parent, guardian, or other person with control of a truant child is guilty of educational neglect, a Class C misdemeanor. *Effective May 20, 2011*

Chapter No. 241 (HB2082/SB1880). Private employers encouraged to permit employees to volunteer in schools. Amends T.C.A. § 49-6-7001(b) by encouraging private employers to develop programs that permit employees with children to take time from work to voluntarily participate in schools. *Effective May 23, 2011*

Chapter No. 248 (HB0123/SB0107). Certain non-instructional employees ineligible for unemployment benefits. Amends T.C.A. § 50-7-302 by removing unemployment benefit eligibility for persons providing services to educational institutions who are under contract to return or where there is a reasonable assurance of rehire during the academic year. Will apply to school bus drivers, janitors, etc. *Effective May 23, 2011*

Chapter No. 251 (HB0301/SB488). Cyber-bullying policies required. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 10 by requiring an LEA to include cyber-bullying provisions to its bullying and harassment policies. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 255 (HB0731/SB0823). Termination notice provisions amended. Amends T.C.A. § 49-5-409 by removing the requirement that a teacher termination notice contain a statement that the termination was authorized by the local board of education with the teacher's name being recorded in the minutes. *Effective May 23, 2011*

Chapter No. 284 (HB0698/SB0449). Teachers may not be charged with a day of leave for any day school is closed. Adds a new section to Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 7 prohibiting an LEA from charging a day of leave for any day on which the teacher's school is closed due to natural disaster, inclement weather, contagious illness or other unexpected event. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 288 (HB0732/SB0714). Virtual school program eligibility broadened. Amends T.C.A. § 49-16-105 by removing

virtual school program eligibility requirement that student must have been enrolled in a public school during the previous school year. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 335 (HB1475/SB0905). Non-licensed LEA employees are at-will. Amends T.C.A. § 49-2-301(b)(1) by stating that all persons employed by an LEA in a position that does not require a license shall be an at-will employee. Local board of education to develop policies for such. Authorizes a director of schools to dismiss any non-tenured, licensed employee for incompetence, inefficiency, insubordination, improper conduct or neglect of duty provided the employee is given: notice; opportunity to be heard, represented by counsel, call and examine witnesses; and to require oaths. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 347 (HB1685/SB1602). Memphis Special School District funding can be used for bond issuance. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 3 authorizes a city and a special school district with coterminous boundaries to specify that half of the city funding may be used for the issuance of bonds to be used for maintenance and construction of schools. *Effective May 30, 2011*

Chapter No. 351 (HB2038/SB1776). Third grade students must demonstrate proficiency before promotion. Adds the new T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 that requires a third grader to demonstrate, through grades or test scores, a basic understanding of curriculum and ability to perform skills required in reading. Exception for certain situations. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 378 (HB0130/SB0113). Local boards of education negotiations with a teachers' union regulated. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Titles 5 and 49 by enacting the Professional Educators Collaborative Conferencing Act of 2011. Any agreement between a local board of education and a teachers' union in effect upon effective date of the bill remains in force until its expiration, provided no renewal of such contract is allowed. Upon effective date a local board of education is required to participate in collaboration with a teachers' union. Final authority for setting terms and conditions of professional employment rests with board of education. Certain subjects excluded from collaborative discussion. No policy adopted pursuant to these provisions can require personnel decisions to be determined on the basis of tenure. Makes other various changes related to professional educator employment. *Effective June 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 426 (HB1979/SB1707). Boards of education must allocate funds to residential treatment centers where students are admitted. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 3 by requiring a local board of educa-

tion to allocate the per pupil share of state and local education funds to any residential treatment center where one of its students has been admitted. *Effective July 1, 2011*

Chapter No. 457 (HB1336/SB1993). Allowable restraint and isolation of special education students revised. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 10, Part 13 by enacting the Special Education Behavioral Supports Act which restricts the allowable use of restraint and isolation on special education students to emergency situations. *Effective June 10, 2011*

Chapter No. 465 (HB1980/SB1709). LEAs to make vacant or underutilized property available to charter schools. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 13 by requiring an LEA in which a charter school operates to make available all vacant or underutilized property for lease, purchase or lease-purchase by a charter school. Authorizes a charter school to use capital outlay funds for such and for construction, renovation and debt service. *Effective June 10, 2011*

Chapter No. 466 (HB1989/SB1523). Charter school eligibility requirements lifted. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 13 by granting charter school eligibility to every student in the school's district. Also removes caps on number of charter schools allowable. Authorizes an Achievement School District (ASD) as a chartering authority for a new charter school and removes a local board of education's authority to act on a charter school application filed with an ASD. Allows an LEA to authorize a charter school to enroll students outside of the LEA district pursuant to an out-of-district policy. Makes other various changes to charter school provisions. *Effective June 10, 2011*

Chapter No. 488 (HB0837/SB1869). Student with conditional entry to college may graduate early. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49 by enacting the Move On When Ready Act which authorizes early high school graduation for a student who has gained conditional entry to an institution of higher learning. *Effective for purposes of rulemaking June 16, 2011; effective July 1, 2011 for all other purposes*

Chapter No. 492 (HB1030/SB0874). Virtual Public Schools Act enacted. Amends Title 49 by enacting the Virtual Public Schools Act enabling an LEA to institute an online curriculum. *Effective July 1, 2011; repealed June 30, 2015*

Chapter No. 499 (HB 1631/SB1468). Homeschool provisions revised. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 30 by making various changes to the provisions governing home-schooling. *Effective July 1, 2011*

COMING
UP

Nov 29 - Dec 6

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Energy Division announced it will offer Energy Management Workshops for K-12 schools and school districts in Jackson, Knoxville and Murfreesboro this fall. These one-day workshops entitled "Energy Management + Energy Education = Energy Savings" are free; however, space is limited and registration is required. The workshops will offer two tracks: one focusing on energy management and the other on energy education. Schools and/or school districts are encouraged to develop a core energy team and send a representative from each of the following departments: administration/finance, curriculum, facilities/operations and one or more classroom teachers. The workshops will provide tools, curriculum and hands-on classroom kits to help schools meet instructional and facilities energy goals. Schools must register online for one of the following workshops at least eight days in advance: Jackson – Nov. 29, Doubletree Jackson, 1770 Highway 345 Bypass; Knoxville – Dec. 1, Knoxville Hilton Downtown, 501 West Church Avenue; and Murfreesboro – Dec. 6, Doubletree Murfreesboro, 1850 Old Fort Parkway. Sessions will be conducted by technical and educational specialists in the energy field, including guest speakers from Tennessee school districts that have successfully implemented the best practices presented in the workshops. For more information on the workshops, contact Wendi Moss at 1-800-875-5029 or the Energy Division at 615-741-2994.

Dec 6 - Jan. 11**TML District Meetings**

Dec 6: District 4, Warren County Chamber, McMinnville, 10 am
Dec 8: District 5, Radnor Lake State Park, 10 am
Dec 9: District 6, Municipal Complex, Brentwood, 9:30 am
Dec 13: District 1, Higher Education Center, Kingsport, 2 pm
Dec 14: District 2, Maryville College, Maryville, 9:30 am
Dec 15: District 3, SE TN Conference Center, Athens, 9:30 am
Jan 10: District 7, Medina
Jan 11: District 8, The Chamber Center, Covington, 9 a.m.

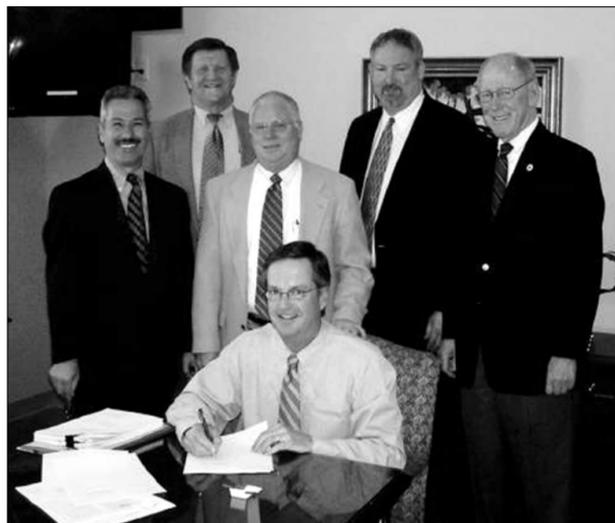
TML staff will be on hand to present updates on the latest events and news affecting municipalities at the state and national levels, as well as the legislative agenda approved by the TML Board for the upcoming session. For more information, contact TML at 615-255-6416.

Dec. 19-21: Path McCarthy's Street Crimes Seminar

co-sponsored by the Spring Hill Police Department. Training location is the Winchester Community Facility, 563 Maury Hill St., Spring Hill. Topics include: deadly force, effective street interviews, surveillance tactics, criminal intelligence, street gangs, Meth and Homeland security issues. To register, call 800-275-4915.

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



The Town of Cumberland Gap closed a \$5,000 Highway Safety Grant Anticipation Note.



TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

Tennessee Festival at Bicentennial Capitol Mall focuses on Civil War history “Struggle for the Heartland” theme



Bill Hoover from the 19th Alabama Civilian Corps uses an old fashioned hand pump to prepare coffee for the encampment.



Brenda Curtis from Cookeville demonstrates needlework and quilt making from the Civil War days.



Union Generals Grant and Thomas plot their strategy in the officer's tent.



Allysa Carter, 13, takes part in the camp re-enactment along with her dog Clover.



Daniel E. Hughes as Major General George H. Thomas and Mike Cole as Confederate Colonel Korn CSA.



Tunes and songs from the Civil War era were provided by The Jimalong Josies.



Lena Moody (left) portrays Julia Grant, the wife of Ulysses S. Grant and Chris Steele portrays a Lady of the 19th Alabama Civilian Corps.

Photos by Victoria South

TN History Festival a blend of education, entertainment

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The Tennessee History Festival held at Nashville's Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park was a perfect blend of education and entertainment about Civil War history. With its "Struggle for the Heartland" theme, the two-day festival featured multiple displays and demonstrations by re-enactors and living history interpreters. This is the second Tennessee Sesquicentennial event held at the park, which was recently recognized by the American Planning Association as one of the United States' Top 10 Great Public Spaces for 2011.

Infantry and artillery demonstrations, including how to march, inspections and drills, were offered as visitors experienced how people lived from day to day during the mid 19th century.

"It went very well this year," said Mary Ann Hoover of the Alabama Civilian Corps, which set up a mock encampment. "Schools were closed Friday, due to

Veteran's Day weekend, but we had some home schoolers and a bus load of students from the Lead Academy, and very good foot traffic from around the Bicentennial Mall."

Attendees could interact with civilians and soldiers from the Civil War period, speaking with past legends Generals Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee and George H. Thomas. A special appearance was made by the 13th United States Colored Troops, with the highlight of this year's festival, the re-enactment of a Civil War skirmish between Northern and Southern troops, demonstrating black-powder weaponry and a demonstration of how cannons were loaded and fired by Porter's Battery of Clarksville.

"People were very pleased with the overall authenticity of the generals and soldiers, the uniforms and artillery equipment," said Dr. Curt Fields, a career educator who portrays General Grant on a frequent basis. "Everybody likes to see the big guns go boom and that's

good because it is an exclamation point for what we are trying to do. When they can see soldiers and generals that they have only read about come to life, in authentic uniform, telling their story in the first person about who they were, what they did and why, it drives the reality of the Civil War home and prompts them to want to read more about the period."

As part of Tennessee's Sesquicentennial Celebration, a new Civil War exhibit, *Tennessee - Struggle for the Heartland 1861-1865*, is now open to the public at Bicentennial Mall's Visitor Center. The exhibit is free and open to the public during normal Visitor Center operating hours.

"As we continue to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Tennessee's involvement in the Civil War, Tennessee's History Festival is offering something for the entire family and all age groups," said Park Manager Mike Cole. The festival will be held again November 2012 featuring a variety of historic events.

Conference Committee decides funding fate for local priorities

LOCAL FUNDING from Page 1
amendment sponsored by Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) would have reduced rural development spending by \$1 billion or about 40 percent. During the last decade, appropriations for rural water, sewer, business and community facilities programs have already been impacted by an overall reduction of about 30 percent.

Transportation, Infrastructure

The Senate-passed measure would provide \$41.1 billion for federal highway programs, while the House version would provide \$27 billion, in keeping with the House-passed budget agreement to force transportation programs to not exceed available revenue in the Highway Trust Fund. The House and Senate are far apart on subsidies for rural airports under the Essential Airport Services (EAS) Program — the issue that temporarily shut down federal aviation programs earlier this year.

The Senate would provide \$143 million for EAS, \$7 million less than fiscal year 2011 and \$43 million above the House version.

Transit funding would receive \$5.2 billion under the House bill and

\$8.3 billion under the Senate bill. The House bill would eliminate the very popular TIGER grant program, while the Senate would provide \$550 million.

During Senate debate, lawmakers tried to cut funding for transportation enhancement programs, pointing to these programs as superfluous when so many bridges face massive needs. These funds, provided as part of a state transportation allocation, support scenic and historic highway and bridge programs, beautification, historic preservation, including historic bridges, bicycle paths and sidewalks. Senators voted twice to maintain these programs as part of a state overall allocation.

Public Safety

In the Department of Justice section of the bill, the Senate allocated \$200 million for COPS Hiring. This is significantly less than the \$247 million Congress allocated for hiring and retaining police officers in 2011. However, it comes as a welcome sign of support for a program that the House of Representatives proposed eliminating when the chamber passed its Commerce, Justice, and Science spending bill in

July.

The Senate did not fund the Second Chance Act, a vital evidence-based prison and jail reentry grant program that has been proven to reduce crime. The House provided \$70 million for the Second Chance Act in H.R. 2596. The Second Chance Act was funded at \$83 million in fiscal year 2011 and has traditionally received bipartisan support. The Senate included \$395 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, which is \$36 million less than was appropriated in FY 11 but more than the \$357 million in House bill.

Recent surveys show that one quarter of cities have made cuts to public safety budgets, and the COPS Office estimates that by the end of this year nearly 12,000 police officers and sheriff's deputies will have been laid off. With cash-strapped cities seeking help in maintaining public safety during this recession, the COPS hiring program and the Second Chance Act are key to maintaining public safety.

Local "Asks"

The Conference Committee represents the last practical opportunity

for local elected officials and others to impact the final funding amounts for the programs above. NLC members are encouraged to contact their senators and representatives, especially those on the conference committee, and urge them to:

- Oppose any efforts to further reduce overall spending for programs under the minibudget;
- Support level funding for CDBG at \$3.5 billion as it appears in the House bill;
- Support funding for the HOME program at \$1.2 billion as it appears in the House bill;
- Support the Senate's funding for COPS hiring grants and the House's funding for Second Chance; and
- Support Senate transportation spending levels and transit new starts funding.

Conference Committee members have yet to be named. NLC will provide updates as the information becomes available.

For more information, contact Carolyn Coleman, director of Federal Relations at (202) 626-3023 or email her at coleman@nlc.org.



Dec. 2: Tullahoma

55th Annual Christmas Parade
This year's theme is A Storybook Christmas. The parade will be held at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.tullahoma.org/ or Email tullahomachamber@tullahoma.org or call 931-455-5497.

Dec. 2: Knoxville

WIVK/Fowlers Christmas Parade
The parade has been a traditional Christmas event in Knoxville for 35 years. The timeless classic includes Santa, a selection of high school bands, dancers, colorful floats, animals & local celebrities marching down historic Gay Street. For more information, call 865-588-6511.

Dec. 2: Gatlinburg

Festival of Lights
This popular Christmas parade in downtown Gatlinburg is recognized as one of the very best by the International Festival and Events Association. Parade features lighted floats, marching bands, equestrian units and helium balloons. Begins at 7:30 p.m. at Traffic Light No. 1A and continues through downtown to Light No. 10.

Dec. 3: Munford

Celebrate Christmas
Begins with an outdoor concert at 3 pm at North Tipton Road followed by the parade. The parade concludes at City Hall with a tree lighting ceremony. Santa visits held at the library, 1476 Munford Ave. Downtown merchants decorated in holiday splendor, will offer free hot chocolate and cider. For more information, Email: bdorn@munford.com or call 901-837-5972.

Dec. 2-3: Columbia

Athenaeum Christmas Tour
Local historic homes decorated for the season with tours. Other seasonal activities included in the area. For more information, Email: athenaeumrectory@gmail.com or call 931-381-4822.

Dec. 3: Kingston

Celebration of Lights Boat Flotilla
See the boats covered in Christmas lights as they make their way from Caney Creek Marina to the Kingston City Park. Best viewing is along Kingston's waterfront just after dark. For more information, Email: info@roanealliance.org.

Dec. 3: Lynchburg

Christmas in Lynchburg
Christmas parade; home tours; dog and children contest; storytelling; carolers; craft show and trees of Christmas. For more information, call 931-759-4111.

Dec. 3: Clarksville

Downtown for the Holidays
Festivities begin at 4pm with parade following at 5 pm. Join the 3rd Annual Christmas Cookie-Bake-Off. Jingle Bell Jog, a 5K run. Annual Christmas Parade begins at 5pm at APSU's Dunn Center parking lot making its way through historic Downtown Clarksville. For more information, call 931-645-7476.

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Hometown Mayor Vance Coleman guides Medina's dramatic growth

Focuses on good schools, quality housing, additional park facilities, and improved roads

BY GAELSTAHL

Medina today is nothing like the city it was when current mayor, Vance Coleman, was born in 1957. Nor is it the same as when Coleman was first elected mayor in 2004. Since the 2000 census, Medina has experienced a 284 percent growth, making it the fourth fastest growing city in Tennessee.

He was only four when his mother and father divorced in 1961 and his mother took him and his eight-year-old brother to Atlanta where her mother lived, and then out to Douglasville about 30 miles west of Atlanta. The boys went to school there, later moving back to West Tennessee in the late 1970s after they both graduated from high school. His brother became a Humboldt policeman. Coleman worked various positions in manufacturing with Owens Corning Fiberglass and did maintenance with Union University, West Jackson Baptist Church, and Medina Middle School. After the boys settled in, they went back to Douglasville, packed up their mother, and moved her back to Medina.

Not long after, in 1981, Coleman married Kay Simmons, a local girl. Kay has been employed with Jackson Madison County General Hospital for all of their 31 years together. They have a daughter, Lesley, who 19 months ago presented them with a granddaughter, AshLynn. He and Kay feel blessed to have Lesley and AshLynn live with them so that they can share in every exciting moment of AshLynn's life. His granddaughter has become Vance's No. 1 avocation.

The biggest influence in Coleman's life has been his mother. As a single mother, except for the first years of her married life, she worked three jobs to provide her family a place to live, food to eat, and the basics of life. He describes her as "a strong woman, church going, always active in the lives of her sons, and exhibiting a strong sense of values." He says it is through her that he developed his perspective on life. He lost his mother to cancer four years ago.

As mayor, Coleman continues to drive a bus for the Gibson County school system as he has for the last 11 years. Besides being a two-term mayor, Coleman has been president of the Board of the Greater Gibson County Chamber; secretary of the Economic Development Board, which is a Three Star Community agency; a member of the West Tennessee Mayors Association; a member of the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors; and became a Weststar Alumnus in 2008. In October, he was named Gibson County Person of the Year.

TT&C: Describe Medina. Is it a typical small town?

VC: The older part of Medina consists, for the most part, of homes built back in the early 1900s for the employees of the Arsenal in Milan. They are small frame homes that the workers used to raise their families while working at the Arsenal. The houses we build now are bigger with probably 98 percent of them brick with three, four, or five bedrooms. Medina has always been a strong church-based community like most small towns. We have strong churches, strong schools, and a great community of people. Medina's focus is on our families, children, and proving a great place to call home.

TT&C: When did you begin your interest in community service and municipal politics?

VC: In 2004, I was approached by some concerned Medina citizens and we discussed their views and dissatisfaction in the direction the city was going. They felt that with my involvement with the school system and with my love for Medina and the community, that I'd make a good candidate to lead the city in a different direction.

So I set out on a three-month campaign going door to door talking to the people trying to find out what they liked, disliked, and what kinds of things they'd like to see happen. The upshot was that I got to sit down with a lot of people and talk. I don't know how many times I knocked on doors when children were working on homework or families were sitting down for evening meals. I can't tell you how many meals I ate with residents and how many living rooms I sat in. It was an eye-opening experience going into their homes, sitting with them, and listening to what they had to say.

TT&C: The city's so small you could cover the whole town?

VC: When I took office, Medina's population was approximately 1,400 citizens. We are now at 3,500, the fourth fastest growing city in Tennessee. Since the 2000 census, we have grown 284 percent. We are a small town that is on the move. I have been fortunate to serve the citizens of Medina for these last two terms as mayor and look forward to running for reelection in the upcoming 2012 election.

TT&C: What explains the huge growth? Did you get a bunch of new industry or businesses?

VC: No, Medina is surrounded by Milan, Humboldt, and Jackson who have large industrial sites. We have one small industrial site but we are primarily a bed and breakfast type community not an industrial center. Our city



Vance Coleman

"I have worked hard to build a foundation to support and strengthen the growth needs of our city, not only for now, but for the years to follow."



In order to meet the needs of a growing family population, the Sports Complex was constructed covering 30+ acres and includes a recreational facility with a baseball/softball complex and walking track, pavilion, and playground area. The facility opened in 2010. Along with the city's existing two parks, the community now has a total of 10 sports fields.



Medina's new municipal complex is scheduled to be completed in fall 2012. The 17,000 sq ft complex will provide facilities to existing services of city clerk, city recorder, building inspector, mayor, police department, and fire department. It will also provide for emergency ambulance service, Jackson Electric, Gibson Electric, and Gibson Utilities customer service.

provides homes for our citizens who work for the industries in our surrounding cities. Our focus is more on commercial retail. We provide a slower paced environment conducive for working families to relax and enjoy a quality family life.

TT&C: When you ran for mayor, what changes did you want for the city to become what it is today?

VC: I didn't win by a large margin which is common when you run against incumbents. I believe my most important advantage was that people realized that I was going to listen to them. They believed in my views, objectives, and commitment to guide our city in a positive forward direction for the future.

Since I have been in office, we have updated approximately 60 ordinances improving street construction, residential and commercial code requirements, and zoning regulations. I have worked hard to build a foundation to support and strengthen the growth needs of our city not only for now but for the years to follow.

TT&C: Does Medina have its own high school?

VC: We do. South Gibson County High School opened its doors in Medina in 2009. We lost our high school in 1981 due to a consolidation of all the small high schools in Gibson

County into one high school centrally located in the county. We maintained Medina Elementary School throughout this time to meet the needs of our younger students. Eleven years ago we began to regain our school system with the construction of Medina Middle School. Gibson County Special School District saw the urgency to provide the needed facility to accommodate the increased growth of student-based population. In 2007, they also determined the need to construct a high school in this community to continue to meet the educational needs; and, therefore, SGCHS opened in 2009. Our school system has 657 students in the elementary school, 892 students in the middle school and 568 students in the high

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TT&C: That's something for a small town. I grew up in a town or 4,000 people and we had only the high school football field and practice field for occasional use.

VC: Our growth is comprised of a 75 percent school-age, family-based population. When you have that many people moving in with children, you have to be prepared to provide the amenities and meet the service needs. We strive to provide them a great quality-of-life atmosphere and great educational opportunities. We serve not only all our children in Medina; we also serve those who live outside of Medina. We are not just a city, we are a community!

TT&C: Why do you think Medina is drawing so many young families?

VC: We're so close – just 12 or 13 miles – from Jackson, Milan, and Humboldt. Being a quality suburb of larger cities and having such a good school system are probably the largest assets we have. Our young families want their children to attend our schools and churches, and make Medina their hometown.

TT&C: What are some things people like to do in those nearby towns where they work?

VC: Friday night football is very important in West Tennessee this time of year. Our local leagues and schools also provide great sports activities to support. Jackson provides many recreational activities such as the Jackson Generals, a minor league baseball team. Jackson has many well-known chain restaurants and great shopping opportunities. They have state-of-the-art medical facilities and are a cultural and economic hub of our local community. Milan and Humboldt also provide great shopping and medical facilities, as well as great restaurants.

There are about seven or eight post-secondary schools and colleges in our area, including Bethel University, Jackson State Community College, Union University, Lane College, and Lambuth College that is a branch of Memphis University. Dyersburg State College and the University of Tennessee-Martin are also located within 40 or 50 miles. West Tennessee provides vast opportunities for our residents.

TT&C: Describe your childhood, most of which was spent in Douglasville, Ga.

VC: I was just an average child. I played some sports, not a whole lot. I have worked since I was 14 years old. My mother held three jobs so it was pretty important for my brother and me to try to help out.

My family was really close. My mother never met a stranger and never closed the door to any child that didn't have a place to stay. There were times that there would be six or seven of us living at my house and eating at our table. We didn't have money to take a whole lot of vacations but Mom always seemed to find a way to make things work. I had a great childhood living an average life.

TT&C: What was your Grandmother like?

VC: She was a classic – a good woman. She was an LPN nurse, owned a couple of businesses, and helped with the family farming operation. In the summer time, I would visit with her and my granddaddy and spent some time with Daddy who lived next door. My daddy still lives here in Medina. He is very active in church and the community.

TT&C: Your brother still lives here?

VC: Yes. About seven or eight years ago when Tommy was a captain with the Madison County Sheriff's Department, he suffered encephalitis and meningitis. His memory was affected by this. It disabled him from returning to the workforce. Before his illness, he had a photographic memory, loved his job, and was a good police officer. He and his wife have been married for 30 plus years and have one daughter, Melissa, who is married.

TT&C: You were named Gibson County Person of the year. What's your recipe for good leadership?

VC: A true leader serves others, must have the ability to communicate, and be committed to the community. No one can be successful unless he loves his work. There have always been great leaders but when you get to the bottom line, it's not so much that they are great leaders but that they surround themselves with great people. I don't think of myself as a great leader but I am proud of the good people who work with me, come in everyday and do what they do best. We all have the same common goal of doing what is needed for the citizens of Medina. We do it everyday. That's good leadership.

school. We have had tremendous growth in the number of school-age children in our community.

TT&C: Do Milan, Humboldt, Jackson and Medina interact a lot together?

VC: Yes. Probably about 90 percent of the citizens in Medina work in Jackson, Milan, or Humboldt. Medina has limited workforce opportunities in retail, education, and public service. We mayors in Gibson County are always in contact with each other and work hand in hand for the betterment of our communities.

A few years ago at the TML conference, Trenton Mayor Tony Burriss and I were sitting having a cup of coffee discussing issues that come before us and noted that it would be beneficial if we could get together as a group of community mayors and gain from each other's input. With that said, we set up monthly breakfast meetings on the first Wednesday of each month to collaborate. Our state representatives are invited as well as our county mayor. It has proven to be a very beneficial asset to us all.

TT&C: What big upcoming plans are you and the city council working on?

VC: Some of the issues we faced when I took office were the need for schools, more parks, and better streets. Since I've been in office, we have strived to improve housing by receiving grants to repair and build new homes in areas where they were very much needed. We have received \$1.8 million in grant money distributed between parks, housing improvements, and sidewalks. We have approximately 2,000 children per season playing sports in this city. When I took office, they had one football field and three baseball/softball fields. Four sports fields were not adequate to meet