



The state Capitol decked out in Holiday style.

Fiscal cliff's potential effects on Tennessee

BY DR. REUBEN KYLE
TACIR Senior Research Consultant

For some time now, political leaders and the press have been warning about the fiscal "cliff" the country is facing because of the combination of federal tax increases and budget cuts set to occur in January 2013. The tax increases result from several looming events, including current US law requiring federal income tax rates to revert on Jan. 2, 2013, to those in place before the cuts of 2001 – 2003, which would raise rates for most taxpayers. At the same time, the temporary payroll tax cut will expire, increasing every wage earners' taxes, capital gains taxes will rise, and many other changes will take place. One estimate is that, as a result of all these tax impacts, a typical middle-income household earning about \$50,000 per year would incur a \$1,750 tax increase.

These changes in tax laws confront us because when the individual income tax rates were changed in

2001, the Congress set a time limit on the life of these new rates. They were to expire in 2010, but given that the country was just beginning to recover from the worst recession in 80 years, the Congress pushed that date back another two years, to the end of 2012. In the case of the payroll tax, the cut was part of the President's stimulus bill passed in 2009 as a temporary measure to ease the impact of the recession.

The second half of the "cliff" comes from the budget Control Act of 2011, which requires that, if no deficit reduction plan is agreed on by Dec. 31, 2012, automatic budget reductions will impose across-the-board reductions in many federal programs.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the combination of the two sets of changes will reduce the federal budget deficit by \$607 billion, approximately 4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), from 2013 as compared with 2012. In other words, the immediate effect will be to reduce US GDP by

about 0.5 percent in inflation-adjusted terms according to the CBO. By way of comparison, the recent recession reduced GDP by 3 percent from 2008 – 2009. Other estimates of the impact on GDP and economic growth are for an even greater reduction.

Budget reductions are made under a sequestration process created by the Congress in 1985, by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of that year, mandating across-the-board budget cuts for federal programs with a specified set of exempted programs. The current bill provides that roughly half the cuts will come from defense expenditures and half for non-defense expenditures.

The actual size of the budget cuts will only be known at the end of the calendar year, but several estimates have been made based on different assumptions about the across-the-board percentage. The Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) a subscription service created by the

See **FISCAL CLIFF** on Page 7

Brentwood takes top spot as Most Business Friendly City

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Ask city officials and they'll say it's been a long time coming, as Brentwood pressed forward to claim top prize: Most Business Friendly City, in a ranking of the state's 50 most populous municipalities. Conducted by the Beacon Center of Tennessee, the study propelled Brentwood's Williamson County neighbor, Franklin, one spot forward into second place, a reason for both communities to celebrate. The cities of Farragut, Mount Juliet, and Spring Hill rounded out the top five.

"We've worked hard for many years to make Brentwood a safe and well-governed city," said Mayor Paul Webb upon accepting the first place plaque from Beacon Center of Tennessee President Justin Owen. "I want everyone to know that Brentwood has an educated work force."

For the seventh consecutive year, The Beacon Center ranked the communities in three primary categories: economic vitality, business tax burden, and community allure. The categories encompass broad factors such as: property tax rates, violent crime rates, sales taxes, population and job growth, household income, cost of living, and high school graduation rates.



Photo by Victoria South

Officials join Brentwood Mayor Paul Webb in accepting the Beacon Center of Tennessee's Most Business Friendly City Award. Pictured left to right are: Brentwood Commissioner Jill Burgin, Vice Mayor Rod Freedman, Beacon Center President and CEO Justin Owen, Commissioner Rhea Little, Mayor Webb, Commissioner Betsy Crossley, Commissioner Anne Dunn, City Manager Mike Walker, Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson and Brentwood Assistant City Manager Kirk Bednar.

Brentwood's rise to fame stands as testament to the city's impressive job and residential growth, along with possessing the highest median household income in the state. Brentwood placed first in economic vitality, sixth in tax burden and 15th in community allure respectively.

"Our elected city officials have

kept a steady hand on our growth and our city expenditures, while also looking to the future for what may be coming up in the next decade and beyond," Webb said.

Attendees at the presentation included the city's board of aldermen and staff, State Sen. Jack

See **BRENTWOOD** on Page 6

Caucuses elect leadership posts for 108th Assembly

Senate and House caucuses met over the past several weeks to elect leadership positions for the 108th Tennessee General Assembly.

Ron Ramsey of Blountville was reelected as Senate speaker and Lt. Governor; Bo Watson of Hixson was reelected to second term as Speaker Pro Tempore; Mark Norris of Collierville was reelected to his fourth term as majority leader; and Bill Ketron of Murfreesboro was reelected to his 2nd term as caucus chairman.

Beth Harwell of Nashville was reelected to her second term as House speaker, as was House Majority Leader Gerald McCormick of Chattanooga.

The caucus voted by way of ballot on Speaker Pro Tempore. Republicans elected Rep. Curtis Johnson of Clarksville to that position. He replaces Rep. Judd Matheny.

The full Senate and House offi-

cially elects the speaker and speaker pro tem of each body when it convenes in January.

Members also elected Rep. Glen Casada as the caucus chairman. He replaces Rep. Debra Maggart who lost her bid for reelection in the August primary.

Senate Democrats reelected Sen. Jim Kyle of Memphis as minority leader and Sen. Lowe Finney of Jackson as caucus chairman. Kyle was elected to his fifth two-year term as leader and Finney to his third as caucus chairman.

House Democrats reelected Craig Fitzhugh, of Ripley, as House Minority Leader. Rep. Mike Turner, of Nashville, was also reelected as caucus chairman. Rep. Lois DeBerry, of Memphis, was elected deputy leader, a new position. Rep. Karen Camper, of Memphis, was elected floor leader, a post previously held by DeBerry.



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



House Speaker Beth Harwell



Sen. Bo Watson



Rep. Curtis Johnson



Sen. Jim Kyle



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh



Sen. Lowe Finney



Rep. Mike Turner

Pool Board announces dividend for 2013-2014

The Pool Board of Directors met Nov. 15. As is usual at the fall meeting, the board took up the topic of declaring a dividend for the upcoming policy year. This year, your board has declared a \$4,640,000 dividend to be distributed for the 2013-2014 renewals beginning July 1, 2013. This declaration is \$540,000 more than the declaration that is being distributed during this

current 2012-2013 year.

The Pool's Dividend program has been in place for 17 years, highlighting the success of your efforts to mitigate losses. As a member-owned organization, we specialize solely in governmental risk transfer and risk management. The Pool is pleased to be able to return this surplus to its members and thank you for our decades of partnership.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BRISTOL

Bristol Essential Services (BTES) has earned the Excellence Award in the annual "Excellence in Tennessee" recognition program. The program is governed by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE), the state's group for measuring excellence in organizations and companies across Tennessee. The award was presented for overall performance, continued growth and focus on keeping best-practice processes at a high level. BTES will receive the award Feb. 20 at an annual awards banquet in Nashville. The electric utility has been using TNCPE'S guidelines for steady organizational improvement for more than 20 years.

CHATTANOOGA

Access America Transport officials said the company will expand its Chattanooga and Knoxville facilities and create 550 jobs during a five year period – 450 additional jobs at the Chattanooga facility and 100 additional jobs at the Knoxville facility. Founded in 2002, the company handles all modes of transportation including truckload (van/flatbed/reefer), less-than-truckload, intermodal and specialized freight. Along with the company's Chattanooga and Knoxville facilities.

CROSSVILLE

The city has opened its new city hall building, completing a move from the old location at 99 Municipal Ave. to N. Main St.

FRANKLIN

Windstream Hosted Solutions will be building a new data center, the latest in a string of new data center projects slated for Middle Tennessee. The Arkansas-based company plans to hire up to 20 employees for the new center slated to open in 2013. The new center at 311 Eddy Lane, will be 21,000 square feet with about 10,000 square feet of raised floor data center space.

JONESBOROUGH

Work has started on a project to develop an early intervention program for at-risk children in the community. The town received a \$17,000 grant from the East Tennessee Foundation in June for the project, which will involve a partnership with Washington County

Schools and EPIC Evolutions. The program will be designed to incorporate the use of story, arts activities, training and counseling to help struggling youth in Jonesborough Elementary and Middle schools. The town will partner with the International Storytelling Center and will utilize a theater education program through the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre. The program, which will become part of the Mary B. Martin Program For The Arts, will be used both in-school and after-school. Town staff and volunteers will be working with the two-year project.

KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) announced a rebranding of its existing ADA\Paratransit service. Dial-A-Ride is a low fare, fee-based transportation service that picks up riders at home or other locations inside the city, and transports them to any destination within the city limits. This specialized transportation service is available to anyone who has a medical condition that prevents them from independently boarding a regular fixed-route bus. Dial-A-Ride is also available to individuals who may qualify due to a temporary mobility need, such as an injury or those temporarily restricted from driving.

LAVERGNE

The city's recent Public library "Food for Fines" program allowed patrons to receive up to \$1 credit toward their book fines for every non-perishable, unexpired food item donated. "While library patrons zero out their fines, they are also participating in a great cause – feeding the hungry," said Library Director Teresa Wilberscheid. The LaVergne police department had first dibs on the food for the 'Christmas for the Kids and Seniors' program and extra food was donated to the food bank.

MARYVILLE

The Maryville Water Plant received the Julian R. Fleming Award from the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Association for being the best water treatment plant in the state. Built in 1955, on the banks of Little River at Sevierville Road, the plant has undergone numerous upgrades. Currently operators use computers to direct all processes involved in treating water and all phases of the plant can be run from each com-

puter. The plant can treat six million gallons of water a day, but at this time of year, averages 3.8 million gallons per day. The plant operates 24 hours a day with a staff of four operators, one relief operator and one chief operator. The water originates in the headwaters of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

MEMPHIS

Bioventus representatives announced plans to lease new office and manufacturing space off Goodlett Farms Parkway. The expansion represents an investment of \$5 million and the creation of 44 jobs. A leader in active orthopaedic healing, Bioventus formed in May 2012 as a strategic venture between Essex Woodlands and Smith & Nephew. The move enables Bioventus to consolidate its Memphis functions, including operations, manufacturing, quality and human resources. The company expects to move its Memphis-based employees into the 40,000-square-foot space in February 2013 following the build out of the new facility.

MEMPHIS

Memphis and Shelby County are preparing to release \$4.5 million for a down payment assistance program aimed at getting prospective homebuyers into houses. The funds came from Wells Fargo as part of an agreement the city and county reached earlier this year with the mortgage giant to end a lawsuit over predatory lending. The "Helping Homebuyers" program will provide down payment assistance of up to \$15,000. To qualify, applicants must have household income not exceeding 120 percent of the area median income, which is \$71,000 for a family of four. Under the agreement, Wells Fargo will provide a total of \$7.5 million to the city and county, with \$4.5 million earmarked for the down payment program. United Housing Inc., a local nonprofit that helps low- and moderate income and first-time homebuyers, will administer the program and provide support services to homebuyers.

MT JULIET

Ceva Logistics is nearing a deal for more than 700,000 square feet of new big-box warehouse space, an expansion that could bring more than 400 jobs to the area. A lease with Panattoni Development Co., developer of the Beckwith Farms industrial park off Interstate 40, hinges on Ceva getting incentives from state and Wilson County officials and reaching agreements with customers. Ceva, a global logistics company based in the Netherlands, continues to consider rival sites, in-



Photo: Sam Simpkins/The Tennessean

It was a shining moment for Music City as millions of TV viewers saw not only country music stars, but pop, rock and hip-hop hitmakers taking the stage in Nashville for the "Grammy Nominations Concert Live!" The annual music awards show has announced select nominees with a live primetime concert on CBS since 2008, but the concert at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena marked the first time the event was held outside of Los Angeles. Kicking off the program, LL Cool J greeted the TV audience "live from Music City" with co-host Taylor Swift. Pictured: Dierks Bentley and The Band Perry perform at Bridgestone Arena.

cluding one in Columbus, Ohio, for the potential consolidation of several of the company's business units, according to a source familiar with its search.

NASHVILLE

Plans are underway for the largest acquisition toward implementation of the city's Open Space Plan of 600 acres on the Stones River and along the Stones River Greenway. Named the Stones River Farm property, it would connect three other major pieces of Metro park land and open space through greenways and waterways to establish a 1,500-acre regional park system comparable in scope to Warner Parks in west Davidson County. The land features almost four miles of river frontage, including a highly scenic bend in the Stones River at its confluence with the Cumberland River. The tract of land is adjacent to the Metro-owned Ravenwood property and across the Cumberland River from the 648-acre Peeler Park and Taylor Farm. The park would directly serve the Donelson, Hermitage and Old Hickory communities in northeastern Davidson County, and existing greenways connect it to downtown Nashville. The key acquisition moves the city forward in implementing its Open Space Plan, which recommends preserving 3,000 acres over the next 10 years as park land.

NASHVILLE

Nashville will be the scene of the Congress of Cities and Exposition in November 2015. The annual event is expected to draw more than 4,000 mayors, council members and other top officials from cities around the country for the multi-day event. The board of directors of the National League of Cities, which sponsors the annual gathering, voted unanimously to bring the event to the new Music City Center. The Congress of Cities brings together local leaders from across the country for several days of networking opportunities and educational seminars that highlight successful initiatives in the host city and elsewhere. About 80 percent of attendees are elected officials.

SPRING HILL

City officials have passed the first step of a measure intended to make irrigation of lawns during warmer months more affordable for resi-

dents. When most homeowners use sprinkler systems, they pay for not only the additional water usage but also for adding wastewater to the sewer. If a separate water meter is on the irrigation system, sewer charges do not apply. However, the city charges \$1,000 for an extra meter, plus installation and city fees. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted on first reading to amend an ordinance lowering that cost to \$730. The city estimates it would take roughly 2½ years for the additional meter to pay for itself, based on average water usage of a customer using an irrigation system and the average sewer bill. This and other measures have been taken in recent years to deal with water issues that come with the city's rapid growth and severe droughts throughout Middle Tennessee that have affected the city's water source, the Duck River.

PIGEON FORGE

The New Jersey firm Insurance Services Office (ISO), which advises insurers on rates, has given the city a class 3 fire protection rating. That improves on the class 5 rating the city has held since 1988. Because of the change, the citizens and business owners in the district should have a dramatic decrease in the amount paid for fire insurance, according to Fire Chief Tony Watson. The change takes effect in April. ISO assigns Public Protection Classification ratings on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 indicating the best protection. Pigeon Forge is one of just 38 class 3 communities among 1,107 Tennessee cities the firm rates. According to Watson, improvements were made in the department's number of trucks, ladders, man power, training, water supply and communication system.

WOODBURY

Months after legally opening for business, the Short Mountain Distillery's crystal-clear moonshine was given the gold. Short Mountain's moonshine, produced from a time-tested Cannon County recipe, was rated the best out of five different moonshines from across the country in the Beverage Testing Institute's latest batch of scores. BTI reviews moonshines twice a year. The moonshine's score of 90 qualifies it for a BTI gold medal, an elusive prize among spirits.

TN cities included in motor oil collection center grants

The state announced \$322,400 in collection grants to establish, upgrade and expand used motor oil collection centers in 21 counties across Tennessee. Tennesseans who change their own motor oil generate more than one million gallons of used oil each year, which can pollute soil and water and interfere with the operation of sewer systems when not properly disposed. The General Assembly through the Used Oil Collection Act of 1993 directed TDEC to assist local communities in collecting used oil and reducing its negative effects on the environment.

Tennessee's Solid Waste Management Act requires counties to have at least one place in the county where used oil can be properly disposed. Used Motor Oil Collection Grants are funded by a two cent deposit on every quart of oil purchased in the state. The first priority for grant funding is to establish or expand collection sites in underserved areas. Other grants will fund improvement or replacement of

equipment in existing public and private facilities. Equipment purchased through Used Motor Oil Collection Grants can include containers, used oil burners, containment structures, shelter covers and other items.

The Used Motor Oil Collection grants announced include:

Alcoa— \$3,700 for tank, pump and absorbent
Jellico— \$13,800 for tank, canopy, pad, heater, pump and absorbent
LaFollette— \$4,600 for tank, canopy, pad and absorbent
Chattanooga— \$20,500 for tanks, absorbents, crusher and heater
White Pine— \$1,200 for pump and absorbent
Athens— \$17,000 for heaters
Harriman— \$13,800 for tank, canopy, pad, heater, pump and absorbent
Kingston— \$13,800 for tank, canopy, pad, heater, pump and absorbent
Oneida— \$13,800 for tank, canopy, pad, pump, absorbent and heater

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Tennessee creates new unit to help local law enforcement fight fraud, identity theft

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

While out shopping for that latest gift this holiday season, don't forget the hottest crime of the 21st century is also out there searching — for You! Identity theft is on the rise in Tennessee, enough so that the state's department of Safety and Homeland Security is reaching out to local law enforcement agencies with an offer of investigative assistance from its newly formed Identity Crimes Unit.

Comprised of 14 staff members from three divisions: The Tennessee Highway Patrol, Office of Homeland Security, and Driver Services Division, the unit also receives support from its federal partners: The United States Secret Service Nashville and Memphis field offices; Homeland Security Investigations, under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Memphis.

"When Gov. Haslam conducted his top to bottom review of the Department of Homeland Security, we looked at the whole area of identity crime," said Tennessee Safety Commissioner Bill Gibbons.

"There are various kinds of identity crimes. Someone may steal a person's identity, then there are others that involve creating false identities for non-existent people," Gibbons explains.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has specific authority under state law to investigate identity theft and some crimes relate to Homeland Security issues such as individuals obtaining another person's identity or obtaining a false identity for the purposes of causing harm to citizens. A larger portion of identity theft involves driver's licenses.

"It was a unique opportunity to create a special investigative unit involving all three of the key parts of our department," notes Gibbons. "There is a great need for help in this area for most local law enforcement agencies."

As former District Attorney for Shelby County, Gibbons said he saw the struggle first hand at the Memphis Police Department, the largest local law enforcement agency in the state. "In a lot of ways, it was easier for them to investigate a homicide or aggravated robbery than an identity crime. And if the Memphis Police Department struggles, then every local law enforcement agency in the state does," he said.

Last year, for the 12th year in a row, identity theft topped the list of consumer complaints to the Federal Trade Commission. Of the more than 1.8 million complaints filed with the FTC in 2011, 15 percent were related to identity theft. There were 4,275 complaints of identity theft filed in Tennessee in 2011 compared to 4,175 filed in 2010, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network, a data base used by law enforcement to collect consumer complaints. Nationwide, there were 279,156 complaints filed compared to 258,854 in 2010.

"Identity theft is getting more sophisticated and more profitable,

according to an article in *The New York Daily News*. "Rings of international terrorists, money launderers, petty street thieves—sophisticated super-hackers are turning identity theft into a multi-billion-dollar criminal enterprise, plundering data about ordinary people from alumni directories, ATM machines, credit cards, tax returns and myriad other sources."

The Identity Crimes Unit has been training for several months to increase their skills and collect best practices for identity crime investigation from other states as well as federal sources, such as the Secret Service.

"The Secret Service, have been doing a very good job on identity crimes for a number of years," Gibbons said. "Citizens may not realize that, but they're very involved. In some situations, the Secret Service may want to hand cases off to us, just because they are handling so many."

The special investigative unit's involvement with local law enforcement will take place on a case by case basis, notes Gibbons.

"I think in some cases, training could be expanded on the local level, but we're prepared to assist local law enforcement across the state in investigating these cases," he said. Certain criteria such as: fraudulent use of a driver's license; cooperation of victims; violation of Tennessee's felony theft law; the number, financial amount, and frequency of transactions; as well as referral from a federal agency, will help determine the level of involvement between the unit and local law enforcement.

"It's not a clear line of saying if this factor exists we'll handle it and if it doesn't we won't," Gibbons said. "We would take a preliminary look at it, decide if one or more factors exist, and then we would talk to that agency about the extent to which they would like our assis-



December is Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month and, according to the Federal Trade Commission, it is also the time of year when most identity crime occurs.

tance. If an agency wants us to, under the right circumstances, we will conduct the investigation for the agency. In other situations, we will assist the agency in the investigation."

Since the Identity Crimes unit was announced this summer through the end of October 2012, it has been involved with 60 felony charges against persons relating to identity crime laws in Tennessee, according to Gibbons.

Some of the cases the unit has been involved with locally resulting in criminal charges and convictions include:

- a multi-agency covert operation in the Knoxville area that targeted minors utilizing fake IDs in purchasing alcohol. This netted 14 arrests;
- working with the Secret Service

and the U.S. Postal Service in a case of a company utilizing fraudulent credit cards to purchase merchandise;

- the West Tennessee Drug Task Force, in searching a vehicle for illegal drugs, turned up eight fraudulent California drivers licenses, six fraudulent Social Security cards, 150 gift cards, and more than 15 personal medical information sheets, along with more than \$10,000 in cash;
- a traffic stop in Sumner County that turned into a fraudulent document case. The suspect was involved in illegal check writing and bank fraud; and
- a case in Davidson County where the suspect attempted to obtain a fraudulent U.S. passport using a de-

ceased individual's name.

"I sent a letter to every single police chief and sheriff in the state back in August letting them know we were available to assist them and the contact information in the letter," said Gibbons.

Law enforcement agencies seeking assistance from the Identity Crimes unit should contact Captain Stacy Williams at 615-251-5185 to outline their circumstances.

"We really want to be of service to local law enforcement agencies. It's why we created the unit," Gibbons said.

For more information about what to do if you are the victim of an identity crime, visit the link <http://www.tn.gov/safety/cididtheft.shtml>.

State Warns of Christmas Season Identity Theft

December is Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness month

The start of the holiday season not only brings excitement to many people, it also brings concern about identity theft to millions of consumers.

"During the holiday shopping season, citizens are making more transactions and spending more money than any other time of the year. Identity thieves are looking for easy targets, and there are many more opportunities for them to steal your identity and ruin your credit," said Captain Stacy Williams of the Identity Crimes Unit.

December is Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month and, according to the Federal Trade Commission, it is also the time of year when most identity crime occurs.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Identity Crimes Unit warns consumers to beware of identity thieves who victimize holiday shoppers. The unit urges holi-

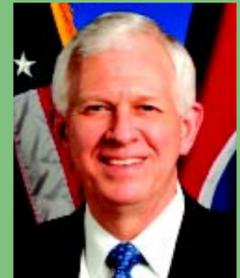
day shoppers to take precautions to protect their identity during the busy holiday season.

The Identity Crimes Unit offers these tips to help keep holiday shoppers safe:

- When paying with credit cards, don't allow clerks to put your receipts in your bag. Instead, carry receipts in your wallet where they are safer and less likely to fall out of bags.
- Watch cashiers, waiters, and bartenders, ensuring that they don't "skim" or save your card number for later use.
- When paying by check. Never allow merchants to write your social security number on the check.
- Use a gel ink pen—preferably black—to write checks. The ink will permeate the fibers and make it difficult for the check to be cleaned and reused.
- When shopping online, be careful of wireless internet connections. Only use those that require a security key or certificate.

- Shop on secure, reputable websites by looking for addresses that start with "https" and include a small padlock icon.
- Never offer personal information, especially your social security number, to online stores.
- Leave suspicious websites immediately.
- Read customer reviews before ordering products.
- Use a credit card and not a debit card, which makes it harder for you to get funds back and gives thieves access to funds in your bank account.
- Avoid carrying a social security card, birth certificate, passport, bank information or paychecks when hitting the stores. You could easily lose them and identity thieves find these particularly helpful.
- Check your bank statements, credit card bills, and credit reports often, helping to quickly catch any efforts to use your identity.

- For gift card purchasers or recipients, the department of Consumer Affairs recommends that you



Commissioner Bill Gibbons

ask what to do in the event that the card is stolen.

Because gift cards are not usually registered to an individual purchaser, they can be easily stolen. Purchasers should always keep the receipt. And some stores urge customers to access their website and register cards in case they're stolen.

For victims of identity crime, an identity theft resource kit is available at <http://www.tn.gov/safety/ICU.shtml>.

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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

TN ranks 17th largest population

Tennessee has the nation's 17th largest population, having added more than 140,000 residents over the past two and a half years. The Volunteer State will have a total of 6,486,827 residents on Dec. 1, according to new estimates from MBI affiliate *On Numbers*. It also ranked 17th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in April 2010, when the 2010 federal census numbers came out. Just above Tennessee is Indiana at No. 16.

TN improves, still lags healthwise

Tennesseans have gotten slightly healthier, but remain in relatively rough shape compared to the rest of the country, a new study shows. Tennessee ranked No. 39 in a new national study by United Health Foundation, up from No. 41 last year. The study looked at a range of factors, from health problems to lifestyle, in evaluating the health of the population across the country. Tennessee's strengths, the study says, include relatively little binge drinking, a good availability of primary care physicians and per capita spending on health care that is higher than most states. But the state also faces continued issues, including a poor ranking tied to sedentary lifestyle, as well as the prevalence of diabetes. Violent crime was also an issue affecting health in which Tennessee scored poorly.

Mfg. jobs increase

Tennessee manufacturing jobs increased about one percent over the past year, according to the 2013 industrial directory published by Manufacturers' News Inc. The state gained 3,368 manufacturing jobs from September 2011 to September 2012, bringing total employment to 377,662 workers at 7,150 manufacturers. According to the report, Memphis remains Tennessee's top city for manufacturing employment with 37,585 jobs, down 1.6 percent over the year. Employment remained steady in second-ranked Nashville, with 27,685 industrial jobs. Smyrna accounts for 9,131 manufacturing jobs, up 6.7 percent over the past twelve months.

TN Welcome Centers to feature recycling services

Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation, Department of Transportation and Tourist Development Department have teamed up to provide recycling services at interstate welcome centers. The program began with a pilot study at the Clarksville welcome center and grew to a few other locations to test feasibility. TDEC already coordinates Tennessee's State Facility Recycling Program to encourage workers in state offices to recycle. That effort includes recycling of traditional items like paper, plastic and aluminum along with nontraditional items such as clothing and eyeglasses for reuse. Since that program's start in 1990, state employees have recycled 18,791 tons of mixed office paper. That has saved \$564,000 in landfill disposal costs and generated nearly \$213,000 in recycling revenue.

State selected for food safety center

The University of Tennessee and the state Department of Health are partnering to develop training to improve responses to food-borne illnesses and outbreaks in Tennessee and across the country. The Food Safety Modernization Act directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create five Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence at state health departments across the country, and Tennessee was selected as the site of one of those centers. A \$200,000 grant will allow the university to establish the center, which will serve to develop best practices and be a resource for public health officials that investigate food borne outbreaks or illnesses.

Grocery Task Force plans \$10 M food desert effort

The Tennessee Grocery Access Task Force announced plans to create a \$10 million incentive to encourage independent grocers to open in neighborhoods across Tennessee. The program would assist grocers in purchasing refrigeration equipment for new stores. A recent study by The Food Trust found that nearly a million Tennesseans, in-

cluding more than 200,000 children, live in food deserts, communities where there are no supermarkets and little access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Many residents in these communities don't have their own cars and rely on public transportation. The Philadelphia-based organization recommends that the state create flexible grants modeled on Pennsylvania's Fresh Food Financing Initiative. The nationally acclaimed state program funnels tax dollars to help develop grocery stores in undeserved communities. Funding has not yet been secured for the initiative.

Sixty-eight acres added to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge

A 68-acre tract in Meigs County that was slated for a treatment plant and high-density development is now included in one of the most important wintering rest stops for sandhill cranes in the eastern U.S. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency recently acquired the property with help from The Tennessee Land Trust, a nonprofit that specializes in preserving lands of high conservation value throughout the state. The property adjoins the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, a 2,570-acre preserve located at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers near Birchwood. The TWRA manages the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge mainly for migratory waterfowl and wading birds. In past decades an increasing number of migrating sandhill cranes have been drawn to the refuge to feed on the 300 to 500 acres of corn, milo and millet grown to feed the wildlife. The acreage was included in a larger tract that had been marketed for high-density residential development. A wastewater treatment facility was to be built on the 68 acres, which, according to a TWRA spokesman, would have seriously impaired the habitat quality of a nearby slough that attracts thousands of ducks, geese, and cranes each winter. Of the property's \$425,000 price tag, The Land Trust for Tennessee raised \$175,000, and the TWRA committed \$250,000 through a federal wildlife habitat grant.

School day to get longer in TN

Five states, including Tennessee, will add at least 300 hours of learning time to the calendar in some schools starting in 2013. Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York also will take part in the initiative, which is intended to boost student achievement and make U.S. schools more competitive on a global level. The three-year pilot program will affect almost 20,000 students in 40 schools, with long-term hopes of expanding the program to include additional schools — especially those that serve low-income communities. Schools, working in concert with districts, parents and teachers, will decide whether to make the school day longer, add more days to the school year or both. A mix of federal, state and district funds will cover the costs of expanded learning time, with the Ford Foundation and the National Center on Time & Learning also chipping in resources.

Financial football computer game handed out to TN schools

Middle and high schools across Tennessee are getting copies of a computer game designed as a fun way to improve financial literacy. The Financial Football game has players answer financial questions in order to move their teams down the field and score. The questions test students' knowledge of things like budget planning, saving, spending and investing. The game was developed by Visa and is being promoted by the National Football League and the Tennessee Jump\$tart Coalition. State Treasurer David Lillard said the game is an innovative way to teach young people basic money-handling concepts that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Association to run 2013 State Fair

The Tennessee State Fair Association, a nonprofit group of state agricultural and tourism officials, was selected to run the September 2013 State Fair by the state's Tennessee State Fair and Exposition Commission. The Association also ran the 2011 and 2012 fairs.

TN lacks jobs for teens

Tennessee is one of the 10 toughest states in the nation for teens to find

work, according to a recent study. Fewer than one in four Tennesseans aged 16 to 19 held jobs in the last year, according to the Youth and Kids policy report by the Kids Count project tracking children's issues. Jeff Hentschel, spokesman for the Tennessee Department of Labor said in part, it's because people displaced and laid off from previous jobs are accepting more starter-level positions to make ends meet.

Doctor on call services available

Tennessee residents now can visit a doctor by telephone for relief from minor ailments. A service called Apogee Doctor on Call charges \$50 per contact for physician consultations. The Arizona-based Apogee Physicians said that Tennessee is the pilot state for its remote program, partly because the company already provides staffing at a dozen hospitals around the state. The queries are answered around the clock, seven days a week. Doctors cannot prescribe narcotics, but can message pharmacies for routine prescriptions, such as antibiotics.

State preparing for winter roads

Employees at the city, county and state governments are already stockpiling supplies for possible snow emergencies. There are three main tools for fighting slippery, wintery road conditions: a mixture of salt and water, called a brine, can be sprayed before the snow starts falling; salt can be spread directly on the road; and plows can be attached to trucks to physically remove the snow. Sand was once used to help with traction on the roadways, but governments stopped using it because of the required cleanup. Adding salt, either in the brine or in the crystal form, lowers the roadway's freezing point, so instead of it icing over at 32 degrees, it can drop into the 20s before it freezes. Once the snow is on the ground, salt can be put on top to help thaw the white stuff. Plows attached to trucks can clear the roads, and powerful grading machines, which are normally used to pave roads, can be used to clear snow if there is too much for the snow plows. The state has the biggest arsenal of snow-fighting equipment, with 254 salt trucks, 248 snow plows and 221 brine spreaders in the midstate region, according to TDOT Spokeswoman Beth Emmons.



Photo: Cyndi Routledge

A 68-acre tract in Meigs County, acquired by The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency with help from The Tennessee Land Trust, is now included in one of the most important wintering rest stops for sandhill cranes in the eastern U.S.

Cities, agencies share benefits of green award

Tennessee's 2012 Green Development awards and grants are going to local cities or agencies for projects such as rain gardens, green roofs, pervious concrete applications, trees and tree boxes. The money also may be used for citizen outreach and education efforts. Athens will receive \$28,080 for its Green Streets Initiative, a collaborative effort with the Tennessee Public Works Institute and Tennessee Transportation Assistant Program to apply both traditional and experimental cleaning technologies to local roads, trails and parking lots.

The city's initiative also monitors the environmental benefits of creating a Green Perpetual Pavement Program, and a portion of the funding will help purchase a spray/squeegee machine to maintain cleaner roads. Athens officials plan to share both the equipment and technology with other cities and counties across the state.

Chattanooga gets \$28,080 to develop its own reward for green infrastructure — the proposed Low-Impact Development Excellence Awards. The LID Excellence awards will recognize outstanding achievement of land development or redevelopment projects exceeding regulatory requirements or meeting requirements through innovative green infrastructure technologies.

The city is planning a banquet and cash awards for "the best green

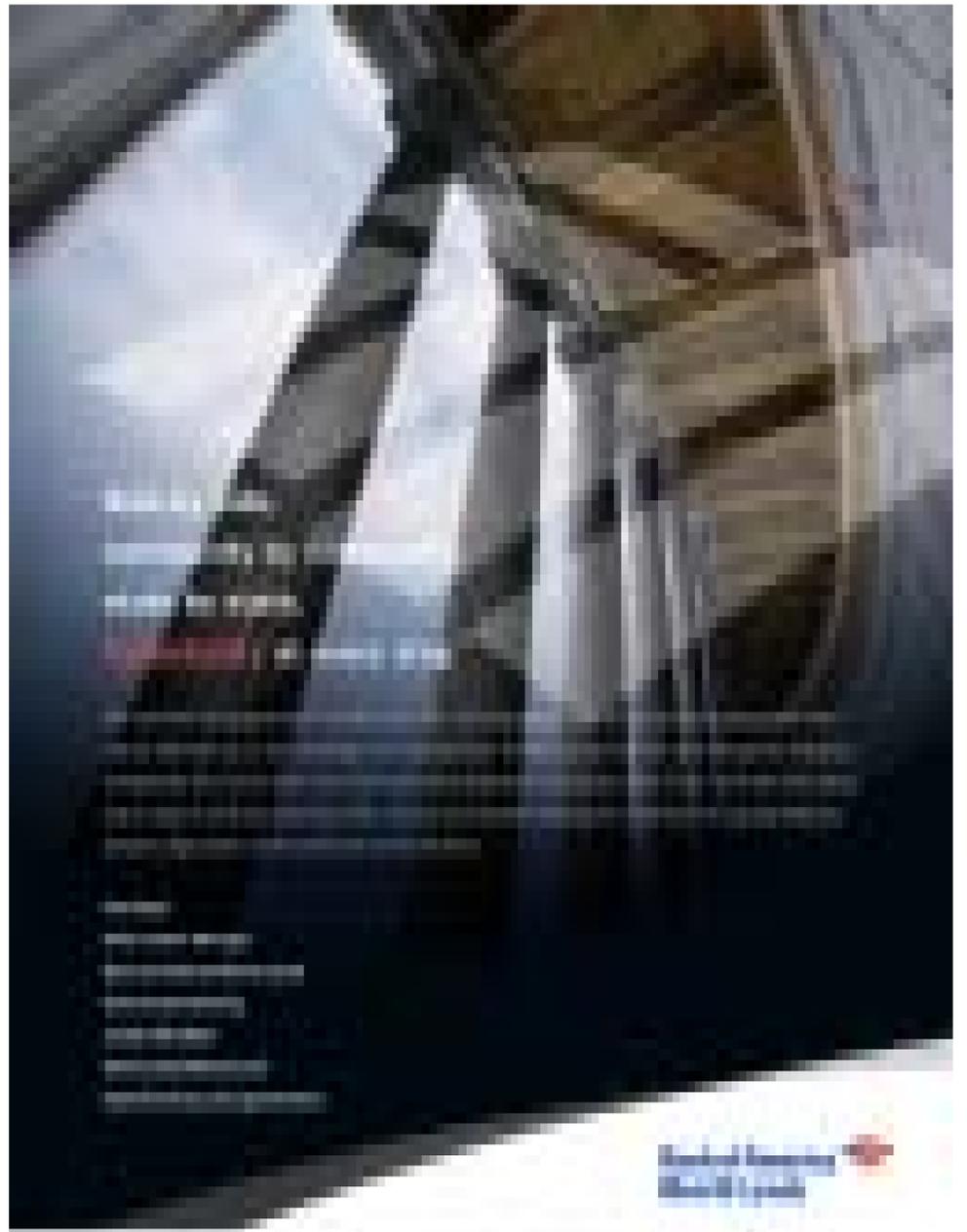
infrastructure work to treat stormwater runoff" in both new development and in retrofitting existing properties.

Memphis received \$25,180. The city, in partnership with Memphis City Schools, the Memphis and Shelby County Offices of Sustainability and the Memphis Botanic Gardens, will design and install rain gardens for three schools, in addition to developing the associated educational curriculum materials.

Knoxville's project will include a stormwater infrastructure retrofit, separating the stormwater program from the city's sanitary sewer system; the creation of a rain garden/bio-infiltration planter; the installation of pollution control catch basins; and incorporating a system storage effort that allows infiltration into ground water will make a stormwater infrastructure retrofit.

The Southeast Tennessee Development District was granted \$18,080 to partner with 15 municipalities and five local counties to develop amendments to land-use regulations to improve stormwater runoff problems.

The awards come from a partnership of TDEC, the Tennessee Stormwater Association, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.





PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Rep. **Marsha Blackburn** is the new vice-chairman of the full House Energy and Commerce Committee. She will have the most influential committee post of any of the nine members of the U.S. House from Tennessee. The appointment puts her in position to have more influence over health care regulation, including compounding pharmacies. Blackburn will also work in setting topics for hearings and deciding on which witnesses to invite. During the 112th Congress, Blackburn was vice-chairman of the panel's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade. She also sat on three other subcommittees — Health, Oversight and Investigations and Communications Technology. She has served on Energy and Commerce since 2005.



Blackburn

U.S. Rep. **Chuck Fleischmann** has been appointed to the 50-member House Committee on Appropriations, one of four House panels considered so crucial that most appointees are asked to leave other committees before they begin. He said he is "thankfully overwhelmed" about his new role in helping to control the federal government's purse strings. Fleischmann will be the only Tennessean to serve on the committee.



Fleischmann

Tennessee Senate Democrats named former Sen. **Bob Rochelle** of Lebanon to the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance.



Rochelle

Chuck Shoopman, assistant vice president of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, was elected president of the UT Economic Development Association (UEDA). UEDA is the cornerstone membership organization representing higher education, private sector and community economic development stakeholders.



Shoopman

The Tennessee Board of Regents unanimously approved **Glenda Baskin Glover** as the next president for Tennessee State University. Glover will assume her leadership role January 2. Currently dean of the College of Business at Jackson State University in Mississippi, Glover, is a 1974 TSU graduate. She is a licensed attorney and certified public accountant.



Glover

Elizabethton City Manager **Fred Edens** announced he plans to retire in January. He has served the city for close to five years. The retired major served three tours in Vietnam as an enlisted man, and was twice wounded in combat. The city's mayor, Curt Alexander, notes Edens will be sorely missed.

Less than three years after graduating from Millington Central High School, 20-year-old **Frankie Dakin** will take office in January as an alderman in his hometown. The Rhodes College junior is believed to be the youngest person elected to Millington's Board of Aldermen. Dakin, who is active with the nonprofit Bridges in Memphis and attends Rhodes on a Bonner Scholarship that requires many hours of community service, hopes to keep citizens better informed through his online blog, social media and community meetings. He'd like to attract young families to Millington and bring more jobs and more recreational opportunities to the city.



Dakin

Former Tennessee Atty. Gen. **Paul Summers**, a former district attorney in Somerville, has been appointed to a four-year term as a senior judge by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Senior judges are assigned on a temporary basis to any state court as needed. Summers, 62, was state attorney general from 1999 through 2006. He served as district attorney general for judicial district 25 — Fayette, Tipton, Hardeman, Lauderdale and McNairy counties — from 1982 to 1990 and then served from 1990 to 1999 as a judge on the state Court of Criminal Appeals. He replaces former Davidson County Circuit Court Judge Walter C. Kurtz.

Local Civil Rights leader **Dr. Ernest T. Brooks Sr.**, was recently laid to rest in a funeral service more like a "home-going" celebration. Brooks, 70, the father of Jackson City Councilmember Ernest Brooks II, stood up for the equality of minorities as a student at Lane College in the 1960s, where he participated in sit-ins to bring about the end of racial division in Jackson. He also served as the president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and as chairman of the education committee at the local and state levels. He also served as president of the 100 Black Men of West Tennessee.



Brooks

Longtime Franklin city alderman **Dana McLendon** has been selected by fellow alderman as the city's vice mayor for 2013. McLendon has the longest tenure of any city alderman. An attorney, McLendon was first elected to the city Board of Mayor and Alderman for Ward 2 in 1997. Every November, city aldermen must choose a vice mayor from the ranks of the city's eight aldermen who can serve as mayor in the mayor's absence or if the mayor is unable to serve.



McLendon

Elizabethton Chief of Police **Matt Bailey** will be stepping down from his post Dec. 30 to continue on as the department's shift captain. Bailey also served as chairman of the Carter County 911 Communications District board of directors.



Bailey

Paul McCallister was recently sworn in as the new police chief of Burns. McCallister previously worked as a police officer in Dickson and served in the Tennessee National Guard.

Fort Oglethorpe city councilman, **Eddie Stinnett**, 67, was killed in a car crash. Officers say Stinnett appears to have had a heart attack before he hit a curb and crashed into another car, however, the accident is still under investigation.



Stinnett

Farragut awarded for top Let's Move! initiatives



At the NLC Congress of Cities on Nov. 29 in Boston — from left to right: Farragut Alderman Ron Honken, Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche, Alderman Bob Markli and Mayor Ralph McGill accepted eight medals from Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties from Dr. Howard Koh (second from right), Assistant Secretary of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Ted Ellis (far right), NLC President and Mayor of Bluffton, Ind.

The National League of Cities (NLC) recognized the Town of Farragut and 11 other communities for highest overall achievement in completion of key health and wellness goals for Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC). LMCTC is a major component of First Lady Michelle Obama's comprehensive Let's Move! initiative, dedicated to solving the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation.

Farragut received eight medals for action taken to improve access to opportunities for physical activity. Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill, Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche, Alderman Ron Honken and Alderman Bob Markli accepted the medals Nov. 29 at the NLC Congress of Cities in Boston. The event was also attended by Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh, and Assistant White House Chef and Senior Policy Advisor for Healthy Food Initiatives, Sam Kass.

As a Let's Move! community partner, Farragut has implemented several strategies. The town is offering local childcare organizations the opportunity to host trainings at the town hall. In addition, the town has registered as a MyPlate Community Partner, committing to working alongside the USDA to help the community make meaningful, sustainable and healthy dietary changes based on the Dietary Guidelines. As

part of this partnership, the town displays the MyPlate poster at every event where food is served.

Farragut is continually working to provide more areas for play, mapping all of its playspaces at www.kaboom.org.

NLC is the lead collaborating partner on this initiative, working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Association of Counties, and other nonprofit organizations, in assisting local elected officials to implement policy and environmental changes to prevent childhood obesity.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded NLC a grant to provide technical assistance to local elected officials working to create healthier communities and prevent childhood obesity, including sites participating in LMCTC.

More than 160 cities, towns and counties are participating in LMCTC. NLC awarded 541 medals to local elected officials across the country, recognizing these leaders for their progress in adopting long-term, sustainable, and holistic policies that improve communities' access to healthy affordable food and opportunities for physical activity.

For more information about LMCTC and the Farragut's accomplishments, visit the website www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org.

NLC names new executive director

The National League of Cities (NLC) announced that Clarence E. Anthony has been named the association's new Executive Director.

Anthony will assume the executive director role at NLC in early January 2013. He will direct the operations, initiatives and staff of the association while working closely with NLC's leadership and membership to develop and implement a strategic plan advancing the interests of NLC's member cities. He will also serve as a key spokesman for America's cities and towns, advocating before federal policymakers and promoting municipal issues on behalf of the more than 18,000 cities represented by NLC.

"Clarence Anthony brings a wealth of experience to NLC. His service as mayor, as past president of our organization, and as a leader in the private sector will provide NLC with a winning combination in an executive director. Not only does he understand the challenges of cities, but he has the strategic management skills to guide the organization as it helps cities meet those challenges," said NLC President Ted Ellis, Mayor of Bluffton, IN.

"Cities are the lifeblood of America, and NLC is the organization which represents the interests of our city leaders," said Anthony. I am honored to have been selected as Executive Director of NLC. Becoming part of this team that is dedicated to helping make cities thrive is truly humbling. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of the National League of Cities to make it the "go-to" organization for cities."

The appointment was made by NLC's Board of Directors at NLC's Congress of Cities and Exposition in Boston. The annual gathering of 3000 city leaders provides a forum



Clarence Anthony

for exchanging best practices, networking and learning about new strategies for addressing city challenges.

Anthony has been a passionate and active member of NLC for more than 25 years. He served as mayor of South Bay, FL for 24 years and as NLC President from 1998-1999. He also served as founding treasurer of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the international voice for local governments, for four years. Most recently, he served as the interim manager for UCLG. Anthony currently leads his own consulting firm, Anthony Government Solutions, and served as Chief Marketing Officer and Director of Government Relations with international engineering and environmental firms. He holds a master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University.

Anthony will replace Don Borut who served as NLC executive director for 22 years. Borut announced his retirement in May and will depart the organization at the end of this year.

For Anthony's full bio, please go to: <http://www.nlc.org/about-nlc/nlc-leadership/executive-director>.

TNArts Commission seeks nominations for 2013 Governor's Arts Awards

The Tennessee Arts Commission announces a Call for Nominations for the 2013 Governor's Arts Awards. The Governor's Arts Awards were established in 1971 to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the cultural life of Tennessee.

The awards are Tennessee's highest honor in the arts, celebrating the outstanding contributions of artists, arts organizations, volunteers, schools, educators, local governments, legislators and corporate citizens on the state and national level. The 2013 awards will be presented in Nashville during a special ceremony at Conservation Hall, near the Executive Residence, in the spring of 2013. There are three award categories:

- The Folklife Heritage Award is presented to folk artists or organiza-

tions that have made outstanding contributions to artistic tradition. The award honors significant achievements within art forms that are rooted in the traditional or ethnic culture of Tennessee.

- The Arts Leadership Award is presented to arts organizations, businesses, educators, patrons, arts administrators, corporations, and volunteers that have demonstrated significant support or participation in activities on a statewide basis that advances the value of the arts in Tennessee.

- The Distinguished Artist Award is presented to Tennessee artists of exceptional talent and creativity in any discipline that, over the course of a career, have contributed to the arts and influenced directions, trends, and aesthetic practices on a state and national level.

The nomination form is available

on the Commission's website www.tn.gov/arts/artsawards. The form should be completed online, printed and returned to the Tennessee Arts Commission with no less than three, but no more than five, letters of support for each nominee. Nominations may be submitted by organizations or individuals.

Nomination forms and letters of support must be received by the Tennessee Arts Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) on Feb. 1.

For more information about the nomination process, contact Hal Partlow at 615-532-9801 or e-mail: hal.partlow@tn.gov.

For accessibility requests, including alternate digital formats, captioning, ASL, and assistive technologies, contact 504 Coordinator William Coleman at by calling 615-532-9797 or by e-mail at: William.coleman@tn.gov.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency stocking rainbow trout in area lakes

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has begun releasing more than 90,000 rainbow trout in Middle and West Tennessee waterways. The stocking takes place from December through March and provides numerous close-to-home trout fishing opportunities for Tennessee anglers.

Trout were stocked into the following lakes on these dates: Lake Graham in Jackson on Dec. 10, Cameron Brown Lake in Germantown on Dec. 14, the No. 3 pond at Edmund-Orgill Park in Millington on Dec. 14, Jones Pond at Shelby Farms in Memphis on Dec. 14, Stoneridge and Yale Road Park

Lakes in Bartlett on Dec. 16, Munford City Park in Munford on Dec. 16.

More trout stockings are scheduled for these dates:

Johnson Park Lake in Collierville on Dec. 21, Jan. 11 at Lake Graham in Jackson, Jan. 18 at Cameron Brown Lake in Germantown, Jan. 18 at the No. 3 pond at Edmund-Orgill Park in Millington, Jan. 18 at Jones Pond at Shelby Farms in Memphis, Jan. 18 at Johnson Park Lake in Collierville, Jan. 20 at Munford City Park in Munford, Jan. 20 at Stoneridge and Yale Road Park Lakes in Bartlett.

The trout will be present in the

lakes and available to anglers until late spring when the water temperatures push into the high 60s and low 70s. Regulations vary for each body of water.

The fisheries also provide a great opportunity to introduce children or first-time anglers to fishing.

According to the Wildlife Resources Agency, the trout will average about 10 inches in length. The daily creel limit is seven, but there is no size limit.

The list of stocking locations during this year's program is available at <http://www.tnwildlife.org> under the "For Anglers" section.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

BRISTOL. The city is accepting applications for the following position: Under the direction of the Director of Community Development, the purpose of the position is to administer the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Grant the city receives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Employees in this job classification are responsible for process and compliance issues related to funding agency regulations and standards, and oversees adherence to administrative, fiscal and accounting policies and procedures related to grant funds. This position maintains detailed files for projects in connection with program funds, provides staff assistance to the Community Development Advisory Committee, conducts pre-bidding and bidding of rehabilitation/reconstruction projects, communicates with project applicants, coordinates with First Tennessee Development District regarding the administration of HOME funds, oversees and maintains financial records of the program, and researches to secure additional grant funds. Salary Range: \$17.68 per hour. This candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning, Development or related field; supplemented by two (2) years responsible funds accounting experience in grants or funding within a similar government institution; or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. See our website to download an application and review summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. Apply to Human Resources Department, P. O. Box 1189, 801 Anderson Street, Room 204, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. EOE/AA. Women/minorities encouraged to apply. Deadline for applications: Jan. 4, 2013.

FIREFIGHTER/FIRST RESPONDER

WHITE HOUSE. The city is seeking applicants for a Part-Time Firefighter/First Responder to perform fire suppression and prevention work and related work as required. Acts as a medical first responder and will perform all functions of the job at a proficient level becoming certified by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting. Duties include: Driving fire truck to site, setting up hose, operating pumps and related equipment, fighting and containing fires; performs primary and secondary search and rescue; assists in stabilizing physical condition of victims; does salvage work at site of fire; responds to calls relating to vehicle wrecks and hazardous materials. Performs general maintenance and clean-up of equipment and fire house and grounds keeping. Assists in developing plans and response, emergency preparedness, handling of hazardous materials; participates in continuing training in fire prevention and suppression. Keeps standard records and prepares reports; prepares training and safety programs and gives instruction to staff and to the public as assigned. Performs code inspection of buildings and facilities, inspection and routine service to fire hydrants; gives talks to educate the public on fire prevention and suppression. Operates and/or utilizes a variety of tools and equipment. Minimum qualifications include: Ability to establish and maintain good public relations; personal integrity. Good overall knowledge of the principles, practices, methods, techniques, tools, and equipment used in fire suppression and pre-

vention work; knowledge of first aid sufficient to act as "First Responder;" passing reasonable fitness and physical standards to safely perform work as determined by city physician; ability to lift and carry average sized individuals and objects of about 75 pounds. Graduation from high school or equivalent and experience in firefighting work and emergency medical care. A valid Tennessee Driver's License appropriate to the assignment and good driving record are required. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must be certified as a Medical First Responder in the State of Tennessee. Must have a Basic Firefighting/Live Burn Certificate of training from the State Fire Academy. Application deadline January 3, 2013, by close of business day. Please visit our website for application procedures. Resumes and applications can be submitted to: City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: Human Resources Department, CLewis-Smith@cityofwhitehouse.com EOE.

TRAINING PROGRAM MANAGER

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has an opening for a Training Program Manager in the Knoxville office. MTAS is an agency of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service that provides technical assistance, training and research for Tennessee towns and cities, state government and municipal government related associations. The Training Program Manager oversees and manages all aspects of MTAS training and continuing education activities. This position supervises a five person training staff and designs, develops, and delivers training programs and courses primarily for city officials. In addition to providing direct client assistance, this position researches, develops and maintains timely technical reports and publications on critical issues, develops and teaches training courses, and assists other consultants in the agency in the performance of individual and team projects. The Training Program Manager serves as both a supervisor and as a team leader, leading and participating in project teams, and performs other special project work as assigned by the Assistant Director or the Executive Director. This position requires a combination of education and experience. A master's degree in adult education, human resource development, organizational development, public administration or related field and five years of experience in developing curricula, evaluating training programs, performing logistical development, delivering training programs with increasing supervisory responsibility is required. Work experience in a governmental environment preferred. Excellent managerial, conceptual and interpersonal skills are essential. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver's license. Applicants are encouraged to review the full job description requirements prior to applying at <http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/?id=4>. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Cover letter, resume and references should be submitted by e-mail to Ms. Tess Davis, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, at tess.davis@tennessee.edu. Position is open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, or covered veteran status.

Brentwood takes over Tennessee's top business friendly city spot

BRENTWOOD from Page 1

Johnson and Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson.

The city is in the process of updating its General Plan outlining Brentwood's goals, policies, and guidelines for the next ten to twenty years.

"We offer those quality of life assets that make this a great place to live," said Webb. "A place where business leaders want to come when they're looking to expand or locate their businesses."

Webb credited the Williamson County education system, which has ranked 4th in the state, calling it the city's number one key to economic development.

"I come from Farragut, and one of our cities has overcome my hometown," quipped Mayor Anderson. "When I go back home, I'll be sure to let them know that."

Farragut, in 2011, became the first city since the Beacon Center's inaugural report, to win the distinction of most business friendly city twice.

Although the Business Friendly moniker could boost economic prospects, Trey Moore, Beacon Center director of Policy, stressed that the Center's main goal in compiling the information is to help gauge where cities rank among their peers.

"We don't set a gold standard of what we think business friendly cities should be," Moore explains. "The rankings are designed to show how cities stack up. Cities in the middle of the pack can say 'Hey, what can we do to make our communities more attractive to businesses



Photo by Victoria South

State Sen. Jack Johnson was on hand as Brentwood celebrated its Most Business Friendly City status. Johnson chats with Beacon Center of Tennessee officials, Trey Moore (r) and Justin Owen.

and foster entrepreneurship?"

And top status doesn't equate to increased business zoning in Brentwood, where 90 percent of the city is zoned for residential, notes City Manager Michael Walker. "Only four percent of the city is zoned for commercial use by design, so we're not going to have endless commercial land out here," he explains. "The four percent generates 60 percent of the city's profits, so it's very important that it works well and is successful," he adds.

The business friendly distinction ranks right on par with Brentwood's triple A bond rating, an overjoyed Walker surmises.

"When I first came here, we had a reputation of being a hard place to do business, and I never could figure

that out," he said. "We've always put a high priority on trying to be responsive to businesses. We tell our employees that these are the folks paying the bills, and our residents that our property taxes are low because we have strong businesses. If you treat one person fairly, that's how business will tell another and that's how you get to the point we are today."

The Beacon Center is a free market think tank with a mission to change lives through public policy by advancing the principles of free markets, individual liberty, and limited government.

The 2012 *How Business-friendly are Tennessee's Cities?* report is available online at www.beacontn.org.

MTAS January MAP Class Schedule

Budgetary Cash Flow

This advanced knowledge class enables the finance officer to better manage cash shortages through borrowing or perhaps utilizing an available fund balance. On the investment side, idle funds may be invested longer because it can be accurately predicted when they will be needed.

Class participants should bring a laptop computer with Excel on it, if possible. Taking their city's balanced annual budget for the general fund, participants will create a monthly budget and a monthly cash flow spreadsheet based on their city's actual historical trends of revenues and expenditures. By using a

spreadsheet with the city's budget data, participants, by the end of the session, should have an idea of the city's cash flow forecasting data.

Who should attend: Municipal finance officers, those responsible for preparing the budget and those seeking CMFO continuing education credit.

Time
All classes are from 8:30am to 12:30pm

Instructors
Al Major, MTAS Financial consultant

Schedule of Sessions

Jan. 16 - Jackson

Jan. 17 - Columbia

Jan. 23 - Morristown
Jan. 24 - Collegedale

Training Facilities
Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive Jackson, West Tennessee Research and Education Center, Seminar Room 150,605 Airways Boulevard Columbia, Local Government Corporation Office, 714 Armstrong Lane Morristown, Tusculum College 420 W. Morris Boulevard

These courses are CMFO continuing credit hour eligible. Price of course: \$50. A fee of \$65 is charged for non-city officials. Registration is required. Seating is limited at all sites, so please register in advance.

To better meet the needs of our customers, MTAS has changed to an online registration system and will accept registration and payment by credit/debit card through your Solution Point account. Online registration for any MTAS course is available at <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/TPOnline/TPOnline.dll/MTASHome>

If you need assistance with registration or payment, call 865-974-0411.

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TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
(ISSN No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420
— Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to TT&C: Attention Mona Lawrence at 615-255-4752, or e-mail mlawrence@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to TT&C: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML. *Tennessee Town & City* is published, semi-monthly, 20 times per year at 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. **Postmaster:** Send changes of address to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Dyersburg closed a \$4.5 million loan to use on various municipal projects.



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

See us for your special projects needs. (615) 255-1561

TMBF
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

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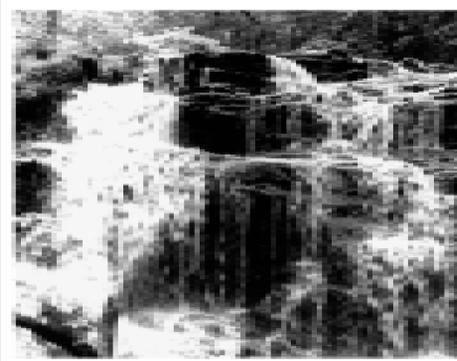
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Water and Wastewater Systems

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Fiscal cliff's potential effects on Tennessee; pain felt in every sector of government

FISCAL CLIFF *from Page 1*

National Governors Association as the National Conference of State Legislatures, says that "OMG currently estimates a 9.4 percent cut for defense discretionary programs, a 10 percent cut for defense mandatory programs, a 7.6 percent cut for mandatory programs, and an 8.2 percent cut for nondefense discretionary programs."

Analysis of the sequester's effects is complicated by the Congress's September 2012 passage of a continuing resolution extending the budget deadline for fiscal year 2012-13. The resolution allows the federal government to continue to operate until March 27, 2013. It calls for a .612 percent across-the-board increase for most federal programs. As a result, even with the sequester, funding for some federal programs will increase while funding for others will decrease.

The FFIS estimates that 28 of the 40 programs most important to states will require across-the-board cuts: only 18 percent of funds are covered. They estimate that in those 28 programs states could lose \$5.3 billion. In the 12 programs exempt from the sequester, funding could increase by 12.9 billion. However, beyond the period covered by the continuing budget resolution, the 2011 Budget Control Act calls for a total of nearly one trillion dollars to be cut through FY 2021 that averages about \$109 billion of cuts per year.

Examples of the estimated impact of the sequester on Tennessee are listed below. The law requires that the cuts be made to each covered program, project, and activity so that agencies will have virtually no discretion when applying the cuts. The pain will be felt in virtually every sector of government and ultimately by most citizens to some degree.

Potential effects on Tennessee

Tax changes would include:

- The expiration of cuts in per-

sonal income tax rates that were passed in 2001 and 2003 which would raise rates for almost all federal tax payers.

- Expiration of the 2 percent Social Security tax cut paid by employees
- Expiration of the Alternative Minimum Tax "patch" that has saved many taxpayers from the provisions of that tax passed decades ago.
- An increase in the estate tax
- Increased tax rates on long-term capital gains
- Plus a number of other tax provisions
- The estimated tax bill for a family with income of between \$40,000 and \$60,000 would rise by nearly \$2,000.

The second half of the "cliff" comes from the Budget Control Act of 2011, which requires that if no deficit reduction plan is agreed on by Dec. 31, automatic budget reductions will impose across-the-board reductions of many federal programs.

- Budget reductions are made under a sequestration process created by the Congress in 1985, by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of that year, mandating across-the-board budget cuts for federal programs with a specified set of exempted programs.
- The current bill provides that roughly half the cuts will come from defense expenditures and half from non-defense expenditures.
- The 2011 Budget Control Act calls for a total of nearly one trillion dollars to be cut through FY 2021, which averages about \$109 billion of cuts per year.

An interesting analysis of the present situation by Susan K. Urahn, director of the Pew Center on the States, is offered in the latest issue of *Governing the States and Localities*. She points out that as a result of the

Great Recession states have lost \$97.8 billion in revenues over the period 2008 to 2010. That amounts to 12 percent of state revenues. At the same time, the demand for state services has increased.

On average about \$1 of every \$3 in state revenues come from federal grants and that average hides a wide variation from state to state.

- Mississippi gets about 50 percent of its revenue from federal grants while Virginia only gets about 25 percent of its revenues from such grants.
- Tennessee receives between 40 percent and 45 percent of its revenues from federal grants.

States will be impacted not only by the possible loss of grants but also by changes in the federal tax code.

- Thirty-six states plus the District of Columbia link their tax rates to federal tax rates.
- Tennessee may avoid that problem since we do not have a broad-based income tax.

Other examples of the impact on Tennessee include:

- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) -\$8.9 million
- Title 1, Grants to Local Education Agencies -\$21.4 million
- Vocational Rehabilitation Grants -\$3.2 million
- Special Education -\$18 million
- Career and Technical Education—State Grants -\$1.8 million
- Child Care and Development Block Grants -\$4.0 million
- Child Support Enforcement -\$2.8 million
- Head Start -\$10.5 million
- Community Services Block Grants -\$1 million
- Unemployment Insurance-State Administrative -\$3.2 million
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance -\$4.2 million
- Surface Transportation Program -\$1.4 million

Tennessee Subtotal -\$95.3 million

NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Knoxville is a member of a very small club. Three and a half years since the 2007-09 economic recession ended, only three major U.S. metropolitan areas are experiencing an economic recovery, according to the Brookings Institution. The Washington-based research group has also deemed Dallas and Pittsburgh in recovery after analyzing their employment levels and gross domestic product per capita. The United States has the most major metropolitan economies of all countries - 76 - according to an annual report on the 300 largest metropolitan economies worldwide released by Brookings. The three cities had two features in common: strong local services such as healthcare, and business and financial services that cater to specific industries. The recession came late to many city budgets. Their primary revenue source - property taxes - took time to fall because of lags in real estate valuations. By the time they dropped, cities were also contending with falling sales and income taxes resulting from job losses. Many of the splinters the downturn drove into their budgets remain deeply lodged, and cities of all sizes worry about federal

spending cuts that are part of the "fiscal cliff." Looking to 2013 and 2014, IHS expects more than 75 metropolitan areas to regain their peak employment. Any improvements could take a while to impact budgets, according to researchers at the National League of Cities.

U.S. consumer confidence rose this month to its highest level in almost five years, pushed up by steady improvement in hiring. The Conference Board says its consumer confidence index rose to 73.7 in November from 73.1 in October. Both are the best readings since February 2008. Americans are more optimistic because they see the job market getting better. Employers added 171,000 jobs in October and more jobs were created in August and September than first thought. The survey is watched closely because consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economic activity. It is still below 90, which is consistent with a healthy economy. It last reached that level in December 2007. The index is far above the all-time low of 25.3 touched in February 2009.

State antismoking spending is the lowest since the 1998 national tobacco settlement. States are on



track to collect a record \$25.7 billion in tobacco taxes and settlement money in the current fiscal year, but they are set to spend less than 2 percent of that on prevention, according to a report, by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which compiles the revenue data annually. The figures come from state appropriations for the fiscal year ending in June. The settlement awarded states an estimated \$246 billion over its first 25 years. It gave states complete discretion over the money, and many use it for programs unrelated to tobacco or to plug budget holes. Public health experts say it lacks a mechanism for ensuring that some portion of the money is set aside for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Spending on tobacco prevention peaked in 2002 at \$749 million. After six years of declines, spending ticked up again in 2008, only to fall by 36 percent during the recession. Nationally, 19 percent of adults smoke, down from more than 40 percent in 1965. But rates remain high for less-educated Americans. Twenty-seven percent with only a high school diploma smoke, compared with just eight percent of those with a college degree or higher, according to C.D.C. data from 2010.


Dec. 21: Paris
Santa's Last Blast

Santa has to get back to the North Pole, but not before making one last stop in Downtown Paris. He will be in his 'gingerbread' house on the courthouse lawn from 6— 8 pm. Come visit with Rudolph and all the gang. Craft booths, Christmas stories, hot chocolate and lots of Christmas shopping. For more information, contact the Downtown Paris Association c/o Kathy Ray, 731-653-7274.

Dec. 22: Dandridge
Annual Christmas Parade

Downtown at 1:30 pm. Enjoy Santa visits, door prizes, treats and post parade activities behind Town Hall.

Dec. 26-Jan. 2: Murfreesboro
150th Anniversary of the Battle of Stones River

Stones River National Battlefield 3501 Old Nashville Highway. Relive the crushing Confederate attack on the morning of Dec. 31, 1862, join a ranger for a talk on the events of the Stones River Campaign, Battlefield Caravan tour and much more. For more information, call 615-893-9501.

Dec. 31-Jan 1: Gatlinburg
New Year's Eve ball drop and fireworks show

For the 25th straight year, the Space Needle area at traffic light #8 comes alive at the stroke of midnight with a fabulous fireworks show. Features free party favors and live entertainment. For more information, call 800-568-4748.

Now-Jan. 5: Bristol
Speedway In Lights

Bristol Motor Speedway, 151 Speedway Blvd. from 6–10 pm. One of the largest holiday light shows in the country; a route of approximately four miles and two millions lights, providing entertainment for thousands and raising money for charities for children. New entrance/route, begin drive-through trek at the Bristol Dragway entrance, on Hwy. 394. For more information, call 423-989-6975.



Jan. 28-29: Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission and Grant Writing USA two-day grants workshop in Nashville, held at the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 3rd Floor, Multi Media Room. Learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment. For more information or to register, visit <http://grantstraining.com/nashville01> or call The Client Services Team at Grant Writing USA 800-814-8191.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail or fax. With so many recent municipal elections, please make sure TML has any changes to your city contact information. Send your updates to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to mlawrence@TML1.org, or call 615-255-6416.


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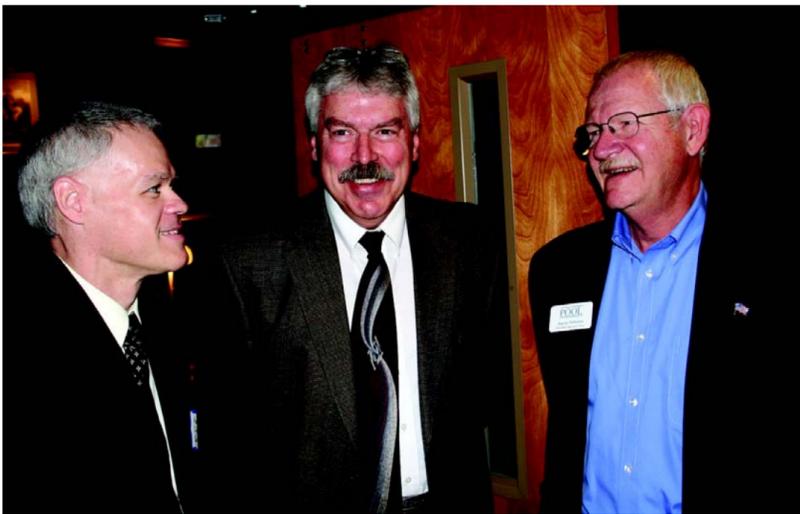
City officials from Middle Tennessee area attend TML District Meetings



Jeff Duncan, Goodlettsville commissioner; Sam Childs, Coopertown mayor; and Shane Sullivan, Coopertown Police Chief



Tim Ellis, Goodlettsville city manager; Joe Baker, Berry Hill city manager; Jim Thomas, MTAS executive director, and Julie High, Goodlettsville finance director.



Kevin Helms, Oak Hill city manager; Rick Gregory, Goodlettsville planning director; and Randy Williams, TML Risk Management Pool client services



Mike Walker, Brentwood city manager; Betsy Crossley, Brentwood council member; and Paul Webb, Brentwood mayor



Curtis Hayes, Livingston mayor; and Charles "Bones" Seivers, TMBF president and CEO



Hoyt Jones, Sparta vice mayor; and Jim Woodford, Cookeville councilman



Danny Wyatt, Crossville council; and Jim Floyd, Sparta councilman



Ken Wilber, Portland mayor; and Margaret Mahery, TML executive director

Photos by Carole Graves