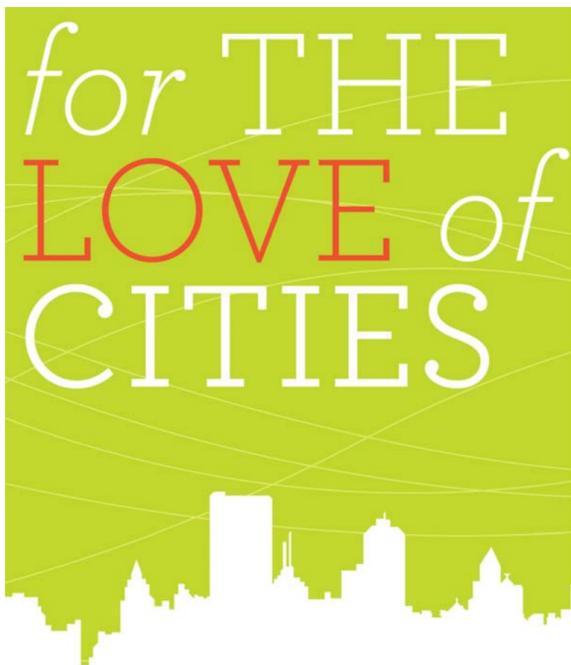


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**Tennessee Municipal League
74th Annual Conference
Memphis, TN
June 22-25, 2013**

White Bluff citizen helps city open new Civics Center



White Bluff Mayor Linda Hayes and Richard Bibb, whose family has lived in the community for generations, sign a pledge agreement toward the development of a new Civics Center.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

All across Tennessee, there are citizens selflessly stepping forward for the good of their communities, and in White Bluff, those roots run deep. Zollie and Hazel Bibb probably didn't realize they were sewing seeds into the future, when they poured their time, money and effort into the town they loved so well. Now, thanks to a gift from their son Richard C. Bibb, the couple's contributions will be remembered for generations.

Richard Bibb and White Bluff Mayor Linda Hayes sat down recently to sign documents recognizing Bibb's generous pledge of five acres of land and \$1.2 to \$1.3 million in funding toward the "Zollie H. Bibb Jr. and Hazel C. Bibb-White Bluff Civic Center." The new center will be built right alongside the community's fire hall, which also bears Zollie Bibb's name, as the town's first volunteer fire chief.

"Our community has a long tradition of stepping up, responding to the needs of and providing opportunities for people," notes Hayes. "This is a wonderful example of an individual coming forward to provide a gift so that others may benefit."

A certified public accountant and former bank president in White Bluff, Richard Bibb is a long-time resident of the community, providing land and funding for the fire hall, along with helping to establish the town's volunteer library and renovations for the current community center.

"My family has called White Bluff home for many generations,"

explains Bibb. "White Bluff has been good to the Bibb family, and we have tried to serve our community as best we could."

A graduate of Austin Peay State University, Bibb also served the area as a founding board member of the Dickson County Chapter of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, and currently serves on the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Board.

Zollie H. Bibb Jr. was a local business owner, as well as the town magistrate and water commissioner. However, he's best remembered for forming the White Bluff Utility District in 1965 and organizing the town's first Volunteer Fire Department. A devastating fire in 1946, destroyed much of the town, which helped underline the need for that permanent water supply system.

"We lost a lot of our history and a beautiful older home to that fire," Hayes recalls. "That's when Mr. Bibb said 'this cannot continue to happen.' So, he purchased the first fire engine with his own money."

Hazel Clark Bibb spent her years helping to beautify the community, as a founding member of the White Bluff Garden Club. She was also a longtime member of the Home Demonstration Club and provided colorful floral arrangements every week to her local church, The White Bluff Church of Christ, where she was an active member.

White Bluff, located along Highway 70, between Nashville and Dickson, has a strong Civil War history that ties into its distinct name, derived from the white bluffs that run along nearby Turnbull Creek.

Bibb's great-grandfather Rich-
See **CIVIC CENTER** on Page 4

Legislative conference provides forum to educate, update, network

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

City officials from across the state gathered in Nashville last week to learn about several legislative issues currently being considered by the Tennessee General Assembly.

Wine in grocery stores, a new proposed pension plan for state employees, reforms in workers compensation, the state budget, reduction to the Hall income tax, and legislation that affects planning and zoning were among the many topics discussed during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, held March 4-5.

"I'm concerned about the number of bills that limit local government's ability to plan," said Sen. Ken Yager, chairman of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. "I value the benefits that proper planning provides to a community and view annexation as an important tool. I would be very cautious about opening back up Chapter 1101."

"I'm also concerned about how this anti-government sentiment has filtered its way down to local governments when people are really frustrated at the federal government," Sen. Yager continued.

He suggested that city officials take the time to explain to their constituents why planning and zoning laws are needed and how they work in each community.

Yager, who is sponsoring one of TML's legislative priorities, SB 0464, which pertains to unfunded mandates, pledged his commitment



Photo by Victoria South

Sevierville Mayor Bryan Atchley (right) discusses some specific legislation with Sen. Ken Yager, chair of the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

for working the bill. "It's one of my priorities and I plan to give it everything I've got to get it through the Senate," said Yager.

Sen. Randy McNally, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, gave an overview of the state's economic picture and provided an update on the Governor's \$32.6 million budget proposal.

"Tennessee will experience slow growth through the remainder

of this year, as well as in 2014," said Sen. McNally.

He said that sales tax revenues showed growth during the last five months of 2012, but have slowed down the first part of 2013. "We are below estimates. We may have to ask the Funding Board to come back and make adjustments to their budget estimates."

In December, when the Funding
See **CONFERENCE** on Page 7

Supreme Court considers link between DNA and privacy rights

BY MAGGIE CLARK
Stateline.org Staff Writer

More than half the states allow police officers to collect DNA from criminal suspects before they are convicted of a crime. A Maryland man argued in the Supreme Court that the practice is a violation of privacy.

In oral arguments in *Maryland v. King*, the justices seemed skeptical about whether police should be taking routine DNA samples from people arrested for certain crimes for the express purpose of matching DNA to crime scenes, but conceded that solving crimes was an important police function.

"Your purpose (for taking DNA from arrestees) is to find bad guys," said Justice Antonin Scalia, "and that's good, but sometimes the Fourth Amendment gets in the way."

Justice Samuel Alito called the case "the most important criminal justice procedure case in decades."

The key sticking point centered on when a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy. Katherine Winfree, the chief deputy attorney general of Maryland, argued that arrestees in custody are a specific class of people that have started on the path into the criminal justice system, and therefore have a reduced expectation of privacy.

She also argued that the state only checks the portions of DNA that confirm identity and cross check the sample against crime scene evidence from unsolved crimes.

That reasoning went too far for Kannon Shanmugam, who argued on behalf of Alonzo Jay King, Jr., a Maryland man arrested in 2009 for assault but who was sentenced to life in prison when his DNA from the assault arrest matched crime scene evidence in a six-year-old rape case. Shanmugam argued that it wasn't until conviction that an offender surrenders his expectations of privacy, and that since police have no reason to suspect that an arrestee has committed another crime, they should have to get a warrant before using DNA analysis



Currently, 27 states and the federal government have laws allowing police to take DNA from people arrested for felonies and add them to the state and federal DNA databanks, while at the same time searching for matches from other crime scenes

to check the crime scene database to find out if an arrestee has committed another offense.

Additionally, Shanmugam argued, there's a great deal of personal information contained in DNA that is not found in fingerprints, and simply taking the government's word that they will not search for other information in DNA is simply not good enough.

Currently, 27 states and the federal government have laws allowing police to take DNA from people arrested for felonies and add them to the state and federal DNA databanks, while at the same time searching for matches from other crime scenes. These matches have solved thousands of open rape and murder cases across the country.

But as a harbinger of the argument to come, when Winfree listed off Maryland's statistics of people convicted based on arrestee DNA analysis, Scalia retorted, "That's really good, I bet if you conducted a lot of unreasonable search and seizures, you'd get a lot more convictions."

In briefs filed by all 50 states and local government advocates, states argue they have a compelling inter-

est in creating arrestee databanks, which can save money as well as lives, since the collection of DNA reduces the number of crimes that must be processed by removing regular offenders from the streets. In a 2009 study from Indiana, analysts found that taxpayers spent about \$1,836 per crime reported in the state, and an arrestee DNA statute would save the state about \$50 million each year in criminal justice costs.

The first arrestee DNA law originated in New Mexico, where 22-year-old graduate student Katie Sepich was raped and murdered in 2002. Katie's killer wasn't found for another three years, until his DNA was taken after he was convicted of another violent crime. Katie's parents, Jayann and David Sepich, successfully advocated for an arrestee DNA statute in New Mexico, and took their campaign nationwide. In January, President Obama signed the Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act, which provides grant funding to states to expand their DNA databanks.

An opinion in the case will be announced later this year.



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

ProNova Solutions official announced the medical sciences company will locate a headquarters facility and research and commercialization laboratory in Alcoa. The announcement represents an investment of \$50 million and the creation of 525 new positions in Blount County. ProNova, in coordination with Provision Health Alliance, is developing next-generation proton therapy technology to treat cancer. Becoming the anchor tenant at the Pellissippi Place technology research and development park, ProNova will construct two facilities on 26 acres in phases over the next few years. The first phase consists of a 30,000 square foot two-story office and research building with a 40,000 square foot assembly and test area initially supporting 35 employees and growing to 110 by 2015. Phase two adds a 120,000 square foot two-story building with a projected staff of 110 in 2015 and expanding to a cumulative total of 525 by 2018. A total of nearly 200,000 square feet will be used upon completion of both phases, including approximately 130,000 in office space and 60,000 of commercialization and research space.

CHATTANOOGA

Former Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield signed the documents to create a new water authority to help the city comply with costly new federal regulations for sewer and stormwater runoff. The Moccasin Bend Clean Water Authority will be able to independently set sewer rates and policies and could bring a more regional approach to sewer and stormwater issues. The authority will take over a \$68 million-a-year sewer service that runs the city's Moccasin Bend Sewage Treatment Plant and handles stormwater runoff and sewage service throughout Chattanooga. Eventually, such an authority could take on water service and sewage treatment outside the city, if other water utilities or agencies agree to the merger. In the future, the city and the new water authority board must decide whether to try to combine or take over identities such as the local water utility districts, the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority or the privately-owned Tennessee-American Water. "This new authority is intended to do for water what EPB has done for the distribution of electricity and fiber optics in our region," Littlefield said. The water authority inherits 262 city employees and more than \$300 million of pipes, sewers and treatment facilities, and also must work to comply with consent orders to improve the way stormwater runoff is handled and how sewer and stormwater lines are combined in many parts of the city. The federal mandates are projected to cost the city \$250 million over the next 16 years and are likely to force sewer rates much higher.

CLARKSVILLE

Bridgestone Americas broke ground

on a \$75 million expansion of its steel cord plant in Clarksville. Under the expansion, the Bridgestone Metalpha plant will grow by 123,000 square feet, creating 47 new jobs and increasing production capacity by 10 percent. The expansion was first announced in 2011. The expansion is set for completion in 2014, when the plant will begin producing steel cord for Bridgestone's new off-road tire plant in Aiken County, S.C.

CLEVELAND

Renfro Corporation has announced it will create 168 new jobs over the next five years as it spends \$17.5 million on equipment and construction to renovate its Cleveland, Tenn., plant. The Mount Airy, N.C.-based socks and legwear company said it anticipates the project will be completed in January 2016. The company now employs more than 250. Renfro is the licensee for leading brands including Fruit of the Loom, Dr. Scholl's, Ralph Lauren/Lauren Polo, Copper Sole, Wrangler, Sperry, Russell, Jerzees, Spalding, Bike and Carhart. It also owns leading fashion brands K. Bell and Hot Sox.

FRANKLIN

The Historic Franklin Parks Cell Phone Tour is getting another stop along the route. A group from Leadership Franklin is bringing the Toussaint L'Overture Cemetery, established in January of 1884, to the route. The history of the historically black cemetery will be told along with the stories of many people buried there who have helped to shape the community. The cemetery stop features the voices of Toby Mac, Melinda Doolittle, WSMV Newscaster Tom Randles, Strongtower Church Pastor Chris Williamson, historian Thelma Battle and community leader Tommy Murdic. A sneak preview of the audio tour is featured on www.franklinton.gov/parks. The official tour will be launched with a ceremony April 12.

FRANKLIN

The city has been selected for assistance from a special Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) through the American Planning Association's (APA) professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners. Franklin's application, which was submitted in early December, was spearheaded by principal planner Kelly Dannenfelser, along with several other city team members. The city requested assistance from a team of planning professionals to study and provide objective recommendations regarding the future of the 5th Avenue North corridor between Bridge Street and Del Rio Pike, much of which was inundated in the May 2010 Flood. Based on the application, a multi-disciplinary team of expert planning professionals from around the country will be identified, matching their specific expertise with the project. This team will offer pro bono assistance in developing a framework or vision plan for the project area that promotes a sus-

tainable, livable, economically vibrant, safe, and healthy community. Details of the visit are forthcoming, but significant engagement with citizens, key stakeholders, staff, and relevant decision makers is anticipated. For more information about the APA Community Planning assistance team, visit <http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams/>

HIXSON

The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts recently named Hixson Utility District the winner of the Region 10 "Best Tasting Water Contest" at the Eastside Utility District. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Office, the USDA Rural Development and the Southeast Tennessee Development District served as judges for the contest. The winner of each region will enter a statewide competition and the statewide winner will then compete in Washington, D.C. for the Best Tasting Water in America.

JOHNSON CITY

Festiva Hospitality Group representatives announced the company has opened a call center in Johnson City. The announcement represents an investment of \$1.1 million and will create 100 jobs in Carter County. The Asheville, N.C.-based vacation ownership company is owned by Festiva Adventure Group and employs approximately 900 people worldwide. The new inbound/outbound call center is housed in the Borla facility at 500 Borla Drive in south Johnson City. Festiva manages and operates a wide array of resorts throughout the United States and Caribbean, as well as a fleet of luxury yachts. Festiva cites the metro area's strong labor pool and the willingness of state and local officials to help establish operations successfully as primary keys to its decision to locate in Johnson City.

KINGSPORT

Kingsport's Water Treatment Plant has earned the EPA Partnership for Safe Drinking Water's Director Award for a fourth consecutive year, and is one of only three water treatment plants to receive the award in Tennessee for 2012. The Partnership is a voluntary effort between six drinking water organizations and more than 200 surface water utilities throughout the United States. The goal of the partnership is to push water utilities past treating to state and federal standards and toward optimizing for maximum protection against microbial contaminants including Cryptosporidium, Giardia and E-coli. The award recognizes a continuous commitment to maintaining the highest level of water quality through ongoing plant optimization. Turbidity, which is the cloudiness of water coming into the plant, is caused by run off. It is on those suspended particles that Cryptosporidium and Giardia like to attach themselves. Lowering the turbidity prior to filtering and disinfection, lowers the overall risk, according to Water/Wastewater Facilities Manager Niki Ensor.

"FrogWatch USA" held at the Chattanooga Zoo



The Chattanooga Zoo is inviting the public to participate in a unique program that will help with worldwide amphibian conservation. "FrogWatch USA" is a citizen science program that trains volunteers to listen and report the breeding calls of frogs and toads in the greater Chattanooga community. Participants can choose to attend a free information and training session that will take place March 29 from 6-8 pm at the Zoo.

KNOXVILLE

Zipcar, a car-sharing service held a launch event on Market Square. Based in Cambridge, Mass., publicly traded Zipcar allows members to reserve a car online and access them at various locations, using an ID card to unlock the vehicle. In Knoxville, users will be able to pick up one of four vehicles — Ford Focus and Honda Civic models — on the Gay Street Viaduct or on the University of Tennessee campus, at the intersection of 20th Street and Andy Holt Avenue. The service's annual membership fee is \$60, but a \$115,000 air quality grant from the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization — federal funding routed through the Tennessee Department of Transportation — will allow the membership fee to be waived for the first year. The rates to reserve a car start at \$7.50 an hour and \$69 a day, including gas and insurance. The company says each Zipcar takes up to 15 personally owned cars off the road. Kelley Segars, principal transportation planner with the Knoxville TPO, said the service will improve air quality in Knoxville by reducing the amount of cars owned by residents. Besides the air-quality benefits, Segars said car-sharing helps ensure that downtown parking spaces are available for customers, rather than being taken up by residents of the center city.

KNOXVILLE

Now that Hostess Brands appears to have a new owner, former employees in Knoxville hope this means the Powell Bakery will be back in operation before long. According to reports, Flowers Foods Inc. bought Hostess Brands in a bankruptcy auction, picking up most Hostess bread brands, including Merita, with a \$360 million offer. The sale will have to meet a judge's approval, and a hearing has been set for March 19, in New York's Southern District bankruptcy court.

NASHVILLE

Sitel will be hiring this year, adding 3,000 workers to handle customer service for clients such as Capital

One and DirecTV. The company is also looking for customer service agents who would like to work from home. "Many of these workers won't just be taking phone calls," says CEO Bert Quintana. "We're offering new products with Facebook, Twitter, email, chat, internet and other types of support, in addition to voice."

MEMPHIS

International Paper received the \$56.9 million tax break it sought to expand its headquarters in, and renew its commitment to, Memphis. "It's almost like us renewing our vows to Memphis and Shelby County after 25 years, and we'd like to make another long-term contract to Memphis and Shelby County," Thomas Kadien, a senior vice president for International Paper, told the Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County. The EDGE board voted unanimously to approve the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes over a 15-year period.

PIGEON FORGE

The city made record profits from tourism in 2012. Gross receipts from last year totaled more than \$905 million, a gain of nearly \$75 million from 2011. Pigeon Forge's two largest business sectors saw substantial increases. Amusements were up 14 percent, while lodging was up 11 percent.

PIGEON FORGE

The city's Police Department was given the green light for body cameras. Officers will wear the cameras on their uniforms while out on patrol. The devices capture both audio and video, just like a dashcam in a police cruiser. If there are ever any questions about what happened when an officer walked up to a scene, the cameras would tell the story. The intent is to provide eight new cameras to officers patrolling on motorcycles. City leaders approved funding for the eight new cameras, each one costing a little more than \$900. The department is one of few in the state to implement the body cams.

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Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program in Tennessee

BY WARREN NEVAD
MTAS Management Consultant,
and HILLARY NEVAD
TREEDC Intern

This article examines the elements, goals and project outcomes of the State of Tennessee Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). It also examines the environmental and economic benefits associated with local governmental implementation of this program.

Basic Information

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Tennessee received \$13,818,200 in economic stimulus funds for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG).

These funds were allocated to the energy division of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Eligible cities and counties received approximately \$12,100,000 during the first two rounds of applications for the purpose of energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives. During the third round of applications, eligible communities received approximately \$1,100,000 in funds. When all the rounds were complete, communities in 66 of Tennessee's 95 counties received grants. Thirty-four counties and 11 cities received the grants.

Program goals

The DOE established guidelines for the use of ARRA program funds. The following performance metrics were established to ensure the achievement of goals:

- Number of jobs created
- Energy saved
- Renewable energy capacity installed and generated annually
- Energy cost savings
- Funds leveraged

The grants were created to provide funding to assist local governments in creating and implementing strategies to improve energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, and maximizes benefits to the local and regional communities. The requirement was for each local government to use the funds in a cost-effective manner that was of maximum benefit to the population of the city or county, and in a manner that would yield continuous benefits over time in terms of energy and emission reductions.

The energy division expected a lot of competition among cities and

some proposals did not receive funding. To be more competitive, the energy division encouraged applicants to reference the desired 'program outcomes,' and to consider activities that yielded continuous benefits over time. The activities should benefit the greater good of the community, and utilize innovative financing to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Applicants were strongly encouraged to leverage the funds beyond a one-time use. Applicants who demonstrated that they planned to extend the impact of the funds beyond a single project use were rated higher than others. Also, the DOE developed guiding principles to aid applicants in proper planning of funds use.

- Prioritize energy efficiency and conservation as the cheapest, cleanest, and fastest ways to meet energy demand.
- To maximize benefits over the longest possible terms, entities should look for ways to link their efficiency efforts to long-term priorities.
- Invest funds in programs and projects that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy while meeting long term energy goals.
- Target programs and projects that provide substantial, sustainable and measurable energy savings, job creation and economic stimulus effects.
- Give priority to programs and projects that leverage federal funds with other public and private resources, including coordinated efforts involving other federal programs targeting community development funded through the Recovery Act such as the Community Development Block Grant program and job training programs.
- Develop programs and strategies that continue beyond the funding period.
- Ensure proper accountability for all programs.
- Implement policies that transform markets, increase investments and support program goals.
- Develop initiatives to track performance and ensure aggressive goals are met.

Outcomes

Job creation was one of the desired outcomes of the EECBG program. During the first year, more than 104 jobs were created as a result of this program. Funds were used to remodel existing facilities with cost effective and energy saving equipment. As a result, 239 buildings were retrofitted. This included 84 lighting



One of the best success stories took place in the city of Ducktown where the city constructed a 28 kilowatt system on city-owned land adjacent to an old landfill. The system is expected to produce an average of \$8,000 of energy per year for the city at a cost of \$100,000.

projects, 44 window projects and 36 insulation projects. Grant recipients installed 82 HVAC and 19 pumps and motors.

Applicants used funds to install renewable energy technology on governmental buildings, replace existing traffic signals with energy efficient models or other activities to achieve the purposes of the program. As a result, 34 transportation projects were initiated with 2,762 traffic signals replaced, 753 street lights installed and 50 outdoor lights erected.

Another desired outcome was the implementation of programs that would yield improved air quality and new technology such as wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, biomass and hydrogen technologies. During rounds one and two, three solar projects were completed. One geothermal project was implemented.

Municipal Case Studies

The EECBG program generated a number of success stories. One in particular was the city of East Ridge with an energy cost savings of \$46,000 annually. Shelbyville initiated a project and installed the most lighting, 1,870 energy efficient bulbs, 119 LED traffic signals, and 38 LED street signs.

Another successful project implementation was in Sunbright, where the city spent \$90,000 on renewable energy. It installed two solar arrays and estimated 20,394 kWh generated per year. From the sale of



Photo by David Melson, Shelbyville Times-Gazette

Shelbyville Power System crews installed 119 energy-efficient LED traffic lights at intersections across the city.

electricity generated, Sunbright earned \$4,486 per year. This income will offset all the electric utilities for city hall, the police station and library.

One of the best success stories took place in the city of Ducktown where the project team consisted of Ducktown employees, Mage Solar, PV Racking, DC Electrical, TREEDC, Southeast Tennessee Development District and Farmer-Morgan. The city was able to construct a 28 kilowatt system on city-owned land adjacent to an old landfill. The system is expected to produce an average of \$8,000 of energy per year for the city at a cost of \$100,000.

The city of Gatlinburg installed 2,055 energy efficient light bulbs in 16 buildings; 300 LED traffic signals and arrows with an estimated annual savings of 299,804 kWh and \$26,668.91. The city of Lakesite experienced an estimated annual savings of 177,539 kWh and \$10,000.

EECBG Follow-up

The Tennessee energy division

has allocated a portion of EECBG funds to develop and implement a statewide measurement and verification (M&V) plan to measure the outcomes achieved by its EECBG program.

Verification of these results will document programmatic successes and development opportunities, which will provide valuable information for state policy makers, local municipalities and program managers to bolster adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout the state.

Data worksheets are designed, as a tool, to identify and collect the relevant information on usage and operating characteristics of communities' installations or building retrofits completed through the EECBG program.

The information collected will be used in the evaluation, measurement, and verification efforts of the energy division to document energy and avoided cost savings of the energy efficiency and energy conservation measures implemented within the communities.

MTAS customer satisfaction surveys to be emailed soon

How do you know if you're satisfying the people you serve? Well it certainly doesn't hurt to ask them. While elections are a common form of customer feedback in the public sector, they aren't the only customer approval rating tool.

Since 1995, agencies of the UT Institute for Public Service have conducted a biennial customer survey to learn more about how their work is viewed by their customers. It's once again time for the survey period. So watch your e-mail inbox in the next couple of weeks for the biennial customer satisfaction survey from the UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).

The survey period begins March 11 and runs through March 22. The electronic survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Any city official or city employee that has used MTAS services over the past two years, whether it's consulting or training, will receive the questionnaire through e-mail.

"We pay close attention to what our customers say in these surveys," said MTAS Executive Director Jim Thomas. "These surveys help us monitor the effectiveness of our service delivery, and help us plan for

future services. It's one way we hear directly from cities across the state about what is working well and suggestions on how we can improve."

MTAS is one of five UT public service agencies conducting the survey. The polling includes five general questions, and the remaining questions are specific to the particular agencies. Questions pertain to the quality of services, the knowledge level and effort of the staff person providing the services, the usefulness of the assistance and the timeliness of response by the agency.

Customer answers and comments are evaluated to help each agency determine how useful its services are and whether customers need additional service areas. MTAS offers municipal management consulting, as well as consulting in the specific areas of finance and accounting, legal, human resources, public works, fire management and police management. MTAS also offers training courses for elected officials and for municipal management employees.

Your experiences in working with MTAS matters, so please take the time to complete the survey and share your thoughts.

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CHIEF OF POLICE

WESTMORELAND. The city is seeking an experienced, proven, dedicated and responsive law enforcement professional to serve as Chief of Police for the city's Law Enforcement Department. The successful candidate must possess a minimum of a high school education and have been a POST Certified Officer for a minimum of five (5) years of law enforcement experience, preferably in a command level position; or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. The position is an exempt, at-will employee hired by and reports to the mayor, and manages and directs the functions of the department in the protection of life and property in the city. The chief advises the mayor of critical issues, decisions and actions, and develops and oversees the department's budget and controls and monitors expenses. The Police Department has six full-time officers and five part-time officers. The starting salary will be market competitive range of \$37,000.00 to \$40,000.00, depending on the experience and qualifications, plus an above average comprehensive benefits package. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Westmoreland City Hall, P.O. Box 8, 1001 Park Street, Westmoreland, TN. 37186. Resume accepted until March 21, 2013. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city is accepting qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. A full service city with a council-manager form of government and total of all budgets of approximately \$15 million. A bachelor degree in Public Administration and a minimum of three to five years municipal government experience required. Proven management and leadership, team building, communications skills, municipal finance and economic development experience preferred. The city offers competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Closing date is April 1, 2013. Send resume to: City Attorney Hal North, Chambliss, Bahner, & Stopel, P.C., Liberty Tower, 605 Chestnut Street, Suite 1700, Chattanooga, TN 37450 or hnorth@cbslawfirm.com. The city website is www.eastridgetn.org. EOE/ TN Drug Free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

Forest Hills. The city, located within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, is seeking applicants for City Manager. The current city manager has announced his pending retirement. Experience in budgeting and budget management, legislative issues, planning and zoning, historic preservation and storm water management are high priorities. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of achievement and innovation that will allow the city to build upon its strong tradition of providing superior services to its residents and customers. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Management or a related field; a

master's degree is preferred. Candidates will have substantial experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similarly sized community, with preference given to applicants with five years of municipal experience with broad and complex management responsibility. Candidates must be certified, or be willing and able to become certified, as a Certified Municipal Finance Officer and City Recorder. Resumes, along with a cover letter and three professional references will be received at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville TN, 37219-1804, Attn: Dana Deem. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. This position will remain open until filled.

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced professional for the position of Director of Community & Economic Development. The successful candidate will possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field and 10 years of progressively responsible leadership experience in the field of economic development, management, planning, etc. including at least five years in a senior level management position; or any combination of education, training and experience, which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. The position reports directly to the city manager and is responsible for management of the economic development, planning, codes and sustainability functions of the city. The director will serve as the lead economic development officer for the city. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$61,185 to \$74,163, depending on the experience and qualifications, plus an above average comprehensive benefits package. City of Goodlettsville compensation plan range for this position is \$61,185 to \$92,704. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072, or Email: dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org. To view a full recruitment brochure, visit www.cityofgoodlettsville.com

POLICE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city is accepting applications for Police Chief. A successful candidate will plan, organize and direct the activities of the Police Department under city administrator/board of mayor and aldermen form of government. Previous chief retired with 14 years of service. The Police Department consists of 24 POST Certified officers and was one of the first to combine city/county 911 communication operations. A bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field is desired. A minimum of 15 years of experience in law enforcement, with at least 10 years of experience above the rank of sergeant required. Advance degree can be substituted for two years of supervisory experience. Salary depends on experience; range is \$52,624 to \$71,512. Application form is on line. Application and resume must be received by March 15, 2013, at the following address: HR Dept-Police Chief, 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville, TN 37334. EOE. www.fayettevilletn.com

WATER TREATMENT PLANT MANAGER

WAYNESBORO. The city is accepting applications for the position of Water Treatment Plant Manager. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, Tennessee Grade 3 Water Treatment License, be in good standing with the state, and have a minimum of three years in water plant operation experience. The employee is responsible for the supervision of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant and staff. Salary is negotiable. Application and/or resumes should be submitted detailing experience and training to: Waynesboro City Hall, P.O. Box 471, Waynesboro, TN 38485, or emailed to jhickman@cityofwaynesboro.org by April 15, 2013. Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance, paid vacation and holidays, retirement plan and deferred compensation plan. The city reserves the right to reject any/or all applications. EOE.

White Bluff citizen donates Civic Center funding

CIVICS CENTER from Page 1
ard Baxter Bibb, established the family home place and farm, where he planted a large orchard and garden, and established a milk barn, grist mill, and cider mill. The Bibb's garden produce, both fresh and canned, was provided locally, along with fresh milk, eggs, milled grain, apple cider, and cider vinegar.

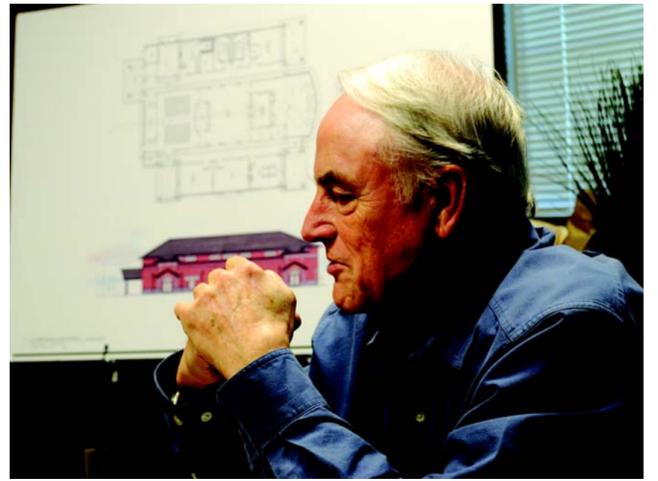
Richard C. Bibb's grandfather, Zollie H. Bibb Sr., was a mechanic and community leader as well, establishing the White Bluff Motor Co. To this day, Richard Bibb still owns and cares for the family farm.

Bibb's interest in the project grew as he realized what a Civic Center could provide for the community. The town had been soliciting funds for the construction of a facility for about a year, according to Jeff Martin, White Bluff Projects administrator. Bibb's gift, coupled with the funds already committed, will allow the community to meet its goal.

"In reviewing recent strategic planning efforts by town and community leaders, it became apparent that a community-based facility designed to encourage lifelong learning, promote historic preservation, support the arts and draw visitors to the area was the next logical step," Bibb said.

The Civic Center will act as a multi-generational community gathering place and economic generator, providing quality of life activities for both citizens and visitors. Another important goal will be attracting non-local events and activities to the community that presently cannot be accommodated by existing facilities.

"We receive calls at city hall from board of directors or corporations wanting to have a one-day meeting in the area, and there's not



Long time White Bluff resident Richard C. Bibb, with an architectural rendering by Franklin's CSI Designs in the background, discusses his plans to deed property and donate funding toward a new town Civic Center in honor of his parents, local community leaders.

many places to do that in Dickson County," Hayes said. "Our current community center is a 50-year-old metal, pre-fabricated building that's completely rented out seven days and nights a week."

The facility would allow space for crafts, college and adult education classes, as well as provide a small auditorium and stage for recitals and plays. There are also plans in the works for a future walking trail, gardens, lighted and covered pavilions and an outdoor amphitheater.

"The other projects will be done in stages, as we collect enough funding for them," said Hayes. "Once people see bricks and mortar, I think they will get excited."

The town plans to meet its goal through fund raisers, corporate sponsors and grants. "We have received around \$41,000 in commit-

ments so far that will be used to furnish the interior of the Civic Center," Hayes said.

Architects CSI Designs in Franklin, are busy finalizing the development plans, which Hayes says should get underway by June or July, with a completion date set for spring of 2014.

"Zollie and Hazel Bibb loved this community and seeing us grow in a positive way. Anything they could do to assist in that growth—they would do," said Hayes. They were generous, giving people and White Bluff was fortunate that this was their home."

For more information, or to donate to the town Civic Center project, contact Jeff Martin, at 615-797-3131 or e-mail jeff.martin@townofwhitebluff.com

Tennessee roads, bridges rank high

A new study by the Reason Foundation examining 20 years of highway data finds Tennessee has improved in all seven key areas studied, one of only 11 states to do so. The report, "Are Highways Crumbling? State Performance Summaries", looked at state highway data from 1989 through 2008.

The report measures road performance in several categories: Miles of urban interstate highways in poor condition, miles of rural interstates in poor condition, congestion on urban interstates, deficient bridges, highway fatalities, rural primary roads in poor conditions, and the number of narrow rural primary roads.

"This report is a testament to the focus TDOT has placed on maintaining our infrastructure, aggressively repairing and replacing aging bridges, increasing safety, and managing congestion" said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer. "This is truly exceptional when you consider we are one of only five DOT's in the nation with no transportation debt."

The report found urban congestion and the proportion of deficient bridges in Tennessee were significantly improved. The study also cites Tennessee as being particularly successful in taking care of its roads, improving road conditions on rural and urban interstates. In fact, the proportion of urban interstates in

poor condition fell by 16 percentage points, the fifth biggest improvement in the nation.

In addition to improving in all seven categories, Tennessee eclipsed the national average improvements in many cases, making it one of the most successful states in the U.S. in terms of highway infrastructure.

To view the entire report, please visit: http://reason.org/files/us_highway_performance_20_year_trends_full_study.pdf

To view state by state summaries, visit: http://reason.org/files/us_highway_performance_20_year_trends_state_by_state_results.pdf

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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

TN exports reach record level
Exports from Tennessee companies reached a record level last year as the country achieved an all-time export record of \$2.2 trillion in U.S. goods and services. Tennessee exported \$31.1 billion in products in 2012, a 4 percent increase from \$30 billion in 2011, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. There were big jumps in Tennessee exports to several destinations. Tennessee exports to the United Arab Emirates were up 82 percent in 2012 compared to 2011. Exports to Chile were up 25 percent, to Belgium up 22 percent, to Japan up 14 percent and to Mexico up 11 percent in that period. "A 4 percent rise is excellent," said Robert Leach, director of the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Knoxville. Tennessee, which is the 15th largest state for exports, according to Trade Administration figures, is gaining on the top exporting states. Tennessee has 4,743 exporting companies, 1,829 of which are in East Tennessee

State makes gains with grad rate
Tennessee is making the largest gains in the nation in high school graduation rate. At its current pace, it is among 18 states poised to achieve 90 percent by 2020, a national goal. According to a report released by a collaborative of researchers, including Johns Hopkins University, between 2002 and 2010, Tennessee's rate rose 20.8 percentage points to 80.4 percent. It posted its most significant gains, 2.45 percent a year, in the last four years. Nationally, in the same period, the rate increased 6.5 percent to 78.2 percent. The rate for white students alone was 83 percent. Among African-American students, it was 66.1. Tennessee, which has one of the most sophisticated systems for tracking student data, looked at the

five school districts with the largest number of economically disadvantaged students, including Memphis. It deployed teams of "exemplary educators and administrators" to tackle the problems and also used its data systems to track early warning signals, such as attendance and behavior issues.

Schools soon required to provide transfer proof
Federal officials are asking questions as Tennessee's high school graduation rate improves faster than almost anywhere else in the country. A state law is being changed in response. This new law would force school districts to get "formal, written proof" that a student who has moved out-of-state actually enrolled in another school. Otherwise, a student should be counted as a dropout. Under current Tennessee law, the state can't require school districts to obtain this proof, which is often hard to track down.

Alexander combats Corps fishing ban with new legislation
U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander introduced legislation to stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restricting fishing in the tailwaters below Cumberland River dams. In a statement, Alexander said that the Corps was pushing an "unreasonable plan to restrict fishing below the dams that will destroy remarkably good recreational opportunities and many jobs." The Corps, citing safety concerns, has proposed restricting public access to the fishing waters below 10 dams on the Cumberland River and its tributaries.

Study finds TN highways improved in 7 key areas
A new study by the Reason Foundation, examining 20 years of highway data, finds Tennessee has improved in all seven key areas studied, one of only 11 states to do so. The report, "Are Highways Crumbling? State

Performance Summaries," looked at state highway data from 1989 through 2008. The report measures road performance in several categories: Miles of urban interstate highways in poor condition, miles of rural interstates in poor condition, congestion on urban interstates, deficient bridges, highway fatalities, rural primary roads in poor conditions, and the number of narrow rural primary roads. The report found urban congestion and the proportion of deficient bridges in Tennessee were significantly improved. The study also cites Tennessee as being particularly successful in taking care of its roads, improving road conditions on rural and urban interstates. In fact, the proportion of urban interstates in poor condition fell by 16 percentage points, the fifth biggest improvement in the nation. In addition to improving in all seven categories, Tennessee eclipsed the national average improvements in many cases, making it one of the most successful states in the U.S. in terms of highway infrastructure.

Child death rate lowers in TN
The death rate for children in Tennessee dropped by 20 percent over five years between 2007 and 2011. According to a report by the Tennessee Department of Health, factors in that decrease include a sharp decline in the number of sleep-related infant deaths due to suffocation or strangulation. But Health Commissioner John Dreyzehner said there are still too many children dying from preventable causes. Of the 799 deaths in 2011 reviewed for the report, 26 percent were due to injuries from things like motor vehicles, weapons and fires. Another 62 percent of deaths were due to medical problems like prematurity, cancer and infections. Twenty percent of infant deaths were from unsafe sleep environments. The report includes recommendations to help prevent future deaths.

TN January jobless rate a slight rise from December

Tennessee Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development Karla Davis announced that Tennessee's unemployment rate for January was 7.7 percent, which increased one tenth of one percentage point from the December's revised rate of 7.6 percent. The national unemployment rate for January 2013 was 7.9 percent, and also increased by one tenth of one percent from the previous

month.
Economic Summary:
• Tennessee's January unemployment rate is the lowest January rate since 2008.
• Over the past year, Tennessee's unemployment rate declined from 8.2 percent to 7.7 percent.
• The number of employed persons (2,891,100) is the highest since December 2007.
• Total nonfarm employment in-

creased 7,600 jobs from December to January. Increases occurred in administrative/support/waste services, retail trade, and education/health services.
• Total nonfarm employment increased 56,200 jobs from January 2012 to January 2013. Increases occurred in professional/business services, trade/transportation/utilities, leisure/hospitality, and manufactur-

Berke elected Chattanooga Mayor

Former state Sen. Andy Berke now has a new title to add to his resume — mayor of Chattanooga. The two-term state senator won overwhelmingly in municipal elections, with 72 percent of the vote, beating opponents Robert Chester Heathington Jr. and Guy Satterfield. "The time for renewal is now," Berke told a cheering crowd of more than 200 people in the Waterhouse Pavilion at Miller Plaza. Berke announced last May that he would run for the city's top elected seat. Since that time, he raised more than \$670,000, the most



Berke

for a mayoral candidate in Chattanooga history. Berke, along with a new City Council, will be sworn in April 15.

Goodlettsville Development Director Tom Tucker retires

Tom Tucker, Goodlettsville's director of Community Development, will retire March 15. The Community Development division is comprised of the Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), the Planning and Zoning department, and the Building Codes and Safety department. With a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Maryland, Tucker holds an MBA in marketing from the Graduate School of Business at Indiana University. Tucker has conducted business in more than 50 countries across the globe, as a 30-year veteran of senior management with two Fortune 200 firms, Central Soya Company, Inc. and Schlumberger Ltd. He is also a Vietnam War veteran and three decade aviator, who served more than seven years in Naval Air Group # 2. An avid muscle car enthusiast, Tucker and his wife are planning an extended trip around the world before he settles into part-time project consulting work in Tennessee.



Tom Tucker

Tucker is the author of the witty economic and community development column, "Tom's Tidbits," featured in the *Goodlettsville Community Ledger* as well as the city of Goodlettsville website at <http://www.cityofgoodlettsville.org>. The city is currently conducting an executive search for Tucker's replacement.

PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS
Keith Morrison has been named Algood city administrator. Morrison replaces Jim Eldridge, who has been pulling double duty as the city administrator and city police chief for a little more than two years.



Phillips

Phillips is also city public safety director over both the fire and police departments.

Steve Angle, senior vice president of Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio, has been chosen for University of Tennessee at Chattanooga chancellor. Angle will succeed Roger Brown, who retired last year after seven years. "He has a proven track record as an administrator," said University of Tennessee System President Joe DePietro. "He has been able to gain support for [his] institution from the community, and has been through the faculty ranks."



Angle

Mark Miller, Pigeon Forge Public Works administrator, was recently selected as Chapter administrator for the Tennessee Public Works Association (TCAPWA), of which he's been a member since 1987. Miller has worked with the city of Pigeon Forge for 15 years. Prior to that, he served as Public Works director for six years in Athens.



Miller

Farragut code official **Dan Johnson** has received the Code Official of the Year Award by the East Tennessee Building Officials Association (ETBOA). Johnson joined the Farragut Fire Department in 2001, as fire marshal and was elected ETBOA Board of Directors president in 2012.



Johnson

Bruce Richardson is LaVergne's new city administrator. Richardson served as interim city administrator for the past year and has worked for the city since June 1993.



Richardson

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COMING UP

April 10-11: 18th Annual Rural Development Conference, Achieving Sustainable Prosperity held at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. Workshops include: Secrets of Successful Communities; The Keys to sustainable tourism; The role of news media in economic development; Sharpening your leadership contributions; Making leadership sustainable; and Keeping it local. For more information or to register, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/TN-2013Flier.pdf

April 10-12: Alliance for Innovation Transforming Local Government Conference "Cool Communities" held in Atlanta, GA., at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, located at 265 Peachtree Center Ave. For more information, visit <http://tlgconference.org/>

April 24-26: The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Greenways and Trails forum "Walk, Ride and Float! What's Your Favorite Trail Type?" Held at Montgomery Bell State Park. Designed for parks and recreational professionals, planners and city and county officials. Forum sessions will highlight the impact of greenways and trails in Tennessee's communities, such as improving health and combating obesity, promoting economic development and tourism, providing alternative transportation opportunities and connecting people to nature. Charles A. "Chuck" Flink, president of Greenways/Alta Planning and Carol Evans, executive director of Legacy Parks Foundation, will serve as featured speaker. More information can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/recreation/>.

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Proposed pension reform for new state employees, K-12 teachers, and higher education employees

State Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. is recommending that the General Assembly adopt a number of reforms to the state's retirement plan for public employees. The Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) is a well-funded pension plan. The proposed changes will only apply to state employees, higher education employees, and teachers hired on or after July 1, 2014, and will ensure the continued financial strength of the TCRS. The bill will not affect the retirement benefits for current state employees, higher education employees, or teachers.

"I want to stress that the changes I am recommending would not affect eligibility or benefits for employees or retirees who are already part of TCRS," Treasurer Lillard said. "In fact, making these changes will help ensure that TCRS remains financially secure to honor the commitments made to those employees and retirees."

Because pension plans carry costs and liabilities that stretch over many decades, Treasurer Lillard said it is important to look well into

the future when evaluating a plan's financial health.

"Let me be very clear: TCRS is in good financial shape right now, just as it has been for many decades," Treasurer Lillard said. "That's attributable to a number of factors, including the General Assembly's commitment to ensuring TCRS is adequately funded, an effective investment strategy and fair but conservative benefit payouts. However, it is important to take a long view when trying to anticipate what a retirement plan's future costs will be. Based on the actuarial projections and other information my staff and I have studied, we believe changes are needed now to protect taxpayers, employees and retirees in the future."

Treasurer Lillard presented the General Assembly's Council on Pensions and Insurance with proposed legislation Monday that, if adopted, would implement his recommendations.

The changes he is proposing would limit the state's future liability for pension costs by creating a hybrid between a defined benefit

plan, which guarantees specific payouts to retirees based on a formula, and a defined contribution plan, in which the state would provide fixed amounts of money to employees' 401(k) or similar types of accounts.

The reforms would also reduce pension costs by adjusting the formula used to calculate retirement benefits, raising eligibility requirements and collecting employee payroll deductions. The new plan will also have cost controls that will apply only if the plan's total costs exceed certain thresholds.

"In 2003, state taxpayers were spending about \$264 million annually to support the pension system," Treasurer Lillard said. "That number had grown to \$731 million last year. Based on projections we have seen, the cost could go up by one-third or more over the next 10 years if changes aren't made, which would push the taxpayers' total annual expense above \$1 billion."

For further information, please go to www.treasury.tn.gov/tcrs and select the tab titled "Proposed State and Teacher Plans."

**April 1-7: Columbia**

Annual Mule Day
An amazing line up of music, food, beauty pageants, competitions, and of course, mules. For more information, including complete program schedule, visit www.muleday.com

April 18-20: Clarksville

Rivers & Spires Festival
Grammy nominated and CMA award-winning country musician Jo Dee Messina will be the featured headliner. Children's parade, Family FunZone, Last Band Standing rock and roll competition, Quilts of the Cumberland, River Queen Pageant, this festival has it all. For more information, visit <https://riversandspires.com>. Or call 931-647-2331.

April 20: Wartrace

Dixie Line Days
Held at the historic Walking Horse Hotel. This all day train show features operating model trains, dealer swap tables, how-to-clinics for model railroaders, switching and model contests, Q & A with a steam locomotive engineer, live music by The Dixie Flyers, food, and door prizes. Courtesy of CSX Transportation, full sized 10,000 ton freight trains rumble through, yards away from the hotel. See more than 30 feet of Nashville Ntrak club N scale model railroad empire. Dealers in used Lionel, American Flyer, and the popular HO gauge brands on site. Show hours from 9 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$5, with children under 12 free. The hotel will provide lunch and offer snacks and drinks throughout the day. For more information, call 615-428-7366 or e-mail contact@thedixieflyer.net.

April 20: Red Bank

34th Annual New Moon Pie Festival and Jubilee Parade
Held at Red Bank City Park at 10 am. Parade with crafts and food vendors. Activities feature Moon Pies, Kid's Corner and music.

MTAS April MAP Class Schedule

WHAT IS AN MD&A AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

Participants will become familiar with the GASB Statement No. 34 sections related to Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). They will learn the components of an MD&A and prepare the framework to create one for their city. Participants are encouraged to bring a set of year-end financial statements from their city to use in the preparation of the MD&A. Information will be provided by the instructor for those who do not wish to bring financial statements with them.

• Will qualify for four hours of CMFO continuing education hours (financial).

Who should attend : Any municipal or government employee involved in the accounting or budget process.

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

Schedule of sessions:

April. 3—Franklin
April. 10—Morristown
April. 11—Collegedale
April. 25—Jackson

Location:

Collegedale,Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Dr.

Franklin, Williamson Co. Agricultural Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane

Jackson, West TN Research and Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd.

Morristown, Tusculum College, 420 W. Morris Blvd.

Cost: Municipal employees—\$50/person/class. All other participants—\$65/person/class.

MTAS will accept registration and payment by credit/debit card through your Solution Point account for MTAS courses at <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/TPOonline/TPOonline.d11/MTASHome>

MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. If you need assistance with registration or payment, call 865-974-0411.

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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.

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Legislative updates provided

CONFERENCE from Page 1

Board adopted revenue projections, they assumed a 2.8 percent growth for the remainder of this year and a 3.9 percent growth for next year – which was at the top of the estimated revenue range.

McNally said there are still some unknowns that could affect the state’s budget – the Affordable Health Care Act, the Sequester, and the Federal debt.

“With the Sequestration, we stand to lose about \$100 million,” he said.

On the upside, Tennessee stands to gain about \$18 million in sales tax revenue from the deal struck with Amazon to collect revenues on Internet sales beginning in 2014. “That not only affects the State, but local governments will benefit also.”

Rep. Charles Sargent, chairman of the House Finance committee, also talked about what effects the Sequestration will have on Tennessee. He said it will mostly affect health care, home services, disabilities and family services. Clarksville and Oak Ridge with their large military and federal government presences will also be impacted by the cuts.

Sargent also discussed plans for reducing the Hall income tax, a 6 percent tax imposed on income derived from dividends from stocks or interest on bonds. Currently the tax is imposed on income over \$26,200 for single people 65 or older; \$37,000 for couples. The new proposal provides higher exemptions for people over age 65 and would raise the exemption to \$33,000 for singles; \$59,000 for couples.

He said this measure will not have a significant impact on city governments. He projected that the city of Brentwood, who he represents, will lose about \$10,000. But he also put local governments on notice that the Hall income tax would soon be a thing of the past.

“Over the next 10 or 12 years the Hall tax will probably end up disappearing,” he said. “It’s something that will be phased out over several years so everyone can adjust. We know that it affects your budgets.”

Rep. Matthew Hill, chairman of the House Local Government committee, also talked about the Hall income tax and said that the legislature was deliberately phasing it out slowly so that the state and local governments can adjust to the loss in revenues.

“We have enough votes to totally eliminate it,” said Rep. Hill. “But that would not be the most responsible thing and why we have it on a multi-year phase out process.”

As the new chair of the House Local Government committee, Hill touted the benefits of the legislative process and committed to an open-door policy to members of the Tennessee Municipal League.

“My commitment as chair is to hear all sides of an issue,” he said. “Sometimes we learn through the process that a bill will have unintended consequences. That’s why we have amendments.”

Speaker Beth Harwell explained some of the reforms that she has put in place this year to make the House run more efficiently.

“I’m all about small, efficient government. And our state government is nothing like what’s happening in Washington D.C.,” she said. “Never take for granted that we balance our budget and never take for granted that we are a low debt state.”

Harwell applauded city officials for what they do in their communities and encouraged them to stay involved in the legislative process. “I truly believe that government is best when it’s closest to the people,” she said.

City officials also received information from **Elisha Hodge** on how the Office of Open Records Counsel works with citizens as well as elected officials by offering sound legal opinions and advice on accessing government public records.

Tom Fleming, assistant to the Comptroller for Assessments, explained how reappraisal cycles work and how the division conducts ratio studies between the reappraisals cycles to measure the current market conditions. Both are important factors for cities to consider when planning their city budget.



Sen. Randy McNally, chairman of Senate Finance, and Jim McBride, Clinton vice mayor



Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner and Rep. Matthew Hill, chairman of House Local Government Committee



Kingston Mayor Troy Beets and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes



Sen. Ken Yager, chairman of Senate State and Local Government Committee, and Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan



Goodlettsville Vice Mayor Jane Birdwell and Commissioner Zach Young



Collegedale City Manager Ted Rogers and Goodlettsville Commissioner Jeff Duncan



Murfreesboro City Manager Rob Lyons and Vice Mayor Ron Washington



Collierville Alderman Jimmy Lott and Joshua Suddath, assistant to the administrator

Photos by Victoria South

Legislative Conference provides forum to educate, update, network



Portland Mayor Ken Wilber and Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald



Bartlett Alderman Bobby Simmons, Sherry Simmons, Alderwoman Paula Sedgwick and Alamo Mayor Tommy Green



Millington Aldermen Frankie Dakin and Thomas L. McGhee



Columbia Councilmember Christa Martin, Mayor Dean Dickey, incoming City Manager Tony Massey, Councilmember Debbie Matthews, and interim City Manager Jennifer Moody



Parrottsville Mayor Mary Keller and Town Recorder Sheilah Strobel



Waynesboro City Manager John Hickman, Brentwood Commissioner Betsy Crossley and Oak Hill City Manager Kevin Helms



Collierville Alderwoman Maureen Fraser and Alderman John Worley



Elkton Mayor Carolyn Thompson



Kingsport Alderman Mike McIntire; Chris McCart, assistant to the city manager; and Alderman John Clark



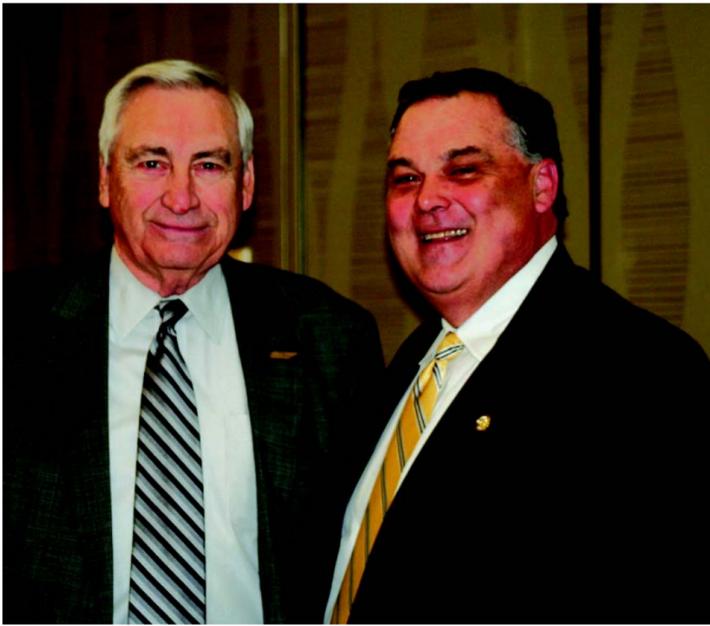
To the far left: Millington Alderman Larry Dagen, City Manager Thomas Christie, and Alderwoman Bethany Huffman



Pigeon Forge City Manager Earlene Teaster and Pittman Center Town Manager Sherry-Spicer Dudley

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Legislative Conference provides forum to educate, update, network



Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk and Mayor John Holden



Jackson Councilmen Johnny Dodd and Ernest Brooks II, and Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford Jr.



Cookeville Administrative Assistant Tracy Johnson and Melinda Keifer, Cookeville Economic & Community Development Coordinator



Athens Councilmember Chuck Burris, Signal Mountain Town Manager Honna Rogers, Athens City Manager Mitch Moore, Vice Mayor Ann Davis and Mayor Hal Buttram



Erwin Mayor Doris Hensley and City Recorder Randy Trivette



MTAS Executive Director Jim Thomas and Covington Mayor David Gordon



Manchester Alderwoman Cheryl Swan, Alderman Tim Pauley and City Attorney Gerald Ewell



Newport Alderman John Bugg and Scott Collins, Newport City Administrator

Photos by Victoria South

Huntingdon's dream lake opening March 20

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

From an aerial view, it looks a lot like a globe, and without a doubt, it means the world to all the state, local and federal officials and citizens who helped make the largest man-made lake in West Tennessee a reality. Twenty-eight years in the making, the Carroll County Thousand Acre Recreational Lake will finally open March 20 to all the fishermen, hikers, picnickers and other water enthusiasts who have been waiting patiently—as well as those not so patiently.

"Somehow, I am an impatient person," laughs Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, who has been on the front end of the lake project since its inception in the 80s. "I always like to see things happen today, and this has required persistence, so that was one of the big challenges I faced."

Located on Hwy. 70, approximately 4.9 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 70 and the Huntingdon bypass, the lake's estimated impact has economic dreams flowing like water into the West Tennessee community—around \$50 million in the first 10 years—through jobs, businesses, tourism, and sales.

Although construction has not taken place, the lake's 22.5 miles of pristine shoreline is open to both residential and business develop-

"We got them all together to answer their questions and honor their requests, but it took quite some time to do that," explains Kelley, who unabashedly shed a few tears at the 2008 celebration luncheon in Huntingdon. The event was attended by county and city officials, state senators and congressmen, representatives from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority, Department of Environment and Conservation and many more. Kelley also credited the environmental knowledge of the project's chief engineer, Kevin Young from J. R. Wauford Engineering firm. "He played a major role in convincing the agencies that the project was doable," he said.

Originally projected to be about a \$9 million project, the lake's total price tag is about \$22 million, but worth every penny, according to Kelley. Carroll County residents supported the lake by voting to increase the wheel tax by \$10 to help pay 30 percent of the county's \$10 million investment. "I think it's a great investment and asset for the state," said Kelley, who notes the tax brings in about \$260,000 annually. The town of Huntingdon, also agreed to provide interim financing and obtained additional grants for project construction. The remainder of the cost was covered by state and federal funding, with the state in-



An aerial view of the Carroll County One Thousand Acre Recreational Lake opening March 20.

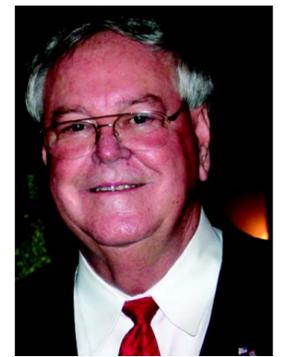
drought. But the nature of this lake is even though we experienced drought this summer, it was amazing how little that the water table dropped. It indicates that our dam is doing exactly as it's supposed to. We've done something I don't think has been done before."

In 2010 through 2011, Huntingdon provided sewer to the lake site and lake area and restored

concession/restroom facility completed this year.

Traffic should pick up soon around the lake's Baker Road entrance, as fishermen flock to the TWRA stocked paradise; some 700-900 thousand fish released as far back as three years ago, including bass, blue gill, crappie, catfish, and sunfish. Fishing is allowed in one-third of the lake only, the south side, due to TVA transmission lines. "It's going to be one of the best fishing lakes anywhere," said Kelley. "We will turn the fishermen loose on March 20 and they can have at it an hour before daylight and hour after sunset."

Just seven miles from the lake, Huntingdon is gearing up to become the next tourist destination, sparking interest from folks like Tennessee's Commissioner of Tourism, Susan Whitaker, who visited the town recently. Among the community's offerings: the \$2.7 million, state-of-the-art Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center, christened in 2005 by Carter and her husband Hal Holbrook, offers top notch performances, Broadway plays, musicals, classical and other



Mayor Dale Kelley

forms of music as well as classes and meeting rooms. Bethel University has a rich selection of athletic programs, and a state-of-the-art shooting range is open for business.

The sparse lodging in the area is sure to become the community's next topic, as the lake draws more visitors into its fold. "We have every reason to believe that we will have additional lodging developed here in the very near future," Kelley said. "For now, we have a hotel in Huntingdon and there's one in

McKenzie and Parkers Crossroads."

And Kelley's advise for other cities considering man-made lake projects? "If anyone has ideas of this, my comments would be, you better develop a lot of patience."



This 1880's house on Reedy Creek Road, complete with wrap-around porch, the historic "Boyd home place," was restored to become the lake's administrative center. Landscaping of the site was completed in 2010.

ment. Two subdivisions have been approved for development and a small boat manufacturing facility, Duraboats, out of Seattle, WA., has settled into the area. The Carroll County Watershed Authority owns a 50' foot buffer around the lake.

"We have 82 acres in front of the dam to Hwy 70, and there will be a lot of opportunities to develop a number of things there," said Kelley, who says he's amazed at the number of inquiries the lake headquarters receives on a daily basis. There's already a steady stream of visitors there. "I think once the lake opens on March 20, we'll see a lot of different things happening," said Kelley.

Different is a good thing, Kelley acknowledged to TT&C back in 2008, noting how the phenomenal support for the lake project helped indicate how local citizens were "hungry for the right kind of progress." Established by state legislation in 1984, today's Carroll County Watershed Authority, of which Kelley is secretary/treasurer, was charged with specifically creating a recreational lake, but had to research and reject several sites before finally settling on Reedy Creek, off U.S. 70 west and Tenn. 22 east.

In 2002, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted the site permit for construction, and 20 years from the project's inception, 2004, the Watershed Authority acquired approximately 50 parcels of property for the site, purchasing a 300-acre mitigation site to offset the disturbance of 119 acres of wetlands. Engineers for The West Tennessee River Basin Authority, the primary group working on the mitigation, studied old aerial photos of the creek to help return it to its original meandering course. "We planted 300 acres of trees and restored a channel to 2.2 miles of its original state, which is almost unheard of," said Kelley.

While actual construction on the lake began in 2008 with the moving of TVA power lines lying within the lake's footprint, the first major project hurdle was garnering all those approvals from the six key federal and state agencies, each with different development policies.

vesting nearly \$4 million in grants, and the federal government, about \$3 million, Kelley said. "The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund has also been an integral part in acquiring financing necessary to complete the project," he added.

Funding will also be garnered through user's fees, which are posted at the Carroll County Chamber's Lake Rules and Regulations website at <http://carrollcountyttn-chamber.com/pdf/CCWSA-rules-regs.pdf>.

With funding in place, the major portion of the project began with the construction of the dam. The 2,400 ft. dam is now the length of approximately seven football fields, and stands as a model of one of J.R. Wauford's non-standard projects. Civil Engineer Ed Crowell commented to local news sources that he hadn't seen a dam like Reedy Creek built in the area within 30 to 40 years.

One of the most important aspects of constructing the dam was the prevention of leakage. Sixty to 70 holes were drilled around the site, as deep as 100 feet, in order to analyze the soil to determine how much it would sink under the dam.

Construction specification for the dam included the environmentally safe, natural earthen sealant, bentonite, which is similar to dry talcum powder. When the sealant meets water, it expands to 16 times its original size, creating an almost waterproof four to five inch-thick wall below the dam's surface. "We don't expect to have leakage underneath this dam, as what happens so frequently with other earthen dams," notes Kelley.

The lake's 5.5 billion gallons of water was distributed via three wells that were drilled in September 2010—pumping 14 hundred gallons per well per minute during an 18-19 month period. A number of springs in the area and rainfall would complete the 500 ft. contour. The wells are currently deactivated.

"The quality of the water is unbelievable," said Kelley. "It was a great experiment and worked out extremely well. We can reactivate the wells at any time we deem necessary, such as in the case of severe

and landscaped a nearby historic home to be utilized as the lake's administrative center. The parking lots, beaches and the boat ramp were also constructed during this time, with the boat dock and the pavilion/

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