

U.S. Senate approves Marketplace Fairness Act, headed to House

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed the Marketplace Fairness Act last week with a vote of 69-27 in favor of the legislation.

The bill now goes to the House, where it is believed to have a harder time.

If approved, the Act would allow state and local governments to collect sales taxes on online and remote sales that are already owed. It does not create a new tax or increase any existing tax; it simply provides for the enforcement of state and local governments' authority.

"This legislation is about two words – states' rights," said U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, who is one of the Senate's primary sponsors. "This bill allows states to require out-of-state sellers to do the same

thing that in-state sellers already are required to do, and that many online sellers already do, and that is to collect sales tax when they make a sale."

The change is estimated to generate billions of dollars for state and local governments. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, states have lost as much as \$23.26 billion in uncollected revenues. NCSL estimates that for 2012, Tennessee lost some \$748.5 million in revenues.

Under current law, online retailers don't collect sales taxes in most states because of a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that said businesses only have to collect them in states where they have a physical presence (or Nexus).

As catalog, mail order, and Internet commerce have grown, See **INTERNET** on Page 4

Key legislation approved by General Assembly affects TN municipalities

Legislature approves annexation moratorium

The General Assembly has completed its work and adjourned for the year. Among the last issues resolved was the annexation bill.

The final version adopted by each house deletes the provisions of the original bill requiring a referendum prior to annexation by ordinance and substituted the following provisions:

- Imposes a thirteen-month moratorium on any annexation by ordinance affecting any property that is primarily used for residential or agricultural purposes. Effective April 15, 2013 through May 15, 2014.
- Exempts municipalities with a metro form of government from the moratorium.
- Provides that if a municipality formally initiated an annexation by ordinance, prior to April 15, 2013, then that municipality could petition the county commission to waive or exempt the moratorium with respect to that/those specific annexation actions. The county commission could effectuate the municipality's request by a majority vote of the commission. Again, only applies to annexations formally initiated prior to April 15, 2013.



- Requires TACIR to conduct a comprehensive study on the efficacy of PC1101 related law and

report back to the speakers of the respective houses its recommendation on or before Jan. 14, 2014.

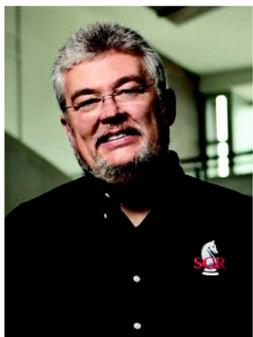
TML Annual Conference sessions focus on honing city leadership skills

Two workshops presented at TML's Annual Conference in Memphis will focus on cultivating innovative leaders in local government. Whether its recruiting and selecting new hires or its working with the team you currently have in place, both workshops will provide practical strategies for dramatically improving workplace dynamics.

Scheduled for Monday, June 24, Ron Holifield's workshop, *Executive Recruiting: Identifying the Best Candidates for Local Government Positions*, will emphasize the importance of "getting the right person on the bus." His session will provide proven hiring and selection practices that will result in higher performing organizations with improved morale, and greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Immediately following Holifield's workshop, Jim Rooney will present a session on improving workplace interpersonal communication skills. His session, *Avoiding Communications Mishaps*, will provide simple communication concepts that will significantly improve your professionalism, influence and effectiveness as a leader.

See **CONFERENCE** on Page 6



Ron Holifield



Jim Rooney

Legislature approves distilleries bill

Legislation adopted by the General Assembly (SB129/HB102) provides for the authorization of the manufacture and retail sale of intoxicating liquors or intoxicating drinks and high alcohol content beer.

The new law applied within the following jurisdictions:

1. A city or county that has approved the manufacture of intoxicating liquors or intoxicating drinks, or both, via a public referendum;
2. A city or county that has approved both retail package sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises through a referendum;
3. A city or county with a premier tourist resort district in which it is lawful to sell alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption;
4. A city with a population of less than 1,000 that is located in a county in which any jurisdiction within the county has approved retail package sales through referendum and any jurisdiction within the county has approved consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises through referendum;
5. A city with a population of

less than 1,000 that is located in a county that is included in a Tennessee River Resort District and has approved retail package sales through referendum; or

6. The bill further provides authorization for the manufacture of intoxicating liquors or intoxicating drinks, or both, in a city or county where it is lawful to have manufacturing of intoxicating liquors or intoxicating drinks, or both, prior to the effective date of the act.

Pursuant to this legislation, any such city that wishes to ensure that neither a distillery nor high alcohol content beer manufacturer operates within its jurisdiction should take immediate steps to adopt a resolution removing the city from the application of TCA 57-2-103(d). Failure to complete this action prior to the end of the 45-day grace period

could result in your city being precluded from exercising its ability to opt out of the law. This 45-day grace period will begin to toll upon the effective date of the bill.

Therefore, if your city has approved both retail package sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises through voter referendum or otherwise falls under any of the qualifiers included in the list above, and you want to prohibit the manufacture of liquor and/or high alcohol content beer within your city and/or the retail sale of products produced as a result of the establishment of such a manufacturer within your city, then your city must adopt a resolution opting out of the application of the law.

For more details, please review the summary at www.tml1.org/pdf/UP/SUMMARY_OF_SB129.pdf

Other bills of interest acted on by Tenn General Assembly

- **Arming teachers:** SB570 by Niceley and HB6 by Watson authorizes faculty or staff members to possess firearms on school property provided certain requirements are met. Individuals possessing firearms on school property must: be authorized to possess and carry a firearm pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-17-1351; have written permission from the director of schools; have successfully completed a 40-hour training course in basic school police training at least 12 months prior to seeking carry authorization; and use only frangible bullets or other ammunition approved by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission for use in a confined space. Requires all training to be approved by the local education agency (LEA) and any training expenses shall be paid by the trainee. Holds LEAs harmless from liability in any civil action for damages, injuries, or death that may result from a faculty or staff member's actions involving a firearm on school property, unless the local board of education or superintendent knew of or intentionally solicited or procured the action from which harm resulted.
- **Crime / Gangs:** SB 0202 by Norris and HB 0196 by McCormick rewrites and simplifies the state's Criminal Gang Enhancement statute, which prosecutors report is too difficult to interpret and navigate. The revised statute lists the specific offenses considered to be criminal gang offenses and increases penalties for such activities.
- **DUI / Interlock Devices:** SB670

by Beavers and HB0353 by Shipley requires the use of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. This bill lowers the blood or breath alcohol content (BAC) from 0.15% to 0.08% to be grounds for a restricted driver license. Any convicted drunk driver will now be required to install an interlock device in their car which they will have to breathe into before starting the car. The interlock devices will also have to be equipped to take a photo of the individual as they breathe into it in order to ensure that it is not someone else providing the sample. Currently, 17 states require interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers.

• **Handguns / Parking Lots:** SB142 by Ramsey and HB118 by Faison allows a Tennessee handgun carry permit holder to transport and store a firearm and ammunition in the permit holder's privately-owned vehicle while on a public or private parking area under certain circumstances. First, the permit holder's vehicle must be in a location where it is legally permitted to be. Second, the firearm or ammunition must be out of view and locked in a trunk, glove box, interior of the vehicle, or in a container securely affixed to the vehicle. Business owners can still maintain policies banning employees from bringing guns on their lots, although lawmakers stressed it is not the intent that employers would fire workers for violating those policies. The legislation has been signed by the governor and assigned Public Chapter No. 16.

See **BILLS** on Page 9

DVD emphasizes cooperation among neighbors, officials, fire departments to combat wildfire



East Tennessee firefighters battle a structural blaze which turned into a wildfire just outside Pigeon Forge.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

It doesn't just happen out west. As recently as March, volunteer firefighters arrived at the scene of a routine house fire at Walden's Creek, an east Tennessee resort community outside Pigeon Forge.

Forty to 50 mph winds were already fanning the flames to nearby cabins and up to 135 acres away to homes in Wears Valley. The incident rapidly became a county-wide emergency, requiring 48 agencies, 270 responders and 115 fire apparatuses. In the fire's wake, more than 73 homes had been touched by wildfire, 53

destroyed, according to Pigeon Forge Fire Chief Tony Watson, whose department supplied mutual aid.

"We average about two large brushfires a year that takes the whole county to mitigate," Watson said. "Weather, humidity, wind—all See **WILDFIRE** on Page 5



ALCOA

Alcoa Inc, the largest U.S. aluminum producer, will expand to meet increasing demand for the lightweight metal in cars and trucks. The New York-based company will spend \$275 million in the next three years at its rolling mill. The company permanently closed its smelter in the city last year as part of curtailments that reduced smelting capacity by 531,000 metric tons a year. Alcoa said in the next 15 months it will evaluate making a further 460,000 tons of reductions.

CHATTANOOGA

The Woodbridge Group is opening a new manufacturing plant. The new facility will produce formed plastics products for the automobile industry and will operate independently of the two divisions the company already runs in the city, Woodbridge Foam Fabricating, a manufacturing plant that employs about 160 workers, and Woodbridge Foam Partners. The new Woodbridge Chattanooga Formed Plastics is setting up shop in part of the 250,000-square-foot warehouse off Amnicola Highway.

CLINTON

Omega Plastics officials announced the company will expand its corporate headquarters, investing \$8.2 million and adding 80 new positions in Anderson County. A world leader in plastics extrusion molding solutions for prototype and low-volume production, Omega Plastics supplies a global client base in medical, consumer packaging, automotive, and security and safety productions. The expansion will add an additional 85,000 square feet, more than doubling its current facility in the Carden Farm Industrial Park.

COLLIERVILLE

City officials are considering hiring more permanent part-time workers and giving them less hours due to concern about health insurance costs. Discussion of rising insurance costs was part of a work session with the Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The town is projecting an increase of \$314,000 for fiscal year 2014 for a total cost of about \$5.7 million for its workforce of about 450 full-time employees and 35 part-time workers. Currently part-time workers are ineligible for health coverage. Under Obamacare, part-time employees who work 30 hours would be eligible for health coverage next year. Town Administrator James Lewellen said the town may limit the number of hours seasonal or permanent part-time employees work to a maximum of 25 hours a week. Previously, the town has paid 85 percent of the health insurance premiums and the workers have picked up the remaining 15 percent. Last year, the town paid more in premiums and didn't pass on the increase to its workers.

COLLIERVILLE

Collierville Fire Department has joined Memphis, Bartlett and Germantown in having an off-road mini-ambulance among its fleet of emergency vehicles. Purchased with a Homeland Security grant, the air-conditioned enclosed mini-ambulance is a part of the Metropolitan Medical Response System program under the Department of Homeland Security. In case of a regional emergency, other agencies can call and request that a mini-ambulance be brought in. The mini-ambulance cost \$59,920 and comes with an enclosed trailer cargo. The vehicle is fully outfitted like a regular ambulance and can hold two patients.

ERWIN

The Police Department, for some time, has given out free gun locks, which it receives through Project ChildSafe, a nationwide program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The locks are ideal for people who may have children around their home or those who acquire guns without a locking device. Offered at town hall, the locks are distributed to anyone who requests one. Each lock comes with instructions, but officers are available to demonstrate how to use them. The locks fit all firearm types.

FRANKLIN

Nashville Public Television's "Tennessee Wild Side" has profiled the restoration of a quarter-mile section of the Harpeth River where the city of Franklin's low head dam once stood. Last year, earthmovers de-

molished the 6-foot-tall steel and concrete dam that stood on the river for 49 years, and the badly eroded riverbank near the former dam site was restored. The nearly \$1 million project was covered by federal, state and city money and overseen by the local river nonprofit Harpeth River Watershed Association. The "Tennessee Wild Side" program, which is produced by the state Wildlife Resource Agency and NPT, aired the profile last month but it is available on its website at tnwildside.com/video/releasing-a-river. The former dam site has not reopened to the public since the riverbank work was completed to give the native grasses and trees time to take root. An opening has not been set yet.

GALLATIN

The fire department now has its own boat that will allow for safer and more effective fighting of lake fires. Funded through a \$312,500 federal grant, the 28-foot-long public safety boat has the ability, not only to fight fires, but assist in search and rescue operations, drowning, other public safety situations or issues of national security. The twin-engine boat has a 300-horse-power fire pump capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute. It is also equipped with four search lights, side-scan sonar, radar and a night-vision camera. The boat's landing craft design also allows for the front end to be lowered to make it easier to deploy a dive team or to load an all-terrain vehicle for transport to a remote location. Four staff members are currently being trained on how to operate the boat, its pump and electronics.

JACKSON

The city has been recognized by *Site Selection* magazine as a "Top Ten Metro Area" for cities with a population fewer than 200,000 people. Jackson tied for 7th place with Midland, Texas; Decatur, Ala.; Saginaw, Mich.; Victoria, Texas; Winchester, Va.; and Winchester, W. Va. The ranking is based on the number of corporate real estate facility projects announced in the city's metropolitan statistical area during 2012. Jackson and the other cities all had nine projects in 2012. To be included in the project database, a project must be \$1 million or more in capital investment, create at least 50 new jobs or add at least 20,000 square feet of new space. Projects must also be corporate-related, including office, industrial, warehouse, flex, data center, call center and more. Retail space, restaurants, hospitals, schools, churches, government facilities or other institutional spaces aren't included.

JOHNSON CITY

The U.S. Postal Service will be moving its outgoing mail services from the Johnson City area to Knoxville this summer. The tentative target date for the processing facility switch will be in June or July. Only the outgoing, or originating, mail service for those with ZIP codes beginning with 376 or 242, which cover areas in Tennessee and Virginia, will be affected.

JONESBOROUGH

The town is seeking funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission to purchase and renovate the former Jackson Theatre. Built in the 1920s, the building is located on Main Street near the International Storytelling Center and is currently leased to shop owners. The cost of restoring the building has been estimated at \$1.6 million, for a total project cost of more than \$2 million. The idea is to use the theater as a venue for independent films and to expand the city's already successful Music on the Square and repertory theater programs.

KNOXVILLE

A team of top technology experts will spend the next few weeks in Knoxville, working to find a way to lower utility bills. Knoxville was chosen last fall to be part of the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge. "We have a lot of people who, on an annual basis, cannot pay their utility bills and they go to Project Help and churches. We want to try to develop a system where we link those two together, so instead of having a band-aid approach each year, we link them up to get weatherization or energy efficient services delivered to their home," said Mayor Madeline Rogero. The consulting services provided in the challenge grant are worth about \$400,000.

MARTIN

Outdoor power equipment company MTD Consumer Group plans to expand its operations in Martin, adding 225 jobs in the process. MTD makes both residential and commercial outdoor power equipment. The company's operations in Martin include a lean manufacturing facility with stamping, welding and assembly, along with logistics.

MEMPHIS

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc. (MEPPI) officially opened its new \$200 million, 350,000-square-foot state-of-the-art factory and office building recently. Located on a 100-acre waterfront site in the Rivergate Industrial Park, the facility will produce large shell-type power transformers and employ up to 275 at full production capacity. The new factory will play a key role in providing stable and reliable energy infrastructure as the nation's power grid continues to expand. Memphis was chosen because of its pro-business environment, a strong logistics infrastructure, an attractive quality of life and the ability for the company to recruit and retain employees. The facility will expand MEPPI's capacity allowing the company to stay globally competitive in the expanding energy market.

MEMPHIS

UWT Logistics is expanding their facilities representing a \$4.8 million investment and will be creating 81 new full-time jobs.

NASHVILLE

Mayor Karl Dean has created a new Office of Innovation to "capture the entrepreneurial and creative energy of Nashville." Former Metro Councilwoman Kristine LaLonde and Yiaway Yeh, former mayor of Palo Alto, Calif., have been appointed to direct the newly created office, which the Mayor's Office said will work in conjunction with the Office of Economic and Community Development on business recruitment and job creation efforts. The Innovation office will also work with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods to create opportunities for more efficient interdepartmental response to constituent needs. Other governmental agencies have created similar entities recently in attempts to harness new technology and business practices to aid operations. LaLonde, who also serves as the chair of the Nashville Poverty Council, will focus on "establishing innovative systems to help individuals and families with social service and economic needs achieve self-sufficiency. Yeh is responsible for developing ways for Metro agencies to collaborate between offices as well as to partner with entrepreneurs on new approaches to budget, finance, technology and open government initiatives. Yeh has worked in municipal operations and financial management from California to Los Angeles.

News Across Tennessee is comprised from media reports from across the state.

Memphis Flyboys take rocketry to the White House
Students beat the odds to enter science fair



Photo courtesy of Widmeyer Communications
Team America Rocketry Challenge participants, Darius Hooker and Wesley Carter, of Memphis, describe their project to President Obama at the White House Science Fair.

While preparing for the future isn't rocket science for most teens, it is for two Memphis students who entered the Team America Rocketry Challenge. Growing up within a tough metropolitan area with struggling inner city schools, Wesley Carter, 18, and Darius Hooker, 19, met by chance at a 2008 summer program at Woodale High. The four-year aviation program not only increased the boys' love for science and technology; it sparked an interest in aviation that would take them on a three-year journey to the White House.

The friends decided to enter the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) together, requiring three years of intense planning using computer software and meticulous trial-and-error. They became accustomed to building wooden rockets, practice launches in a field at Shelby Farms, modifying countless "O" rings and sending raw eggs 800 feet into the air without breaking them. In 2012, their hard work paid off. After beating out hundreds of other teams in a qualifier round, Carter and Hooker did not have the \$7,500 needed to go to Washington and compete. Thanks

to an outpouring of financial support from local community members, the teens competed as one of the 100 top teams from across the country at the TARC National Finals, and it earned them a new title at home, "The Flyboys."

Today, both young men are one flight away from obtaining their pilot licenses. "Our rocket didn't do so well, once we made it to the nationals, but we still felt like winners," said Carter. On his way to an aeronautical engineering degree, he's currently a student at Memphis' Tennessee Technology Center. His advice to high school students? "There's no perfect school. I had so many opportunities, so don't be deterred by your surroundings. Just press forward and it will all pay off in the end."

Hooker, an MTSU student, is pursuing a career in Aerospace Flight Dispatch. An ROTC member, he plans to fly Air Force fighter jets some day. "Don't think you'll have the perfect project. Great people have failed," he said. "It's once you get over the failing that you'll have a great project."

Unemployment drops in most TN counties

Unemployment decreased in most Tennessee counties in March, but remained flat in Davidson County, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development announced. Unemployment decreased in 58 counties, increased in 24 and remained flat in 13. Williamson County posted the state's lowest unemployment rate, at 5.1 percent, down from 5.3 percent in February. Unemployment in Davidson County stood at 6.3 percent, unchanged from February.

Around the region, Cheatham County's unemployment rate dipped to 6.6 percent, down from 6.7;

Maury County's unemployment rate fell to 8.9 percent, down from 9.2; Montgomery County's unemployment rate increased to 7.8 percent, up from 7.6; Robertson County's unemployment rate remained flat at 7.3 percent; Rutherford County's unemployment rate increased to 6.3 percent, up from 6.2; and Wilson County's unemployment rate fell to 6.6 percent, down from 6.8.

Tennessee's unemployment rate for March was 7.9 percent, up from February's revised rate of 7.8 percent. The national unemployment rate for March was 7.6 percent, down from 7.7 percent in February.



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Tennessee today, tomorrow the world: TREEDC embarks upon International Exchange Program in the Philippines

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Five years ago, a dedicated group of energy pioneers, including four rural Tennessee mayors, University of Tennessee President Emeritus Joe Johnson and UT's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, embarked upon an exciting initiative across the state—promoting renewable energy sources with economic development and energy efficiency for all communities.

As the renewable energy efforts took shape, people noticed that even the smallest of cities could benefit from these projects, while its growing membership acknowledged the encouragement and support of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC).

Today, with more than 60 commercial business partners and power utilities, three International organizations, a number of forums, TV spots, and a Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award under its belt, TREEDC and its network of 92 cities, counties, and 23 colleges across Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi, is carrying its mission across the globe with a new Interna-

as Nevad met with officials from the Philippines Department of Energy, Renewable Energy Association, Biomass Energy Association, and solar and tidal power generation entrepreneurs.

Partnering with the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines (REAP), Philippine colleges and cities will be enrolled as honorary members of TREEDC, to be matched with sister schools from TREEDC's ever expanding network of colleges and universities. The exchange of information, research and technology is geared to connect Tennessee and Philippine renewable energy stakeholders, while establishing collaborative projects/programs toward awareness, progress and development of renewable energy for both countries.

In March, a TREEDC delegation, comprised of Ducktown Mayor/TREEDC President James Talley, Nevad, and International Affairs Consultant Doug Jackson, along with Oly Serafica, REAP president, met with several presidents, chancellors and vice presidents of Philippine colleges, institutes and universities that committed to the initiative along with various government agencies and private



Pictured L-R: Douglas Jackson, International Affairs consultant; Robert Wagner, Clark locator; Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales, Mayor James Talley, Ducktown, Tenn.; Olegario Serafico, REAP president; and Warren Nevad, TREEDC executive director

based there. They really are not that far behind us. A lot of their large corporations are featuring social responsibility and community awareness projects. We would like to see two of the sistered schools or cities do a project together, one part by the Philippine college and a part in the U.S. without competing—but working together.

TREEDC also met with city of Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales, extending him an honorary mayor's membership.

The group plans to return to the Philippines in September to host outreach forums at various college campuses, while providing training in the technology of waste to energy, solar farm development and

energy efficiency components in Tennessee and newly acquired networks, and replicating its renewable energy network development model.

More schools will be invited to join the international exchange project, over the spring and summer, as TREEDC works to secure more forum presenters and funding.

"I think it will snowball," Talley said. "One of our larger schools in Chattanooga has signed on through the engineering department. And they have contacts with fellow educators in China and India who want

businesses.

"We're fortunate that we have an International consultant who volunteers his time," said Nevad. Jackson, a retired TVA manager, resides in the Philippines.

"Tennessee and the Philippines have very similar renewable biomass feedstock and transportation fuel challenges that impact air quality," Jackson was quoted in "The BusinessMirror." "We believe that our International Exchange Program will foster more information and appreciation for the need to use less fossil fuels and to provide a cleaner environment for generations of people."

"There is no size renewable that will fit everyone, Talley added. "There's a couple of technologies that they use that we don't. Pico hydro, is a small hydro unit for small streams that can generate electricity for 40 to 50 homes a year. We don't use that here in the U.S. Sunpower is



Densely populated, air quality is a challenge in the Philippines, but there are similarities to Tennessee's bio-mass feed stock and similar opportunities for hydro-electric renewable sources, according to TREEDC.

tional Exchange Program to be piloted in the Philippines.

"We're using a similar approach as the state in working with international partners, but with a focus on renewable energy," explains Warren Nevad, University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service consultant and TREEDC president. Nevad, the friendly face at Tennessee's city halls, is thrilled to help propel the state's renewable energy ball forward internationally.

"While we have been fortunate to have critical early support from entities such as UT, TVA, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the department of Economic and Community Development, the TREEDC mayors, felt our missing link was multinational corporations," he said. UT's Institute for Public Policy Assistant Vice President Steve Thompson, jumped aboard TREEDC's strategic planning session last fall,



TREEDC President Warren Nevad welcomes newly appointed TVA board member Mike McWherter at the West Tennessee Renewable Energy luncheon. McWherter is TREEDC's first energy "Champion."

to take the program there."

The venture should also create more manufacturing and marketing opportunities for TREEDC businesses from both countries, Nevad notes, ultimately resulting in a similar TREEDC type network in the Philippines, including membership sectors from businesses, government and non-profits. "We will use the forum as an opportunity for business matchmaking between communities," Nevad said.

"There's a lot of green environmental organizations in Tennessee doing great work, however, we're not a trade association," he continues. "We differ, as we leverage the capital of local government and mayors to bring renewable energy and economic development tools to the community. In most cities, energy is the second highest compo-

ment of the budget. There's technology now where you can cut the bottom line. So we look at renewable energy as community development and savings on community budgets."

The International Exchange program is anticipated to get off the ground in July, according to Talley. After the Philippine program, TREEDC plans to work with stakeholders in India, Denmark, Kenya and Germany. TREEDC Finance Consultant Bill Owen is already organizing the International Exchange Program in Kenya to help advance solar and biomass gasification in Africa.

For those interested in participating in TREEDC's International Exchange Program in the Philippines, contact Warren Nevad at warren.nevad@tennessee.edu or call 865-974-9839.

TDEC, Pathway Lending kicks off Energy Education Initiative

On the home front, about 80 attendees welcomed new TVA Board Member Mike McWherter on board at the fourth Annual West Tennessee Renewable Energy luncheon hosted in Jackson. The luncheon also served as the launch of the statewide TDEC Energy Education Initiative, by TREEDC members TDEC and Pathway Lending.

Running through September 2013, the program was created by a public-private partnership led by TDEC's Office of Energy Programs, and will provide tuition toward free training and education tools for Tennessee's businesses, public officials and communities through workshops, forums, and regional symposiums. TREEDC will be hosting five energy efficiency forums during the grant period.

Topics will range from energy efficiency in Industrial, commercial, or multi-family housing sectors along with sustainability and energy management.

Jackson City Councilman Ernest Brooks II, presented an appreciation plaque to McWherter on his appointment to the board and identified the 2010 gubernatorial candidate, as TREEDC's first "Champion."

TREEDC will continually seek individuals for their champion

initiative, those in the legislature and congressional delegation, who serve as role models to the community in becoming more sustainable with renewable energy initiatives.

TREEDC became part of a joint program in 2011 with TVA to help bring more renewable energy to the state via its partnership with Green Power Switch. Now, the two agencies are currently developing a local government recognition program, the Green Certification Program. A planning session about the initiative is set for later this year, according to TREEDC President Warren Nevad.

TREEDC mayors are also making renewable energy dreams come alive in their own communities. Kingston Mayor Troy Beets celebrated a May 7 ribbon cutting for an electric grid connected photovoltaic solar power system at the Kingston Water Treatment Plant. The project is the result of an agreement between the city of Kingston and TREEDC member Energy Source Partners LLC., of Nashville.

The grid has a generating capacity of approximately 50kWdc. The company also completed a solar system project at Franklin's Wastewater Plant and will be speaking June 12 at the TREEDC forum in Franklin.

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STATE BRIEFS



TBI finds decrease in overall crime

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation released its annual "Crime in Tennessee 2012" report, which showed a 2.8 percent decrease in overall crimes reported in Tennessee in 2012 compared with 2011. With an estimated population of more than 6.4 million people, the state has seen crime drop a total of approximately 3.5 percent since 2010. This is the third year in a row that reported offenses decreased when compared with the previous year. For the 2012 calendar year, 566,601 Group A offenses were reported compared with 583,022 in 2011. The largest majority of crimes reported were committed against property at more than 57 percent, which is a decrease of 5.8 percent from the previous year, while crimes against persons also decreased nearly one percent; however, crimes against society increased 6.3 percent. This is the second year in a row Tennessee has seen an increase in its number of homicides.

State closing some career job service locations

The state is halting career job services at 34 locations and about 125 employees are losing their jobs. According to the department, a budget deficit is being blamed. Not all 34 offices will close because they are shared with other agencies, but career services will no longer be available at those offices. The changes will take effect no later than July 1. Tennessee's acting labor commissioner, Burns Phillips, said the change will still be able to meet the needs of Tennessee's unemployed population.

Deaths curbed on TN roadways

Fewer people are dying on Tennessee roads this year. According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, increasing seat belt and DUI enforcement, along with cooler temperatures, may be helping save lives. The traffic fatality count stood at 222, recently. At this same time last year, 277 people had died. Troopers across the state have begun a night-time seat belt enforcement initiative, much like a DUI checkpoint. The move comes after data analysis revealed that many people who buckle up during the day don't always do so at night. In 2012, there were 12,862 seat belt violations at this time. This year, that number has climbed to 20,482. The highway patrol also has increased its focus on drunken drivers. Last year, at this time, there were 1,702 DUI arrests. This year, DUI arrests stand at 1,795. Police think more motorists were on the roads last year because of a warmer winter and spring.

Lower temps may put state's strawberry crop at risk

Department of Agriculture officials predict an early season and lower temperatures could put many Tennessee berries at risk. Tennessee strawberries generally are available in Middle Tennessee from mid-April to about the end of May. Normal lows for April are around 50 degrees, but recently they were in the 30s and 40s. Tennessee's cool, wet spring prolonged the growing process this

year, with the cold thinning out some strawberries. However, this generally means the remaining berries will get more nourishment.

Disorder threatens bees

Since 2005, an international phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder has been killing off large numbers of bees that pollinate many crops grown for commercial use. Deaths have sharply risen over the past year. Tennessee officials say the state's beekeepers are also experiencing deaths in their colonies, but they might not have to do with CCD. Tennessee lost about a third of its bees last year, with several major factors causing the decline including mites, bad beekeeping practices and new viruses. Honey bees account for \$14.6 billion in crops annually in the U.S., and \$119 annually in Tennessee. Fewer bees may turn into higher food prices.

Women owned businesses grows

The number of women-owned businesses in Tennessee has grown faster than the national average over a 16-year period, according to a recent report commissioned by American Express OPEN. Tennessee ranks No. 14 in the nation in the growth of the number of women-owned businesses from 1997 to 2013. The number of women-owned businesses in the state grew 65 percent to an estimated 164,600 firms employing 117,800 over the report's 16-year study period. Revenue at women-owned firms also increased 71.5 percent.

Employer insured numbers fall

The percentage of Tennesseans who receive health insurance through their employers has fallen significantly in the past decade — from 67.1 percent in 2000 to 57.4 percent in 2011, according to a report released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Approximately 190,000 fewer Tennessee residents received health coverage through their job, or a family member's job, in 2011 than in 2000. Nationally, 1.5 million fewer Americans get their insurance through the workplace than the year 2000. As employer-sponsored health insurance has decreased, costs have gone up. In Tennessee, the average annual employee-sponsored premium for employee-only coverage increased from \$2,389 in 2000 to \$4,776 in 2011. Family premiums increased from \$6,110 to \$12,959 in the same time period.

TN ranked No. 3 for low tax rate

Financial media outlet *The Motley Fool* compiled a list of six low-tax states, with the Volunteer State coming in near the top at No. 3. *The Fool* touted the state's six percent income tax, that applies only to income derived from interest on dividend payments — not wages — as Tennessee's "claim to tax fame." Mississippi, meanwhile, tied for the No. 1 spot with Louisiana. Residents there face a top income tax rate of just five percent and property taxes average out to about \$850 per person.

Funding continued for military spouses leaving a job

The 108th General Assembly passed legislation to continue the funding of unemployment benefits for spouses who quit a job to accompany military personnel, who also leave their jobs to transfer to a new assignment. Voluntarily quitting a job to move usually makes a worker ineligible for unemployment benefits; however, the legislation expands eligibility for those spouses who are included in an order for a permanent change of station to a new location. The expansion does not raise an employer's taxes. Last year, the legislature passed the bill allocating \$278,800 in state funds for unemployment benefits to civilian spouses who leave employment because of a military move. The amendment provides a non-recurring supplemental amount of \$130,000 through June 30, 2013. It also makes available a recurring addition of \$150,000 for a total of \$428,800 through June 30, 2014. The service member's permanent change of station order to a new location must be within the United States, its territories, or Canada.

Rapid layoff response team off the state payroll

Tennessee labor officials are shutting down a federally funded rapid response team that had been used to provide assistance to employees caught in the midst of mass layoffs across the state. The elimination of the unit, which had been in operation for about a decade, comes despite the strong protest of some members of a state workforce advisory board, who charged that the last-minute change failed to comply with federal notice requirements. All members will be off the state payroll by June 18. Jeff Hentschel, a spokesman for the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development, said the state has the right to amend its annual plan prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Labor. The job of responding to mass layoffs will now be delegated to 13 regional workforce agencies across the state. Hentschel said the \$568,000 in cost savings will be allocated to those regional agencies.

State halts VIP project

Tennessee officials are halting work on a multi-million dollar computer project after years of missed deadlines and design defects. Leaders in the Department of Human Services informed employees that its contract with software developer Albion Inc., will be allowed to expire in June, discontinuing seven years of work on the Vision Integration Platform (VIP). The software was being put in place to modernize how the department handles its food stamp and Medicaid caseload. The system was also supposed to determine eligibility and connect with other state agency computers. The project was launched in 2005 with a \$37 million price tag and a four-year contract. Officials wanted the system to replace the outdated ACCENT software created in 1992, before major changes to the way the department oversees its programs and funding were set in motion. About 50 DHS staffers were dedicated to the VIP at any given time. They will return to other work duties while the department continues using its current software, in place for 20 years.

State Briefs are comprised from media reports from across the state.

Senate sends Marketplace Fairness Act to U.S. House

INTERNET from Page 1

state and local governments have been experiencing ever-increasing losses in sales tax revenue.

The legislation also aims to level the playing field between traditional brick and mortar retailers who are required to collect sales taxes at the time of purchase and the online retailers who are not.

"I applaud the Senate for passing this states' rights bill that will give states like Tennessee the flexibility to collect the revenues that are due under current law if they choose," said Sen. Bob Corker. "I think most Tennesseans would agree that we are fortunate not to have a state income tax, and to ensure that remains the case, it is important our sales tax system works. This vote is a step in the right direction in making sure local brick-and-mortar businesses and online retailers are on the same playing field."

Corker was part of a bipartisan group of 26 senators who supported the legislation.

In the House, 65 representatives have joined the primary sponsor, Rep. Steve Womack (R-Arkansas), as co-sponsors. From Tennessee, Reps. Jimmy Duncan, Jim Cooper, and Steve Cohen have signed onto the legislation. No hearings have been scheduled yet in the House.

According to *Governing Magazine*, one of the biggest challenges in the House will be due to anti-tax pledge many members have signed in which they've vowed not to raise taxes. Grover Norquist, the man behind that pledge, has come out as an opponent of the legislation.

E-bay also opposes the legislation, whereas Amazon supports it.



Sen. Lamar Alexander

Amazon is part of a Marketplace Fairness Coalition that represents nearly three million retailers, companies and business groups nationwide who have come together to promote efforts to get the legislation approved during this session of Congress. The vote last week by the Senate, is the furthest the legislation has ever advanced. State and local leaders have pushed for legislation like the Marketplace Fairness Act since 1999, when the Streamlined Sales Tax Project (SSTP) was created for the purpose of developing and implementing a simplified taxing system in order for businesses to collect sales tax on remote sales.

Under the Marketplace Equity Act, states that didn't want to collect taxes on Internet sales could choose not to. Five states — Alaska, New Hampshire, Delaware, Montana and Oregon — have no sales tax.

The bill also exempts smaller Internet merchants, those with gross revenues of \$1 million in annual sales or less.

Elected Officials Academy Level II

TML Pre-conference Sessions at Memphis June 21-22, Marriott Hotel

The UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will host pre-conference sessions this year at the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference in Memphis. The sessions offered are part of Level II of the Elected Officials Academy program. Each session is designed specifically for the elected official and allows time for networking and sharing ideas with other cities.

These sessions will be informative for both seasoned and newly elected officials in Tennessee. Participants will also earn hours toward completing Level II of the Elected Officials Academy program. If all five sessions are completed, a Level II certificate will be earned.

Cost
\$200 per person. This one-time fee includes registration for Elected Officials Academy Level II. Meals and snacks will be provided both days.

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

Schedule of sessions:

June 21: Municipal Human Resources- 4pm-5pm
June 21: Municipal Water & Wastewater Operations-6:30 pm-8:30 pm
June 22: Municipal Fire Service Review- 8 am-10 am
June 22: Municipal Public Works- 10:15-12:15
June 22: Municipal Police Review- 1 pm-3 pm

To register, go to the website, www.mtas.tennessee.edu and click "register for a class." MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. If you need assistance with registration or payment, contact MTAS at 865-974-0411. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu

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PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Harlow Sumerford will join Gov. Haslam's staff as East Tennessee field director. Sumerford will serve as a liaison for the Governor's Office to the area's constituents. Sumerford, 35, most recently served as deputy press secretary and legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr., working in his Knoxville District office since January 2011.

Two veteran state employees have been promoted to top posts within the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, where they'll be tasked with correcting problems uncovered in a recent audit. The department named **Dustin Swayne** as deputy commissioner and



Swayne



Davis

Linda Davis as administrator of the Division of Employment Security, which oversees unemployment claims. Swayne joined the department in 2004. His roles have included oversight of the state's career development programs and monitoring the agency's use of federal stimulus funds, including budgets of approximately \$335 million. Davis, a 31-year employee, moves from director of labor market information to administrator of employment security, filling a position left unfilled since June.

Germantown City Administrator **Patrick Lawton** was appointed to the state-wide nonprofit Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) board of directors. With a mission to drive organizational excellence in Tennessee using the framework of an awards program, TNCPE provides in-depth, low-cost assessments of regional organizations using the Criteria for Performance Excellence based on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

Bristol City Manager **Jeff Broughton** has announced his resignation effective June 20.

Broughton has accepted a position with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) effective June 24. Serving the city of Bristol since 2004, in his new role, Broughton will work with city officials in the Nashville area providing assistance with municipal management issues.



Broughton

Former Signal Mountain Town Manager **Honna Rogers** has accepted a position as a municipal management consultant with the University of Tennessee Municipal Advisory Service (MTAS). In her new position, effective June 3, Rogers will serve the cities of Athens, Cleveland, Signal Mountain and East Ridge, as well as the Athens Utility Board and the Southeast Tennessee Development District.



Rogers

Julie High is Goodlettsville's new assistant city manager effective May 1. High was previously director of Finance & Administration and will continue to direct the operations of that department, as well as others, and be responsible for performance efficiencies in all departments. High has more than 14 years experience in municipal finance and administration and is a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO).



High

Thomas Sharp, who served six terms on the Metro Nashville Council, has died. He was 85. Sharp served as a council representative from 1966 until 1991.

Tullahoma Alderman **James D. Eads**, age 48, passed away recently following an extended illness. Elected in 2007, he was serving his second term.



Eads

TML Pool welcomes Celeste Taylor as new member services representative for West Tenn

Celeste Taylor joins The Pool after having worked with the city of Martin since 1987. She began her career there as police dispatcher and rounded out 25 years as human resources director. In August 2013, she will complete requirements for a Master of Arts in conflict resolution at Bethel University in McKenzie. Taylor is also a trained Rule 31 mediator.

Taylor said she is excited about working with The Pool and serving its members in West Tennessee. She is married and has two grown sons.



Taylor

State's longest serving firefighter Johnny Deason recognized



Longtime Shelbyville volunteer firefighter Johnny Deason, left, receives an award from Gary West, assistant commissioner of fire prevention at the state fire marshal's office, during a ceremony at Shelbyville Fire Department. Deason, who retired in 2011, put in 67 years of service and became the longest-serving firefighter in Tennessee history.

DVD emphasizes cooperation among neighbors, officials, fire departments to combat wildfire

WILDFIRE from Page 1

those things make for a very busy time for us."

There was remarkably no loss of life, but the drain on local resources was astounding, ballooning from \$12 million to a new damage estimate \$31.3 million, Watson said.

As more people choose to build their dream homes in natural areas within the United States and Tennessee, an ever increasing threat to life and property looms in the form of wildland fire. Trees, brush, leaves, wooden roofing, drought conditions—all serve as accelerants to catastrophic damage.

The wildland urban interface (WUI), defined by the International Code Council as areas where homes are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire, is not just regulated to wilderness areas. Interface issues could be as close as an overgrown, abandoned lot in Music City.

"Wildfire prevention is improving in Tennessee because of awareness, but this area was outside the Pigeon Forge city limits, where there wasn't a lot of education on urban interface," said the state's Assistant Fire Commissioner Gary West. "You don't stack wood next to your house when there's a chance of wildfire. Also having fire breaks around your home (a 30 ft. space between the house and accelerants) and an available source for water are primary goals—along with not burning during certain times of the year when fire risk is high."

In the past few years, Tennessee, as well as the rest of the country, has experienced significant drought conditions. According to the state's website, Burnsafetn.org—burn permits from the state's Division of Forestry are required from October 15 through May 15 on open-air fires within 500 feet of a forest, grassland, or woodland. Because many towns and cities have their own burning regulations that supersede the Division of Forestry, people needing to burn within an incorporated city are advised to contact local authorities about burning ordinances.

"We enforce the state's no burn laws, but in the city, you are supposed to get a burn permit each and every time," said David Puckett, Gatlinburg's Wildland coordinator. "We also come out to assess the site and make sure you are not burning anything illegal or burning in an unsafe manner."

In Pigeon Forge, where fire education efforts are historically strong, the Walden's Creek episode helped fuel the local fire department's goal to develop responsible coding options countywide.

"There is a fine line between responsible code enforcement and responsible development—it's the line every city fights with," Watson said. "In Pigeon Forge, we say if the building is more than three stories and five bedrooms, they've got to have a sprinkler system. There's discussion going on about adopting new fire codes. Lot lines, elevations and density are all different factors that need to be considered." Pigeon Forge Fire Department recently initiated monthly codes meetings between local fire chiefs and fire marshals countywide.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is also helping to further the story of how citizens, local officials, and small and volunteer fire departments can work together in the spirit of cooperation, to take responsibility in lowering wildfire risks, with a free DVD "Before the Smoke! Preparing Your Community for Wildfire."

The video spotlights three local fire departments in Colorado, Arkansas and Minnesota, where fire personnel doubled their outreach efforts by talking to neighbors, distributing fliers, newsletters, e-mails and tracts throughout churches and civic groups and initiating community activities such as Firewise Days. Teaching and promoting national programs such as NFPA's Firewise Communities USA and Ready, Set, Go! by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the small fire departments—short on funding and manpower—are not only helping prepare citizens for wildfire, they are reaping the benefits of their efforts.

Firewise Communities USA

"Firewise is the best preventative tool we've found," said Chief Matt Simpson of Lake Hamilton AR. "If homes are Firewise, we can take one engine and protect multiple structures in a subdivision. But if there are flashy fuels and brushy vegetation, we may have to have



One spark can travel up to two miles outdoors and create a brush fire, such as this. According to Nathan Waters, assistant District Forester, Tennessee Division of Forestry, there are typically more wildfires in the summer in Western states, and more in the fall and winter in Tennessee, as leaves build up along the forest floor, and in house gutters. It's a perfect time to target Firewise days, he notes, where communities can pitch in to help with the clean up around houses and forests.

multiple engines to save our structures and at some point, we're going to lose."

Firewise communities earn national certification through stringent fire mitigation projects such as:

- Thinning/pruning/tree removal/brush clearing on private property;
- Retrofitting a house to replace roofing or siding with noncombustible materials;
- Managing private forest lands;
- Organizing a community pickup or chipping day;
- Creating or improving roads for better access/egress; and
- Improving the water supply for firefighting

Start up details and grant information are available at the website www.firewise.org.

Ready, Set, Go!

The city of Pigeon Forge was one of only nine fire departments to pilot the Ready, Set, Go! program. Wildland training with state and federal resources prepared local firefighters to be ambassadors for the program, performing public-service announcements, distributing informational packets and delivering community outreach.

"It teaches people not to just react to wildfires, but be proactive to wildfire curves in their communities," said John Kirksey, Tennessee Forestry Division. "In the rare situation where they have to evacuate, people need to have a list of what to take with them and steps for when they leave their home, such as closing all windows, taking propane grills inside, removing wooden furniture and decorations from porch areas, etc."

The three-step process of Ready, Set, Go! teaches homeowners to create an action plan of preparedness based on three criteria:

- Ready – Preparing your home long before the threat of a wildland fire. Assembling emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Planning escape routes, etc.
- Set – Pack your vehicle with emergency items and stay informed with the latest news and information from local media and the local fire department; and
- Go—Leave early

For more information about this program, visit the website www.wildlandfirersg.org/

Fire Adapted Communities

Reinforcing the concept of Fire Adapted Communities, "Before the Smoke" emphasizes the importance of creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Hinging upon the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003, Congress incentivized better forest management practices throughout wildland areas and the wildland urban interface for communities that create a CWPP. The plan can also influence and prioritize future funding for hazardous fuel reduction projects, including where and how federal agencies implement these projects on federal lands.

Bordering the lush Cherokee National Forest, Monroe County, in

2010, became the first county in the state to initiate a CWPP. The region encompasses the cities of Madisonville, Sweetwater, Vonore, and Tellico Plains. As a collaborative effort between the Fire Chiefs' Association, Cherokee National Forest and the Tennessee Division of Forestry, Monroe County's CWPP goals are:

- Developing a priority listing of hazardous fuel reduction areas and suggested mitigation measures;
- A listing of possible structural ignition areas and mitigation measures
- A list of public education and outreach opportunities, encouraging individual communities to become officially Firewise.

"About 16 fire departments are involved and everyone is very receptive," said Nathan Waters, Assistant District Forester with the Tennessee Division of Forestry. As in "Before the Smoke," Waters discovered that locals are more receptive to information from other locals than they are state or government agencies.

Additional training was provided to county firefighters on wildland fire and all the agencies involved in creating the CWPP combined current maps to locate the area's biggest problems, where future classes and materials would be targeted. Firewise Safety Days were also implemented.

The Monroe County education priorities included contacting homeowners to provide information about keeping roofs, gutters, and under deck areas free of leaves and pine needles, informing planners and developers of Firewise practices, and adding Firewise information to appropriate websites throughout the county.

"Twenty years ago, we didn't have houses in places we do now. We are hoping if we spend a penny on prevention, maybe it will be worth a dollar of goods," said Waters.

"The main thing is we have folks working to help communities with wildfire preparations and mitigating issues communities might have," adds Kirksey. "We want to encourage fire departments and community leaders to give us a call. It is one of our highest priorities in our endeavor to protect communities from wildfire."

There are currently no certified Firewise towns and cities and only eight Firewise communities in Tennessee. They are as follows:

- Cobby Nob, Knoxville (2011)
- Cumberland Cove, Crossville (2003)
- Cumberland Lakes in Cumberland County, Monterey (2006)
- Fence Rail Gap, Walland (2009)
- Leadmine Bend, Sharps Chapel (2010)
- Norris Shores, Sharps Chapel (2008)
- Shagbark, Sevierville (2011)
- The Highlands, Sharps Chapel (2010)

For a complimentary copy of "Before the Smoke," visit the NFPA website at http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=61880&cookie_test=1



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BUILDING INSPECTOR

COLLIERVILLE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Building Inspector for the city's Development Department. This position performs responsible enforcement of town codes and ordinances and investigative work in the inspection of all town commercial, industrial, and residential structures and properties. May require attending meetings after normal business hours. The applicant must possess a journeyman level certification or equivalent in the assigned area of building or plumbing at time of hire. Must obtain certification from the International Code Council as a Building Inspector and one additional Inspector certification within 12 months of employment and maintain certification throughout employment. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator's license required at the time of hire. Candidate must be able to pass a work related physical and drug test. Qualifications include: High school diploma or GED supplemented by technical or college level courses in building construction, electrical, mechanical, or structural engineering or related areas; and five (5) years experience in the building construction industry, skilled construction trades or in comparable code enforcement work, three of which must be in the assigned area of responsibility of building or plumbing; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Minimum salary is \$32,799.00 with excellent benefits package. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. FLSA Status: Non-Exempt. Please apply at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. A new application must be submitted for each job applied for. We regret we are unable to answer all inquiries, but will only notify candidates selected for testing or interviews. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. If special accommodations are required during the selection process due to a disability, please notify the Human Resources Office at 901-457-2290. EOE. Minorities, women, and disabled applicants are encouraged to apply. The Town of Collierville is a drug free work place.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

NEWPORT. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Administrator: The administrator is responsible for 118 employees and \$10 million general fund budget. Position answers to six-member council. The previous administrator served almost five years. Must be proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Experience in budgeting and intergovernmental relations. At least three (3) years' experience in public administration, preferably as a city manager/assistant city manager or equivalent. Bachelor's degree required, master's preferred. Application is a public record. Salary DOQ plus excellent benefits. Current salary \$75,000. Send resume by May 16, 2013 to Pat Hardy, UT-MTAS, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105. Fax: 423-854-9223. Phone: 423-854-9882. Or email resume to: pat.hardy@tennessee.edu.

CITY RECORDER

SPRING CITY. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Recorder. The position is responsible for the custody and preservation of public records, ordinance/resolution books, minutes of the Board of Commissioners, contracts, bonds, title deeds, certificates, and papers. The individual must be present at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals and keep a full and accurate record of all business discussed and voted upon. The recorder also functions as the town treasurer and is responsible for the supervision of the town's financial and operational activities, including accounting, budgeting, accounts payable, payroll, and coordinating the annual financial audit as well as provide technical expertise. The position has no supervisory duties and reports directly to the city manager. The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Accounting, or Finance; or an associate's degree coupled with 3+ years experience in

government fund accounting, accounting or finance; or a high school diploma coupled with 5+ years experience in government fund accounting, accounting or finance. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office and have experience using a variety of accounting software applications. Have superior oral and written communication skills. Desired qualifications include previous City Recorder experience, Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) certification, and Notary Public Designation. An application may be obtained at www.townofspringcitytn.org. The application and resume must be provided in a sealed envelope to City Hall no later than May 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. Application may be mailed or hand delivered to Town of Spring City, 229 Front Street; PO Box 369, Spring City, TN 37381 or emailed to citymanager@townofspringcitytn.org. Prospective candidates will be notified if selected for an interview. No phone calls please. Position will remain open until filled. EOE. Applications considered regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

CITY MANAGER

CROSSVILLE. The city is seeking résumés for the position of City Manager. This position is under the general guidance of the mayor and four member city council. Position is responsible for overseeing an annual budget and exercises responsibility for planning, organizing, leading, and controlling (through department managers) the activities of 165 full-time employees providing a broad range of services for the city in: Finance; Administration, Police, Fire, Public Works; Recreation; Human Resources, and Customer Service. Responsible for the development and implementation of operating policies and procedures and for monitoring compliance. Insures that city programs operate within state and federal laws. Works with mayor and council in overall program planning and policy development. Must be able to interface with industry heads, the public, media and a variety of governmental boards and organizations. Requires a minimum B.S. or M.S. in Public Administration or a related field plus 10 years of successful experience in a senior management position, having had responsibility in fiscal responsibility, human resources and long range planning. Looking for accomplished assertive and forward thinking individual; strong emphasis on current knowledge of issues; strong interpersonal and communication skills. Salary is market competitive (range minimum \$72,933 to a maximum \$109,400). Salary negotiable DOQ. The city of Crossville offers a full benefit package, including health, dental, and life insurance, retirement, vacation, and sick leave. Candidate must pass a physical and post-employment offer drug screen. Moving expenses negotiable. Résumés may be sent to Sally Oglesby, City Clerk, City of Crossville, 392 N. Main St., Crossville, TN 38555 or emailed to sally.oglesby@crossvilletn.gov. The deadline will be at the close of business, 4:00 pm, June 14, 2013. Crossville is an EEO/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability, or national origin.

CITY MANAGER

FOREST HILLS. The city, located within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, is seeking applicants for City Manager. The current 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.

CODES ADMINISTRATOR

MILLERSVILLE. The city has an immediate opening for a Codes Administrator to manage the operations of the Codes Department, including the enforcement of building and zoning codes and city ordinances. The employee shall keep and manage all departmental records and communicate with other city, state and federal departments to coordinate community development, stormwater program and floodplain maps. The employee must use independent judgment and must have strong verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work well with the public. The preferred candidate will have experience with the review and issuance of building permits and have a strong understanding of zoning and code regulations. Building inspector certification is preferred but not required. Duties also include other support services under the general supervision of the city manager. See job openings at www.cityofmillersville.com for more information. The position offers a competitive salary and benefit package that includes health, dental, and life insurance, paid holidays, vacation and retirement plan. A city application is required and is available at city hall or at www.cityofmillersville.com. Send application, resume and cover letter to: City of Millersville, 1246 Louisville Hwy., Millersville, TN 37072. EOE

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

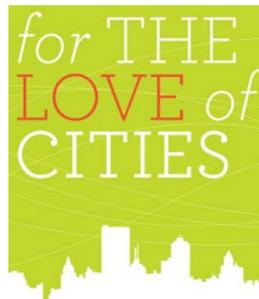
LA VERGNE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Human Resources. The position reports to the mayor and city administrator and is responsible for all strategic human resources functions for the city. The HR Director works closely with the city administrator, the mayor and department heads and performs a variety of complex administrative, technical and professional work in directing and supervising the personnel systems of the organization, including classification, compensation, coordination of benefits and insurance administration, recruitment, selection, labor relations, employment law, compliance, training and development and performance review administration. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at the city website www.lavergnetn.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BRISTOL. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Economic Development Developer. The position will plan strategies to identify, target and attract new business as well as assist existing business in operations and expansions within the city. Reports to the city manager, will manage the Economic Development Division and be responsible for the city's economic development activities, including coordination of efforts and associated grant activities with various economic development partners including the countywide economic development agency; chamber of commerce, convention and visitors bureau; local, state and federal agencies; and private enterprise. A master's degree in economic development, business administration, public administration, or related field is preferred; CEd certification desired. The candidate should have a minimum of seven years of relevant experience, preferably with a city government; however any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for the position, will be considered. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume and application immediately to City of Bristol, Attn: Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189 or electronic submissions may be emailed to hbale@bristoltn.org or be faxed to 423-968-7197. Position opened until filled. See our website to download an application and review summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. EOE

TAEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TULLAHOMA. The TAEDC Executive Director is a full-time position that reports to the Board of Directors of the Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corporation (TAEDC) under an agreement between the TAEDC and the city. Directly responsible for the recruitment, retention and growth of all of the diverse economic sectors within the city. The executive director is a full-time position which performs a variety of administrative, technical and professional functions in the administration, management and implementation of the plans and programs of the TAEDC. Annual salary is within the range of \$57,211 - \$85,817. Please forward a resume with a letter of interest to Ms. Casta Brice, Human Resources Director, City of Tullahoma, P. O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388 or email to cbrice@tullahomata.gov by close of business June 13, 2013. For more information, go to the Employment section at www.tullahomata.gov. A job description is available upon request. EOE



TML Annual Conference June 22-25, 2013

Memphis, TN

CONFERENCE from Page 1

Holifield is CEO of SGR, a full service consulting firm that specializes in facilitating innovative leadership through recruitment and development. His current clients include more than 300 organizations in 40 states, training more than 1000 employees per month.

He previously served almost two decades in city management. During his tenure as city manager, his leadership led *Texas Business Magazine* to name DeSoto as one of the "Best Managed Cities in Texas." He is a frequent speaker at conferences nationwide. His first book was jointly published by ICMA and the Alliance for Innovation. His newest book, *Fourth Dimension Leadership*, focuses on the process of developing exceptional leaders. It provides a very practical game plan for how an organization can implement a leadership development process that works.

Rooney, owner of City Manager Solutions since 1985, has provided personal skills management training and coaching to thousands. Some of the training materials he recently completed include the "Managers Best Practices Toolkit," that includes refined and bottom-line tips for interpersonal communication and leadership skills.

Other conference sessions will focus on performance based budgeting, the "dos and don'ts" of grant writing, and how to successfully recruit retail to your community.

The conference kicks off Saturday evening, June 22, with a Welcome Reception in the exhibit hall. Sunday, June 23, will feature the opening General Session, along with district meetings, workshops, and the Host City Reception. Monday, June 24, will be a day filled with educational workshops, TML's annual business meeting, and will wrap up with The Pool's fun-filled party complete with food and music. The Tuesday morning Awards Breakfast will bring the conference to a close.

Schedule At-A-Glance

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

8 - 3 MTAS / EOA
6:30 - 8 Vendor Extravaganza

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

9 - 5 Registration
11 - 5 Exhibit Hall Open
11:30 - 12:45 Lunch / Exhibit Hall
1 - 1:45 District Meetings
2 - 3:30 Opening Session
3:45 - 4:45 Workshops
5:30 - 8:30 Host City Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 24

8 - 2 Registration
8 - 2 Exhibit Hall Open
7:45 - 8:15 Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 Workshops
9:45 - 10:45 Workshops
11 - 12:30 Second General Session
12:30 - 2 Lunch / Exhibit Hall
2:15 - 3:15 Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 Workshops
6:30 - 11 Pool Party

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

8 - 10 am Awards Breakfast

To register for the conference or for more information on other workshops and speakers, go to TML's website at www.TML1.org.

Welcome Reception

Saturday, June 22
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Memphis, TN

Cook Convention Center
Exhibit Hall

Please join us in the Exhibit Hall Saturday night to help kick off TML's 74th Annual Conference.

It will be a great opportunity to visit with vendors and network with your peers while enjoying refreshments and live jazz music.

Looking forward to seeing you in Memphis!



For the most up-to-date information, be sure to check our website www.TML1.org

**Side by side,
community by community,
state by state.
Opportunity at every step.™**

The demands facing government entities are more challenging than ever. So our specialized client teams work side by side with you to turn challenges into opportunities. To help you do more with less with greater efficiency, transparency and control. After more than a century of experience serving the public sector, we're here with advice and a range of solutions including credit, treasury and liquidity. Bringing the capabilities of a global financial services organization to the state and community level.

Tom Boyd
Senior Client Manager
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Government Banking
1.615.749.3618
thomas.boyd@bam.com
bankofamerica.com/government

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TML ASSOCIATE PROFILE:

Parsons Brinckerhoff, offering planning, environmental and engineering services

Parsons Brinckerhoff is a global consulting firm assisting public and private clients to plan, develop, design, construct, operate and maintain thousands of critical infrastructure projects around the world. Founded in New York City in 1885, Parsons Brinckerhoff is a diverse company of 14,000 people in more than 150 offices on five continents. With a strong commitment to technical excellence, a diverse workforce, and service to our clients, we are currently at work on thousands of infrastructure projects ranging from mega-projects that define an entire region, to smaller, more local projects that keep a community humming.

Since 1991, the Nashville office has provided planning, environmental, and engineering services for projects across the Volunteer State. We offer a mix of technical skills including expertise in transportation, community and environmental planning, cultural resource analysis, civil and site design, wastewater, stormwater management, roadway design, traffic engineering, environmental documentation, and construction management.

Environmental Planning

We have been completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for transit and highway projects for nearly 30 years, shortly after the NEPA enabling legislation and guidelines were first issued. Our Nashville office serves as a national center of technical excellence in environmental documentation and analysis and has prepared numerous environmental documents on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT).

Water Resources

The Tennessee Water Technical Excellence Center (WTEC) is located in Nashville. Our staff consists



Our staff consists of engineers with experience in water and sewer rehabilitation projects, drainage facilities and infrastructure work facilities associated with transportation projects such as road and rail systems.

of engineers with experience in water and sewer rehabilitation projects, drainage facilities and infrastructure work facilities associated with transportation projects such as road and rail systems. The Tennessee WTEC is focused on bringing nationwide expertise to local pipeline rehabilitation work as well as focusing on "green infrastructure" projects.

Traffic Engineering & Transportation Planning

We provide traffic engineering services and transportation infrastructure planning services statewide. Our strengths lie in our deep bench of traffic experts that have applied innovative traffic and roadway safety solutions in local communities throughout the country. We have the latest tools at our disposal to handle a community's traffic related issues. Our mesoscopic and microscopic traffic modeling capabilities allow communities to assess a wide range of options in a cost effective manner.

Infrastructure Planning & Construction Management

We are designers and construction managers. We deliver, from

small local projects to large scale urban design.

Our clientele's projects:

- City of Chattanooga: sewer rehabilitation
- Nashville/Davidson County: Korean Veterans Blvd, citywide wayfinding system, sewer rehabilitation, and SoBro master planning
- City of Jackson/Madison County: Long Range Transportation Plan
- City of Murfreesboro, NEPA and preliminary engineering for new transit center
- TDOT: CEI, planning, design, local programs and environmental documentation

Parsons Brinckerhoff will be a vendor at this year's Annual TML Conference, so make sure to stop by Booth No. 121.

For more information, contact: Brad S. Winkler, PE
Tennessee Area Manager
615.340.9190 or 615.336.0286
or email: winklerbs@pbworld.com



May 17-19: Maryville
Smoky Mountain Highland Games
Maryville College. This epic regional event has acres of Scottish music, heritage, food, and of course, athletic games. For more details and a complete schedule of activities and competitions, visit the website www.smokymountaingames.org.

May 18-19: Greeneville

Annual Iris Festival
Downtown. Artists, craftsmen, merchants, and entertainers from across the country. Handmade arts and crafts. Entertainment stage features blues, gospel, bluegrass and country music and a dance stage featuring performances in jazz, tap, square dancing, line dancing and clogging. Kidz Korner with a huge slide and moonwalk. Food vendors with culinary delights from China to Greece: gyros, bloomin' onions, tropical delights, ice cream, lemonade and much more. For more information, call 423-638-4111.

May 19-Oct 20: Brentwood

2013 Open House at Historic Boiling Spring Academy
Owned and operated by the city, the site is located on Moores Lane near Wilson Pike. Circa 1830 school house and Primm Historic Park with native Indian mounds. Open to the public from 2-4 pm every third Sunday of the month. Dates are: May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15 and Oct. 20. Volunteer docents on hand for questions.

May 21-25: Lewisburg

On the Rocks and 7th Annual Bar-B-Que Championship
Annual Rotary festival held at Rock Creek Park. Carnival midway, 5K Run/Walk. For more information and schedule, visit http://www.festivalontherocks.com/Home_Page.php

June 8: Wartrace

9th Annual Musicfest and Boogie, Blues, and Bar-B-Que
Held at 112 Bridgeview Ave., music starts Sat. at 4 pm on the stage under a large tent, where patrons can enjoy barbeque and all the trimmings. The music shifts to the main stage at 6 pm with Cumberland Blue. Admission to Boogie, Blues, and Bar-B-Que is \$5, with children 12 and under free. For more information, call Wartrace Town Hall at 931-389-6144.

May-September: Bristol

Full Moon Jam Series
Free concerts every Tuesday and Thursday night at 7 pm in Historic Downtown Bristol, Downtown Center, 810 State Street. The city's oldest, continuous music series features local, regional and national bands. Bring your own chair, or sit in one of ours and enjoy music under the stars! Restroom facilities on site and full concessions available.

The Tennessee Drug Card, free statewide program



The Tennessee Municipal League is pleased to be a partner of the Tennessee Drug Card program.

This card can help residents, family and friends save up to 75 percent on prescription medications. The Tennessee Drug Card is the official statewide FREE prescription assistance program that is available to all residents of the state of Tennessee. The Tennessee Drug Card was launched in 2007 to help the uninsured and underinsured afford the medications they need.

Since this program launched, it has helped Tennessee residents save more than \$14 million on their prescriptions. The Tennessee Drug Card can be used by anyone without health insurance. The program can also be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits, which is common in many health savings accounts (HSA) and high deductible health plans. Additionally, people with prescription coverage can use the program to get a discount on prescription drugs that are not covered by insurance.

This program has no enrollment forms to fill out, and it does not have age or income requirements. Average savings using this program is about 30-35 percent but some people may see savings as high as 80 percent, depending on the medication.

This card is accepted at more than 56,000 pharmacies nationwide, including CVS and Fred's, the preferred pharmacies of the Tennessee Drug Card.

Other local major pharmacy chains that accept the card are Walgreens, Kroger, Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and BI-LO.

Anyone can obtain a card by either going to www.tennesseedrugcard.com or calling 1-888-987-0688. There is also a new smart phone app, Free Rx iCard, available to make obtaining a card even more convenient. Bulk orders of these cards are available for any city,

town, or business to distribute.

Also the Tennessee Drug Card offers the ability to customize these cards for your city or town. If you are interested in having customized cards with your city or town logo on them, please contact Natalie Meyer.

The Tennessee Municipal League and the Tennessee Drug Card have worked together for more than two years to make sure the residents of Tennessee know that there are options available when it comes to paying for prescription medications.

The Tennessee Drug Card will be a vendor at this year's TML Annual Conference in Memphis, so make sure to stop by Booth No. 507 to pick up cards for your community.

For more information contact Natalie Meyer at 1-888-987-0688 or Email: Natalie@TennesseeDrugCard.com

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

Grant funding available: application process open for TIGER, COPS grants

TIGER GRANTS

The Department of Transportation has announced \$473.8 million in TIGER grant funds to be awarded for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Applications opened April 29 and **final applications are due by June 3, 2013**. No pre-application is required. All funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2014.

Projects eligible for TIGER grants include highways and bridges, public transportation, passenger and freight rail transportation and marine port infrastructure investments. Grants may range in size from \$10 million to \$200 million. Grants to rural areas may be for less than \$10 million, but must be more than \$1 million. No less than \$120 million must be awarded to projects in rural areas.

The four previous rounds of TIGER provided \$3.1 billion to support 218 projects in all 50 states. More than 100 of the TIGER grants were awarded directly to city or county governments that are otherwise unable to directly access traditional sources of Federal funding for their projects.

Information on project eligibility, application requirements is available here: <http://www.dot.gov/policy-initiatives/tiger/tiger-no-tice-funding-availability-2013>

Additional resources are available at the DOT TIGER website: <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/application-resources>.

COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP)

The application period for the 2013 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is now open. Applications for this year's CHP solicitation must be completed and **submitted by 7:59 PM (EDT) May 22, 2013**, in order to receive consideration. CHP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority for the hiring or re-hiring of additional officers to impact their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

Under FY 2013 CHP, awardees may receive up to 75 percent of the approved entry-level officer salary and fringe benefit costs, with a minimum 25 percent local cash match requirement and a maximum federal share of \$125,000 per officer position over a three-year grant period. Grant funds may be used to hire new, full-time sworn officer positions, to re-hire officers who have been laid off, or to re-hire officers who are scheduled to be laid off on a specific future date as a result of local budget cuts. As in the past, CHP requires that each position awarded be retained with local funds for a minimum of 12 months at the conclusion of 36 months of federal funding for each position. Priority consideration will be given to agencies that use their CHP funding to hire either school resource officers or military veterans and those targeting to reduce homicide.

FY2013 CHP funding is limited, and all awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. For detailed information on CHP program requirements, application instructions, FAQs and more, please visit the CHP page on the COPS website at www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2367.

COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Community Policing Development (CPD) program is now open and applications **must be submitted by 4:59 PM (EDT) May 24, 2013**. CPD funds are used to advance the practice of community policing in law enforcement agencies through training and technical assistance, the development and documentation of innovative community policing strategies, applied research, guidebooks, and best practices that are national in scope.

The program is open to all public governmental agencies, profit and nonprofit institutions, universities, community groups and faith-based organizations. Proposals should be of national relevance, significantly advance the field of community policing, and demonstrate an understanding of community policing as it pertains to the application topic. Applications will only be accepted through the COPS Application Portal, accessed from Grants.Gov website (www.grants.gov). No paper or emailed applications will be accepted. For detailed information on CPD program requirements, application instructions, FAQs and more, please visit the CPD page on the COPS website at www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2682.

Remember for both programs, applicants must begin their applications at www.grants.gov and then complete applications through the COPS Application Portal. Please check passwords and other login information before beginning your application. The COPS Office Response Center can help applicants with problems and issues. The Response Center can be reached by calling 1-800-421-6770.

Franklin TV builds studio at city hall, produces original programming

Since 2001 Franklin TV has been broadcasting on Comcast Cable Channel 10. In 2009, the channel began airing on ATT/ U-verse 99. Last year Franklin TV renovated the former Franklin police chief's office into a small studio to produce original programming. Now the studio is up and running and staff is producing three new television programs.

"Moore with the Mayor," is hosted by Mayor Ken Moore and features a guest from the community and also a guest from one of our city departments. The program has featured the Franklin Theatre, the Downtown Franklin Association, "Viva NashVegas" at the Handy Hardware Store and more. Staff guests have included City Administrator Eric Stuckey, Assistant City Administrators Vernon Gerth and Russ Truell, and many department heads. "Moore with the Mayor" is produced by Communications Manager Milissa Reiersen and Directed by Franklin TV Coordinator Ray Foglia.

"A Walk in the Park" is another program which takes you behind the scenes of the Franklin Parks Department. Hosted by Parks Director Lisa Clayton or Program Specialist Deanna Scheffel, this program features information on historic parks, athletics, horticulture, and park activities. This program is produced by the Parks Department and Digital Media Specialist Stephen Price. It is directed by Franklin TV Coordinator Ray Foglia.

"Franklin Heat" is a program produced by Franklin Fire and Life Educator Jamie Melton and hosted by firefighter/EMT Jeff Boggs and Engineer Wylie Jones. This program



Hosted by Mayor Ken Moore, "Moore with the Mayor" features a guest from the community along with a city department.



Operating since 2001, Franklin TV took the plunge last year by renovating the former police chief's office into a small studio to produce original programming on Comcast Cable Channel 10.

is a great way to educate the public on fire safety and also introduce citizens to the men and women who work to keep Franklin safe.

The programs air on Franklin TV and are posted on the city's

YouTube channel. Each program tapes a new segment each month.

For more information and to view the programs online, go to www.youtube.com/cityoffranklin.

TN Main Streets generate \$82 million

The state's 24 Tennessee Main Street communities make a significant economic impact, according to a recently released report by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Certified Main Street communities generated more than \$82 million of public/private investment in 2012, and continue to be a vital part of the state's economic and cultural identity.

"Continued growth and sustainability at a local level contributes to Tennessee's overall livability and can greatly factor into a company's relocation or expansion decision," Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty said. "The Main Street program facilitates focused revitalization in downtown commercial districts by providing jobs, growing the tax base and reinforcing Tennessee's competitive edge among Southeastern states."

There are currently 24 certified Main Street program communities across Tennessee: Bristol, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Leiper's Fork, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, McMinnville, Murfreesboro, Morristown, Rogersville, Tiptonville, Savannah, Union City and Ripley.

Tennessee Main Street provides technical assistance and guidance for communities in developing common sense solutions to make down-



towns safe, appealing, vibrant places where folks want to shop, live and make memories.

According to ECD's report "The 2012 Economic Impact and Reinvestment Statistics," other reinvestment statistics from the Main Street communities include:

- Net new jobs: 604
- Net new businesses: 107
- Building rehabilitation projects: 217
- Public improvement projects: 304
- Net new housing units: 273
- Volunteer hours contributed: 117,253 (a 13 percent increase from 2011)
- Total public/private investment: \$82,742,898

"The annual reinvestment statistics make a strong statement about the economic activity occurring within our Tennessee Main Street program districts," said Todd Morgan, Community Development Pro-

gram director for Tennessee Main Streets.

"New jobs, businesses and investment, along with an impressive number of volunteer work hours, prove this community-based approach to downtown revitalization is hard at work."

Tennessee Main Street communities are required to meet National Accreditation standards annually, which include broad-based community support for the program, a comprehensive work plan, a sufficient operating budget and adequate staff and volunteer support. Tennessee Main Street operates under the National Main Street Center, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

For more information about the Tennessee Main Street Program, please visit www.tennessee-mainstreet.org. For more on the National Main Street Center, visit www.mainstreet.org.

State treasurers support municipal bonds tax-exempt status; urges U.S. Congress to consider impact on state budgets

Forty-two of the nation's state treasurers are appealing to members of Congress to maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, an issue that has long-term ramifications for state budgets and the nation's public infrastructure projects.

The state treasurers individually signed onto a letter to members of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee urging them to maintain the current tax-exempt status of these bonds.

State and local governments use municipal bonds as the primary means of financing highways, bridges, transit systems, airports, water and wastewater systems, schools, higher education facilities

and many other public projects. The treasurers are members of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST), a bipartisan organization of state treasurers and other finance officials with similar duties.

"The need to build and maintain our public infrastructure has never been more acute," said NAST President and Virginia State Treasurer Manju Ganeriwala. "Three quarters of all public infrastructure projects in the United States are built by state and local governmental entities. Eliminating or reducing the tax exemption will greatly limit our ability to address these critical needs, resulting in fewer projects, fewer jobs and deteriorating infrastructure."

States and localities save an av-

erage of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs when using municipal bonds as opposed to taxable bonds. In an era of constrained federal and state budgets, the ability to save billions of dollars on infrastructure financing is essential.

Eliminating the tax exemption will cause states and localities to pay higher borrowing costs and as a result, many will be forced to either curtail infrastructure projects or raise taxes on sales, property or income.

"The tax-exempt bond market has worked effectively for over a century," said Ganeriwala. "NAST supports maintaining the current tax exemption. Let's not dismantle something that works."

NATIONAL LEAGUE of CITIES

WHY BELONG TO NLC?

NLC members enjoy distinct benefits beyond those afforded by membership in the state municipal leagues, including:

- Representation and advocacy on the federal level,
- A vast pool of geographically diverse members to connect with,
- Its own unique set of solutions and programs,
- Abundant NLC resources, publications, and technical assistance



See for yourself what it's all about! Have your city join today and begin the NLC experience! Contact memberservices@nlc.org or (877) 827-2385, or visit www.nlc.org for more information.



City managers meet in Nashville for Spring Conference, April 24-26

Tennessee city managers recently met in Nashville for the TCMA Annual Spring Conference.

The three-day event covered a wide range of timely topics including: the use of economic incentives to promote growth; new city school systems in Tennessee; computer privacy and network security; the use of health clinics for your employees; and a special session led by ICMA Executive Director Bob O'Neill on leadership and the city manager profession.

Other sessions included updates from

TML on the closing activities of the General Assembly and MTAS activities, including how to use the new MTAS on-line publication search tools.

The Tennessee City Management Association sponsors two educational conferences for members each year that focus on professional development and increasing the proficiency of city managers and other local government administrators in Tennessee.

For more information about TCMA, go to www.tncoma.org.



ICMA Executive Director Bob O'Neill, TCMA President Angie Carrier, and TCMA Executive Director Mike Walker



TCMA's three-day Spring Conference covered a wide range of timely topics.

Other bills of interest passed by Legislature

BILLS, from Page 1

• **Handgun Permit Records:** SB 108 by Haile and HB009 by Lamberth, as introduced, makes confidential and not open for public inspection all information contained in and pertaining to a handgun carry permit application or renewal application and the status of a handgun carry permit. The records could only be accessed to check on someone charged with a felony or other crime that would make them ineligible to have a carry permit. That exception is not applicable on lesser charges like drunken driving or possessing a firearm while intoxicated until after the individual's conviction led to the suspension of a permit.

• **Jails / Work Program:** SB524 by Bowling and HB681 by Swann requires any person convicted of a felony and sentenced to a local jail to be required to work in the jail's work program. Currently, the inmates have the option of opting out of a jail's work program. This legislation would incorporate participation in a work program into the violator's sentencing. An inmate would be excluded from participating if the county sheriff thinks he or she poses a security or escape risk, suffers from physical or mental health conditions, or if the county cannot afford to provide the security or transportation for the inmates sentenced to the work program. The legislation has been signed by the governor and assigned Public Chapter No. 168.

• **Income Tax Ban:** SJR001 by Kelsey to amend Article II, Section 28 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to prohibit taxation upon payroll or earned personal income passed both houses. In the November 2014 election, voters will have a chance to decide whether they want to make a state income tax unconstitutional.

• **Prevailing Wage:** As enacted, SB 0035 by Kelsey and HB 0501 by Casada prohibits local governments from mandating health insurance benefits, leave policies, hourly wage standards or prevailing wage standards that deviate from state statutorily imposed standards on private employers as either a condition of operating a business within the jurisdictional boundaries of the local government or when the local government contracts with a private employer; prohibits a county, municipality, or political subdivision of the state from adopting a wage theft ordinance or regulation that exceeds certain state and federal laws. This bill applies statewide, so no municipality can set a minimum wage for certain contractor duties. The legislation has been signed by the governor and assigned Public Chapter No. 91.

• **State Employees / New Hires:** The legislation approved reforms the state's Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) pension plan for new hires beginning July 1, 2014. It does not affect current employees. Senate Bill 1005 by McNally and HB0948 by McManus changes the current defined-benefits system for new employees hired after June 2014 to a hybrid plan that includes elements of defined-benefits and defined-contribution programs. A defined-benefit plan guarantees retirees a fixed pension benefit based on their years of service and earnings, while defined-contribution plans do not have guaranteed payment levels, but rather, specified contribution levels by the employer.

• **Streamline Sales Tax:** SB0182 by Norris and HB 0176 by McCormick, delays effective date of certain streamlined sales tax provisions until July 1, 2015. Any provision that has not already taken effect is scheduled to do so July 1, 2013. This legislation postpones the implementation date until July 2015, or until Congressional action that requires the collection of sales taxes by online vendors.

• **Synthetic Drugs:** SB48, by Beavers, and HB12 by Shipley, builds on last year's legislation and adds to the list of synthetic cannabinoids that are currently prohibited within the

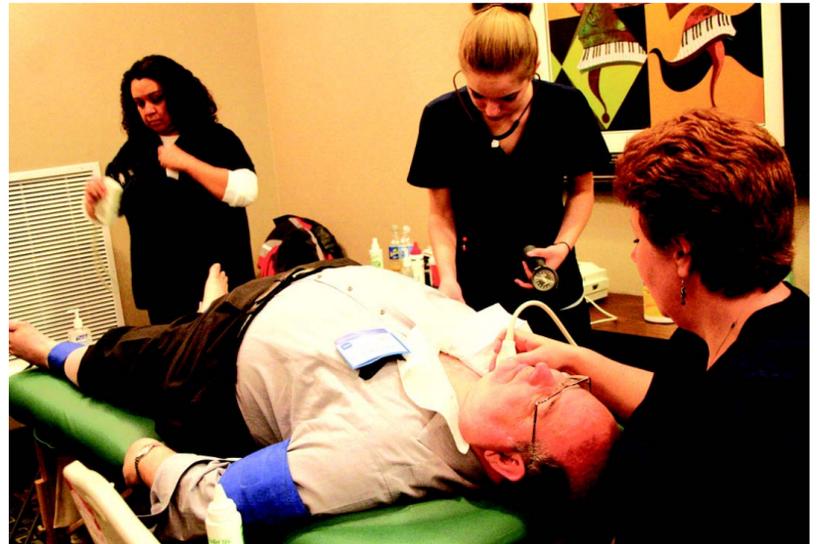
state of Tennessee. The legislation clarifies the definition of a controlled substance analogue to ensure that any substance that differs from a controlled substance by no more than two atoms qualifies.

• **Worker's Compensation:** SB by Norris and HB 0194 by McCormick shifts the structure of how the state considers workers compensation claims, namely by taking cases out of the court system and to a new panel that would hear cases. The changes also include shifting the deciding body to consider both sides equally, instead of what critics of the current system said favor the injured worker.

Sent to Summer Study

• **Planning/ Vesting Period:** SB915 by Nicely and HB 964 by Todd creates vesting periods of five years in which regional and municipal development standards remain in effect from the date an application for building permit or approval of preliminary plat is submitted to the end of the vesting period or the last phase of development. If passed, these protections (vesting rights) would be afforded to developers in the following areas: all locally adopted or enforced standards, regulations, or guidelines applicable to the development of property, including but not limited to zoning, planning, and storm water requirements; layout, design, and construction standards for buildings, streets, alleys, curbs, and sidewalks; lot size, lot configuration, and yard dimensions; and off-site improvements, including public or private infrastructure.

• **Public Utilities / Pole Attachments:** Legislation to provide Tennessee with a specific framework and rates for cable and internet providers to attach equipment to poles owned by electric cooperatives and municipal utilities was sent to summer study for further review. Senate Bill 1222, by Watson and HB1111 by Matlock, provides a method for calculating the costs of pole attachments. The bill also provides a fair process for dispute resolution through an Administrative Law Judge in cases when the electric cooperative or the municipality disagree about the costs for pole attachment. In addition, the legislation puts a cap on what can be charged for the attachment. The bill sets up a 12-member operation working group with six members from each side to continue to keep the lines of communication open regarding pole attachment issues in the future.



Photos by Victoria South

Austin Edmondson, Somerville city administrator, receives a free health screening at the TCMA Spring Conference in Nashville.

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Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick at TACIR's helm addressing the tough issues

BY LINDA BRYANT

Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick thrives on facing the tough—and often very complex—issues that rise to the forefront of public scrutiny at the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

Those issues can include contentious or difficult concerns such as eminent domain, annexation, blight, growth plans and land use, or drought and water planning. However, she isn't daunted by them. She's determined to set a tone of fairness and open-mindedness for all who come to the table.

"My feeling is I have to understand everything we do well enough to know whether what's been brought to us by a university, an outside consultant, or what we've developed internally is credible and thorough," Roehrich-Patrick said.

"We have to learn to discuss issues without dismissing the other person's point of view. It can be difficult when you are dealing with hot button issues like planning and zoning or annexation, but it's vitally important. We have to remember these aren't just abstract issues we are talking about; we're dealing with people's lives."

Roehrich-Patrick recently completed her first year as executive director of TACIR, but she's not new to the agency or to public service. She has served the commission for 13 years, most recently as its deputy executive director. Previously, from 1994-2000, she served as education coordinator in Gov. Ned McWherter's budget office, and as assistant commissioner of Education for Finance, Accountability and Technology during Gov. Don Sundquist's administration. From 1984-1993 she served as a legislative performance audit supervisor in the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

She has a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fishery science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a law degree from UTK. In 1977, she was one of the first two women hired by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency as wildlife officers. She met her husband Steve Patrick during her tenure at TWRA. Steve has worked for the agency for 37 years and currently serves as assistant executive director of field operations.

TT&C: Why was TACIR created? What is its function?

LRP: The advisory commission was created in 1978. Similar organizations were being created all across the country. We are going through an economic recession. Because there was less money, the federal government was trying to figure out what they could do for states and also cut the budget. They gave us less money, but they gave us more flexibility in how to spend it. We had block grants for the first time.

Another reason the agency was created was to look at the purpose of local governments, how they are structured and function, and what's the state's role with respect to local governments.

TT&C: What is the Commission's most important role?

LRP: TACIR was first characterized as a forum for discussion and resolution of public policy problems. The mission continues to be that today and to provide high-quality research to the state and local governments for the legislature. We have a bipartisan commission that represents the legislature, local governments, the administration and the private sector. We are the one place where you have all these different interests at the table. So, when issues are sent to us, we can look at them from lots of different perspectives.

TT&C: Who sits on TACIR?

LRP: The caliber of people on the commission is outstanding. We are lucky to have such high-quality members especially with the longevity of some members. Sen. Henry has been on the committee since the very beginning. Sen. McNally was also an early appointee. Tom Rowland, the mayor of Cleveland, has been our vice chairman since 2002. We have the chairs of the house and senate finance committees and the comptroller. The speakers appoint four each – two Democrats and two Republicans. There are four county officials and four municipal officials nominated by TML and the County Services Association. We have one that represents the Development Districts and one that represents the County Officials Association of Tennessee.



Photos by Carole Graves

We have to respect the communities and honor the character of a community. The state does not have a role in determining what that is. Its role is in making sure that some minimum level of needs are met, and that local governments are accountable for money that is sent to their localities— that it is achieving what it was provided to do. — Lynnisse Roehrich-Patrick

TT&C: So are you able to reach a consensus on issues?

LRP: We do. It's an impressive thing to watch. Typically, the legislature sends some of their tougher, complex, more contentious issues to the commission, and the staff presents a work program to address those issues. It's then approved by the commission members. Then we go to work and do the best research we can. We bring that back to the commission and they reflect on that, bring their own experiences, knowledge and wisdom to the issue. They have a discussion, sometimes a debate among the members. Depending on the issue, we'll have people come and talk to them about their experience with it.

TT&C: How has the agency evolved over the years?

LRP: I would say the commission itself hasn't evolved so much as the issues have. In the beginning, TACIR did a lot of work on property assessment and taxation, and tax equivalent payments by municipal utilities. When I came to TACIR, one of the big issues on the plate was local government tort liability in the wake of an accident in Nashville, where a couple here on vacation, were injured because of a transformer on a power pole exploded. There is typically a cap on how much government reimburses for medical costs and damages. Then, you have the growth policy issues we're dealing with right now. So the issues wax and wane, but the process we go through remains the same.

TT&C: What are some of TACIR's most notable accomplishments?

LRP: In the early days, it was working on things like the tax equivalent payment issue for municipal utilities. The government tort liability issue was big. Developing a model for equalizing state education funding was huge. It was really important to the early implementation of the BEP. We co-developed a number of guides when the Growth Policy Act was passed and have monitored how it's been implemented – looking at who's amending their growth plans, and how they are going about it.

TT&C: Harry Green was there from the very beginning. What impact did he have?

LRP: You cannot overstate the impact that Harry Green has had on this organization and the relationships that he built with local and state officials. He built this organization into what it is with the help of some really strong leadership on the commission itself.

TT&C: What has your first year been like?

LRP: It's been hectic because we're working on a lot of issues right now. But working hand-in-hand with Harry, prepared me for it.

TT&C: Sen. Mark Norris is TACIR's fifth chairman. Has there been a different emphasis or focus with each chairman?

LRP: The chairman plays a really important role but it's not so much about setting what the issues are, that is more about what's going on in the legislature. Every member of the commission is just as likely to bring their own issues to the table and ask for something to be added to the work program. For instance, this past year as an outcome of the report we did on blight, Sen. Kyle asked that we look into the relationship

between foreclosure and trying to remedy blight. As a past member of a planning commission, the chairman had a strong interest in the Growth Policy Act and a lot of questions about what happens when plans that were developed back in 2000 are 20 years old. The statute says they are good for 20 years, but what happens after that? Do they just live on until you do something different or do they end at 20 years and then you start over? That project was added to our work program as a result of his concern and the concerns shared by the commission.

TT&C: TACIR has been directed by the General Assembly to conduct a comprehensive study on PCI101, and how annexations are currently handled under this law. What issues will you review?

LRP: When it was first put into the work program by the commission, we thought we would be working on it for a couple of years. Now we have less than a year. The bill opens up two whole chapters of the code that include all the annexation statutes and all of the comprehensive planning statutes. To do that between now and January is going to be extremely difficult. We plan to focus on the bills that have been brought to the legislature this year, but also look at all the legislation that's been brought back since 1998 when the Growth Policy Act was adopted. We will look for themes and issues that came and went. The issues that keep coming up over and over are going to be the main focus.

TT&C: It sounds like a big job.

LRP: It is. Fortunately, we've been looking at these issues for more than a decade now. We have some familiarity with it and aren't starting from a point of complete naïveté. Once we've gathered all the information and we've evaluated it from many different perspectives, we can start narrowing it down to the things we think are reasonable to take to the commission as a draft for their review. Based on their guidance, we'll go back and revamp the report and then present it for approval. We will probably be discussing this issue at every commission meeting between now and January 14. We'll give people who have experience dealing with this an opportunity to talk to the commission directly. It will give us a much better feel for what is reasonable to bring to the commission and expect them to come to a consensus.

TT&C: Is anything in your research so far worth sharing?

LRP: I found some really good information from North Carolina in the 1950s when they established a commission to look into how best to establish city boundaries. They looked at what's the healthiest, safest, most financially responsible way to grow. It's interesting that those are exactly the same kinds of issues we had in the 1990s. And we're having them again now.

TT&C: In several of TACIR's studies there is this underlying premise of what level of government is responsible for certain services and who is responsible for the funding of certain services. Can you speak to the concept of roles and responsibilities?

LRP: That gets back to the original statute when the commission was created in 1978. It looked at the local government structure and function, the financial arrangements between the state and local governments and

the state's role in creating local governments. That underlies almost all the issues we work on. It's certainly the case when it comes to the issue of annexation, growth policy issues, education and transportation funding. Many areas have an intergovernmental connection.

For instance, let's say I need to move my family or my business. I expect that there will be reasonable consistency from place to place – that I'm going to be treated fairly and have clean water, good roads, and good schools. Part of the role that the state plays with respect to local governments is supporting and fostering them so that they can meet the needs of the people who live there—and doing it in a way that's appropriate and desired in that community.

The community is where basic decisions about delivery of services should be made. We all know that different communities have different resources and different focuses in terms of their leadership. To make sure they have the capacity to meet those different needs, the state has to say, "We're going to help fund this."

With education funding, we're taking money from people in one place and giving it to people in another place. The people who are offering up their financial resources have a legitimate interest in making sure that their money is spent wisely and that we all benefit from it.

We have to respect the communities and honor the character of a community. The state does not have a role in determining what that is. Its role is in making sure that some minimum level of needs are met, and that when money is taken from one place to support another place localities are accountable for it and it's doing what that money is sent there to achieve.

TT&C: With the recent release of your report "Charting a Course for TN Future," what are some of the state's biggest challenges?

LRP: The biggest challenge for Tennessee is to develop the human capital we need to compete in this new global economy. What are the skills that our citizens are going to need to be successful in the future? And how should we best spend our limited resources?

Education and healthcare are big issues. Those are two areas where we don't rate highly compared with other states. We need to be working on them. But the report was more about identifying the big issues and figuring out how to develop a long-term vision for the state, call for and focus on initiatives at the state, regional and local levels.

So much has changed. For example, agriculture is completely different economically from what it was 30 years ago. It's still a critical part of our state's economy, but it doesn't function like it used to. Our farmers are competing with people from all over the world for markets for their products. Manufacturing is another one. We've lost businesses and industries because cheaper labor has been found elsewhere. Things have changed and we're still struggling to keep up with it.

Thinking long-term is an issue. Take energy as an example. You could just say we're going to exploit the hound out of the energy resources we have today to keep prices low. But if we don't prepare for the next energy source that we can turn to, then we're going to have a massive crisis as we make that shift.

Transportation and infrastructure are another one. We support

transportation with a revenue stream that's based on inefficiency. But vehicles are becoming more efficient and our tax structure is not responsive. We tax based on the number of gallons that you use, rather than the price of the fuel, or how much you drive and how much wear and tear you put on the roads. The more economically we learn to drive the less money there is in the coffers to keep those roadways up. We know we need to be more efficient in how we use our energy resources. We all are committed to moving in that direction. But as we do, we're going to be driving down the revenue to maintain highways that our businesses and commuters are dependent on.

TT&C: Does TACIR make recommendations on how all this might happen?

LRP: We are calling for the formation of an organization at the state level to look at the issues we need to be getting ahead of. We need people who can focus on these kinds of issues, and help us prepare for them. We need a group that survives each administration. Each new governor wants to make a mark. They can't make that mark by carrying on the things that the governor before did. They need to deal with the problems happening right now because that's what people sent them to Nashville for. I think they all have their own long-term vision, but it's still their administrations' viewpoint of what that vision needs to be. We need something that will transcend that.

TT&C: TACIR has been involved with collaborative study with TN State University on Sustainable Competitiveness and strategies that support local economic development and quality-of-life issues. You plan to present some of these findings at our annual conference in Memphis. What will be presented during the workshop?

LRP: One concern that the Department of Economic and Community Development has had is how the economy varies so much from county to county. We've seen that change so much over the years, even more so since the economic recession. We've lost industry and manufacturing, and there's been a shift in what's going on with agriculture. Communities are less able to support themselves in some places. And yet, others have been doing particularly well. It's not necessarily because they are closer to an interstate or closer to a port or one of the big cities. There are some areas that are similarly situated where one seems to be doing pretty well and another isn't doing as well. We want to find out what the differences are between those places and what are the best policies to support the areas that need a little bit more of a boost.

The concept was brought to us by two different departments of TSU – the Economics Department and the Public Administration Department. They are working together to bring a really fascinating mix. The Economics Department will do some massive number crunching. They can look at the characteristics of each county, what their economic trajectory seems to be, and how economically competitive they are. The Public Administration will gather information from local government officials about their challenges and success and what matters to them. We are also looking at how local governments work together in regional areas to identify successful characteristics that might be replicated.