



Legislative policy process underway

Last month, TML opened its policy process for proposed legislative initiatives for the second session of the 108th General Assembly. Proposals were accepted through Oct. 4.

Any municipality submitting a proposed legislative initiative must present its initiative to the TML Policy Committee.

The TML Policy Committee will meet Oct. 30, in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville.

The TML Policy Committee is comprised of nine members: the eight elected district directors and the current 2nd vice president of the TML Board of Directors. The 2nd vice president will chair the committee. All nine members of the committee have voting privileges.

The committee will meet to consider and rank only those legislative initiatives that have been fully completed and presented to the committee for consideration in addition to any hold overs from the

first session of the 108th General Assembly. Any initiative that lacks the required signatures or, otherwise, fails to meet the requirements will not be considered by the committee. If a municipality submits a fully completed proposed initiative but is unable to send a representative to present the submission to the committee, then the committee will send that municipality's proposal to the TML Legislative Committee with-out recommendation.

The committee will rank all of the qualifying proposed initiatives in order of preference, as determined by a vote of the committee. The committee's final ranking of proposed initiatives will be submitted to the TML Legislative Committee for consideration and eventually approved by the full TML Board of Directors.

Should you have questions about the policy process, contact a member of the TML lobby team at 615-255-6416.

House GOP takes steps on Internet Sales Tax; includes key principles

By ELAINE S. POVICH
Stalene.org Staff Writer

Governors and state legislators hailed House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte's decision to work with legislation that would allow states to collect sales taxes on Internet purchases, helping them capture an estimated \$23 billion lost annually from online sales.

"We're very pleased by the leadership Chairman Goodlatte is showing on this important and bipartisan issue," said Neal Osten, director of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Washington, D.C., office.

A Virginia Republican, Goodlatte had been skeptical of the legislation, which passed the Senate 69-27 in May, concerned that collecting the sales taxes might be burdensome for small Internet businesses. He outlined a list of principles for any legislation on the issue, including making the tax collections simple and inexpensive, particularly for small Internet sellers. He also called for no new taxes to be established by the act and for protection of consumer information.

Contrary to some claims, online sales tax collection is not a new tax. The sales taxes at issue are already legally owed, but unless a remote seller has a physical presence in the state where the item is being purchased, the remote seller is not currently required to collect and remit



U.S. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte released an outline of how he thinks online sales tax legislation should proceed, signalling that the issue could once more gain momentum.

the sales taxes. E-fairness legislation fixes this tax avoidance problem and allows states to require remote sellers to collect sales taxes.

The Internet sales tax issue stems from a 1967 U.S. Supreme court decision that said companies need a physical presence in a state for that state to impose taxes on its sales. But in the Internet age, when purchases increasingly are made

online, stores with a physical presence are losing business to online competition. Not collecting sales SA taxes gives a price advantage to online retailers, backers of the Marketplace Fairness Act say.

The legislation, supported by President Barack Obama, would allow states to require remote retailers to collect state sales taxes. Online See SALES TAX on Page 4

Fiscal Review needs cities' help with annual survey

The General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee is conducting an online survey of municipalities. The data and information collected will be used extensively in the preparation of fiscal notes in the coming year. All city officials are strongly encouraged to read the announcement from the Fiscal Review Committee and to afford the survey the serious attention it merits.

The data and conclusions presented in fiscal notes, which are prepared by the Fiscal Review Committee, are prominently featured in the debate on any bill of consequence. As such, it is imperative that the committee have access to accurate and updated information concerning municipalities when conducting its analysis and formulating its conclusions concerning a particular bill's potential impact on municipalities. In short, a fiscal note can greatly aid or harm a bill's prospects for passage.

Listed below is more information about the Fiscal Review Committee and the process for determining fiscal notes.

What is the Fiscal Review Committee?

The Fiscal Review Committee was created by statute in 1967 as a special continuing committee of the General Assembly. The Committee itself is comprised of six senators and nine representatives, elected by

members of the Senate and House of Representatives respectively as well as the chairman of the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee of each house. In addition, the speaker of each house serves as ex officio members. Within Fiscal Review Committee's support staff, there are several different types of analysts to tackle the many different topics and subjects of legislation. There are three economists, an accountant, three attorneys, analysts who are experienced in various topics such as health care, education, and correction, as well as a local government analyst.

What are fiscal notes?

A fiscal note is a document that details each bill's fiscal impact on state and local government. Fiscal notes help the General Assembly and Governor meet two constitutional requirements: a balanced budget and an estimate of first year's funding of new legislation.

These documents tell the General Assembly how much a particular piece of legislation will cost, or how much revenue it will generate for state and/or local government.

A fiscal note is issued for each general bill and most resolutions.

It begins with a brief description of the filed legislation, states the estimated fiscal impact of the legislation, and provides a detailed explanation. See FISCAL REVIEW on Page 7

Comptroller's office seeks comment on revisions to debt reporting form

The Comptroller of the Treasury, through its Office of State and Local Finance, is seeking comment on revisions to a form that a local government is required to complete when it borrows money.

The proposed revisions to the form CT-0253 can be viewed online at: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/sl/pubdebt.asp>

The comment period will last from Oct. 1 through Nov. 15. After all the comments have been reviewed, the Comptroller's staff may make additional revisions to the form before presenting it at the State Funding Board's December meeting for approval.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, a local government has 45 days after the issuance of debt to submit the new version of the form to its legislative body, and file a copy with the Comptroller's office. Each local government is required to keep a copy of the completed form on file for public review.

The local government must provide information including a description of the debt issue, debt cost, debt type, general descriptions of what the debt will finance, and whether the debt complies with the local government's written debt management policy. The purpose of the form is to provide clear and con-

cise information to members of the governing or legislative body who authorize and are responsible for debt that has been issued. The proposed revisions are mostly format changes to make it easier for a local government to complete.

"It's important that governments be very transparent to the public when issuing debt," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "This form will provide some basic information for people who wish to review debt

transactions. We are hoping the comments we receive will help us determine whether any changes need to be made to the form before it is finalized."

Comments on the proposed revisions to the form should be sent by e-mail to: IGPublic.Finance@cot.tn.gov or by mail to:

Tennessee State Funding Board
17th Floor, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37243, Attn: Ann Butterworth.

Fifteen cities signed up for Walk Tennessee challenge

They're off and running – or shall we say walking!

Walk Tennessee, officially launched on Sept. 30; 15 cities have signed up to participate. Because it is still so early in the six-month challenge, cities that have missed the deadline for signing up, but are interested in participating, still have time to get their team together. Many cities are just now getting organized and setting up events.

Initiated by the Tennessee Municipal League, Walk Tennessee is designed to be a fun, social challenge to determine the most active city in Tennessee while highlighting all the great events in various communities.

Through an Internet-accessible program, community members can interact with one another online; form their own running, walking and fitness teams; set goals; track successes; and even earn points toward rewards and prizes.

The six-month challenge will continue through Feb. 28.

Based on a city's per capita miles, the winning city will receive a piece of outdoor exercise equipment, a single air walker, to install in a city park. The city will also be recognized at the TML Legislative Conference in March.

To get your city team set up and events loaded on the Walk Tennessee community page, email



The winning city will receive a single air walker to install in a city park.

info@cmecompete.com.
Help us create a healthier Tennessee and sign your city up today!

NLC releases report on mobile vending industry; offers regulation guidelines



From coast to coast and places in between, it is clear that food trucks have arrived and are here to stay.

Mobile vending generates approximately \$650 million in revenue annually, and is on pace to quadruple revenue over the next five years.

Unfortunately, most cities are legally ill-equipped to harness this expansion. Many city ordinances were written decades ago, with a different type of mobile food supplier in mind, like ice cream trucks, hot dog carts and sidewalk peddlers. Needless to say, food trucks are not your mother's mobile vending experience. Mobile vending today is a substantial departure from the vending typically assumed in outdated local regulations.

A new report from the National League of Cities spotlights the impact of the rapidly changing mobile vending industry on cities. The re-

port, *Food on Wheels: Mobile Vending Goes Mainstream*, offers best practices for city leaders to take advantage of the benefits of food trucks, while balancing the need to regulate growth and account for the concerns of other stakeholders, such as brick and mortar restaurants.

To view the full report, go to www.NLC.org.

To read an article recently featured in *Tennessee Town and City*, entitled *Cities address growing mobile food truck trend*, go to www.tml1.org/pdf/up/2013_Aug_26.pdf, or smart phone users can access the article by scanning the QR code.



NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

The Brentwood Planning Commission has given the go ahead for the construction of a new six-bay vehicle emissions testing facility on Wilson Pike Circle. The 3,775-square-foot facility is part of an effort to reduce congestion at the Franklin facility near Cool Springs Boulevard, the only full-time testing station in the county. A mobile testing unit currently serves Fairview every Tuesday. In all, the new station expected to attract about 870 vehicles a day. A right turn lane out of the testing center for those going southbound was added to the plan, when calculations determined that a mid-day peak could see as many as 103 cars a day. The new station will feature 12 parking spaces, which is three more than other testing facilities in the area.

BRISTOL

One of the leading manufacturers of specialty conveyor belts is tripling the size of its operation. Cobra America's marketing wing has set its sights on the food industry. In the past, the company has focused on the mining industry and sells to mining companies. The facility will expand from 14,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet. Cobra America ships from a small pallet to entire truck loads of conveyor belts all around the United States.

CHATTANOOGA

Where to Retire magazine is now featuring Chattanooga in the fifth edition of the book "America's 100 Best Places to Retire." The book, which includes diverse retirement choices from small havens to large urban areas, includes locales that have all been featured in the magazine. Tennessee has been previously ranked as both the best and one of the worst states for retirement by Bankrate.com. The book took into consideration vibrant downtowns, weather, advantageous tax situations, volunteer and work opportunities, walkable neighborhoods, and health care.

COVINGTON

Unilever officials plan to expand operations, investing \$108.7 million for facility and site improvements. The 11,000 square foot engine room expansion and a 90,000 square foot parking lot expansion will make way for 428 new full-time positions over

a four-year period. When the project is complete, the company expects to have a workforce of nearly 1,000 employees.

FAIRVIEW

The Friends of Bowie Nature Park and the city's Parks Department recently celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Bowie Nature Center. The center offers nature exhibits, brochures, art, Discovery Room, along with staff offices and restrooms. The Bowie museum provides the history of the Bowie family and the history of the park, their gift to Fairview.

FARRAGUT

The town has experienced an increased amount of new residential construction permits issued in 2013. By the end of August, the town had already issued a total of 80 new residential construction permits since the beginning of the year, just four permits away from meeting the 84 permits issued in the entirety of 2012. The value of these permits issued in the first eight months of 2013 is \$30 million, already exceeding the 2012 total value of \$26 million.

FRANKLIN

A recent proposal supporting U.S. Bicycle Route 23, which would be Tennessee's first officially designated north-south U.S. Bicycle Route, glided past city aldermen. The route is part of a national network envisioned by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and supported by state road officials. Franklin's approval was the last governmental approval of any city or county along the route from the Tennessee/Kentucky border to the Tennessee/Alabama border.

FRANKLIN

Franklin Communications Division was awarded the coveted Savvy Award from the City, County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) in Scottsdale, Ariz. earlier this month. The award for best promotional video for population 0-65,000 was given to the city for the video produced for the 2013 State of the City presentation titled "Franklin Is." The video has had more than 9,000 views on the city's YouTube channel. 3CMA is a national organization with more than 700 city and county members from a

number of governmental disciplines and functions. The Savvy Awards recognize cities that have created best practices in the communications field, and serve as a benchmark for all local government communication efforts. On this 25th anniversary of the Savvy Award competition, the organization received more than 500 entries in more than 30 categories. "Franklin Is" was written and produced by the city's Communications Manager Melissa Reiersen and shot and edited by Think Squared Media. The video is featured on the city's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityoffranklin.

GALLATIN

Clothing retailer Gap Inc. plans to expand operations at its distribution center, creating about 90 jobs. The expansion amounts to an investment of about \$35 million. The facility provides service to the South for Gap brands, including Gap and Gap Outlet, Banana Republic and Banana Republic Factory stores, and Old Navy.

JEFFERSON CITY

The Footwear Division of the Merchant House International Group announced the company will open its first U.S. footwear manufacturing facility. The company is moving production of a footwear line from its headquarters in Tianjin, China, due to increased demand from domestic retail customers. Merchant House International will invest \$5.4 million and create 109 new jobs. The group has purchased a 40,000 square foot building in the Jefferson City Industrial Park where it plans to manufacture its line of mens leather boots and shoes. The operation, to be known as Footwear Industries of Tennessee, Inc. (FIT), will begin shipping footwear in March 2014. The company plans to hire 109 employees beginning its first hiring phase at the end of this year.

MEMPHIS

In what's been called the state's most expensive single highway project ever bid, Tennessee Department of Transportation officials awarded a \$109.3 million contract to complete the reconstruction of the Interstate 40/240 interchange in East Memphis. The work will begin this fall and last through the summer of 2017. The new project features the construction of an approximately 70-foot-high flyover ramp that will extend from the I-40/240 loop to eastbound I-40, creating West Tennessee's first four-level interchange. It also will include completion of the now-deadend ramp lead-



Photo by Jeff Bobo

Crockett Spring Park in Rogersville was recently declared a Certified Arboretum. Pictured: Urban Forester Tom Simpson presents The Rogersville Heritage Association with a sign identifying the park as a Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Certified Arboretum. Accepting the sign is Rogersville Tree Board chair Jill Burdette and Rogersville Heritage Association director Angie Proffitt.



Somerville recently dedicated a new \$191,000 emergency response vehicle in memory of the late Alderman Mike White, who served as the Public Safety Committee chairman. Pictured: Somerville Mayor Robert D. Turner and Mrs. Mike (Salen) White unveil the vehicle's dedication plaques.

ing from westbound I-40 onto the I-40 north loop and the replacement of the I-40 bridge over the Wolf River. The construction will finish the refurbishment of the original interchange, which was designed in 1964. An earlier phase of the reconstruction was completed a decade ago.

NASHVILLE

The Federal Transit Administration announced a \$10 million grant for a bus rapid transit project. The money will be used to upgrade traffic signals along the busy Murfreesboro Road corridor so that they turn green for buses. Buses also will be equipped with transponders that will allow passengers to check their cellphones to see when the next bus is arriving. The bus stops also will be equipped with signs saying when the next bus will arrive. Another well publicized project under consideration for funding, The Amp, would dedicate lanes to mass transit. While he would not speculate on the chances that it would win a federal grant, Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff said bus rapid transit is a smart way to go for cities like Nashville, because it is extremely cost effective.

NASHVILLE

Nashville has announced plans for its biggest and most expensive piece of public art ever. "Sticks" is what it's called for now. Each stick is 85-foot tall, twice the height of a telephone pole. The whole project will cost \$750,000. It will go in the roundabout on Korean Veterans Boulevard once the city gets permission. The land is currently owned by the state. The SoBro area is expecting a lot of growth over the next few years, and the Metro Arts Commission hopes this will be the centerpiece. The money to pay for the project came from Metro's two percent for art program, which is a city savings account for art projects.

KNOXVILLE

ARC Automotive, a global manufacturer of airbag inflator products, will soon add two new production lines at its Third Creek facility. The \$3 million investment will create 115 new jobs. ARC has been headquartered in Knoxville since 1992. The expansion increases the number of employees by 50 percent.

MONTEAGLE

The Mountain Goat Trail project on Monteagle Mountain just got two kicks in the pants for the next and future segments of trail work in the areas of Monteagle, Palmer and Tracy City. The first boost for the project — which consists of plans for a smooth, walkable trail from Cowan, in Franklin County to Palmer, in Grundy County — came in August in the form of a \$200,000

Recreational Trails Program grant.

OAK RIDGE

Oak Ridge Public Library recently introduced a new service, Reference by Appointment. Individuals can obtain one-on-one, in-depth assistance with research, résumés, or online job applications with a trained professional at no cost. Anyone may schedule an appointment to meet with a librarian for assistance in the use of the library's many resources. A librarian can help formatting résumés, searching census records in Heritage Quest, assist with databases searches in Tennessee Electronic Library, advise research material for a school or work project, and help with basic computer skills. No library card is needed in order to take part in this service. Appointments last from 15-60 minutes, depending on the individual needs. Staff cannot do research or write résumés, but can advise research materials on formatting documents or give general assistance with online applications.

PORTLAND

Kyowa America celebrates a recent expansion. The company is preparing to add 60 new employees beginning this fall. Recognized by Toyota for outstanding performance, Kyowa America has been in Portland since 2012. Kyowa specializes in manufacturing high-quality, close tolerance plastic parts for automotive applications.

ROGERSVILLE

Crockett Spring Park was recently declared a Certified Arboretum by the state Forestry Division. The historic park is the final resting place of Davy Crockett's grandparents and Rogersville founder Joseph Rogers. A key component of achieving state arboretum certification is identifying and properly labeling at least 30 unique and properly maintained tree species within the park. Tennessee Urban Forester Tom Simpson presented The Rogersville Heritage Association with a Certified Arboretum sign.

SOMERVILLE

The town recently dedicated a new \$191,000 emergency response vehicle in memory of Alderman Mike White, who served as Public Safety Committee Chairman. White was instrumental in the department's efforts to purchase the vehicle before he passed away Feb. 6, 2013. Salen White, his widow, unveiled the dedication plaques for the vehicle during the ceremony. The truck is equipped with a new set of HURST extraction tools and carries 300 gallons of water with foam capability for quick fire suppression. The purchase was fully funded through a Community Development Block Disaster Grant.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Kendell Poole, director of the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office, was recently re-elected as chairman of the



Poole

Governors Highway Safety Association (GHTSA), at the association's Annual Meeting in San Diego. GHTSA is the national nonprofit organization that represents the state and territorial state highway safety offices across the country. Prior to his election last year as GHTSA Chairman, Poole was a member of the association's executive board for multiple terms. He was appointed to his current position in 2006 by former Gov. Phil Bredesen and continues to serve in the administration of Gov. Bill Haslam.

State Sen. **Mark Norris**, of Collierville, was elected chairman of the Council of State Governments at its 80th annual meeting in



Norris

Kansas City, Mo. Norris, the Senate Republican majority leader, is the first Tennessean to chair the group. CSG is a national bipartisan professional association composed of members of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state governments. It was founded in 1933 to foster excellence in state government. Its regional forums provide exchange of ideas among state officials. Norris was chairman of the Council's Southern region in 2010-11.

Smyrna Town Manager **Mark O'Neal** announced his resignation after 11 years on the job. O'Neal, a Smyrna native, worked for the town for a total of 21 years. O'Neal's resignation comes on the heels of former Smyrna Mayor Tony Dover's resignation in August.

Farragut Alderman **Ron Honken** was recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Bronze level in the Certificate of Achievement in



Honken

Leadership program. Sponsored by NLC, the award was presented in Seattle, Wash., at the annual Congress of Cities Conference. To reach the Bronze level, a local official must earn 50 credits encompassing five core competency areas: cornerstone, competent practitioner, communicator, collaborator and catalyst.

The Tennessee Supreme Court judges have chosen Solicitor General **Bill Young** to be the next administrative director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Young has served as solicitor general in the Tennessee attorney generals office for more than two years. He returned after working as general counsel and chief compliance officer for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee for eight years.

Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Commissioner **Many-Bears Grinder** has been appointed to the VA Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans. The committee is authorized to provide advice to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary on the needs of minority veterans regarding health care, rehabilitation benefits, compensation, outreach and other programs administered by VA. Minority Veterans are less likely to utilize VA Healthcare or file claims for federal benefits, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Whitney McFalls will start as Metro-Nashville's Domestic Violence coordinator on Oct. 14. McFalls is currently an advocate at the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland.

She previously worked as a court advocate for the YWCA and was a victim witness coordinator at the Davidson County District Attorney General's Office. The domestic violence coordinator is being funded for three years by a state grant. McFalls will work toward the goal of creating a family justice center model for Nashville, as one of the report's nine goals and recommendations. She will also work toward the goal of an integrated data collection system, standardized training for Metro employees that work with domestic violence victims and increasing victim services and advocacy at court.

After nearly 40 years fighting fires, Spring Hill Fire Chief **Jim Swindle** officially retired Sept. 30. Swindle, 63, initially hung up his fire hat after 32 years with the Columbia Fire Department — the first 10 as a firefighter/driver and the final 22 as a fire investigator and fire marshal. In April 2006, he came out of retirement to head up the Spring Hill Fire Department.

Kingsport interim Police Chief **David Quillin** has been selected as the 14th chief of police, succeeding Chief Gale Osborne, who retired in May. Quillin worked his way up through the ranks of the department, beginning in 1985 as a corrections officer. He also has served as a deputy chief of police since 2001.

After nearly a decade of progress under his belt, **Thompson's** Station's first administrator, **Greg Langeliers**, plans to retire this



spring and head back home to North Dakota. His official retirement most likely will be between April 1 – and July 1, which will make a full 10 years on the job. Langeliers has served in a variety leadership roles, including planning and zoning positions with the city of Gallatin and Williamson County government.

UT-MTAS' Richard Stokes president-elect of IPMA-HR

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator



Stokes

One of the strongest challenges for Human Resource organizations today is staying relevant, according to Richard Stokes, Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Human Resource consultant. And as recent president-elect of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR)—the leading public sector human resources organization in the world—Stokes is determined to work toward that goal.

It's not every day one receives International recognition. Stokes' years of professionalism, dedication and excellence in the field of human resources can't be denied by his peers.

"One of the things IPMA focuses on is to get organizations to realize that HR is a business partner. We're in there with city managers and mayors for the same reason, to provide services to the city." —Richard Stokes

As a founding member and current executive director of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (TPMA), it was Stokes who was charged in 1986 by former MTAS executive director C.L. Overman to "re-energize" a Tennessee personnel association. He began by spreading the word among the 30 or so personnel directors across the state and by 1989, a small group had affiliated with IPMA.

"Richard's dedication to the human resources management profession is plainly visible to us, who get to work alongside him every day," said Jim Thomas MTAS executive director. "Now, it's apparent that his peers around the world recognize that same dedication. MTAS and our town and city customers are better because of him."

According to Stokes, from a national perspective, the challenges facing cities today are the same challenges that are facing the Association: cut backs, the budget crises, the ability of the organization to provide continuing education; it all affects employee engagement and employee performance, he said.

"One of the unfortunate side effects is a decrease of membership and participation," said Stokes. "It's important to me that people see the Association as something that's of

value and has relevance.

Stokes' goal is to make sure the Association markets itself a bit wider in the future.

"My focus is exclusively on the person called the "HR Director" and

that we also market ourselves to city managers, clerks, recorders; anyone with HR responsibilities needs an organization such as IPMA," he said.

"There's not a lot that can be done about shrinking budgets or budget cuts," he continued. "One of the things IPMA focuses on is trying to get organizations to realize that HR is a business partner. We're in there with city managers and mayors for the same reason, to provide services to the city."

"Our job is to make sure that we have the right people in the right place with the right skills, to do the right job," Stokes concludes. "HR has to be strategic and in many cases, we're still transactional. In Tennessee, we've seen an increase in cities that see a need for an HR professional. We still have the challenge of having people recognize them as strategic partners."

Stokes has served as a past president for the Southern Region of IPMA-HR (2002) and a member of the Executive Council from 2004 to 2009. In addition, he served on the IPMA-HR certification council, responsible for the certification of thousands of HR professionals around the world, and is a competency model instructor for the organization. He will take office Jan. 1, 2014 and will become president of the organization on Jan. 1, 2015.

Brentwood's Joe Sweeney passes away

Brian Joseph "Joe" Sweeney Sr., longtime city commissioner, six-term mayor and Brentwood's biggest supporter, passed away Sept. 9, at his home. He would have turned 86 next month.

Sweeney was first elected to the Brentwood City Commission in 1972, just three years after the city incorporated. He announced he would not seek re-election in early 2011, after serving 38 years.

Sweeney had a long career with

Shell Oil Company, and served as past vice chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority, past chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and past chair of Greater Nashville Regional Council.

In addition to his work with city government, Sweeney was a member of the Brentwood Civitan Club, past president of the Carondelet Civic Association, and a member of the Brentwood Library Board



Sweeney



The oldest minutes from Greenville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings, dating back to 1872, are being reviewed by, from left, Trey Ricker, Mayor W.T. Daniels, and Bland Justis. Ricker and Justis are students in the Greenville Citizens Academy.

Greenville Citizens Academy students get rare glimpse into town's past, chat with BMA

Students of the Greenville Citizens Academy got a rare glimpse into the Town's past and had the chance to ask the Board of Mayor and Aldermen numerous questions during a three-hour session on the town's administration.

The session, held at Town Hall, focused on the operations of the city administrator, recorder's office, and the board of mayor and aldermen. It was the fifth class in an eight-week program designed to teach the public about the operations of the Town of Greenville.

The new program began Aug. 22 with orientation and is scheduled to end with a graduation ceremony on Oct. 10. A total of 13 students of various ages and backgrounds, who applied to participate, have attended the free weekly sessions. Some occasionally have brought their friends or family members with them.

A highlight of the evening came when the students searched through minutes of board of mayor and alder-

men meetings dating back to 1872. The books, some of which contained handwritten minutes, were carefully shared by Recorder Carol Susong.

Some interesting items found among the minutes demonstrated a very different era in Greenville. For example, one set of minutes prohibited anyone from throwing watermelon rinds into the street, which was punishable by a fine ranging from \$1 to \$5. Also, businesses were prohibited from blowing their whistles before 5:30 a.m., and a particular chair factory was asked to cease blowing its whistle at 4:30 a.m.

Susong also spoke about requirements for the town's financial procedures and the annual budgeting process and gave a tour of the Recorder's Office.

Mayor W.T. Daniels and Alderman Buddy Hawk and Sarah Webster spoke about their experiences on the board, stressing the importance of being public servants and making a difference.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WATER/WASTEWATER

JOHNSON CITY. The city is looking for an innovative and committed professional with proven technical and leadership skills to serve as the assistant director of water/wastewater. The position is under administrative direction and performs professional and administrative work with responsibility for coordinating the activities of the Water/Wastewater Department. Involves complex planning and supervision of subordinate supervisory personnel in coordinating various projects and functions of facilities. Work is performed according to directives from the Water/Wastewater director, but with considerable latitude for independent initiative and judgment. Position acts for director when necessary. Requirements include: graduation from a college or university of recognized standing with a degree in Engineering or closely related field and considerable experience of a progressively responsible nature in administering large scale, diverse water/wastewater projects or like programs; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. Possession of Professional Engineering licensure in the State of Tennessee or the ability to procure within 90 days required. Salary \$60,503.33 annually. Open until filled. Apply online at www.johnsoncitytn.org. EEO/AA

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

GOODLETTSVILLE The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced fire protection professional to serve as Deputy Fire Chief for the city's full-service fire department. The deputy fire chief reports directly to the fire chief and assists in the planning, organizing, and administering a comprehensive program to provide leadership and direction to the fire department's operations and departmental staff. Qualifications include: A minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major in Fire Science, Public Administration, or a related field, certified as a Fire Fighter II, eight years of progressively responsible leadership experience in the field of fire prevention preferably in a command level position or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job; valid Tennessee driver's license, pass a medical examination by licensed physician; pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Salary and benefits include: group medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and voluntary deferred compensation plan. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. Job open until filled. All applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Email: dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org Information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The city of Goodlettsville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. www.cityofgoodlettsville.org.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CITY CLERK

CLEVELAND. The city is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Finance/City Clerk. Qualified applicants will possess a BS Degree in Accounting, and will be a Certified Public Accountant with more than ten years related experience preferably in the field of governmental accounting. Major duties of the position include: assist the city manager and other department heads with the development and implementation of financial policies, procedures and controls; supervise the preparation of financial statements and related reports; supervise disbursement of city funds; coordinate development of the annual budget with the city manager, assistant city manager, department heads, city council and outside agencies; update statistical tables and schedules and complete an application and grading sheet for a government sponsored budget recognition program; manage preparation of city council agendas and review minutes of council meetings; coordinate city code updates; maintain official city files, records, minutes, leases, deeds, contracts and other financial records; assist

the public with requests for information and attest official records; supervise staff and participate in various personnel functions including hiring, training employees, planning, assigning and directing work, appraising performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, addressing complaints and resolving problems; other duties as assigned by the city manager. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and resume by mail to the city of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department, or by email to jdavis@clevelandtn.gov. Salary range entry level is \$76,664.EOE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

COLLIERVILLE. The town is seeking applicants for the position of Economic Development Director. This position performs highly responsible administrative work managing, directing, coordinating and overseeing activities and operations of the Economic Development Department to promote the town. Requires a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, planning, economics or closely related field; supplemented by five years increasingly responsible experience in community development and business or industrial development and recruitment; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator's License at the time of hire and maintain throughout employment. Knowledge of State and Local economic development programs, site location/selection criteria, economic incentive programs and knowledge of business relocation issues is desired. Salary range is \$70,000.00 - \$85,000.00 (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, M-F or at Collierville.com. The official application of the Town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

ENGINEER

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced Engineering Professional to serve as engineer for the city's Public Services Department. The engineer reports directly to the Public Services director and assists with development, review, and oversight of plans, specifications, construction and cost estimates for projects occurring within the city. Qualifications include: a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college or university and two (2) years post-degree full-time engineering experience, preferably within a municipal or government setting. Must hold active engineering license and possess a valid "Class D" driver's license. Obtain TDEC Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications; pass a medical examination by licensed physician; and pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Salary and benefits include: Group medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave; Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and voluntary deferred compensation plan. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. Job open until filled. All applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Email: dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org. Information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The City of Goodlettsville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. www.cityofgoodlettsville.org.

TOWN MANAGER

SMYRNA. The town is seeking a visionary leader to fill the vacancy of Town Manager. This position provides leadership and management to the town; serves as chief executive officer, and directs all operations of the municipal organization as set forth in the town's charter. Duties and responsibilities include: providing direction and supervision for department directors, coordinating the development of and presentation of annual operating budget, attending all council meetings and providing guidance as needed, ensuring laws and provisions of the charter are enforced, supervising the control and collection of taxes, and providing strategic direction for the town. This position is appointed by and reports to a seven member city council. Starting salary range is \$115,000 to \$125,000. Minimum qualifications in-

clude a bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in business administration, public administration or closely related field; and 10 years experience in public administration with a minimum of five years experience as a local government department head; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Applicant must possess or be able to obtain a valid Tennessee driver's license within 30 days of beginning employment. The applicant must reside within the town of Smyrna corporate limits or relocate to the corporate limits within 90 days from date of employment. Applicant must successfully pass a background investigation and possess a satisfactory credit history. Applications are available at Smyrna Town Hall, 315 S. Lowry St., Smyrna, TN 37167, or at www.townofsmyrna.org. Applications and resumes may be delivered or mailed to Town Hall, or faxed to 615-355-5771, or emailed to hr@townofsmyrna.org. The closing date is 10/18/2013.

UTILITY SYSTEMS SUPERVISOR

MONTEAGLE. The town is seeking a utility systems supervisor to perform high level and responsible professional work related to management of the city's utility systems. In accordance with city, county, and state requirements, the employee supervises the operation and maintenance of the city drinking water production and distribution system, wastewater collection and treatment system, water meter system, and installation, calibration and repair of instrumentation related to water distribution systems and sewer pump stations. More information can be found at www.townofmonteagle-tn.gov. Resumes can be mailed to Town of Monteagle, P.O. Box 127, Monteagle, TN, 37356, or applications can be picked up at town hall, 16 Dixie Lee Ave.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR III

KINGSTON. The city is accepting applications for the position of water treatment plant operator class III. Excellent benefits package and salary ranges offered. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications are available at Kingston City Hall, 900 Waterford Place, Kingston, TN 37763. A resume does not substitute for an application. Passing a physical, drug/alcohol test and background check are conditions of employment. This position is primarily day shift, but may require rotating shifts, including weekends and weekdays. Only applicants with a Water Treatment Plant Operator Class III License or above should apply. Send applications to: Mike Jolly, Water Superintendent, City of Kingston, 900 Waterford Place, Kingston, TN 37763.

House GOP takes steps on Internet Sales Tax

SALES TAX from Page 1

retailers had been the biggest opponents of the legislation, but that has begun to change with the decision of Amazon and Walmart to support the bill.

Basic Principles on Remote Sales Tax from Chairman Goodlatte

1. Tax Relief – Using the Internet should not create new or discriminatory taxes not faced in the off-line world. Nor should any fresh precedent be created for other areas of interstate taxation by states.
2. Tech Neutrality – Brick & Mortar, Exclusively Online, and Brick & Click businesses should all be on equal footing. The sales tax compliance burden on online Internet sellers should not be less, but neither should it be greater than that on similarly situated off-line businesses.
3. No Regulation Without Representation – Those who would bear state taxation, regulation and com-

pliance burdens should have direct recourse to protest unfair, unwise or discriminatory rates and enforcement.

4. Simplicity – Governments should not stifle businesses by shifting onerous compliance requirements onto them; laws should be so simple and compliance so inexpensive and reliable as to render a small business exemption unnecessary.
5. Tax Competition – Governments should be encouraged to compete with one another to keep tax rates low and American businesses should not be disadvantaged vis-à-vis their foreign competitors.
6. States' Rights – States should be sovereign within their physical boundaries. In addition, the federal government should not mandate that States impose any sales tax compliance burdens.
7. Privacy Rights – Sensitive customer data must be protected.

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STATE BRIEFS



State to offer alternative diploma
Tennessee is set to offer an alternative to the GED, a decades-old high school equivalency diploma, because the nonprofit group that owned the test is hiking prices under a commercial deal with computer testing giant Pearson VUE. The price hike announced for January 2014 will be paired with a second change that also caused worry. The GED will be available only as a computer test and will no longer be offered on paper. The "HiSET" or High School Equivalency Test, which was created by a well-known nonprofit company, Educational Testing Services, will be offered in Tennessee and officials will track the popularity of each choice during the year. Those who complete either program will be issued state high school equivalency diplomas that are recognized by all other states. Like the GED, the HiSET exam will measure a student's knowledge and skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies and will be aligned to Common Core state standards.

TN apple crop offered a reprieve
Despite a challenging year, the state's apple orchards are on target to produce an average sized crop, according to Dr. David Lockwood, fruit specialist and professor of plant science at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. The state usually boasts a statewide apple yield between 7.5 and 9 million pounds. High night time temperatures and persistent rain produce adverse effects in an apple's sugars and color, but now that night time temperatures have dropped and the weather's been dry, the crop is improving, according to Lockwood. The state had a lower production rate last year due to hot weather conditions producing an extra heavy fruit set. The trees did lose apples from the summer's rainy weather, but they needed to for the optimal number of apples to reach the best potential."

State Library and Archives digitizes 1M historical news pages
The Tennessee State Library and Archives is adding more than one million newspaper pages to its free online collection. The additional historical newspapers from

Greenville, Jonesborough, Memphis, Sweetwater and Winchester date from the 1850s to almost 1900. The joint Chronicling America project with the University of Tennessee had previously digitized more than 120,000 pages of newspapers from the Civil War era, including 40 titles ranging from cities like Knoxville and Memphis to smaller towns such as Bolivar, Fayetteville and Loudon. The Chronicling America website is hosted by the Library of Congress and displays images of entire newspapers along with an online index.

Seven Islands becomes state park
The state will take control of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge and make it Tennessee's 56th state park by July 2014. The 360-acre property sits next to the French Broad River in East Knox County. Plans to transfer Seven Islands from Knox County to the state have been in the works for more than a year. Local group Legacy Parks said they believe the state park designation will build upon Knox County's growing reputation as an outdoors destination. TDEC announced it will also give Legacy Parks a \$200,000 grant to expand trails in South Knoxville's Urban Wilderness.

Meth database lacks effectiveness
Scores of convicted methamphetamine users are not being entered into the Tennessee Meth Offender Registry, in spite of a two-year-old state law requiring the Bureau of Investigation to maintain a meth offender database for pharmacists to use to prevent pseudoephedrine sales to those with meth convictions. Over-the-counter cold medicines include the main ingredient used to make meth. As a result, no one in the state can say with certainty just how many Tennesseans have been convicted of meth crimes — or how many have been able to go back and purchase more meth ingredients — at a time when law enforcement officials believe the drug has hit epidemic proportions. Tennessee is now on track to be No. 1 in the nation for meth lab seizures, according to the TBI. Just 65 of Tennessee's 95 counties have reported meth convictions to the TBI this year, according to the Tennessee Meth and Pharma-

ceutical Task Force. Many meth offenders are convicted under broader state drug laws, making it difficult for criminal-court clerks, who are required to report the convictions to the TBI, to distinguish meth crimes from marijuana, cocaine or other offenses.

TN Safety grants allotted
Tennessee's roads aren't paved with money. But Gov. Haslam is spending \$21.1 million to make them safer. The annual funding is to support public roadway safety. The money was parceled out in 434 grants to 370 agencies across the state. The grants ranged from a minimum of \$5,000 for "high visibility enforcement" to large sums for more than \$2.8 million. Funds were allotted to the following counties: Bledsoe: \$10,000; Bradley: \$49,979.75; Franklin: \$74,346.92; Grundy: \$71,634.72; Hamilton: \$489,855.30; Marion: \$68,520.96; McMinn: \$273,514.95; Meigs: \$35,827.42; Polk: \$49,009.96; Rhea: \$60,000.01; Sequatchie: \$45,630.30.

State to focus more on tourism
Tourism leaders from around Tennessee are hoping a new strategic plan will attract more visitors to the state and turn it into one of the nation's top 10 travel destinations. The plan was put together by the Tennessee Tourism Committee. Some recommendations in the plan include establishing a Tennessee-specific brand for tourism attractions, developing a market plan that focuses on key markets and encourages longer stays, and putting together a network of festivals and events that focus on music. Tennessee was ranked in 2011 as No. 17 among U.S. states for visitors. Its 1.9 percent of the U.S. market share hasn't changed in five years.

State's August Unemployment rate 8.5 percent
Tennessee's unemployment rate for August was 8.5 percent, unchanged from the previous month. Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips said it's the third consecutive month that the rate has not changed. The national unemployment rate for August was 7.3 percent. State figures show that non-farm employment increased by 2,200 jobs from July to August.

CDGB funds allocated to Tenn. communities

Gov. Bill Haslam announced nine recipients of Community Development Block Grants. The grant recipients include Athens, Dyer, Dover, Etowah, Gibson, Humboldt, Milan, Rutherford and Trenton. Additional CDBG recipients will be announced in the upcoming months. "Community Development Block Grants have a critical impact on rural Tennessee communities because they help cities and towns make important infrastructure improvements that facilitate economic

development," Haslam said. "With the assistance of CDBG funding, these areas will see changes that can lead to additional jobs and improve the quality of life for its residents." The funds were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly. Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known. The CDBG program is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Community	Project	CDBG Amount	Local Funds	Total Project
Athens	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$500,000	\$341,000	\$841,000
Dover	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$400,000	\$60,000	\$460,000
Dyer	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$300,000	\$22,590	\$322,590
Etowah	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$500,000	\$75,000	\$575,000
Gibson	Pumper/Tanker Truck Purchase	\$198,410	\$5,931	\$204,341
Humboldt	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$500,000	\$68,182	\$568,182
Milan	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	\$500,000	\$56,000	\$556,000
Rutherford	Pumper/Tanker Truck Purchase	\$207,860	\$10,940	\$218,800
Trenton	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$50,000	\$550,000

First Responders recognized by state's Homeland Security

The state's Department of Safety and Homeland Security recently held its annual First Responder Awards ceremony to celebrate those who have dedicated their lives for the health and welfare of all Tennesseans.

"This ceremony serves as a reminder of the enormous risks taken by emergency responders on a daily basis. We are grateful for your life-saving efforts and public service to Tennessee," said Greg Adams, Chief Operating Officer.

The honorees included 28 first responders from each of the state's 11 Homeland Security districts, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Department of Health, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

"The men and women who serve our state as first responders are on the front lines of every emergency, those we hear or read about and those we may never know," Commissioner Gibbons said. "I am honored to share in this day with all of the recipients and their families. We are grateful for your dedication to the safety of our communities."

The First Responder Awards ceremony has been held every September since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist

attacks on the United States. The Office of Homeland Security also marks the occasion during September, which is National Preparedness Month.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort encouraging Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies. Critical to the preparedness process are the men and women who serve our state and citizens as first responders.

Those municipal first responders who were recognized include: Terry Johnson, Bristol Police Department; Michelle Matson, Jefferson City Fire Department; Terry Lindsay, Algood Police Department; Keith Smith, Livingston Police Department; Scott Harris, Davidson County, Office of Emergency Management Agency; Mark Yother, Manchester Police Department; Stephen C. Warren, Clarksville Police Department; Jacob Sullivan, Dyersburg Fire Department; and Colin Ickes, Knoxville Emergency Management Agency. State officers recognized include Kenneth Fritts, TEMA; Trooper Scott Lewis, Tennessee Highway Patrol; and Trooper Terrance Gann, Tennessee Highway Patrol.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said his agency is in "the midst of a financial disaster" and may need an emergency increase in postage rates to keep operating. "The Postal Service as it exists today is financially unsustainable," he told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Donahoe pressed lawmakers for swift action on legislation to fix the agency's finances. Without help from Congress, the agency expects its multibillion-dollar annual losses to worsen. He warned that the agency's cash liquidity remains dangerously low. The post office expects to lose \$6 billion this year. Last year it lost \$16 billion. Donahoe said the rate hike may be needed because

his agency's finances are so precarious and the prospects of quick congressional action are so uncertain. The Postal Service's board of governors could decide soon whether to request a special rate increase. Under federal law, the post office cannot raise its prices more than the rate of inflation unless it gets approval from the independent Postal Regulatory Commission. The Postal Service must cite exceptional circumstances in seeking an "exigent" or emergency rate hike.

Gov. Bill Haslam asked state department heads to report on the possible impacts on the state of a partial federal government shutdown. "Some of our immediate con-

cerns are things that are funded out of Human Services, the SNAP program and others," the governor said, referring to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or Food Stamps. SNAP provides food assistance to low-income children and families, the elderly, disabled and unemployed. He said that while Social Security benefits for current recipients would still go out, applications for new enrollees could be delayed. The governor also said he's still in discussions with the Obama administration about how Tennessee can expand Medicaid under the terms of the Affordable Care Act by using federal funding to pay for private health insurance.

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Dale Kelley (2010) Mayor, Huntingdon

Tom Beehan, (2008) Mayor, Oak Ridge

Tommy Green (2007) Mayor, Alamo

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UT Report: US, Tennessee economies showing "much-welcomed resilience"

In spite of reduced federal spending, a global slowdown, and a conflict in Syria that has contributed to rising oil prices, the national and Tennessee economies are still growing.

The growth will continue through this year and is expected to accelerate in 2014 and beyond, according to the forecast in the fall 2013 Tennessee Business and Economic Outlook released today.

The study, prepared by the UT Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), predicts the course of the state and national economies by examining many economic and fiscal factors and trends.

The US unemployment rate is expected to average 7.6 percent this year, down from 7.8 percent in 2012. It is expected to fall to 7.1 percent in 2014 and to 6.5 percent in 2015.

"While growth is subdued due to reduced federal government spending and a global slowdown, the expansion has shown a much-welcomed resilience," said Matt Murray, CBER associate director and the report's author. "The outlook for 2014 is encouraging, but the economy continues to confront a number of domestic and international challenges."

The heightened crisis in Syria and the federal budget deadlock have dampened expectations. Additionally, the housing market has begun to rebound, although higher interest rates have tempered the growth in the residential sector. But the national economy should be able to adapt to these pressures and still see a 2.6 percent growth in its gross domestic product and a 1.7 percent increase in nonfarm employment growth in 2014, according to the report.

Consumer spending has weakened because of the elimination of the payroll tax holiday and the se-

questration of federal government has limited spending, but they have not derailed the country's economic expansion.

"Nonresidential fixed investment, residential fixed investment, and exports will be the primary drivers of economic growth next year, while federal and state government spending will be the primary drags on growth," Murray said.

The economic growth is good news but many problems remain, including a decline in the labor force participation rate. Millions of people are still unemployed and millions more are underemployed. Additionally, there are many discouraged workers who have left the labor market due to bleak employment prospects, according to the report.

Tennessee Economy
Tennessee's economy has generally tracked the national economy, outpacing the nation in some measures and lagging behind in others, according to the report.

"Tennessee continues to see much stronger growth in manufacturing employment than the nation," Murray said. "On the downside, the state's unemployment rate is now well above its national counterpart." Manufacturing employment in Tennessee is expected to increase 2 percent this year, compared to 0.6 percent for the nation.

The state's unemployment rate, however, will average 8.2 percent for 2013, compared to 7.6 percent for the nation. Tennessee's unemployment rate was 8 percent last year and is expected to drop to 7.6 percent in 2014 and 7 percent in 2015.

Other findings:
• Personal income in Tennessee is expected to grow 2.6 percent this year, slightly lower than the nation's 2.7 percent rate of growth. It is expected to improve to 4.4 percent in 2014.

Professional and business services, leisure and hospitality services, and manufacturing sectors will see marginally slower growth next year compared to this year.

• Within the nondurable goods sector, food, beverage, and tobacco; plastics and rubber; and miscellaneous goods will see growth this year.

• Eating and drinking establishments and food stores will experience strong growth this year.

• Taxable sales growth for 2013 is expected to be 3.2 percent, well behind the 4.7 percent growth rate of 2012. It will see modest improvement in 2014 to a projected 3.5 percent.

• Automobile dealer sales were especially hot in 2012, up 10.1 percent, as consumers continued to satisfy their demands for vehicle upgrades. A cooling of sales will take place this year, with a rebound to 4.4 percent growth in 2014.

State Revenue Performance
Tennessee's total revenue collections grew by 2.6 percent in fiscal year 2013, which is lower than the regional average of 3.9 percent and the national average of 4.2 percent.

In fiscal year 2014, state total collections are projected to reach \$12.3 billion, up 3.2 percent from this year. That is a higher growth rate than the regional and national averages, according to the report.

The Southeast region significantly outperformed the rest of the nation in corporate income tax collections for all four quarters of 2012, with an average growth rate of 11.4 percent compared to 1.6 percent for all other states. Tennessee did well in the same period with an increase of 15.9 percent in corporate income tax collections, the report states.

Read the entire report on the CBER website <http://www.cber.bus.utk.edu/>.

COMING UP

Nov. 1: Discovery Park of America ribbon cutting ceremony, 10 am, 830 Everett Blvd. in Union City. A world-class educational and entertainment facility with more than 70,000 square feet of exhibits focused on nature, science, technology, history, and art. For more information, visit www.discoveryparkofamerica.com

Nov. 13-16: The 2013 Congress of Cities and Exposition in Seattle, Washington. City officials and staff from across the country come together for a unique opportunity to share best practices and learn strategies to promote local economic and financial health, improve the built and natural environment, and ensure quality of life for all city residents. Register by Oct. 10 before rates go up. Also the National Summit on Your City's Families "Leading and Managing for Results" Nov. 12-14 at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. Visit <http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/congress-of-cities-and-exposition>.

Nov. 17 - 19: 36th Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and the Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations - Biloxi, Miss. Gov. Haslam leads Tennessee's delegation to join counterparts from seven other Southeast member states, business executives and government officials from Japan. Panel discussions and business networking sessions focus on investment, competitiveness and alternate energy, among other corporate opportunities. Preliminary information at www.seusjapan2013.org. For more information, contact Leigh Wieland or Rita Reed by email at jastninfo@jastn.com or call 615-663-6060.

UT MTAS November MAP Classes

Planning and Zoning's Impact on Municipal Economic Development

Attracting development and ensuring that it meshes with the long-range comprehensive planning of the city is vitally important to growth and sustainability of a municipality.

This session will address the role of the planning and zoning board and the municipal planning and zoning requirements in economic development.

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

Cost: Municipal Employees - \$50/person/class. All other participants - \$65/person/class.

Will qualify for four hours of planning and zoning commissioner continuing education hours.

Schedule of sessions
Nov.6 - Knoxville
Nov.7 - Collegedale
Nov.13 - Bartlett
Nov.14 - Jackson
Nov.15 - Kingsport
Nov.22 - Nashville

Location
Bartlett, Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Rd.
Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Dr.
Jackson, University of Tenn.— West Tenn Research & Education Center, 605 Airways Center
Kingsport, Northeast State Community College, Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 West Market St.
Knoxville, UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St., 4th floor.



Nashville, TBI Headquarters, 901 R.S. Gass Blvd.

To register, go to the website, www.mtas.tennessee.edu and click "register for a class." MTAS needs to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class.

For 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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No loan is too large or too small



The city of Trenton closed a \$2.5 million loan to be used for various public works projects.



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



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TENNESSEE FESTIVALS



Oct. 11-12: Hohenwald

Oktober Heritage Festival and 20th Annual Fall Classics Car and Truck Show.

Downtown parking lot at the corner of N. Maple St. and E. Linden Ave. Entertainment, arts and crafts, food, free Kids' Corner and other booths beginning at 9 am. The Pilot Club's pancake breakfast at 7 am, entertainment and vendors and free Kids' Corner with inflatables and games. Hohenwald Lions Club Annual BBQ cook-off Sat. evening. The 20th Annual Fall Classics Car and Truck Show on the courthouse lawn. Cars entered from 8 am until noon. Awards for first, second, and third place in more than 50 classes plus seven top honor awards. For more information, call the Hohenwald/Lewis County Chamber of Commerce at 931-796-4084.

Oct. 12: Parrottsville

16th Annual Heritage Day

Outdoor festival at Parrott-Larue-Myers Park and along Hwy 321 outside the park from 9 am - 6 pm. Craft demonstrations from the late 1800's, buckboard rides, civil war camp, pie and cake baking contests, children's games, and a buckboard parade at 11 am. Music in the park. Quilt and flower shows at the Community Center. For more information, e-mail s.strobel@parrottsvilletn.org, or call 423-623-9380

Oct. 12: Dandridge

3rd Dandridge Arts Excursion

Downtown and the surrounding community. Local artists and craftsmen, demonstrations by skilled artisans. Free. Downtown shops and studios will be hosting demonstrators and art for sale from 10 am - 4 pm. For information or Arts Excursion brochures with maps, visit www.MainStreetDandridge.com, links on Facebook, email DandridgeArts@gmail.com, or call 865-397-3977.

Oct. 18-20: Mt. Juliet

32nd Annual Fall Festival & Tennessee State Native American Pow Wow.

Long Hunter State Park, 9 am until closing. Native American Indian food, arts & crafts, live music, dances. For more information, visit <http://www.naiatn.org/powwow/index.html>.

Oct. 19-20: Whitwell

Ketner's Mill Country Arts Fair

The premier country arts fair in East Tennessee, and home to the best in arts and crafts - ranging from sculpture and paintings, to pottery and hand-woven baskets to metal art and jewelry, plus woodworking, furniture, folk art, and more. More than 100 artisans with products and demonstrations, more than 20 food vendors, plus two days packed full of entertainment for the whole family. The mill churns out freshly ground cornmeal, farm animals graze in the sun and covered wagons circle through the trees. Admission \$6 adults; children 12 and under free. Ketner's Mill is located between state Highways 27 and 28 near Whitwell. From Chattanooga, take scenic Highway 27 over Suck Creek Mountain to Powell's Crossroads, then follow the signs to the mill. For more information, call 423-267-5702 or visit the website <http://www.ketnersmill.org/www>.

Oct. 19-20: Nashville

Music & Molasses Festival

Tennessee Agricultural Museum, Ellington Agricultural Center, 440 Hogan Road. A celebration of the harvest season with two music stages, molasses making demonstrations, bluegrass music, story-tellers, country cloggers, a grist mill, tradi-

tional crafts for sale, food, including homemade cakes and pies, free buggy rides, log cabin activities for children with a trail hike, pony rides, animals to touch and much more makes this a weekend of family fun. Held from 9am - 4 pm. For more information, call 615- 837-5197.

Oct. 26 - 27: Morristown

36th Annual Mountain Makers Festival.

The historic 1892 Rose Center is filled with juried fine arts and crafts, plus live music, dancing, storytelling, children's activities, food and expert demonstrations of time-honored traditions. For more information, call 423-581-4330, www.rosecenter.org.

Oct. 26: Franklin

Pumpkin Fest.

Downtown 10 am-6 pm. In its 30th year downtown, features arts & crafts, live music, a scarecrow contest, and the return of the Great Pumpkin delivered by sister city Carleton Place in Ontario, Canada. After dark, tickets can be purchased for Grave Matters, a tour of the city's two historic cemeteries on Fourth Ave. North.

Oct. 31: Goodlettsville

Pumpkin Festival.

Moss Wright Park, 745 Caldwell Dr. from 5-7:30 pm. Little superheroes, princesses and monsters can celebrate Halloween with inflatables, games, a hayride and more. Trick or treat booths at the park's trailhead by Baseball Field 1.

Through Nov. 2: Eagleville

Lucky Ladd Farms Corn Maze

4374 Rocky Glade Road. Families can play clue-finding games in the pumpkin maze and pick among 10 varieties of pumpkins from the pumpkin patch. See hundreds of jack-o-lanterns after dark, hayride and more. For more information, call 615-274-3786 and visit <http://luckyladdfarms.com/>.

TN infrastructure needs stand at \$37 B

Tennessee needs at least \$37.1 billion of public infrastructure improvements to be in some stage of development during the five-year period of 2011-2016 according to new report by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). Even so, public infrastructure needs, as reported by state and local officials, are flat (down only 0.2 percent) compared with the year before.

Costs for infrastructure needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$20.2 billion
- Education: \$7.2 billion
- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$6.2 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$1.7 billion
- Economic Development: \$1.2 billion
- General Government: \$488 million.

Sen. Mark Norris, TACIR's chairman, notes that public infrastructure is one of the most important things government can provide to encourage economic development, saying, "This inventory is not just a catalog of infrastructure needs; it's a guide for improving quality of life in Tennessee."

While the overall need for public infrastructure was flat, the need for transportation infrastructure increased by \$1.3 billion (6.8 percent). At 54.1 percent of the estimated costs for all infrastructure improvements, transportation dwarfs other types of infrastructure needs. Transportation is part of the Transportation and Utilities category, which has always been and remains the single largest category in the inventory. The estimated costs for Health, Safety, and Welfare infrastructure improvements decreased the most (\$893.6 million) from \$7.1 billion to \$6.2 billion. All seven types of infrastructure in this category decreased: water and wastewater, law enforcement, public health facilities, storm water, fire protection, solid waste, and housing. That does not necessarily mean that needs reported in



past inventories have been met. Much of this year's decrease can be attributed to cancellation or postponement rather than completion of projects.

This inventory is also the only source of statewide information on the condition of public school buildings and what it would take to get them all in good or better condition, and the news here is good: According to local school officials, 93 percent of local public schools are now in good or excellent condition. However, they estimate the cost to put the remaining 7 percent in good or better condition at \$574 million.

Local officials are confident in obtaining funding for only \$11.2 billion of the \$30.1 billion identified as local needs. These figures do not include needs at existing schools or those in state agencies' capital budget requests. Most of this funding, \$10.8 billion, is for improvements that are fully funded; another \$415 million is for improvements that are partially funded. That leaves another \$18.8 billion of improvements for which funding is not yet available.

Infrastructure is built for many reasons, including community enhancement, population growth, public health and safety, economic development, and government mandates. Around two-thirds (67 percent) of improvements in this inven-

tory are needed for public health and safety, 29 percent is needed for population growth, and 22 percent is needed for community enhancement. Infrastructure needs and the ability to meet them vary across the state.

It is no surprise that counties with the largest populations, growth rates, and tax bases need the most infrastructure and are able to build the most. Davidson County, with the greatest density and second largest population, gets the most done, while Shelby, with the largest population, needs the most. However, even though the most populous counties need and complete more infrastructure, an examination of infrastructure improvements per capita indicates that population alone does not explain the differences. Available financial resources, including sales and property tax bases and residents' income, are strong predictors of how much infrastructure is needed and how much gets completed. Population gain is also strongly related to how much infrastructure is needed.

The full report is available on TACIR's web site at <http://www.tn.gov/tacir/infrastructure.html>. For more information, contact Dave Keiser, Project Manager, at david.keiser@tn.gov or 615.253.4237.

Fiscal Review needs cities' help with annual survey

FISCAL REVIEW from Page 1
nation of the estimated fiscal impact of the legislation if enacted as law. **What is the process for writing a fiscal note?**

First, a bill is introduced by a member of the General Assembly. That bill is then sent to the Fiscal Review Committee where the bill is assigned to a specific analyst. The analyst then contacts state or local government agencies potentially impacted to assess any potential costs or revenue.

The analyst reviews the impact information provided by the agencies and conducts independent research. After research and analysis are complete, the analyst will create

a draft fiscal note for the legislation. After the fiscal note is drafted, internally reviewed and approved, it is then published.

Why are fiscal notes important?

It is imperative that fiscal notes be attached to all proposed legislation to provide the General Assembly and Governor with an accurate picture of how the legislation will fiscally impact state and local government. Receiving up-to-date information is crucial in the production of accurate fiscal notes, as fiscal notes are only as good as the infor-

mation analysts receive. In the completion of the local government survey sent by Fiscal Review's local government analyst, city officials are helping to equip the state legislature to see a clear picture of how proposed legislation will affect local governments in Tennessee.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or the Fiscal Review Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the local government fiscal analyst, Jessica Himes at Jessica.himes@capitol.tn.gov (615) 532- 9869.

Beware of misleading mailout to TCRS members

The Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) has become aware of a Texas-based company making incorrect and misleading statements about TCRS.

The company, Teachers Pension Advisory Services, with a postal address in Katy, Texas, has mailed letters to TCRS members that contain misleading information and claim they can provide a "free estimate of your TCRS benefits." Teachers Pension Advisory Services is not affiliated in any way with TCRS, nor does the organization represent TCRS.

People who receive the letters are urged not to respond, particularly since the letters ask for personal information.

"I want to make it very clear that this is not an official communication from the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System," Treasurer

David H. Lillard, Jr. said. "Anyone with questions about their retirement should contact our office, not an outside party."

If you receive mail or a phone call from this company, or if you need information about your TCRS benefits, we encourage you to contact the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System: E-mail: TCRS_Counseling@tn.gov Phone: 615-741-1971; Toll free: 1-800-770-8277

In general, if a private company claims it can provide you with information about your TCRS account, keep in mind that only TCRS can verify the facts about your account with us.

TCRS strongly encourages you to contact us for accurate answers to retirement questions, especially when they concern your TCRS benefits.



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Waste equals energy in West Tennessee city

Covington's bio-gasification plant to generate millions

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

In the 19th century, Dr. Frankenstein summed up a scientific miracle with "It's alive!" In 2013, practicing veterinarian Dr. David Gordon, Covington mayor and self-admitted science nerd, is equally excited, as his city celebrates the long-awaited operational phase of a \$2.5 million waste-to-energy gasification plant; the only one of its kind in Tennessee and the mid-South region.

Located next door to the city's wastewater facility, the plant is devouring the vast majority of the organic debris normally collected off the city's streets, up to 10 tons per day of tree limbs, branches and renewable bio-mass, previously headed to the landfill. Ground up and combined with two tons of dewatered sewer sludge, another landfill product, the material is then dried and converted into a synthetic gas through the process of gasification in a PHGE Downdraft Gasification System. The newly created gas is then used to provide heat to power a General Electric Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) generator. The process provides 125 kW of electricity to the city's wastewater plant, while saving the community \$30 per ton in landfill tipping fees and transportation costs.

"We have been producing elec-

friendly and financially positive ways to dispose of waste in the city, Gordon had no idea that in just a few short years, Covington would be making national headlines. His interest in gasification technology peaked, while attending a Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) meeting. By 2011, a Tennessee-based alternative energy company, and TREEDC member, PHGE Energy, invited him to stop by and take a look at their technology.

PHGE was already working with GE in a research and development project to test a new ORC generator at a test facility in Gleason, where they ran the generator for more than 1,000 hours. The gasifier design, as well, was vetted by more than 40,000 hours of commercial production use. "We were able to learn, understand and validate a lot," recalls PHGE President Tom Stanzione. "We weren't going to sell the mayor anything that didn't work."

Even then, the process would be revolutionary, as the Gleason plant did not run on sewer sludge. "Mayor Gordon's was the first municipality to step forward and combine these two waste streams," said Stanzione.

"We had some idea we were the only one, as I started talking to different vendors, putting the process together, and asking questions," said Gordon. "We discovered this is very



Photos courtesy of PHGE

Covington's new waste-to-energy plant devours organic debris collected off the city's streets, up to 10 tons per day of tree limbs, branches and renewable bio-mass, previously headed to the landfill at a cost to the city. The wood material is chipped and combined with sewer sludge, then converted into electricity.



Covington's plant system functions and commands are handled from a central computer control room, with minimal staffing.

tricity that we're using to run our sewer plant," Gordon exclaimed enthusiastically, two weeks into operation. "This had to be more than a warm, fuzzy 'we're doing something for the environment' type of venture," he said. "It had to make economic sense for me to invest taxpayer dollars into it. I've looked at it from a business perspective, and it had to have a return on the investment."

And it will. The estimated \$3.5 million in savings Covington will realize will finance a big dream, the city's parks plan, bringing with it ball diamonds, soccer fields and walking trails to the joy of Covington's 9,000 citizens.

"A few years back, we purchased 80-plus acres next to our largest park and we have a plan to develop it," said Gordon. "But when the economy turned sour, we were like a lot of cities that had no additional revenue for things like that."

An avid purveyor of scientific papers, in 2009, when he began to earnestly research environmentally

unique, that we were pushing the envelope a little bit."

Covington's plant deviates from burning synthetic gas in a generator. "We're burning it and using the heat to vaporize a type of Freon that spins our generator, like a steam generator," Gordon explains. "The emissions are way below any applicable standards—practically zero. You can't see any type of process going out the stack; not any particles, any smoke, any steam, and, of course, we're meeting all the TDEC and EPA regulations."

In July 2012, the dream became a reality, as Covington entered into a contract with PHGE for the new plant construction. The project was financed through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for \$2 million at 20-years and a \$250,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Construction began in April 2013, with everything going as planned, according to Chris Koczaja, PHGE vice president of engineering and sales. "The biggest

element of unplanned activity was the amount of time spent with delays on the foundation due to rain," he said. "It's a great looking plant, and the city has received a lot of compliments on how it looks."

The excitement is catching on. People are already traveling from as far away as Israel to take a look in Covington, according to Mike Webb, PHGE business development manager. "There are several cities that have said to us, 'as soon as we see Covington operating, we want to get really serious about looking into the system,'" he said.

Webb predicts in the next 30 days, as the plant comes on line and is open to invited guests, PHGE should generate a terrific amount of interest from public officials and city engineers aware of the system and the economics involved.

"There's probably a couple dozen in the pipeline," he said. "We have some cities that are smaller than Covington who want to combine with other small municipalities. And some larger towns that want to see how it fits into their systems."

With positive cash flow from day one, the economic benefits of the plant increase in a linear fashion, according to Koczaja, who predicts larger cities will see even greater returns with a plant like Covington's. "Talking about larger cities, once you



A dryer removes moisture from the combined sludge and wood waste before the material is converted into a synthetic gas through the process of gasification in a PHGE Downdraft Gasification System.

cover the basic cost, the cash flow is better, payback is faster, as economies of scale kick in," he said. "Covington alone, will save the cost of 360 tons a month in landfilling, and that's in the low figures," he continued. "Then, there's the carbon savings from the electricity, which is 450 tons, or the equivalent of 80 cars or 35 homes."

"Folks are very excited that we are doing something positive for the environment, and will fund our parks master plan and that excitement is catching on," said Gordon. The excitement carries

over to the city's employees currently being trained by PHGE to operate the facility. However, only a few people will be needed to man the plant, as the system functions and commands are handled from a central computer control room. The entire plant can also be monitored from off-site locations.

"Once the plant is operating, it doesn't require anybody full time, just one or two people part-time, monitoring the system, processing the fuel, chipping the wood," Gordon notes. "We can chip a three to four day supply in four to six hours."

With the plant munching all the organic waste in sight, will there ever be a shortage of feedstock in Covington? The answer is simply no, according to Koczaja. PHGE's gasifier is flexible and consumes other products in addition to wood. Examples include: chopped or shredded tires, ag waste like corn or cotton stalks, food processing wastes, coal and processed or pelletized municipal solid waste among many others. "Most people don't think about how much feedstock goes out to



PHGE's gasification system in Covington is flexible and consumes other waste products in addition to wood.

landfills, how much each day is brought in," he said. "That was a big part of the due diligence in the beginning of the project; to build the foundation on what is available every day."

Then, there's always the possibility of expanding the project during or after its 25-year lifetime. "The Covington plant, as we see it today, is at capacity with what they have," said Stanzione. "But the mayor is a very forward-looking individual. One of the very first steps in defining the plant's structure was to design a foundation that could handle a bigger unit. The mayor and I share the mindset that should the city decide to take in some other waste streams, it would be relatively easy to change out the gasifier and put our larger unit in and increase the capacity of that plant."

"A big plus is that the plant is made up of commercially available components," adds Koczaja. "This project is not something that has to be an added cost or something that can't work. It's working in the city of Covington right now."

Covington's waste to energy project overview

"Turning trash into dollars"

The city of Covington received the highest grant amount that can be awarded from TDEC, for a Waste Biomass Gasification to Energy project designed to create electricity and utilize the city's wood waste and biosolids as fuel.

The city also received a 2013 Tennessee Municipal League Excellence in Green Initiatives Award for the project.

- Total cost of the plant \$2.5 million;
- 125 Kw electricity to offset bills at the city waste water plant;
- Positive cash flow from day one;
- 360 tons a month of waste no longer landfilled or transported;
- 720 tons of sludge not landfilled;
- Over 4,000 tons of waste put to work for the community each year;
- Financed 20-year TML low interest bond fund. Payback not an issue with long term bond financing;
- Thousands of dollars freed up monthly for other city needs.
- More than \$3.5 million available for Covington's parks system;
- No emissions produced, as the material is converted into a fuel gas.



Covington's Mayor Dr. David Gordon, pictured with TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineu (l) and State Sen. Mark Norris (r) accepts a check for \$250,000, a Clean Tennessee Energy Grant to enact a waste-to-energy gasification plant. The project creates electricity and utilizes the city's wood waste and biosolids as fuel. The complete system uses landfill-bound waste to provide a continuous stream of domestically produced energy that is clean, carbon neutral and renewable. It converts approximately 10 tons per day of the wood and sludge waste collected by the city into electricity.