

## Why Cities Matter



No municipal service is more basic than public safety. Rain or shine, night or day, 365 days a year, your city fire department is on duty to respond to emergencies and watch over you and the people you love. When a crime is committed within city limits, citizens expect a quick response from a competent police department. Law enforcement, firefighters and public safety personnel guard lives and property in municipalities and all over the state, making Tennessee safer for everyone.

## New youth sports head injury, concussion law effective Jan. 1

BY RONNIE NEIL  
MTAS Management Consultant

Public Chapter 148 passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2013 and effective Jan. 1, 2014, requires all cities that have "youth athletic activities" to comply with guidelines issued by the Tennessee Department of Health concerning risk and symptoms of concussion and head injuries.

This act covers all youth sports and amends Title 65 Chapter 55 to add a new Part 5.

Section 68-55-503(b)(1) states: "Any city, county, business or non-profit organization that organizes a community-based youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged, working through guidance from the department of health, shall at a minimum":

- (A) adopt guidelines developed by the department of health;
- (B) require the director of the program and all coaches to complete annually concussion recognition and head injury education course developed by the department of health.
- (C) require on a yearly basis a concussion and head injury information sheet be signed and returned by each coach prior to initiating practice or competition for the year.

## New TACIR survey seeks local officials' feedback on community strengths

Tennessee local officials, like those around the country, face continuing challenges even as our economy improves following the financial crisis. In a positive trend, seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment has fallen to 7.8 percent in December 2013, from a 10-year high of 11 percent in mid-2009 (preliminary data, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)).

Yet it will come as no surprise to the readers of *Tennessee Town and City* that local experiences vary; across Tennessee counties in November 2013, BLS data show unemployment rates differed by more than 10 percentage points. Some localities face demands from rapid growth, while others cope with pressure to maintain basic services as populations and tax bases shift. Rural and urban communities alike recognize the need to improve education, maintain infrastructure, and grow local economies, yet must draw on different resource bases to meet these needs.

In this environment, understanding more about the assets that make our municipalities viable and competitive and how best to deploy

## State of the State address unveils 2014-15 budget plan, key educational initiatives

BY CAROLE GRAVES  
TML Communications Director

During his fourth annual State of the State address given before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly, Gov. Bill Haslam unveiled his \$32.6 billion budget plan for FY 2014-15.

Amid sluggish revenue collections, Haslam's fourth budget assumes that tax revenues will increase by 3.25 percent, bringing in some \$260 million in new revenue. However, Haslam said increased TennCare enrollees will cost \$180 million, employee health insurance premiums are up \$40 million, and \$120 million are proposed for primary education.

"So if you're doing the math at home, before putting anything toward employee salaries, higher education, social services for our most vulnerable citizens, or anything else, we are already \$80 million in the red.

"This year's budget is a conservative one," Haslam said. "Revenue collections over the past several months have not met projections, and our budget reflects that reality."

Haslam's budget proposal does not include any further cuts to the Hall Income Tax, but does provide for a previously approved increase in the exemption levels for people over 65, which will cost the state \$20.4 million in revenues.

Haslam's speech also introduced a key educational proposal for providing free tuition to a two year community college for graduating high school seniors. The "Tennessee Promise" is part of Haslam's "Drive to 55" initiative aimed at increasing the number of Tennesseans with a certificate or degree beyond high school. After graduating from a community college, students that choose to attend a four-year school can transfer their credits and start as a junior, thus cutting the cost of a four-year degree in half.

"Through the Tennessee Promise, we are fighting the rising cost of higher education, and we are raising our expectations as a state," Haslam

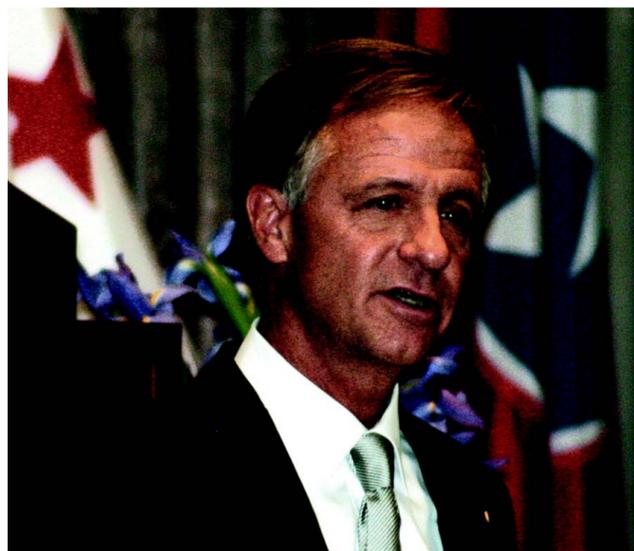


Photo by Victoria South

said. "We are committed to making a clear statement to families that education beyond high school is a priority in the state of Tennessee."

The proposal calls for setting

aside \$300 million from the Tennessee Education Lottery to fund an endowment that would cover all tuition and fees to two-year institu-

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## Haslam introduces anti-meth legislation



Photo provided by State Photographic Services

During a news conference at the state Capitol, Gov. Haslam introduced legislation to limit the sale of cold medications used to make methamphetamine. Under the governor's plan, people could buy the equivalent of 10 days' worth of the maximum dose of products containing the meth precursors without a prescription each month. Pharmacists could allow another 10 days' worth, but anyone needing more would have to get a doctor's prescription.

Gov. Bill Haslam announced legislation to reduce the growing problem of methamphetamine production in Tennessee. The goal of the Tennessee Anti-Meth Production (TAMP) Act is to limit access to pseudoephedrine or ephedrine products to those who are using it illegally while not overburdening law-abiding Tennesseans who need temporary cold and sinus relief. Haslam joined legislators, members of the Public Safety Subcabinet and key stakeholders

to announce his proposal, which aligns commonly purchased amounts of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine with 30-day limits.

"This bill is aimed at fighting the production of meth while balancing access to effective medicines for the majority of Tennesseans who use them in the right way, Haslam said.

"We are targeting the so-called 'smurfers' who buy from a variety of stores in small quantities until they have enough to manufacture meth. This proposal will not affect most

people who use these products normally."

Currently, the most frequently purchased box size contains 2.4g of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine, and in 2012, the average Tennessee consumer bought 4.8g for the entire year.

Provisions of the governor's bill include the following:

- Individuals would be authorized to purchase up to 2.4g (the maximum recommended daily dose of

See METH on Page 5

## UT adopts hands-on city sustainability course

BY BRADI MUSIL  
Staff Writer  
The Daily Beacon

Beginning next fall, UT students will be solving problems in Tennessee while earning credit hours and experience. The *Smart Communities* initiative, modeled after Oregon's *Sustainable City Year* program, will engage students and faculty of UT with Tennessee cities, counties and regions to provide hands-on experience outside the classroom.

"It all started about five years ago, when faculty was sitting around talking about how every term students turn in this great work, and it just sits and never goes anywhere. These great ideas never get imple-

mented or anything," said Bob Choquette, the program manager of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program.

After Oregon presented their program on UT's campus last fall, UT adopted a customized version of Oregon's model. Every year, the university will work with one Tennessee "host" city or municipal partner to match projects with academic courses. Although instructors will still adhere to course curriculums, the class will primarily focus on the host city's projects and culminate in a collaborative written report from the students.

"The projects will happen through our academic courses," said Kelly Ellenburg, the campus coordinator for Service Learning and an

initiator of SCI. "So the matching process will begin with the identification of faculty teaching courses that align with the proposed projects, and then the students in these courses will complete the projects under the faculty member's guidance.

"For example, if it were a redevelopment project, the students under the faculty member's guidance could work with city staff, citizens, and stakeholders to come up with a design plan that improves the quality of life for those that live and work in the area."

Projects will range from architectural designs to social input research studies and economic policy analysis. The SCI program is meant See SUSTAINABILITY on Page 4

## NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



### BOLIVAR

The fire department recently unveiled its new firefighting apparatus, a 2014 Kenworth T370 Tanker truck, manufactured by Deep South Fire Trucks, Inc., in Seminary, Miss. It is the city's first tanker truck in its history. Called Tanker 1, the truck features a 2,100 gallon water tank, a 2,100 gallon portable dump tank, and a 1,250 gallon per minute pump. The new apparatus is capable of dumping water from the rear and both sides, and is equipped with a booster reel. The truck was received as part of a grant requested in 2010 through the Community Development Block Grant program and submitted by Community Development Partners, LLC, on behalf of the city. Although the grant was requested in 2010, it was not approved until 2013. Ninety percent of the funding was provided by the grant with the city contributing the remaining 10 percent.

### BRENTWOOD

An online college textbook rental and buyback company has moved its headquarters from Murray, Ky., to Brentwood, hoping for a fresh start in a region known for its universities. CollegeBookRenter has nearly a dozen employees working in 3,300 square feet of leased space at the Brentwood Commons office park in Maryland Farms. The company plans to add eight employees in inventory management, information technology development and finance by June. Three or four others in leadership positions will relocate here from Murray, Ky., which along with the eight new hires planned, would give CollegeBookRenter about 24 employees in Brentwood. CollegeBookRenter offers more than 125,000 titles, covering all areas of study. Through [collegebookrenter.com](http://collegebookrenter.com), students can rent or buy books or sell their used textbooks to the company. On average, the company claims to save its patrons more than \$475 each semester. Although overall sales of college textbooks generally are flat, the rental market that for about 15 percent of total units is the fastest-growing segment in textbook retail.

### CLARKSVILLE

The city will host its first triathlon Aug. 23, with hundreds of swimmers, runners and cyclists converging on Liberty Park, the Clarksville Marina and county roads outside the park. The Tri Clarksville Triathlon is the first marathon in the city. Participants have three options – a true triathlon with a 1,500 meter swim, 40 kilometer bike ride and 10 kilometer run; a shorter race with a 400 meter swim, 20 kilometer bike ride and a 5 kilometer run; or a relay race, where teams of two or three can each complete segments of the race. The triathlon and shorter race will be held concurrently. Both will start with racers swimming in the Cumberland River. The proposed bike courses will largely go through Montgomery County and the running portion will be contained within Liberty Park. Race organizer Team Magic organizes similar triathlons in Nashville and Chattanooga every year.

### FRANKLIN

The city is pursuing what officials say is a cutting-edge — at least in the U.S. — thermal hydrolysis process for treating and removing the city's wastewater sludge, the treated water and human waste known as biosolids. Franklin aldermen agreed to amend the current contract with the city's consultants at CDM Smith, who will return with proposals and prices for the upgrades. Early estimates put the new program at costing \$52 million, which would add more than \$7 to monthly city sewer bills to pay for the work. Franklin currently trucks sludge to a landfill in Camden.

### FRANKLIN

The city has chosen a consultant to perform a housing needs analysis and prepare a housing plan to assist decision makers, stakeholders, and citizens with understanding key housing issues in the area. BBC Research and Consulting Company visited Franklin in January for a series of meetings. Staff from BBC is providing a measured assessment of present and future unmet housing demands focusing on short-to-mid-term demand over the next five, 10, and 15 years. The final report will offer community leaders and stake-

holders a basis for formulating specific housing priorities as they relate to a healthy community, policy alternatives and related strategies. The public will be invited back in early Spring when the company presents its results.

### GALLATIN

Beretta USA is building a new manufacturing plant in Sumner County that will bring 300 jobs to the area. The global manufacturer of sporting and military firearms will invest \$45 million into a manufacturing and R&D facility at the Gallatin Industrial Park. The plant will create firearms for the company's sporting and tactical product lines. Tennessee's reputation as a gun-friendly state was key to the Sumner County city landing its biggest economic development win since clothing retailer Gap Inc. opened a distribution center two decades ago. "This is a platinum project," Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves said. "It's an international company. It's well-known, it has an excellent reputation and we're very excited that they've chosen (us) over eight other states." As a result of choosing Gallatin, Beretta will be eligible for tax credits, infrastructure and job training grants from the state. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

### GERMANTOWN

The city has attained the highest ranking of platinum in the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) new Valley Sustainable Communities program. This designation helps Germantown differentiate itself from other communities and be more competitive for investments and jobs. The city recently completed the program, submitting a thorough application in the spring of 2013 highlighting the many sustainable practices and programs in existence or budgeted from all city departments. After being selected, the city organized a Sustainability Team which developed a sustainability city inventory of goals and an on-location tour of sustainable assets. Germantown is the first West Tennessee municipality to receive sustainable community designation.

### GOODLETTSVILLE

The city is introducing a new program hosted through the Parks and Recreation Department recognizing deserving teenagers' accomplishments. The Mayor's Top Teen program has a mission to create a community that values teens and promotes a positive teen image and to send a strong message to teens that they are important to their community. Teachers, counselors, friends, clergy, and family members, excluding parents, are encouraged to nominate a Goodlettsville teen in grades 9-11. Likely candidates are those who have been good stewards: performing community service, demonstrating scholastic achievement, setting a good example or have been positive role models. The winner will be selected by a group of volunteers from organizations and businesses within the community. The selected teen will be publicly announced in May, with a formal introduction at a city council meeting and a kick-off meeting organized by the city's Parks Teen Advisory Committee. The winner will be invited to attend local events and meetings as a guest of the mayor and to be a participant in various community celebrations.

### KNOXVILLE

The city has received an award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for presentation of its current budget. It's the 26th consecutive year that the city has received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which GFOA says "reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The budget preparers met guidelines for effective budget presentation and guidelines assessed how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.

### MEMPHIS

Peanuts grown in multiple places will come by rail to be roasted and made into Jif brand peanut butter at J.M. Smucker's new production facility in Southeast Memphis. The Orrville, Ohio-based company

nailed down its expansion plans, after getting a \$13 million tax incentive from the Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County. Smucker is turning a company-owned warehouse across from its existing Smucker's jelly plant into a state-of-the-art peanut butter operation. The company said it had to separate its peanut butter facility to protect any jelly customers who are allergic to peanuts and will continue making some Smucker's jelly at its existing plant.

### MEMPHIS

Conduit Global will hire 1,000 people to staff an \$8 million call center. The New York-based company plans to make significant building and infrastructure site improvements and upgrades including enhanced telecommunications networks, state of the art security, best in class training facilities, ample natural and fixture lighting, and ergonomically designed workspaces. The company will provide customer care support for wireless customers. The center's location will be in Goodlett Farms in the city's Northeast corner.

### MORRISTOWN

OTICS USA Inc., a Tier 1 Automotive supplier has announced plans to expand its Morristown operation and facility. The \$106 million expansion is due to the awarding of a new engine product from its current customer, Toyota. The new project will necessitate the addition of 96,000 square feet of manufacturing space and will create approximately 100 jobs over the next three years. OTICS USA Inc. has been in operation in the East Tennessee Progress Center since 2001.

### MORRISTOWN

Colgate-Palmolive announced that the company will build a new manufacturing plant to make oral care products in Morristown. The company will invest \$25 million in manufacturing equipment and building and infrastructure improvements and create 75 new jobs. Colgate-Palmolive plans to build a stand-alone facility adjacent to its current Colgate Total toothpaste plant, which opened in 2008. Construction on the new facility will begin this year, with occupancy slated for early 2015 and full employment by late 2015.

### NASHVILLE

Legislation has been filed to use city capital funds to purchase \$6 million of technology for Metro-Nashville Schools. The funds would be used to purchase computers to prepare students for Common Core State Standards and taking new state-required standardized tests. The money would allow Metro Schools to purchase computers and computer carts. Metro Schools plans to use existing resources in its operating budget to cover teacher training. This new capital plan allows Metro Schools to meet its testing needs without tapping into reserve funds. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are more rigorous educational standards to ensure students graduate high school prepared for college or career. In many states that are implementing Common Core, students in grades 3 to 11 take new state-mandated tests, called Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). In Tennessee, students will take PARCC tests for the first time next school year.

### NOLENSVILLE

Williamson County and the city are in a joint partnership to build a Williamson County Recreation Complex in Nolensville, at the site of the 1970s-built Nolensville Elementary School. A lot of work has already been accomplished, mostly renovations concentrated on the interior of what remains of the old school following demolition. The facility will feature an aerobics room, wellness center, dance class areas, a room for senior citizens, four program rooms and a community theater for children's programs. The outdoor pool will also feature a zero entry and a variety of water features. The city and county, which are in a 50/50 partnership, have to come up with more cash for the 40,000-square-foot center, after bids came in a little higher than expected, and also must deal with flood mitigation on the site. The county and city are paying about \$2.5 million each under an interlocal agreement for the center as it is. The recreation center is projected to be open by June or July.

## Brentwood completes historic renovations at Ravenswood Mansion



Ravenswood Mansion located on Wilson Pike south of Split Log Road, was built in 1825 and recently renovated by the city of Brentwood as part of its first phase of development for Marcella Vivrette Smith Park.

Brentwood has completed the restoration at the historic Ravenswood Mansion. The beautiful antebellum home, located on Wilson Pike south of Split Log Road, was built in 1825 and was recently renovated as part of its first phase of development for Marcella Vivrette Smith Park. The 320 acre Smith Park property, including the historic house, was acquired by the city three years ago.

The city commission authorized acquisition of another 80 acres in October as part of an option dating back to the original purchase in 2010. The intent of acquiring the 400 acres was to increase the amount of active and passive park space available to residents, as well as preserving scenic open space.

Ravenswood Mansion was built by James Hazard Wilson II and named for his best friend, Sam Houston, whom the Native Americans affectionately called "The Raven." When the house happened to be situated on property that the city was

interested in acquiring for park land, residents and city officials developed a plan to save the home. They decided in 2010 that the best way to preserve the historic asset was through restoration and use as a venue for weddings and other events.

Most of the 400 acres will remain in a natural state, largely forested with abundant wildlife, nature trails, and the spring headwaters of the Little Harpeth River. Parts of the property will be used for active recreation such as ball fields, picnic areas, and possibly mountain biking trails, improvements which will be developed over the next several years.

The mansion is scheduled to open August 1. Appointments to see the home and reservations for events can be made by contacting Amanda Bledsoe at 615-371-0060 or [BledsoeA@Brentwood-TN.org](mailto:BledsoeA@Brentwood-TN.org). Additional information is available at <http://www.brentwood-tn.org/ravenswood>.

## Memphis launches five-year 'Clean & Green Initiative'

Goals of the large-scale project to create local jobs, reduce energy consumption

The city of Memphis has launched the "Clean & Green Initiative," a five-year sustainability strategy that will create local jobs, reduce the city's operating costs and improve the environment. This initiative is part of Mayor A.C. Wharton's overall Blueprint for Prosperity, which is dedicated to reducing poverty through an emphasis on creating prosperity.

The Clean & Green Initiative will be funded by revenue gained from energy savings. Currently, the city spends approximately \$40 million annually on energy costs. The first phase of the Clean & Green Initiative, focused on energy efficiency, is projected to save Memphis approximately 20 percent, or \$8 million, per year in energy costs.

Led by Memphis Bioworks Foundation, in conjunction with Siemens Industry, Inc., Building Technologies division, the specific activities associated with the Clean & Green Initiative include: energy conservation and reduction in municipal buildings and facilities, including street lights; energy generation, including solar or other technologies; conversion of vehicles to compressed natural gas (CNG); public safety efforts, including street lighting; trash recycling and redeployment of materials; biomass conversion to energy, liquid fuels and chemicals; waste remediation and environmental clean-up; and waste and water management systems that preserve energy, improve the environment and increase the value of city services. The implementation of these activities will rely on training and hiring local workers.

"This project creates many positives for the city of Memphis," said Wharton. "While our first priorities are to create jobs and save taxpayers money, an added benefit is that this program will have a positive impact on our environment, making the city a healthier and more attractive place to live and work."

Memphis Bioworks is the city's strategic and administrative partner for the initiative. Bioworks will conduct the necessary research and planning prior to initiating and executing projects and will coordinate the activities of participating re-

gional partners, including workforce development agencies and vendors.

Siemens has been selected as a long-term partner to incorporate renewable energy solutions, sustainable infrastructure upgrades and green building projects. Their work will demonstrate the effectiveness and cost savings of energy conservation through the Clean & Green Initiative, providing for a lasting, environmentally responsible, energy- and cost-efficient community.

"By modernizing the city's infrastructure and implementing energy reduction and energy generation programs, Memphis is demonstrating national leadership in urban sustainability," said Wharton. "This leadership, along with the creation of local 'green' jobs, will help position Memphis as a city that attracts and retains talented, high-technology workers – a demographic that is particularly passionate about living in an environmentally progressive and responsible community."

### About the Memphis Bioworks Foundation

Memphis Bioworks is the Mid-South's go-to organization for creating companies, jobs and investments in bioscience and sustainability. A visionary community leader, Memphis Bioworks has a well-established record of sparking new levels of economic vitality by investing in entrepreneurs, building state-of-the-art labs and facilities, and training the next generation of workers.

### About Siemens Building Technologies

The Siemens Building Technologies Division is the world leader in the market for safe and secure, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly buildings and infrastructures. As technology partner, service provider, system integrator and product vendor, Building Technologies has offerings for safety and security as well as building automation, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and energy management. With around 29,000 employees worldwide, Building Technologies generated revenue of 5.8 billion Euro. For more information, visit [www.siemens.com/buildingtechnologies](http://www.siemens.com/buildingtechnologies)

# Nashville Police Department celebrates new crime lab, precinct

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**  
TML Communications Coordinator

Crime scene investigation might appear glamorous on TV, but it looks even better in real life, as the Metropolitan-Nashville Police Department is discovering with its own full service, state-of-the art crime lab, the first of its kind for a local law enforcement agency in Tennessee.

Located at the site of the former Peterbilt plant in Madison, an unincorporated community/commercial district eight miles outside of downtown Nashville, the 47,000-square-foot facility is staffed by a team of 56 people: scientists, administrative personnel, evidence receiving staff and fingerprint analysts, trained to test-fire weapons, conduct firearms and drug analysis, toolmark, toxicology, ballistics, and process up to 1,000 DNA cases per year, including



Photo by Victoria South

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, Melanie Scurry West, daughter of fallen police officer Paul Scurry, Metro-Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson and Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin unveil a bronze plaque of Scurry, the precinct building's namesake. The plaque will remain on display in the precinct 1st floor lobby area.

sexual assaults and other violent crimes neighborhoods dread. City officials predict the department's ability to provide its own testing will lead to even faster results, smoother prosecutions and better crime prevention in the long run, an improvement in effect for the entire state.

"For those of you who watch

faster," said Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, hailing the lab as a "turning point" for the city's fight against crime.

Since 1985, DNA testing continues to ascend as the most reliable physical evidence taken from a crime scene. Nashville's lab will check DNA evidence on small time crimes such as auto thefts—scouting for DNA links to burglars, armed robbers and those suspected of more violent crimes, a subject in the article "The DNA Factor," by Sarah Hammond, published by the The National Conference of State Legislatures.

"Studies indicate there is a 40 percent chance that burglaries and other non-violent crimes are committed by someone who already has committed a violent crime, such as murder," the author notes. It's that potent potential that drives state

processed in four to five months. However, the city's own lab has the capability of processing that same evidence in just 30 days, leaders say.

"It takes some of the workload off of the TBI, which will be better able to serve the other 94 counties," said Anderson.

At this point, TBI spokesperson, Illana Tate, said there is no way for the state agency to accurately predict what future impact Metro's new lab will have on TBI's caseload, however a recent TBI report indicates the agency processed 5,690 exhibits for the Metro-Nashville Police Department between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2013.

"These are exhibits, not cases," Tate explained. "One case could have several exhibits or only one exhibit."

Metro-Nashville's exhibits included: 1,999 drug identifications, 1,255 alcohol analysis, 455 drug screens, and 882 Serology/DNA samples.

Tate said Metro-Nashville will go through TBI for all state and national CODIS DNA searches, and TBI will continue to assist with Microanalysis tests, such as: chemical analysis, fiber, fire debris, gunshot residue and physical comparison.

In the future, Anderson said Nashville's crime lab may also have the capability of providing assistance to other police departments across the state. "We may open the lab up to outside agencies," he said, "but at this point, we want to get it accredited and up and running, and we want to see what our workload is."

For the next several months, into the latter part of 2014, the lab will undergo rigorous testing to achieve international accreditation. During this time, TBI will continue to assist Metro-Nashville with analysis services.

## The Peterbilt Plant

"It was a beautiful day, it was sunny," Dean recalls, recounting the devastating flood of 2010, which ironically, opened up a whole new \$40 million investment chapter for the city of Nashville and the Metro Police Department. "I talked about our intention to file a capitol spending plan to Council, after we filed the property budget that day," Dean said. "But two days later, it started to rain and it didn't stop raining for 36 hours."

The historic flood that followed consumed the city's government operations for some time, putting Nashville's Capital spending plan on hold. By summer, the Metro Transit Authority, after suffering heavy flood damage, began looking for another site for its administrative offices and maintenance operations, coming across the 66-acre, \$16 million shuttered plant property in Madison in the process.

"They asked if we'd like to partner with them to acquire it, and with the acquisition, we saw an incredible opportunity to accomplish several goals," said Dean.

At the time, Metro-Nashville had expanded the ranks of the city's police department through the use of federal stimulus grants, thereby creating the largest police force in the city's history, and creating enough capacity to expand to a new precinct.

Creating the Madison precinct allows the department to redraw the boundaries of its other precincts, giving officers more time to work with neighborhood leaders and reducing the coverage area of the



Photo by Victoria South

The new two-story Madison Police Precinct, springing from the ashes of a shuttered Peterbilt plant, was developed at a time when Metro-Nashville had the largest police force in the city's history and allows the department to redraw the boundaries of its other precincts.



Photos by Samuel M. Simpkins / The Tennessean

During a tour of the new MNPD Crime lab, Firearms and Tool Mark Unit Supervisor Don Carman stands next to the bullet retrieval tank.



The new Metro-Nashville Police Department's crime lab will have the ability to test 100 sets of fingerprints collected every day.



An 800-gallon water tank will serve with ballistics analysis at Metro-Nashville's new state-of-the-art crime lab.

TV, *CSI* has nothing on us," Metro-Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson assures the crowd of 200 onlookers at the Madison Precinct's recent ribbon cutting ceremony at the new building—christened for fallen Metro police officer, Paul Scurry.

In May 1996, Scurry lost his life after he was shot multiple times at a Madison apartment complex, where he was assisting two detectives at

her Knoxville apartment. The law requires anyone arrested for a violent crime to give a DNA sample.

Championed by Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, the Johnia Berry law requires DNA samples to be taken from persons booked for violent felonies to be stored in the state's database, the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Prior to the law, Tennessee law required a per-



The new crime lab will process on average, 240 DNA tests per month.

tempting to arrest a man wanted on numerous warrants.

"Nashville lost a good officer that day. Nashville lost a good man that day," Anderson says, his voice faltering, as he remembers back to the good old days, when he and Scurry were just entering the police academy together. He, along with Scurry's daughter, Melanie Scurry West, just 23 at the time of her father's death, remove a drape from a bronze plaque that bears Scurry's likeness to a round of applause. The plaque, along with Scurry's portrait and retired badge will remain on display in the lobby area of the new precinct.

"Having our own crime lab will greatly enhance the investigative capabilities of our Police Department and help them solve crimes

son to provide a DNA sample only after they have been convicted and sentenced for certain violent felonies.

"The more expansive a state's DNA policy, the more likely it is that a new specimen will match or "hit" a DNA sample that already is in the database," writes Hammond. But with much success, comes challenges, she notes, as some labs cannot keep pace with states' expanded DNA policies, resulting in a backlog of samples.

In years past, the Metro-Nashville Police Department has sent its DNA evidence to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's already overburdened crime lab, which performs routine analysis for police departments from 95 counties across the state. The evidence is typically

## Facts Madison Precinct/Crime Lab

- The city's proposed capitol spending plan includes \$8 million to complete construction of the DNA Crime Lab, as well as funds to complete the precinct.

- The proposed operating budget for Nashville's new crime lab recommends \$6.3 million for the police department, including \$3.6 million to retain officer positions, formerly funded by a federal COPS grant and \$1 million for the hiring of scientists.

- A total of 117 persons will work at the new Madison precinct, including flex officers, detectives and administrative staff.

- The 84,000 square foot Madison Precinct is constructed to LEED Silver standards to be energy efficient and environmentally sustainable.



Pictured left to right are members of the new Metro-Nashville Police Crime Lab staff: (bottom row) Phil Smith, drug identification supervisor; Allen Smith, information technology manager; Ann Talbot, quality manager; Ray DePriest, lab director; Heather Watson, business manager; and Larry Turner, toxicology supervisor



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



**Gov. Bill Haslam** has been named policy chairman of the Republican Governors Public Policy Committee. The group is the policy arm of the Republican Governors Association. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is the chairman of the 29-member national association, called Haslam "a true pioneer in the public policy sphere."



Haslam

**Sen. Jim Kyle** says he will run for an open judicial seat in Shelby County. He's been a state lawmaker for more than 30 years. Kyle won't have to resign his seat unless he wins election in August. Kyle wasn't up for reelection until 2016.



Kyle

**Jason Mumpower**, chief of staff to Tennessee Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, recently completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's prestigious John F. Kennedy School of Government. The three-week executive education program focuses on the development of strategies for addressing policy issues, explores the relationship between citizens and their government and examines the ethical and professional responsibilities of leadership. Mumpower was among 62 participants selected to take part in the exclusive program this year.



Mumpower

State Rep. **Joe Pitts**, Clarksville, was unanimously elected by the Tennessee House of Representatives to serve on the Fiscal Review Committee. Pitts replaces long-time committee member Rep. Charles Curtiss, Sparta, who recently left his seat to take a position with the Tennessee County Services Association. Pitts also serves as a member of the Ethics Committee, the House Education subcommittee and full committee, and the Insurance and Banking Committee of the House.



Pitts

The Tennessee Association of Community Action honored **Rep. Charles Sargent** with its prestigious Community Action Partnership Award. The award is public recognition for individuals in the community who have tirelessly worked to fight poverty and promote positive causes for the poor, elderly and disabled. The Association is for the development and implementation of strategies to help individuals become effective in solving the problems of poverty within Tennessee.



Sargent

**Bill Sorah** is Bristol's new city manager after serving as interim manager for the past seven months. Sorah has worked in city government for both Bristol, Tenn., and Bristol, Va., for the past 30 years. He was serving as director of Public Works, when he was asked to serve on an interim basis, following the resignation of former City Manager Jeff Broughton, who took a consulting position with UT's Municipal Technical Advisory Service. In 2004, Sorah was also appointed interim city manager following the resignation of City Manager Tony Massey, but didn't wish to be considered for the city manager's position at the time.



Sorah

East Ridge officer **James 'JR' Reed** is now the city's new police chief following the retirement of Public Safety Director and Fire Chief Eddie Phillips. Reed has more than 24 years experience with the department, beginning his career in 1989 as a reserve officer. He has received numerous commendations and recognitions over his career.



Reed

**Ed Haley**, 75, has reversed his decision to become Millington's city manager and will remain in his job as Arlington town superintendent throughout the remainder of his contract ending in Nov. 2015.

**Michael "Bobby" Phillips**, 63, a farmer and businessman who was serving his first term as a Unicoi alderman passed away recently.

Charles Town, W.Va., City Manager **Joseph Cosentini** will be Thompson's Station's next town administrator. Cosentini will replace 10-year administrator Greg Langeliers, who is set to retire this spring. Cosentini has been city manager in Charles Town since January 2011. He also served as the town's deputy city manager/city clerk.



Cosentini

**Chuck Stuart** is now on board as Gallatin's new codes director. Stuart, from Louisiana, was originally appointed by city officials to the position in September, but resigned before his first day, due to a health crisis within his extended family. He has since reapplied for the job.

**Keith Lowery**, a 27-year law enforcement officer in Rutherford County, is the new assistant chief of police for the La Vergne Police Department. His experience includes patrol, investigations, S.W.A.T., and crime scene and he commanded both Technical Services and Special Services divisions. Lowery began his career in law enforcement in 1987 as a corrections officer with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office and worked at the Smyrna Police Department for more than 23 years.



Lowery

**John Duncan**, 55, a former Memphis chamber official, will serve as Collierville's new economic development director. The town plans to grow strategically with more corporate offices, light industry and potential hubs such as health care, information technology, biosciences, research and development and technical or call centers.

Former Kingsport Police Chief **James F. Keesling** has died. He was 80 years old. He served as assistant director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and as a member of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. After retiring from the Kingsport Police Department, Keesling worked as an investigator.



Keesling

## Mayor Rogero visits Turkey on behalf of State Department

Mayor Madeline Rogero visited Turkey recently, at the invitation of the U.S. State Department, to talk about the importance of women participating in politics and public life. Turkey will hold municipal elections on March 31. In advance of the elections, many political parties, nongovernmental organizations and civic groups are encouraging more participation by women as both candidates and voters.



Rogero

In a 2010 World Economic Forum survey, Turkey ranked 99th of 134 countries in women's political empowerment. (The United States ranked 40th.) No women currently serve as mayors of major Turkish cities, and less than 1 percent of all city council members in the country are women.

"I am honored by this invitation, and to meet a wide range of officials and citizens in Turkey to talk about and encourage civic engagement," Rogero said. "This is an important issue all across the world. Women have made some progress here in the United States, but we are still underrepresented at most levels of government."

During her trip, Rogero visited cities including Izmir, Adana and Ankara, the Turkish capital. She met with the mayors of Adana, Bornova, and Aydin. Kamil Okayay Sindir, the mayor of Bornova, is a leading voice for sustainability and green infrastructure in Europe. Aydin is the largest Turkish city with a female mayor, Ozlem Cercioğlu. Rogero also met with members of Parliament who serve on a committee on gender equality and opportu-

nity, as well as with other officials and civic groups.

Rogero brought greetings from home to Tennesseans serving abroad at the Incirlik Air Force base outside Adana.

The trip is part of the State Department's International Information Programs, and the State Department paid for all of Rogero's expenses. Rogero paid for her granddaughter, Jada Torney, 17, a junior at West High School, to accompany her on the trip, as a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity.

During her stay, Rogero talked about Knoxville's own Turkish community. "We have an active and engaged Turkish community, and I have participated in numerous events and annual dialogue dinners hosted by the Turkish Cultural Center," she said. "Many Knoxvilleians have traveled to Turkey at their invitation, and I was honored to be able to represent our city in Turkey."

## UT offers hands-on city sustainability course

**SUSTAINABILITY** from Page 1 to include as many university students and faculty as possible.

"The program will span across disciplines," Ellenburg said. "We've tried to maintain a wide cross section of faculty across disciplines so that it can be very diverse and interdisciplinary."

Funded by the host cities, the projects are expected to produce professional results. As a result, classes within the SCI program are currently limited to upper-class and graduate level studies.

In addition to benefiting municipal partners, the SCI program also allows students to network with potential employers and gain work experience. Oregon's students have already benefited from the program.

"We do a survey before and after ... and 73 percent said it will become part of their resume or their portfolio when they go out looking for a real job," Choquette said. "Students see the value in working with real clients, and our post class surveys say that they work harder and they get something tangible out of it."

Ellenburg said projects proposed include revitalizing the downtown area, social input research,

policy analysis, strategic planning and designing incentive plans for local businesses.

"Most architecture classes at universities work on a fictitious project, but we have students that have designed real schools and real libraries," Choquette said. "Right now we have students designing four different fire stations in Medford, Ore. This isn't make-up work, these are real projects and the cities pay for this. They have got to get this stuff done. It's taken very seriously."

SCI will accept applications from prospective host cities through the end of February.

"I think it's going to be an all-around really valuable program for faculty, for students, and for cities and counties in the state," Ellenburg said. "As far as service learning goes, this is really quality stuff. Just the outcomes that are coming out of it—professional skill development and working with a professional client and set of stakeholders, networking, critical thinking—it's applying inquiry, analysis and research to a real world problem to make real solutions happen, and our state needs this. ... It's exciting."

## New TACIR survey seeks local officials' feedback

**SURVEY** from Page 1 2013. Drs. Streams and Ghosh shared preliminary results from the focus groups with attendees at TML's June 2013 Annual Conference in Memphis.

"The experience and wisdom of local officials will be key to making this project a success. Our col-

leagues at the Department of Economic and Community Development are keenly interested in seeing what comes out of this study and how it may support Governor Haslam's high-quality jobs initiatives," says Lynnis Roehrich-Patrick, executive director of the Commission.

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## Walk Tennessee Update

Nolensville, Manchester current leaders

Last fall, the Tennessee Municipal League launched an initiative to determine the most active city in Tennessee. It was setup to be a fun way to encourage individuals and their families to join city teams, post daily workouts, and earn points for their city teams.

The initial goal of the program was to recruit five cities to sign up. To-date, that number has grown to 18 city teams and 366 participants competing for the title of the most active city.

There are numerous prizes that will be awarded to top cities such as a Summer Camp/After School Kits for school programs donated by OrganWise, a single air walker for an outdoor gym, nutritional products from Dole that can be used at a future event, a seated bike station, and an adult fitness parks guide supplied by Playcore.

What does all that mean? More prizes for cities; but there will only be one city that will be awarded as the most active city and presented with their prize at the TML Legislative Conference in March. Adding to the excitement, was the recent partnership between the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association fully supporting this initiative and



further expanding it into community parks and recreation departments.

It's still not too late to form your city team and promote it in your community. Encourage folks to create/join the team, create a profile, log their daily workouts and enroll in events. These activities will reward the city team with points and a shot at all the great prizes being offered to winning cities. The more people you have participating, the better chance you have at catching some of the early leaders

Our current leaders are Nolensville with 76,760 points and Manchester with 22,607 points.

Go to the following site to join, <http://www.cmecompete.com/communities/walk-tennessee/>

## Haslam introduces anti-meth legislation

METH from Page 1

240mg for 10 days) of products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine in a 30-day period by presenting a valid ID to a pharmacist, which is the way state law currently works.

- If the consumer returns to purchase additional products, a pharmacist, at his or her discretion, may override the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEX) system to allow individuals to purchase up to 4.8g (maximum recommended daily dose of 240mg for 20 days) in that same 30-day period.

- Anything above 4.8g in a 30-day period would require a prescription issued by a licensed physician, certified physician assistant, or authorized nurse.

According to NPLEX data from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), 97 percent of

Tennesseans who bought cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine with a Tennessee driver's license during 2012 – approximately 636,600 people – bought less than 4.8g per month. The remaining 3 percent, about 19,700 individuals, purchased more than 4.8g per month.

Lab seizures and meth use have affected many aspects of Tennesseans' lives. Two hundred and sixty-six children were removed by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) from homes due to meth-related incidents in 2013 at an estimated cost of more than \$7 million.

### TML Pool Board to Meet Feb. 21

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Friday, February 21, 2014, at 10 a.m. local time in the Board Room at The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.

## TCAPWA presents annual awards

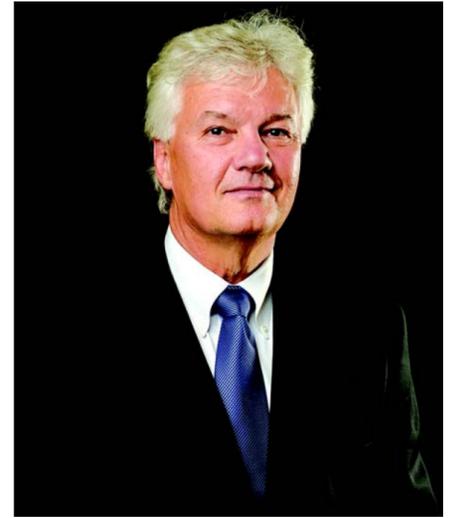
Yearwood is A.C. Lock Leader of the Year

Bill Yearwood, who has just completed his year as the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association's (TCAPWA) President, received the A.C. Lock Public Works Leader of the Year award at the TCAPWA Annual Conference in October. Yearwood serves as the city of Bartlett's Public Works director.



Photo by Chris Alley, Kingsport

Recipients of the 2013 TCAPWA Awards pictured left to right include: Steve Robbins and City Manager John Campbell, Kingsport Aquatic Center; Judy Keller, editor *TPW Magazine*; and Calvin Clifton, Mattern & Craig business development manager.



Bill Yearwood

The TCAPWA Awards include: TCAPWA Project of the Year, presented to Steve Robbins, Kingsport Aquatic Center; Frank Kirk Meritorious Service Award, presented to Calvin Clifton, Business Development manager, Mattern & Craig, Inc.; Larry Eddins Award, presented to Judy Keller, publisher of *TN Public Works Magazine*; the Roger Clark Award, presented to John Calvert, Pavement Technology; the Charles Walter Nichols Award, presented to Guy Patterson, Goodlettsville Public Services director/TCAPWA branch president Middle TN; and the Award of Merit presented to Warren Garrett, White House Public Works Superintendent.

### Kingsport Aquatic Center wins Project of the Year

BY MATTHEW CRAMER

This past summer Kingsport opened and began operating the Kingsport Aquatic Center located in the Meadowview District. This project now joins the Meadowview Conference Resort and Conference Center and the Meadowview Public Golf Course in successfully providing recreation to the local community and visitors. Year-round facility amenities will provide instructional, competitive and recreational swimming opportunities for all age groups to a city population of approximately 50,000 and a regional population of approximately 500,000.

The existing 37-year-old Legion Pool, an outdoor 50-meter competition/recreation pool, had failing infrastructure, diminished use, and did not offer year-round swimming opportunities. This pool was slated for decommissioning.

A public-private partnership between the city and the local YMCA was established to seek and develop land, share development costs, and maximize community recreation and fitness offerings.

Eastman Chemical Company, the primary regional employer, gifted nearly 16 acres to the city for the development of a joint city and YMCA complex.

Kingsport's Mayor and Board of Aldermen voted to approve bond funding to help provide short-term local and regional economic stimulus and jobs related to construction during the economic downturn. The city also viewed the project as a tool for long-term economic growth through competitive swimming events and enhanced tourism opportunities.

Numerous project challenges



The award winning Kingsport Aquatic Center, located in the Meadowview District, now joins the Meadowview Conference Resort and Conference Center and the Meadowview Public Golf Course.

existed including: reclamation of onsite wetlands, which were of very poor, low-grade quality. The city worked with TDEC to develop a plan to reclaim the site wetlands and replace them with newly created wetlands in the same watershed.

The property had to be raised several feet to maintain an elevation above the 100-year floodplain elevation for drainage and to establish onsite stormwater detention and water quality treatment before being released to the Horse Creek watershed.

Running across the site and under the parking lot is an existing, high-pressure gas line and easement, dedicated for use by Eastman Chemical.

The new development shares the entry lobby with the YMCA and also contains family locker rooms and a wet corridor with the YMCA members who have access to the pools through their membership.

The facility also features:

- Rain-gardens/bio-swales in the parking islands and pervious concrete at parking stalls to maximize

treatment of rain falling in the parking lot

- Fenced and landscaped deck space for kiddie pool, double run slide and tower; Lilly Pads obstacle course; general recreation pool area; 800 ft. Lazy River with inner-tube and internal lawn

- Administrative and staff offices; locker rooms; three multi-purpose rooms, stage area, concessions; elevated bleacher seating; eight-lane, 50-meter competition pool with 1m and 3m diving platforms and movable bulkheads; four-lane, 25-yard warm pool for instructional use; kiddie pool with interactive spray features, splash pad zone and slide.

The building has enhanced design and mechanical components for increased efficiency and lower operating costs.

The city provided extended city shuttle service routing to include the facility to help maintain the community link for those who are unable to drive to the new location.

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## STATE BRIEFS

### TN National Guard could lose 30 armed helicopters

The Tennessee National Guard says the U.S. Army's plan to eliminate the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters from the Army inventory will result in Tennessee losing 30 helicopters and the 692 soldiers who support them. Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Max Haston says the move will also eliminate 113 full time jobs and possibly two of the three Army flight facilities across the state. The Army's plan is to assign its rotary wing reconnaissance missions currently being done with the OH-58D to the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter until a suitable replacement is determined. However, the Tennessee National Guard says the Army has failed in numerous attempts over the past few years to select the next generation of armed reconnaissance helicopters. The Army plan also includes moving the LUH-72 Lakota helicopters, newly acquired specifically for the National Guard, to their aviation training center at Ft. Rucker to use as a platform to train new pilots. Tennessee currently has four of these new helicopters and will lose one and possibly two of these airframes under this plan. Haston says the loss of aircraft could also affect the Guard's ability to respond during domestic emergencies.

### Congressional delegation seeks funds for struggling hospitals

All 11 members of Tennessee's congressional delegation have signed a letter seeking \$80 million for financially struggling hospitals in the

state. They are asking that TennCare money lost from one federal grant program be replaced through another program, an action that requires a waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In the letter to Marilyn Tavenner, who heads the federal agency, the delegation makes the case that Tennessee is treated differently from other states because of another waiver – one that was granted back in 1994 when the state transformed its Medicaid program into TennCare.

### Extreme cold prompts state of emergency in propane transport

An arctic cold front bringing the coldest air to the state in more than 20 years, caused Tennessee's first State of Emergency in 2014. Gov. Haslam issued Executive Order No. 35 to exempt the federal Hours of Service requirements in the state for the transporting of propane during the next period of cold weather. Current federal law limits drivers transporting hazardous materials, such as propane, to driving 70 hours a week in stretches of no more than 11 hours a day. The drivers must have at least 10 continuous hours off between driving shifts. The emergency declaration will allow drivers to work longer hours to transport propane to homes and business in Tennessee, and to other hard-hit areas of the United States. The Tennessee departments of Agriculture, Environment and Conservation, Safety, Transportation, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency are coordinating with each other,

with other states and with federal authorities to put the exemption in place.

### Task Force appointed to study BEP funding

Gov. Haslam has appointed a task force to study the state's school funding formula. The panel is being formed amid criticism that the Basic Education Program, or BEP, is not adequately funding districts statewide. Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman will chair the task force, which is scheduled to meet over the course of this year and make recommendations to the governor by the end of the year.

### Farmers urged to apply for UT Ag education opportunities

In an effort to enhance the state's agricultural industry and to increase farmers' capacity to produce, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture is encouraging producers to take advantage of new continuing education opportunities now offered by the University of Tennessee Extension. For the 2014 application period, any master producer certificates received prior to 2015 will still qualify for 50 percent cost share. A schedule detailing current certification expiration dates and renewal deadlines, by program, is available at [www.tn.gov/taep](http://www.tn.gov/taep) under Master Certification Information in the TAEP News section. Class offerings for 2014 are posted at [utextension.tennessee.edu](http://utextension.tennessee.edu).

### State unemployment drops

Tennessee's unemployment rate fell to 7.8 percent in December, down from 8.1 percent the month prior, the Tennessee Department of Labor and

Workforce Development announced. Over the past two months, the state's unemployment rate has fallen from 8.5 percent. The national unemployment rate for December was 6.7 percent, down from 7 percent in November.

### State sees second year drop in work-related fatalities

Total fatalities and days away from work as a result of injuries and illnesses were both improved, according to a workplace safety report just released by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The 100 fatal work-related injuries recorded in Tennessee during 2012 represented a 17 percent decrease from the 120 recorded during 2011, according to the 2012 Tennessee Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and The Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Survey collected by the Tennessee Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### TN unemployment benefit tax information now available

Recipients of Tennessee unemployment benefits during 2013 can now access the information for income tax purposes on the state Department of Labor & Workforce Development homepage at <https://tdlwd.tn.gov/ui1099/>. They can also go straight to the log-in page: <https://tdlwd.tn.gov/ui1099/login.aspx>. By entering the birth date or the same PIN used to certify or inquire an unemployment claim, claimants can view a summary of total unemployment benefits paid, view the total amount of federal income tax withheld, and print a summary of this information.

## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### Feb. 14-16: Knoxville

*Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show*

Presented by the Knoxville News Sentinel, at the Knoxville Convention Center. New ideas, practical advice and great deals in decorating, home improvement and gardening with hundreds of experts all under one roof. Landscaped gardens, home improvement contractors, plants, decor, art and much more. Hours are Fri., from 10am to 6pm and Sat., from 10 am to 7 pm and Sun., from 11am to 5pm. For more information, visit <http://www.dogwoodhouseandgarden.com/>.

### Feb. 14-16: Annual Fog Festival

Hosted by the Monteagle Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Fog Fest signs outside each participating business has a complete list of activities at each location. Many activities free or at a discount. The fun includes: "throw your own pot" at Hallelujah Pottery; the play "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street; cookies and punch at May Justice Memorial Library; Louvin Brother Country Music Museum and Hamper McBee Moonshine Artifacts and Museum. The State Recreation Area will offer special free hikes; a tour of Dutch Maid Bakery, musical performances at Jim Oliver's Smoke House featuring Travis Bowlin and Laurel Taylor. Arts & Crafts, free food samples and much more throughout the business community. For more information, contact the Monteagle Mountain Chamber of Commerce at 931-924-5353, or e-mail [mmtnchamber@blomand.net](mailto:mmtnchamber@blomand.net) for a complete schedule of events. Watch for more updates on [www.monteaglechamber.com](http://www.monteaglechamber.com) webpage and on the facebook page: Monteagle-Mountain-Chamber-of-Commerce.

### Feb. 25: Tullahoma

As part of the Navy Band's national tour, the US Navy Band from Washington, D.C., will present a free concert of popular and classical favorites at Tullahoma High School at 7 pm. Concert is Free, but tickets are required. When ordering, include the number of tickets needed (up to six) in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Navy Band Concert, Tullahoma Band, 927 North Jackson St., Tullahoma, TN 37388. Tickets may also be picked up in the high school's main office. Doors open at 6:15. Ticket holders should arrive prior to 6:45. Non-ticket holders will be seated at 6:50. For more information, call the THS Band Office at 931-454-2629.

### Mar. 19-22: Pigeon Forge

*Mountain Quilt Fest*  
Held at the LeConte Center, 2986 Teaster Lane. More than 60 quilting classes for all skill levels. Quilt show showcases quilts from all over the country. Quilters compete for more than \$20,000 cash and prizes. For complete information, visit <http://www.mypigeonforge.com/events/quiltfest/> or for questions, email: [info@mypigeonforge.com](mailto:info@mypigeonforge.com).



## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER

OAK HILL. The city is accepting applications for the position of Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. The successful candidate will be a team player, comfortable in working in a small office environment. The position will work closely with the city manager and volunteer board members. The successful candidate will also possess good organizational and communication skills and be attentive to details. Job responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, preparing and entering journal entries, posting checks, deposits, ACH payments, and payroll transactions to the general ledger, preparation of budget reports, reconciliation of bank statements, answering telephones, greeting visitors, coordinating meetings, coordinates packets and agenda for city boards, filing, website administration, opening mail, and general clerical functions. The minimum qualifications include a total of five years experience (Bachelor's degree in a related field is equivalent to four years of experience) doing bookkeeping and journal entries, experience with other job responsibilities, knowledge of Microsoft Office and Quickbooks (or similar accounting software), ability to obtain Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation from the State of Tennessee. Preferred qualifications include college degree in a related field, experience working in a local government office, experience working with Local Government Data Processing software, experience with or knowledge of planning and zoning issues, Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation, and experience with website upkeep. To apply, submit cover letter and resume to: City Manager, City of Oak Hill, 5548 Franklin Road, Suite 101, Nashville, TN, 37220. Cover letter should include minimum acceptable salary. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary range is \$26,000 to \$36,000 per year, depending upon qualifications. Excellent benefits are provided.

### CITY MANAGER

KINGSPORT. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. Current manager is retiring after eight years. Position answers to six-member council plus

a mayor chosen at large. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Demonstrated success in public administration, budgeting and finance, intergovernmental relations, leadership and strategy development. At least seven (7) years' experience as City Manager/Assistant City Manager or equivalent. Bachelor's degree in related field required, master's preferred. Salary up to \$159K DOQ, plus excellent benefits. Application is a public record. View the Position Profile at: [http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Employment/Kingsport\\_2014.docx](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Employment/Kingsport_2014.docx). Send resume by March 7, 2014 to Patrick Hardy, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN. 37996-4105. Phone: 423-854-9882. Email: [pat.hardy@tennessee.edu](mailto:pat.hardy@tennessee.edu).

### CITY TREASURER/DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city is seeking a fulltime city Treasurer/Deputy City Manager. The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree in finance, public administration, business administration or similar discipline with at least 3 - 5 years experience in local government financial operations, administration, economic development, grant writing or a combination of education/experience. A master's degree will substitute for up to two years of the experience requirement. Duties to include, but not limited to, develop a capital improvement plan, financial plan, economic development plan, oversight of State and Federal Grant applications for the city of East Ridge; administering the terms and conditions associated with grants received. Prefer Certified Municipal Finance Officer certification. Salary DOQ. To apply please submit resume, cover letter and salary requirements not later than COB Fri., Feb. 21, 2014. Successful candidates selected for an interview will

be requested to submit and complete a city employment application. Send resume and cover letter to Office of the City Manager, 1517 Tombras Avenue, East Ridge, TN 37412 or [tperry@eastridgetn.org](mailto:tperry@eastridgetn.org). No phone calls please. EOE.

### POLICE CHIEF

NOLENVILLE. The town is currently seeking qualified applicants for Police Chief. The department has six-full time officers, one-detective, and one interim chief. The position will report to the mayor. The successful candidate will have a degree from an accredited institution in criminal justice or related field, at least 10 years of law enforcement experience with at least three of those years in a managerial capacity and preferred command level. Must be Tennessee POST-certified or eligible to become POST-certified in the State of Tennessee and not have been out of law enforcement for more than three (3) years. Starting salary is \$55,000 - \$60,000, depending on qualifications. Must pass a thorough background investigation which will include, but will not be limited to, criminal, extensive prior employment, and further verifications. Applicant will possess the utmost ethical and moral character. Send resume or application from [www.nolensvilletn.gov](http://www.nolensvilletn.gov), at least three professional references, a cover letter that explains your interest in the position, sufficient documents of your career, managerial improvements, education, and describe your management philosophy to: Cindy Lancaster, Town Recorder, Post Office Box 284, Nolensville, TN 37135. Deadline: Feb. 28 or until position filled. EOE.

### POLICE OFFICER

WAYNESBORO. The city is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicants must be 18 years of age, POST certified, pass a complete physical, drug screen and have a valid driver license. Applications and/or resumes should be sub-

mitted detailing experience and training to Waynesboro City Hall, P.O. Box 471 Waynesboro, TN 38485 or email to city manager [jhickman@cityofwaynesboro.org](mailto:jhickman@cityofwaynesboro.org) by March 3, 2014. Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance, paid vacation, paid sick leave, holidays, retirement plan and deferred compensation plan. The city is an EOE employer and reserves the right to reject any or all applications.

### TRANSIT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Transit Assistant Director. Johnson City Transit mass transit services include: regular fixed route and demand-response service. The department secures and maintains various state and federal grants while complying with all state and federal regulatory requirements. The assistant director reports directly to the Transit Director. The candidate should have a comprehensive knowledge of mass transit operations; principles and practices of public administration with experience in departmental personnel and budget; strategic planning; AVL technology, state and federal grants management, and have the ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with staff, municipal officials and the public. The city of Johnson City, School Transit Division, operates school transportation for the local school system. The Assistant Director will have additional duties in the 100 percent locally funded division. A bachelor of science degree from an accredited college or university is recommended. Demonstrated leadership experience in managing mass transit operations for a minimum of two years is also recommended. Minimum annual salary is \$53,851 and will be DOE. Apply online or review a summary of benefits at [www.johnsoncitytn.org](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org). Applications accepted until Feb. 21, 2014. EOE/AA

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**TML Legislative Conference March 17 -18**

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 17 - 18 at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Nashville.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues being addressed by the 108th Tennessee General Assembly.

A host of prominent state officials are set to speak at the Legislative Conference. Both speakers, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell, will address TML members during the two-day event.

Sen. Ken Yager, chairman of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, and Rep. Charles Sargent, chairman of the



House Finance Committee, are also on the agenda.

City officials will also hear from Jill Bachus, TCRS director, and Steve Curry, deputy treasurer, with the Tennessee Treasury Department to provide an update on the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS).

Registration will open at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 17, followed by a buffet lunch at 12 noon. The conference will kick off at 1 p.m. and run through 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, March 18, things will get underway at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast served until 8 a.m.. The

conference program will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 9 a.m.

City officials are also encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message.

To register on line, go to [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org). Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416, for more information.

Deadline for hotel registration is Feb. 19. To reserve a room and to receive the group rate of \$129, contact the DoubleTree at (800) 222-8733. Be sure to mention the group code (TML) when making reservations.

**UT MTAS March Classes***Effective Leadership Series: The Power of Words*

Effective communication is at the core of every successful personal and professional relationship. Work a 40-hour week, and you spend at least 2,000 hours a year at work, so it's important to spend that time communicating effectively with managers, co-workers, customers and the public. In this highly interactive course, participants will be guided through the process of becoming a more effective communicator and therefore a more effective leader. This course will explore four basic communication styles. Determine where you fall on that spectrum and learn how to converse with individuals in the other three quadrants. Learn how to identify why communication breaks down, read verbal and non-verbal behaviors, explore the art of listening, and practice skills for effective interactive communications.

**Time:** All classes begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm with Johnson City, Knoxville and Collegedale at EST and Jackson and Nashville at CST.

**Schedule of Sessions**

Mar. 4 - Jackson  
Mar. 5 - Nashville  
Mar. 11 - Johnson City  
Mar. 12 - Knoxville  
Mar. 25 - Collegedale

**Locations:**

**Collegedale**, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Dr.  
**Jackson**, University of TN - West Tenn. Research & Education Center; 605 Airways Center  
**Johnson City**, Carnegie Hotel; 1216 W State of Franklin Rd.  
**Nashville**, UT-CIS Training Room, 193 Polk Ave. Nashville  
**Knoxville**, University of TN Conference Center; 600 Henley St., 4th Floor

THE UNIVERSITY of  
**TENNESSEE** UT  
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL  
ADVISORY SERVICE

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

**Credits:** 4 CEU or 4 CPE/CMFO (Other/Non-Financial)

To register for a course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) and click on "Register for a Class" under the training tab. You may pay with a credit card or request an invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411 or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or [kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu](mailto:kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu).

**UT MTAS March Classes***Writing Job Descriptions*

Program participants will be provided with the essential steps needed to develop accurate, thorough and legally defensible job descriptions for their employees. Participants will learn to identify a recommended format for employee job descriptions. The program will also address how to accurately validate and document the physical requirements for physically demanding jobs that satisfy ADA requirements.

**Who should attend:** Managers; supervisors, HR source staff, executive leaders or those affiliated with the recruitment process of employees.  
**Credits:** 4 CEU or 4 CPE/CMFO (Other/Non-Financial)

**Time:** All classes begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm, with Johnson City and Knoxville at EST and Jackson and Franklin CST.

**Schedule of Sessions**

Mar. 4 - Johnson City  
Mar. 5 - Knoxville  
Mar. 11 - Jackson  
Mar. 12 - Franklin

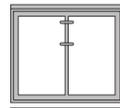
**Locations:**

**Jackson**, University of TN - West Tenn. Research & Education Center; 605 Airways Center  
**Franklin**, Embassy Suites, Cool Springs  
**Johnson City**, Carnegie Hotel; 1216 W State of Franklin Rd.  
**Knoxville**, University of TN Conference Center; 600 Henley St., 4th Floor

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

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**COMING UP**

**Feb. 22-23: Crabtree Farms 6th Annual Community Garden Start-up Workshop** held at 10 West Martin Luther King, Blvd. in Chattanooga. Sat. 9 am to 3 pm and Sun. 12:00 pm to 4 pm at the EPB Community Room. Teaches the basics of successful community gardening from site planning and building, to fundraising, growing vegetables and raising community support. Second day, enjoy a tour of existing Chattanooga area community gardens where participants will have the opportunity to get advice from experienced gardeners, see spring vegetable seedlings, and network with fellow gardeners. Workshop fee is on a sliding scale between \$50-\$100. Space is limited. For registration or more information, visit <http://www.crabtreefarms.org>.

**Mar. 6-7: Grant Writing USA Workshop**—Hosted by The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Research and Planning Division, at William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 3rd Floor, Media Room. Held from 9 am-4 pm both days with lunch on your own from noon to 1:20. Learn how to find grants and write winning proposals. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities encouraged to attend. Tuition is \$425 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD. Seating limited, online reservations necessary. See event details and online registration at <http://grantwritingusa.com>

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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.

**TMBF**  
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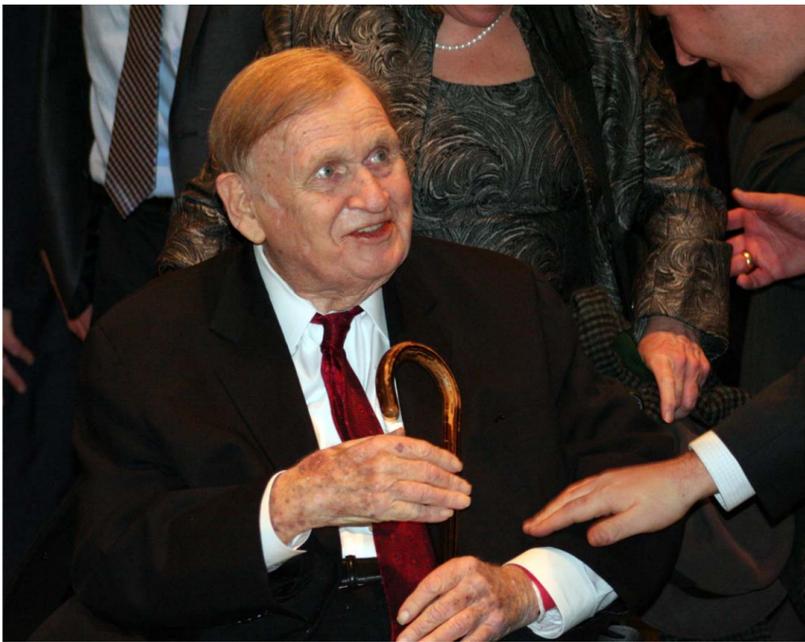
# Gov. Haslam's 2014 State of State Address



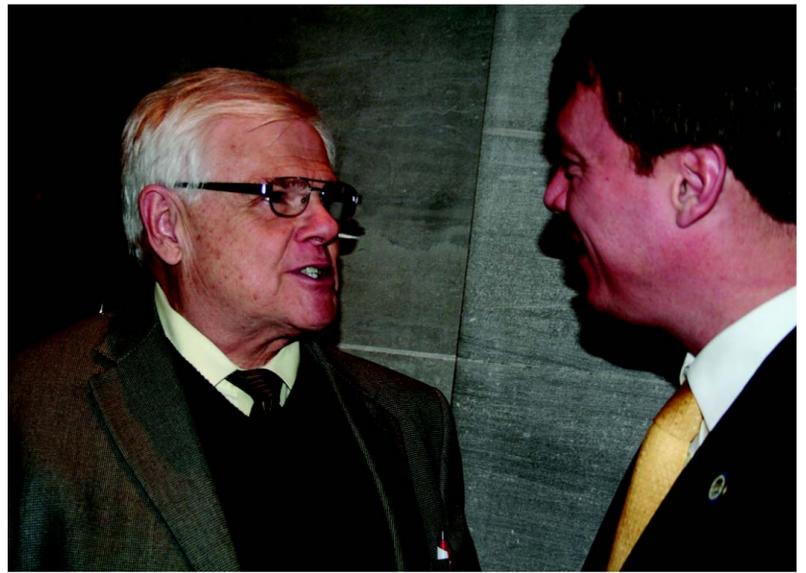
Rep. Curtis Johnson, Sen. Bo Watson, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell



Gov. Bill Haslam



Sen. Douglas Henry



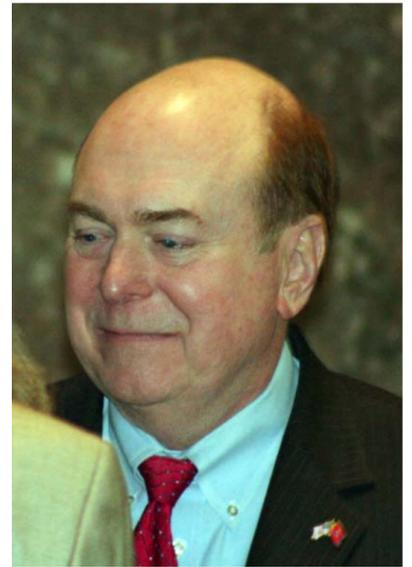
Sen. Ken Yager



Sen. Mae Beavers



Rep. G.A. Hardaway and TN Safety Commissioner Bill Gibbons



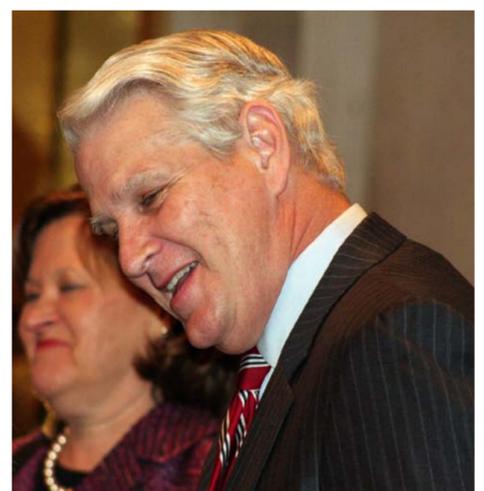
State Treasurer David Lillard



Sen. Jim Kyle



Sen. Jack Johnson



TN Supreme Court Chief Justice Gary Wade

## State of the state address 2014 budget plan

**ADDRESS** from Page 1  
tions for all graduating high school seniors. The plan also calls for reducing Hope scholarships for incoming students at four-year universities from \$4,000 to \$3,000 the first two years and \$5,000 the last two years.

Other budget highlights include:

- \$48.6 million dollars to fully fund the BEP formula;
- \$63 million to increase teacher salaries by 2 percent;

- \$141 million in capital investments for higher education;
- \$15.6 million for a one percent pay raise for state employees;
- \$40.3 million to the Rainy Day Fund bringing it to \$496 million on June 30, 2015;
- \$61 million in Fast Track Infrastructure and Job Training assistance;
- \$6 million for a statewide tourism fund to support the work of the tourism commission.

- a 1 percent reduction in payments to health care providers under TennCare, coupled with an increase in co-pays for those on the program; and
- elimination of 664 state job positions — all but about 100 currently vacant.

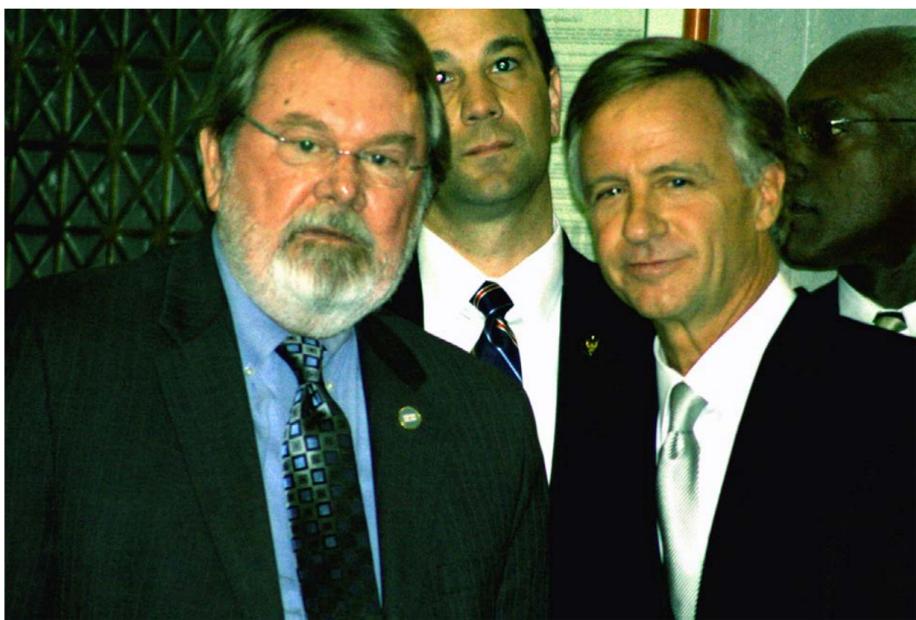
The complete text of the governor's speech and an archived video of his speech will be available at [www.tn.gov/stateofthestate](http://www.tn.gov/stateofthestate).

Pictured right: Rep. John Mark Windle

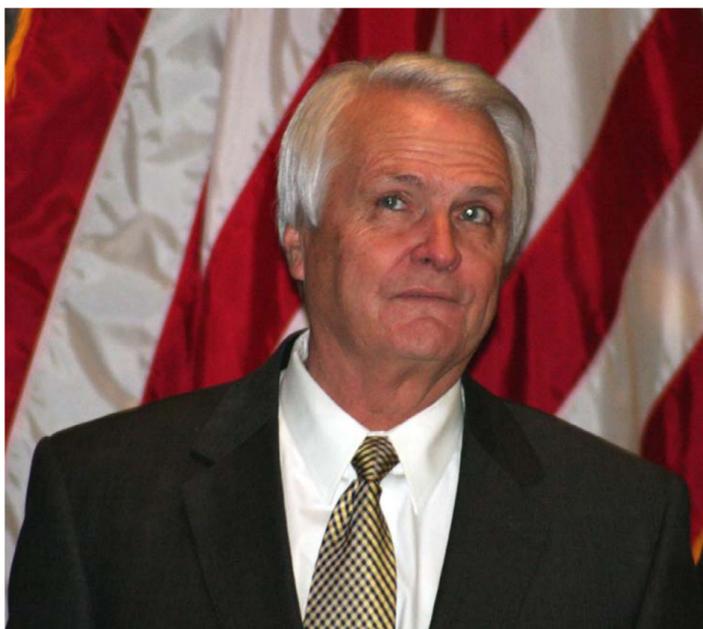
Photos by: Victoria South



# Gov. Haslam's 2014 State of State Address



Rep. Steve McDaniel and Gov. Bill Haslam



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh and Sen. Lowe Finney



Rep. Mike Sparks and Sen. Ferrell Haile



Rep. Jason Powell



Rep. Matthew Hill



Secretary of State Tre Hargett



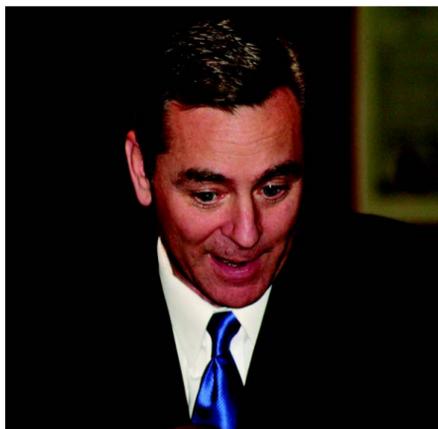
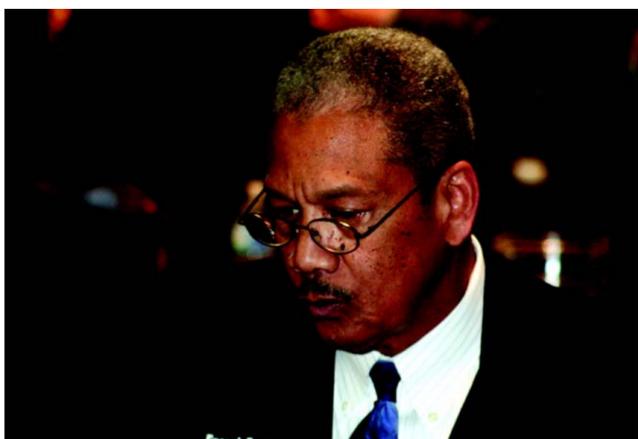
Rep. Mark White and former State Sen. Jamie Woodson



Rep. Tilman Goins



Rep. Dennis Roach



Rep. Glen Casada  
Pictured left: Rep. Larry Miller

Photos by Victoria South

Banking, city government background provides insight into state budgeting process

## Larry Martin at the helm of TN Finance & Administration

BY LINDA BRYANT

Larry Martin has only worked in state government since mid-2012. In that short period of time the seasoned former banking executive—who also worked closely with Gov. Bill Haslam when he was mayor of Knoxville—has already worn several important hats.

In May 2012, Martin joined Gov. Haslam's gubernatorial staff as a special assistant to oversee implementation of the changes in the state's civil service system. He also worked on an overhaul of the state's Department of Children's Services. In June 2013, he was named Interim Commissioner of the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) in order to fill the gap left by retiring F&A Commissioner Mark Emkes. Two months later Gov. Haslam named him the permanent F&A Commissioner.

Prior to joining city government in Knoxville, Martin was an executive of First Horizon/First Tennessee Bank for 37 years. He began his career as a customer service representative and assistant branch manager and was chief operating officer for First Tennessee Financial Services when he retired in 2006. After retiring from First Tennessee, Martin joined Haslam's mayoral staff, where he worked as deputy to the mayor through 2011.

A native of Jackson, Tenn., Martin earned his bachelor of science degree in banking and finance from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He completed the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University and the Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management at Stanford University.

Martin has a track record of civic involvement. He served on the boards of several organizations and was involved with the United Way of Greater Knoxville, Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement, the Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation and the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is past chairman of the Greater Knoxville Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Knoxville, and he headed Knoxville's 1995 United Way campaign.

**TT&C: Can you tell us a little about your family?**

**LM:** I met my wife Jane at the University of Tennessee, where we were both business majors. We met on a blind date. This August will be our 45th wedding anniversary. We have two daughters and we have a new five-month-old grandson—our first. Our older daughter, Hope, is a teacher in North Carolina. Our other daughter, Meg, became a white water river guide in Colorado. She's finishing grad school in architecture at the University of Colorado.

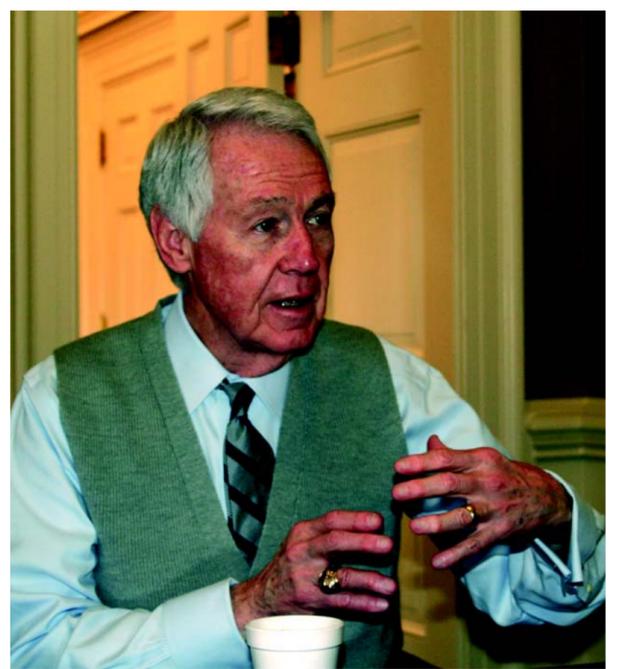
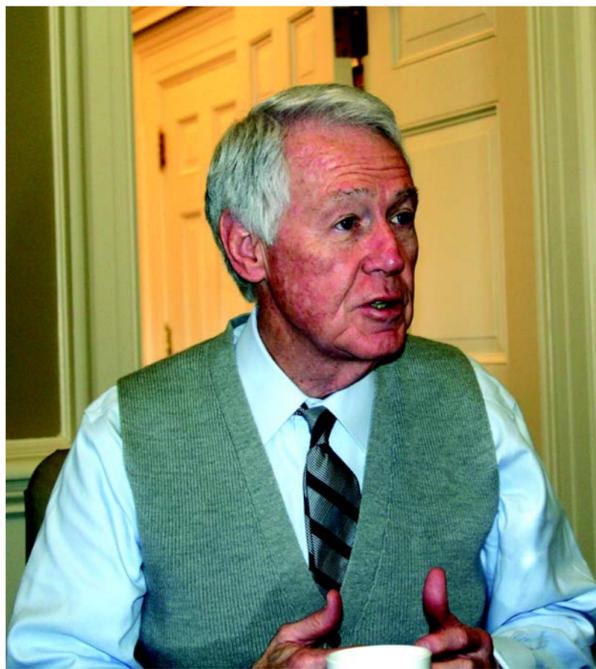
**TT&C: Were you planning a second career when you retired from banking in 2006?**

**LM:** I really had no plans to work after I retired. On the first Monday we were in town, my wife went to work out. I was standing in the kitchen and she said, "Am I mistaken or are you still here?" I got the clear message that I probably needed to find something to do. Fortunately, the mayor took me in, and I had an opportunity to work for the city of Knoxville for five years. It was an interesting experience. I had the unique opportunity after the mayor was elected governor to stay on to work with Daniel Brown, who served as interim mayor until a new election was held in late 2011. We had a really good experience for the 11 months that he was in office. I learned a lot in the deputy role. I had responsibility for engineering, public service, risk management and IT departments. Technology is not my strong suit, and found it rather humorous that I was responsible for it. I had responsibilities I never had to worry about in banking. I worried about weather forecasts and whether or not we'd need to treat the streets. I was fortunate to work with great folks in Knoxville. I've been blessed everywhere – at the bank, the city, and now at the state. I am also blessed to work with Gov. Bill Haslam. He is a quality person and a pleasure to work with and for.

**TT&C: Could you talk about the challenges that you are facing with revenues and expenditures and what the budget is looking like right now?**

**LM:** It is my first state budget, but it's not my first budget with Gov. Haslam. We worked on several budgets together when he was mayor of Knoxville. And, of course, I had experience with operating budgets when I was at First Tennessee Bank. Every budget has its own personality so to speak, its opportunities and its challenges. We have been fortunate in the state to have good revenue growth the last couple of years. We have revenue growth now, but it has slowed relative to past years. We have a concentration of our revenue in certain taxes – the sales tax being one of them and the F&E (Franchise and Excise) is the other. The combinations of those two make up 75 to 80 percent of our total tax revenue. When you have volatility in either one of those areas it, flows through the whole budget.

Right now we are involved in Fiscal Year 2014. While we have growth in sales tax, it's less than our estimated numbers, lower than



Photos by Carole Graves

*"Every budget has its own personality, so to speak, its opportunities and its challenges. We have been fortunate in the state to have good revenue growth the last couple of years. We have revenue growth now, but it has slowed relative to past years."*

*"This (e-commerce) is an evolution of the way business is conducted. Sales tax has always been applicable to consumption. And if consumption takes on a different look, then sales tax needs to still be part of that equation."*

our projections. So that puts us into a situation where we are at risk of a gap in Fiscal Year '14.

We not only have to cover that gap in the current fiscal year, but it carries over to the following year. It's challenging. When you have this happening on the revenue side, you've got to be as wise and assured as you can be on the expense side. You have to be as efficient and frugal as you can be. Therein lies some difficult decisions. There's a lot of trying to pick first among equals. There are lots of worthy initiatives and programs. We are fortunate because we have a hands-on governor. We spent the week before Christmas working many hours together on the budget.

**TT&C: It sounds like you might need to make some hard choices with the budget.**

**LM:** There will be—and there are—hard decisions even when we have good revenue growth. Expectations are higher and when expectations are higher you have some difficult decisions. But we think we have done a good job in being careful with this budget and when we get ready to present it to the legislature we will see how they feel about it and respond to it.

**TT&C: How has your extensive banking experience helped in what you do?**

**LM:** I certainly had experiences in banking that required difficult decisions. I actually joke that banking is both a benefit and a handicap because bankers have a warped view of what a debit and a credit is. We look at it the opposite of the way accountants look at it. And then government budgeting and financials are done differently, so you get a mixture sometimes of cash and accrual. You get all the nuances that go with it. So that is a challenge. What makes it easier for me is the quality of our staff. The governor and I have been friends a long time. I have a sense of how he approaches things and that's helpful. It's helpful to our budget staff as they prepare budget material for him to look at. I know how he likes to approach the various elements of the budget. But in the end, it all comes back to the quality of the budget staff. They have collectively and individually a good bit of experience and that's a Godsend to us.

**TT&C: In anticipation of a tight budget year, the Governor has requested that each department reduce its budgets by 5 percent. I would think this is a good exercise in setting priorities and identifying funding sources for all departments.**

**LM:** Much has been said in the media about the 5 percent reductions. Those are just proposed possibilities. They sometimes get written about as if they are fact, like they are definitely going to happen. We just asked the departments if they received 5 percent less, how would they deal with it? They responded to us with various options. Some have merit and some are places we don't need to go. We have to look carefully at these efficiencies, because that's where our funding for new initiatives and programs basically comes from. When you have programs like TennCare and BEP (Basic Education Program) – they take up so much of your incremental growth.

**TT&C: Why do they think the revenue projections are lower than originally projected. Is there a reason?**

**LM:** It goes back to 2008 or 2009, which were difficult years. To come out of that, it has shown we had good growth in sales tax, and we had good growth in F&E, our business tax. The sales tax growth rate has slowed, and that's a

function of consumer confidence. Consumer confidence, in my opinion, is driven more out of Washington than it is other places. So, it's something we can't control. I did urge everybody over the holidays to go shopping and pay full retail. We needed the sales tax revenue.

The F&E part of it is a tax that businesses can pay based on estimated taxes. There are certain requirements they have to pay. But it's a very difficult thing to project; I've never run into anything quite like it. It's driven by the individual business and what's unique to that business and what that particular business's tax strategies are. It creates some opportunities and some volatility, and sometimes that volatility is on the positive side and sometimes on the negative side. The business owners forecast what they think they will owe, and it sometimes involves a six-month extension. So by the time they have reconciled everything, we have already logged it over here as revenue. Sometimes we reconcile their payments many months later, and sometimes it's even between two fiscal years.

**TT&C: Did you have concerns about the budget and how it relates to Washington?**

**LM:** Certainly, that's a factor. There are things in Washington that have an effect on us – but it varies from department to department. Some departments are not dependent upon federal dollars, while for others, it has a very significant impact, particularly in the social services arena. Plus, in the fall, we had the government shut down, which had an impact. It was peak season for us in the Smokey Mountains. In order to keep the National Park open, we had to use state dollars instead of federal dollars.

**TT&C: Tennessee is one of the states that decided not to take Medicare expansion money from Washington. What's your take on this issue and how does that affect our state budget?**

**LM:** I'm over simplifying it, but from a budget perspective, it's simply known as a pass through. You get the dollars from the federal government and you spend. So it's not like it generates dollars to be used. The Governor's view is that expansion in a broken system is not a step in the right direction. Our view is that Gov. Haslam's proposed Tennessee plan, which has payment reform in it, really addresses some of the structural problems of the program. It's a much better way to take those dollars and utilize them and make them more affective in the state.

**TT&C: As of Jan. 1, Amazon is now collecting sales tax revenues on online sales. Some early projections estimated it would generate about \$17 million in state revenue and about \$7 million in local revenue. What type of projections do you foresee that the state will take in as a result of this new agreement?**

**LM:** I can't talk about some of the specifics because of the confidentiality involved, but I can talk about it in broader terms and the challenge of e-commerce. It's one of the issues they are debating today in Washington. This is an evolution of the way business is conducted. Sales tax has always been applicable to consumption. And if consumption takes on a different look, then sales tax needs to still be part of that equation.

**TT&C: Last year, the General Assembly voted to reduce the Hall Income tax and raise the exemption for people over 65. Some legislators have discussed a possible**

**phase out or total elimination of the tax. Is that being discussed?**

**LM:** A lot of that will depend on the individuals in the legislature and where they want to take it. In a budget year that is as tight as this one is, you take a look at anything that changes on the revenue side. Unlike the federal government, we can't print money. We have to balance the budget. If you have less coming in, something has to give on the expense side. These are things the legislature will have to debate, consider, and look at. Right now, we have to assume that what we have today is what we have. And so we will see where the discussion goes with the legislature.

**TT&C: Can you think of other challenges in your department or maybe something the state is facing that you want to talk about in particular?**

**LM:** We haven't talked about what happens on the expense side. There are certain things on the expense side with built in increases. There's medical inflation and all the things that contribute to TennCare that increase each year, albeit less than on the national level. It reflects good management on the part of our people in TennCare, but nonetheless it is still an increasing number. You also have the educational side. You have enrollment increases and inflation and all of that contributes to a larger number. So we have to look to efficiencies among our departments.

**TT&C: How do you see local government involvement in helping to solve some of those challenges?**

**LM:** Since I was a part of city government, I'd like to think that there is a good working relationship in place – with the state and with local governments. I think it's important to continue and to nurture these ties. There are ways that the state can be helpful to local government as they face challenges such as pensions. The comptroller is responsible for the financial oversight of municipalities, and so it's not an area that is a part of this department's responsibility. But we are connected with them through the collection of business and income taxes. Those dollars go back to the local governments.

Answering your question in somewhat of a non-financial way, I'd say I care about the social service's needs. Children's Services are something that had been talked a lot about over the past year. It's a challenging and difficult world out there. We have a lot of children that are not in the best situations, and we work very hard to address those. Addressing it is a collective effort of the state, local government and the individual communities themselves. It's a problem with a lot of challenges and it impacts both urban and non-urban areas.

When I worked with Children's Services, it was a sobering experience. There are never easy choices when it comes to these issues. We have state laws that favor the biological parents, and there are certainly good reasons for that. You want a child to be able to stay in a home and family situation, but you also have things going on out there that are very unfortunate. We have a certain responsibility to make sure the children are safe. I believe it takes a coordinated and collaborative approach of local government, local nonprofits, and the judicial system to address these issues effectively. All of those folks have to be at the table. Commissioner Jim Henry is working hard to make that happen. The state can't solve all of these kinds of problems, but we all have to be concerned about the safety of our children.