

## Why Cities Matter



It's hard to imagine today a life without weekly garbage pickup. Few services are more visible, yet, municipal residents take for granted affordable trash disposal. While some cities belong to regional solid waste districts that coordinate trash disposal, most cities still retain this responsibility.

## State leaders brief city officials on legislative activities

*Local autonomy, annexation & meth epidemic among topics discussed at TML Legislative Conference*

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**  
*TML Communications Director*

When Gov. Haslam addressed municipal officials at the TML Legislative Conference, he acknowledged that there were more issues over local control than he has seen in the 10 plus years that he has worked with the Tennessee General Assembly – first as mayor of Knoxville and now, as governor.

“Being a mayor was a great experience for me and I have great appreciation for what you are doing,” Haslam said. “I believe that local government is incredibly effective. And because of that, I am always going to err on the side where we can have local control. This year, there are more local control issues than I have ever seen. That is why it

is critical that you engage in the process – that you represent local governments – that you register a voice.”

Gov. Haslam briefed city officials on three key initiatives his administration is currently working on – Tennessee Promise and his Drive to 55 initiative, K-12 education and Common Core standards, and proposes legislation to combat the state’s meth epidemic.

“We are trying to battle the scourge of meth and the devastation it has on Tennessee. We are proposing legislation that strikes a balance between keeping people from smurfing – buying pseudoephedrine and selling it to others – and not restricting the 97 percent of the people that buy the drug for legitimate reasons,” he said. “The legislation is at a critical place in the process. There is interest on both sides.



*Photo by Victoria South*

Gov. Haslam talks local control, education, and the state’s meth epidemic at the TML Legislative Conference, held March 17 - 18.

Some want to make it stronger and make it prescription only, and others think it’s too restrictive. We would appreciate your help on supporting this legislation.”

The administration’s bill, SB1751 / HB1574, prohibits pharmacies from selling and any person from purchasing more than 2.4 See **CONFERENCE** on Page 10



## Make plans to attend Annual Conference, June 22 - 24

*Registration materials online at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)*

Make plans now to attend the TML Annual Conference, slated for June 22 - 24 in Chattanooga. This year marks the League’s 75th year.

For 75 years, municipal officials from across the state have come together at the TML Annual Conference to explore common problems, exchange ideas, celebrate cities’ accomplishments, and to form a united front in the effort to make Tennessee cities and towns operate more efficiently and effectively.

The challenges facing local governments today have never been greater. The issues of limited fund-

ing, growing public demand, aging infrastructure, and competing interests require local governments to do more with less. With that as a backdrop, many of the conference sessions and speakers will include strategies for addressing the many issues facing cities within today’s constrained fiscal environment.

Conference sessions will focus on smart growth development, industrial recruiting, retailing recruiting, building healthy communities, and workers comp reforms, just to name a few.

See **CONFERENCE** on Page 6

## Congress approves Flood Insurance Affordability Act

**BY YUCEL ORS**  
*National League of Cities*

Congress recently passed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014.

The bill (H.R. 3370), which NLC joined cities and state leagues in supporting, will protect homeowners and businesses from soaring flood insurance premium increases.

The bill caps FEMA’s authority to raise premiums to 18 percent per year, repeals requirements that premiums immediately increase to full actuarial rates for homes being sold, and restores grandfathering for properties paying premiums at rates set for their initial flood risk rating. Owners will instead be assessed

a \$25 annual surcharge for policies on primary residences and \$250 for secondary residences or business properties. FEMA will also be required to gather input from communities on flood mitigation features when designing risk maps, and to conduct affordability studies. The bill now heads to the President’s desk for signature.

“With the president’s signature, communities across America will be spared the adverse impacts resulting from costly mandates in the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012,” said NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony. “We urge the president to sign the bill as soon as possible to ensure that cities and their residents will continue to thrive.”

## NLC calls on FCC to cooperate on siting of wireless facilities

**BY CAROLYN COLEMAN**  
*National League of Cities*

In March, NLC filed reply comments in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed rulemaking on local government practices involving the siting of wireless facilities.

Through the rulemaking, the FCC is seeking input on whether it should adopt rules interpreting and implementing Section 6409(a) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (“Spectrum Act”), which prohibits local governments from denying eligible facilities’ requests to modify existing wireless towers or stations if the

modification does not substantially change the dimensions of the facility. NLC filed initial comments in February.

In the reply comments, NLC urges the FCC not to adopt a one size fits all approach but to use narrowly tailored definitions in any guidance it may issue, so that local governments can make decisions free from fear about later inappropriate expansions of wireless sites due to overly-broad definitions of those facilities.

NLC also addressed other concerns about the potentially large cumulative impact of small cell systems, for which FCC had proposed expedited environmental and historical impact reviews.

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**  
*TML Communications Coordinator*

For some people, the term human sex trafficking conjures up a variety of images—exotic ports of call with children from poverty-stricken villages handed off to “well-meaning” strangers who prostitute them inside the city’s red light districts. While the global scenario is true, the real face of human sex trafficking in the U.S. and across Tennessee, is as close as the girl next door, according to a new report by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) “The Geography of Trafficking in Tennessee 2013.”

A followup to an initial 2011 study “Tennessee Human Sex Trafficking and Its Impact on Children and Youth,” sanctioned by the Tennessee General Assembly, the new report finds that 17 out of 21 counties profiled with the highest rates of minor trafficking in Tennessee are located in rural areas of the state.

“When you think about human sex trafficking, you think about major sporting events such as the Super Bowl or an NBA Allstar game—where all these young girls are being brought in from different countries and other states—but I can tell you that human trafficking is in some of the smallest cities and counties in Tennessee,” TBI Director Mark Gwyn relayed to attendees at the

TML Legislative Conference in Nashville.

While Gwyn confirmed the epidemic crosses all ethnic and socioeconomic lines, the study indicates that because of the violent nature and social stigma of sex trafficking, cases may be harder to detect in rural areas, due to the smaller population and familiarity of neighbors in small communities.

“This is a rural community, kids talk, adults talk, families of the victims seemed displeased because of the stigma,” a Lake County respondent remarks in the recent TBI survey.

“We hear rumors of people in our jurisdiction that operate prostitution rings but due to our small town, it is hard to get information to prosecute, because the ring is so small, they know who to sell to and who not to,” adds a Putnam County police detective.

The report examines and compares factors within the counties, in an effort to identify the circumstances or conditions that may place an individual at risk for becoming a victim.

The study finds that youths from impoverished households may be the most vulnerable to victimization. In Tennessee, 24 percent of children live in poor families with incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, according to the Na-



TBI Director Mark Gwyn

tional Center for Children in Poverty, 2013.

Another factor in Tennessee is the drug trade, according to Gwyn.

“Looking at trends across the state, the number one thing that concerns me has got to be meth,” he said. “Most drugs, you see them come into prevalence and then leave. Well, with meth, that’s never happened. I’ve been fighting meth since the early 90’s.” The report states that “the link between meth and high risk sexual behaviors may put children at higher risk for sexual abuse by adults using meth.”

The counties profiled represent 34 percent of the total methamphetamine See **TRAFFICKING** on Page 5

## Nolensville steps up to challenge, logs most miles in TML’s Walk Tennessee competition

The Town of Nolensville was recently recognized by the Tennessee Municipal League as the most active city in Tennessee. Nolensville won first place in TML’s *Walk Tennessee Challenge* by logging the most amount of miles during the six-month, city-to-city competition.

Lunched by TML in October 2013, *Walk Tennessee* was designed to be a fun, social challenge to encourage city residents to become more active. Through an Internet-accessible program developed by cMEcompete, community members could interact with one another online; form their own teams; set goals; track successes; and earn points toward rewards and prizes.

A total of 18 cities with more than 300 members signed up for the challenge.

Aside from the health benefits residents received for becoming more physically active, cities competed for various prizes, including a nutritional product donated by Dole, an Outdoor Fitness Station and an Outdoor Adults Fitness Parks Guide donated by Playcore, and an After-School Programming kit donated by Organwise Guys.



*Photo by Victoria South*

The Town of Nolensville took the top honor in TML’s *Walk Tennessee Challenge*, logging 94,603 miles. Pictured are: Beth Lothers, alderwoman; Mayor Jimmy Alexander; Bryan Snyder, alderman; members of the Nolensville Running Club: Tara Underwood and Scott and Kelli Alexander; and Vice Mayor Jason Patrick.

The top cities were recently recognized during the TML Legislative Conference held in Nashville. Nolensville took the top honor, logging 94,603 miles. The city of Manchester was awarded second place, logging 26,000 miles, fol-

lowed by Jackson that logged 1,753 miles. Elizabethton received a fourth place nod with 850 points.

“Local leaders can play a critical role in this fight against obesity by becoming actively involved in creat- See **WALK TENN** on Page 10





ALCOA

For-profit education technology company K12 Inc. is planning a Blount County family support campus, bringing 300 new jobs to the area. K12 says it will initially hire 300 employees and is making a capital investment of more than \$2.4 million over the course of five years. The company provides online classes to students around the United States. K12's Tennessee Virtual Academy, which began offering classes in August 2011, is administered by Union County officials.

CHATTANOOGA

The city council unanimously approved tax breaks for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., which is set to build a new distribution center at the former Olan Mills site. City officials also voted to rezone the property to make way for the new facility. Chattanooga Coca-Cola has pledged to spend \$62 million there and bring 43 new jobs to the city over the next year. If Hamilton County commissioners approve, the combined city and county tax incentives for Coca-Cola will total an estimated \$5.9 million over the next 12 years. This agreement would give the company two years relief from paying property taxes, except for funds to the school system.

FRANKLIN

A five-member volunteer team of planning experts, part of the American Planning Association's Community Planning Assistance Teams program, worked with residents, business leaders, and officials to offer recommendations about future development within the city's floodplain. The recommendations are designed to create a balanced and sustainable approach for potential economic development without ignoring the risks associated with development in the floodplain. The complete report can be found at <http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams/franklin/pdf/finalfranklinreport.pdf>

GOODLETTSVILLE

Hogebuilt Incorporated will expand its operations into the Northfork Industrial Park off of Highway 41. Hogebuilt, a manufacturer of truck and trailer spray suppression systems, will employ 20-25 workers. Hogebuilt quarter fenders and custom brackets are factory installed options on select trucks for Peterbilt, Kenworth, and Volvo factories. In an additional announcement, Tenex, Inc. has acquired a 70,000 square ft. industrial facility at 425 Church St. Tenex, Inc. is an ISO certified aluminum and metal fabricator offering laser cutting service that specializes in low volume runs with short lead times and emergency services. The company has already started installing equipment and plans on being in operation later this month. Tenex, Inc. plans on employing 20 -25 workers.

HENDERSONVILLE

Dog owners enjoyed the warmer weather by trying out the city's first ever dog park, made possible through a \$15,000 donation from the Hendersonville Lions Club. Located behind Kids Kingdom and Memorial Park on Main Street, the canine paradise features two separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, along with several benches for pet owners to practice their sitting skills.

KNOXVILLE

Flowers Foods is opening a new bakery expected to create more than 100 jobs. The facility will be located on NW Park Drive and is scheduled to open in late May. The bakery will produce Nature's Own, Merita, and Wonder brands.

KNOXVILLE

Renal services provider Fresenius Medical Care has announced it will relocate its East Coast manufacturing facility to the area, creating 665 jobs. The German company plans to spend up to \$140 million on the project to build the plant in the city's Panasonic building. The company cited an available workforce, an existing facility and the location as factors in their decision to locate in Knoxville. The Federal Drug Administration would have to approve the plant for production of dialysis products. Production is not expected to begin until 2016.

LAVERGNE

Walmart is bringing about 400 jobs to the local economy and an anticipated sales tax revenue that should impact LaVergne's budget significantly. The city's planning commission took a vote at its recent meeting about subdividing 45.15 acres at the corner of Murfreesboro and Fergus roads, into three lots for the project. The retailer will present a site plan for approval. A city spokesperson said additional store and restaurant announcements are anticipated in the near future.

LEBANON

Hamilton Springs, the Midstate's first transit-oriented development will soon have a Music City Star rail station at its center. The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee was recently awarded a \$1.6 million federal grant by the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization to fund the completion of Hamilton Springs Station, a rail stop envisioned at the heart of the Hamilton Springs development. Hamilton Springs Station will be the Music City Star's seventh regional rail station and an additional travel option for people in Lebanon and Wilson County's growing community. The station is currently in the design phase with construction expected to begin in the spring of 2015. The addition of the train station will create a new point of access to the existing Music City Star rail line and increase ridership significantly. Hamilton Springs is the first community in Middle Tennessee that has planned, designed and constructed a traditional neighborhood "village" with residences and businesses centered by a train station. It is located in west Lebanon along Highway 70.

MEMPHIS

The city's Children's Museum is being recognized nationally, receiving accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. The Washington-based advocacy organization and watchdog group develops standards for the country's estimated 17,500 museums, science centers, historic sites, aquariums and more. Only about 1,000 institutions have been awarded accreditation, and the Children's Museum of Memphis is only the eighth children's museum out of about 400 such sites to earn this honor. A private nonprofit organization, the museum depends entirely on admissions fees and donations to cover an annual budget of about \$2.4 million.

MT. JULIET

Mt. Juliet is No. 10 in the "Top 25 Cities for Renters Raising Families" list compiled by *Rent.com*. Criteria considered included: affordable rental rate, low crime rates and high school scores. The list is based on cities and towns with a high concentration of family households, with a population greater than 10,000 and a median household income of \$50,000 or more. As one of Tennessee's fastest growing cities, Mt. Juliet has seen an increase in population of more than 90 percent since 2000, and is one of the state's top five most business-friendly cities. The list cites the city's roads, rails, restaurants and retail/shopping.

NASHVILLE

Mayor Karl Dean and Police Chief Steve Anderson, joined by downtown community leaders, cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Metro-Nashville's new Central Police Precinct. The \$4 million project nearly doubles the precinct's former office space in the front of Bridgestone Arena. The new three-story building at 601 Korean Veterans Boulevard, covers 4.3 square miles within the interstate loop that encompasses downtown and is the precinct responsible for serving more than 7,200 downtown residents, downtown businesses and more than 12 million visitors, who come to Music City each year. The precinct is headed by Commander Jason Reinbold, who oversees 122 Metro Police personnel, including patrol officers, detectives, motorcycle, bicycle and mounted officers.

OAK RIDGE

The city's fire department recently receiving an upgrade in its Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire classification rate from Class 3 to Class 2, effective June 1. Insurance companies

use fire protection ratings to determine homeowners and business insurance premiums.

RIPLEY

Plastics recycler Allied Reprocessing says it is expanding its operations, creating 31 new jobs and investing \$1.1 million in the process, in the 100,000-square-foot building it moved into in 2012. The company specializes in separating chrome-plated polymer parts and reprocessing them into reusable pellet materials for automotive suppliers, and also separates and re-pelletizes industrial plastics. The expansion allows Allied to add new lines to process agricultural plastic waste, such as cotton bale wrap, and separate mixed plastics.

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

Relief has arrived for motorists exiting U.S. Highway 27 North at Signal Mountain Road. Workers completed the new permanent two-lane, free-flow ramp at the intersection that transportation officials say should reduce travel time for thousands of drivers in the area who have been delayed by construction to the ramp for close to six weeks. Those exiting to travel toward Signal Mountain will no longer be subject to a traffic light or police direction. This phase of the \$102 million TDOT project to widen U.S. 27 and redo three interchanges was scheduled to be completed by March 31, but officials chose to expedite completion of the ramp because of the delays the construction caused, especially during rush hour. About 29,000 drivers use the Signal Mountain Road exit ramp daily.

SODDY DAISY

The city entered a partnership with feed company Vaulted Vending to have protein pellet vending machines installed for free at Kids Park, North Park and Holly Park. The machines distribute floating protein pellets for visitors to feed the ducks, geese and other waterfowl, a more digestible and a healthier alternative to the bread and other food items visitors feed to them. The feed also reduces unsightly feces the birds leave behind by 60 percent. The company will also hang educational signs, so that the public can learn about the proper feeding of waterfowl. The project costs the city nothing, with vending machine profits shared 50/50 between the city and Vaulted Vending.

SPRING HILL

A supplier of ingredients to the nutritional supplement industry has leased the 328,000-square-foot former Penske Logistics building with plans to consolidate its headquarters, manufacturing and distribution operations there. Miami-based private equity firm H.I.G. Growth Partners LLC made an investment in the company earlier this year. Integrity Nutraceuticals is a raw material supplier of bulk nutraceuticals, typically importing the materials from China and India.

SPRING HILL/THOMPSON'S STATION

The neighboring cities have each risen in population by 22 percent and 10 percent, respectively, since the last federal census. Spring Hill's estimated population now stands at 32,083 compared to 29,036 in 2010, while Thompson's Station now has 2,681 residents compared to 2,206 in 2010. That's according to the preliminary results of each of the towns' respective special censuses conducted over the past several months. Tennessee cities get more than \$100 per person in state-shared revenue based on their population. Thompson's Station is expected to see an increase of roughly \$54,000 in annual revenues because of the added population. Spring Hill is expecting more than \$300,000. Cities are permitted up to a 5 percent margin of error.

UNION CITY

Greenfield Products, a manufacturer of heavy equipment attachments, is investing \$6.3 million to expand its operations, adding 100 jobs during the next two years. The company is adding 80,000 square feet of manufacturing space to begin engineering and manufacturing large heavy equipment. Greenfield Products makes custom fork mounted attachments such as masts and carriages. The company also manufactures intermodal attachments, including handling spreaders, container chassis shipping units and bomb carts for the container handling industry.

## Bartlett code enforcement staff earn ICC certifications



The city of Bartlett's code enforcement personnel attained a total of 55 International certifications through the International Code Council. Each department member is now certified in their positions, familiar with the contents of the code, and have passed a required examination through ICC. Pictured left to right (back row) are Jim Brown, director, inspectors; A. B. Crofford, Darrell Kellum, David Williams, Gregory Easton and Tamara Kirby and Mayor Keith McDonald. (Front row) Laura Jenkins, clerk; Valerie Brantley, administrative secretary; and Judy Willis, Code Compliance.

## Lake County recognized by TRDC for Port of Cates Landing

Lake County was recognized by the Tennessee Rural Development Committee (TRDC) with its Outstanding Local Programs Award for progress made on the development of the Port of Cates Landing and other projects. TRDC is a federal/state multi-agency partnership that works to coordinate programs for economic development in rural communities.

The presentation was made at Main Street Centre in Tiptonville. Current TRDC Chair and USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode, presented the award to Lake County Mayor Macie Roberson, who accepted on behalf of the numerous local organizations and leaders who worked together to contribute to the region's success. The entities working together to complete the port, gain Select Site Status and numerous related community development projects in Northwest Tennessee.

According to TRDC officials, there is great potential for producers of commodities like cotton, grain and meat to use the Port as a hub for exports to Asian and South American markets.

Within the Tri-County area there are already numerous agricul-



TRDC Chair and USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode and Lake County Mayor Macie Roberson

tural commodities-related companies that will benefit from the improved access to world markets created by the port and related intermodal transportation links now being improved.

A new \$1.8 million Interpretive Visitors Center will soon be under construction at Reelfoot Lake State Park, according to Goode, which will serve as an additional means of attracting visitors traveling along the Great River Road.

## \$28M Civil Rights Museum project nearly complete



Photo by Mike Brown

In the nearly \$28 million renovation of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, designers have merged new interactive technology with familiar favorites. The museum, which closed for renovations November 2012, will reopen to the public on April 5, with wall of iPads along with instructions to "touch to explore." The remodeled brighter lobby leads to dozens of interactive exhibits, 40 new films and dozens of new artifacts. On the floor is a map of West Africa and the Americas, with lighted paths to trace trans-Atlantic slave routes in the walk from West Africa to Cuba or Charleston, S.C.

## Goodlettsville to offer gardening classes with Master Gardners

Goodlettsville Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Sumner County Master Gardening Association are collaborating to offer a series of gardening classes that are free of charge and open to the public. This educational speaker series is a first for the historic site as well as for the Master Gardeners.

Historic Mansker's Station has welcomed the Master Gardeners on site for many years, and they have provided numerous hours of service maintaining the gardens at Mansker's Fort and the Bowen Plantation House. They also work with the staff in planning a multi-year planting schedule.

The Master Gardeners Educa-

tion Series will kick off in April with widely known speaker on organic and biodynamic farming, Jeff Poppen, aka The Barefoot Farmer, who will speak from 9:30am-11:30am April 12 at Mansker's Fort during Goodlettsville's annual Heritage Days.

The Education Series will continue May through October, with a variety of topics such as edible plants, native plants and rain gardens, butterflies in the state, beekeeping, Tennessee trees, and food preservation.

A complete schedule and class description can be found at [www.manskersstation.org](http://www.manskersstation.org) or by calling 615-851-2241.



# Bolivar works to revitalize Downtown

BY MARK PENLAND  
TDEC  
Office of Sustainable Practices

Heritage conservation is an approach to sustainable development that focuses on preserving historical structures and maintaining cultural traditions. Bolivar is a prime example of this practice at work. A small town with a population of 5,802, it is the county seat of Hardemen County and is the trade center of productive farming community in an economically challenged region of the state. Though Bolivar is a small city, it had a big vision that it branded as “Believe in Bolivar.”

Beginning with a master plan, Bolivar began a downtown revitalization that has restored buildings, replaced lost amenities, and regained a sense of community.

Steve Hornsby with the Bolivar Downtown Development Agency, a 501(c) organization, is very proud of the accomplishments of the city. He identified a successful partnership between LRK Architects of Memphis, a firm specializing in urban development, landscape architect Ben Page of Nashville, and the city as a key to the revitalization efforts. The group developed a master plan for the project aimed at preserving historical downtown buildings that represent the highest number of historical structures in any Tennessee city outside of Memphis.

The revitalization projects had several core priorities for the city. Phase I involved the construction of new sidewalks, new lighting, landscaping and underground wiring—all designed to make the downtown area more inviting. According to Hornsby, “The hard part is done,” and now the city can begin focusing on developing the soft infrastructure such as entertainment options, restaurants, and specialty retail shops.

Phase II revolved around refurbishing building facades and correcting any structural problems that may have been present. The city focused on preserving as many elements of the historic buildings as possible. During this process, many hidden features were discovered beneath the newer facades. Two buildings on North Main Street had original iron posts that had been covered over in the 1960s. These posts were recoated and reused.

The county courthouse, which is the centerpiece of the historic square, received a much needed makeover, while memories were preserved through thoughtful renovations. All the windows in the courthouse were re-glazed and the historical window framing retained. Today, the centerpiece of the city is the welcoming home to the offices of the Hardeman County Mayor, Chancery Court Clerk, County Clerk, and Register of Deeds.

The courthouse is actually the third courthouse, and was constructed in 1868. The first and original is still standing and is known as “The Little Courthouse Museum.” The jail occupied the upstairs portion and this structure served as Bolivar’s Courthouse for four years. The second Courthouse was burned in 1864 by Federal Troops; however, the town was able to save many valuable and historic documents.

A mason on the Union side leaked word that the Courthouse was to be burned and allowed Pitzer Miller, a local businessman and mason, to have the documents moved to safety. The Confederate monument on the South lawn of the Courthouse was the first monument erected in the South by public subscription. The community held fundraising events for seven years in order to purchase the monument for \$3500. In total, more than 50 buildings were restored.

“This has been an outstanding funding opportunity that has assisted the local government in our revitalization, preservation and development of the Courthouse Square by providing funds equal to the sales and local use taxes collected within our specified revitalization zone,” said Cathy Mayfield, the city’s administrative assistant regarding the Courthouse Square Revitalization Pilot Project Act of 2005.

Monita Carlin, with the Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce, added that because of the many upgrades and improvements to the area, the downtown portion of Bolivar is quickly growing and drawing interest from business owners. “Because of the revitalization and preservation efforts,



Bolivar began a downtown revitalization that has restored buildings, replaced lost amenities, and regained a sense of community. Two buildings on North Main Street had original iron posts that had been covered over in the 1960s. These posts were recoated and reused.



Phase II revolved around refurbishing building facades and correcting any structural problems that may have been present.

festivals have doubled, with more than 1,000 visitors coming to Bolivar last year,” she said.

As part of the revitalization plan, a new amphitheater is a focal point for those festivals, music events and children’s plays.

“City residents are using the downtown area to gather and visit with one another and it’s a great place for kids to come and play. People have likened it to a return to the early ‘60s,” Carlin said.

Through the efforts of a dedicated group of coalition leaders, the city has been able to expand its success into additional grants and projects. A jointly-funded initiative between the United States Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture resulted in the construction of a fully equipped Farmer’s Market in the downtown area where residents can purchase locally grown produce. Additionally, Tennessee Department of Transportation Enhancement grants helped the city improve its transit options and safety for pedestrians in the downtown area. Two consecutive Community Development Block Grant Projects helped

improve the city’s infrastructure and disaster preparedness and a Tennessee Energy Efficiency Grant helped the city to retrofit historic and municipal buildings to provide energy and lighting efficiency through a \$100,000 grant.

Along with these long-term plans, the city and Hardeman County are exploring options to promote the various historical sites in the area as well as raising awareness of the natural beauty of the Hatchie River.

Hornsby was complimentary of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development for their assistance with this initiative. The successful program has also drawn the attention of Cumberland Region Tomorrow as an example of what other smaller cities can do with their downtown areas.

“Vision, planning and collaboration are what made this project possible,” said Hornsby.

Today, this small city on the edge of Memphis, has managed to preserve its historic past while providing a rich and diverse downtown experience giving its citizens a reason to “Believe in Bolivar.”



The county courthouse which is the centerpiece of the historic square, received a much needed makeover while memories were preserved through thoughtful renovations.



## PEOPLE

State Sen. **Jim Tracy**, Shelbyville has officially filed to enter the Aug. 7 Republican primary for the 4th District congressional seat held by U.S. Rep. Scott



DesJarlais of South Pittsburg. He has served in the state Senate since 2004 and is chairman of the Senate Transportation and Safety Committee. Previously, he was a science teacher, coach and basketball referee.

**Pamela Reeves**, East Tennessee’s first female federal judge was sworn in recently in a private ceremony. She replaces U.S. District Judge



Reeves

Thomas W. Phillips, who retired last July. Reeves, a member of the Knoxville law firm of Reeves, Herbert & Anderson, was nominated for the judicial post last May by President Barack Obama. Judge Reeves will preside over matters in Knoxville in the court’s northern division.

**Connie Rigsby** is the new director of the Murfreesboro St. Clair Street Senior Center. Rigsby was formally the director of the Cannon



Rigsby

County Senior Center for the past 12 years. She has served as president of the Tennessee Federation for the Aging and the Tennessee Association of Senior Centers. She is also a member of the National Institute for Senior Centers. Locally, she is a board member at Stones River Hospital, is the vice president of the University of Tennessee Advisory Board, vice president of the Cannon County Chamber of Commerce, and vice president of the Woodbury Lions Club.

**Ted Welch**, the pre-eminent fundraiser in Tennessee Republican politics for four decades, has passed away as a result of complications from a fall. He was 80 years old.



Welch

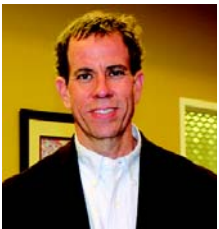
His unmatched ability to turn phone calls into big bucks for governors, senators and U.S. presidents made Welch a giant in the GOP. A onetime door-to-door Bible salesman and longtime Nashville commercial real estate investor, Welch helped the likes of Ronald Reagan, both Bushes, Mitt Romney and others.

**Boyd Veal**, Signal Mountain police chief, has been appointed as town manager. He is the third police chief in the state to be appointed as a city administrator in Tennessee.



Veal

**Mark Shipley**, former Farragut assistant community development director and interim director, has been promoted to community development director. Shipley served as a planner with the city of Greeneville before joining the Farragut



Shipley



Price

staff in 1998. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. **Adam Price** will also serve as the city’s codes officer. Price previously worked as a residential designer for Saddlebrook Properties LLC. He has more than 20 years experience in commercial and residential construction and is a member of the International Code Council.

## State Park Rangers graduate from Law Enforcement Training Academy



Seven Tennessee State Park rangers graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy (TLETA) on March 14. The graduating rangers include: Justin Rexrode, Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park; David Britton, Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park; Robert Becker, Fall Creek Falls State Park; Veronica Scarlett, Frozen Head State Park; Bob Holliday, Johnsonville State Historic Park; Dustin Crowell, Radnor Lake State Park; and Philip Hylan, Tims Ford State Park. The rangers’ training included academic, physical fitness, defensive tactics, defensive driving and firearms qualification. Radnor Lake State Park Ranger Dustin Crowell received the Top Cadet Honor, receiving the highest cumulative score of the 85 recruits in the class. Pictured left to right: Top Row: Dustin Crowell, Robert Becker, Veronica Scarlett, Philip Hylan, Bob Holliday, Justin Rexrode, David Britton; and Chris Padgett, West TN Park Area Manager. Bottom Row: Mike Robertson, director of Park Operations; Shane Petty, chief ranger and Robin Wooten, East TN Park area manager



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# STATE BRIEFS

**TN total debt falls by \$347 M**  
The State’s Indebtedness Report, released by the Comptroller’s office, documents how the state’s total debt fell during the last six months of last year by \$347 million - or more than a third of a billion dollars. Of that decrease, the state reduced the debt on its general obligation bonds, which are used to pay for most of the government’s capital projects by more than \$95 million. That’s part of a two-year decrease of nearly \$190 million. Lower debt translates into lower interest payments on money owed, which, in turn, translates into substantial savings for Tennessee taxpayers. There’s a simple reason why the amount of debt is decreasing – as the state pays down its old debt, it is borrowing less to fund new projects. The indebtedness report comes a few months after a report issued by Fitch Ratings, one of the country’s largest agencies, concluded that Tennessee’s debt ratio was the lowest in the nation. To view the indebtedness report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/sl/index.asp>.

**TN among Top 10 states dependent on federal government**  
Tennessee is among the top 10 states when it comes to being ‘dependent’ on the federal government, according to a new study. To quantify its idea of "dependency," *WalletHub* looked at three criteria: return on taxes paid to the federal government; federal funding as a percentage of state revenue; and the number of federal employees per capita. Based on those metrics, *WalletHub* found that Tennessee is the seventh most-dependent state. *WalletHub* found that Tennessee receives \$1.64 in federal funding for every \$1 contributed through taxes and that federal funding represents 41.27 percent of the state’s revenue, among the highest rates in the country. Mississippi and New Mexico tied as the most-dependent states in the nation.

**Tennesseans owed \$12.8 M**  
The Internal Revenue Service says more than 16,000 Tennesseans who didn’t file their tax returns in 2010 are due refunds totaling more than \$12.8 million. The IRS says those who are owed refunds have a deadline of April 15 to file their 2010 tax return in order to collect the money. There is no penalty for filing late for a refund. However, in order to get the money, taxpayers have three years to file a return to claim a refund. Nationwide, more than 900,000 people who did not file a tax return in 2010 are due almost \$760 million in refunds. If the refund is not claimed within the three-year window, the money becomes the property of the U.S. Treasury.

**Manufacturers shedding jobs**  
Tennessee manufacturers shed 3,400 jobs in January, a sign the state’s industrial resurgence has

eased. Factories ramping up after the recession helped revive the state economy. Since 2009, manufacturers had added almost 38,000 jobs in Tennessee through December. Rather than rely on local clients for orders, manufacturers generally ship to customers in other states and nations. Once plants scale up and add employees, spending by factory workers can spur more jobs in local shops and stores. Manufacturing exports are still rising throughout the nation.

**State Insurance officials warn about app-based auto coverage**  
State insurance officials are warning Uber and Lyft drivers to carefully check their insurance policies. More and more people are becoming drivers for app-based services where they use their own cars to ferry people around town. Drivers are required to have both company and personal auto coverage, but state officials say the coverage may be inadequate. Because Uber and Lyft are essentially taxis but are not regulated as such, claims can be tricky to process, and liability is often hard to determine, says Katelyn Abernathy, a spokeswoman for the state’s Department of Commerce and Insurance. She said in the event of an accident, a driver could be stuck with a wrecked car or carrying unpaid medical bills. “There absolutely is a gray area when it comes to where their personal coverage ends and when excess coverage begins,” she said. “And it’s just very important for Tennesseans to know what is within both policies before they sign the dotted line and become a driver.”

**TN businesses lack knowledge of service dog laws**  
In spite of the new law put in place last year, many blind and other disabled Tennesseans find they are being illegally questioned or forced to leave whenever they try to shop, go to restaurants or patronize businesses with their service dogs. The new law ends a requirement that forced disabled people to produce documents about their service dogs or their disability when they patronize businesses. It’s a change that puts Tennessee in line with federal law that gives the disabled equal standing in public accommodations. “We’ve been finding that even some of the police don’t know what the current laws are,” said Jimmy Boehm, a student and leader in the state’s chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, who is blind as well.

**Dept. of Labor rolls out new benefits system**  
The Department of Labor has rolled out a new system to make it easier for out of work Tennesseans to receive the unemployment benefits they need. The new Telephone Certification System was implemented the first week of February. It allows

claimants to self-correct their answers to the weekly certifications they do online and reset their PIN. Since the implementation, the state says the call volume has dropped from an average of 38,000 calls in January, down to 17,000 calls per day in March.

**Report shows TN leads nation at or below minimum wages for hourly workers**  
A new report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows Tennessee ties with Idaho when it comes to leading the nation with hourly paid workers earning at or below federal minimum wage at a little more than 7 percent. Across the U. S. of the more than 75 million hourly workers age 16 and older, 1.5 million earned federal minimum wage. 1.8 million earned wages below the federal minimum. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nationwide the majority of minimum wage workers were under the age of 25. Five percent of those were women.

**TN Wildlife Resources Agency receives leadership award**  
The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has received the Arbor Day Foundation’s 2014 Forest Lands Leadership Award. The award is given annually to an individual or organization that provides leadership in advancing sustainable forestry on public land. The TWRA was recognized this year for its bottomland hardwood forest restoration program in West Tennessee. Through that program, approximately three million trees have been planted on 6,800 acres of former row crop land. As the trees and shrubs grow into forests, they will provide habitat and mast in an area where it is critically needed.

**New study finds prescription drugs in Tennessee River**  
A University of Tennessee Chattanooga professor, who spent years collecting and analyzing samples of Tennessee River water between Chattanooga and Knoxville, says researchers need to keep an eye on the amount of prescription drugs that make it into the river. Sean Richards, professor of biological and environmental sciences and a team of researchers, found trace amounts of 13 human pharmaceuticals in 160 sample points along the river. And as the population grows, those concentrations are only going to get bigger. Richards notes about 24,000 unique pharmaceuticals are used regularly in the United States that contain about 3,400 specific active ingredients, or core chemicals — such as the acetaminophen in Tylenol. Richards looked for 14 active ingredients in various painkillers, fever reducers, histamine blockers and other drugs. While he didn’t find high concentrations, he found that some chemicals — such as caffeine — are pervasive. The concentrations are not dangerous to people, but there isn’t enough science yet to determine whether the drugs are harmful to the environment.

## Tennessee Regions’ Roundtable network, NADO sponsor national webinar April 6

Join representatives from the Tennessee Regions Roundtable Network and National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to discuss the newly released publication highlighting best practices occurring in Tennessee. The webinar will take place Wednesday, April 16, from 1-2:30 pm CST. Register online at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/955450874>.  
A new publication from the Tennessee Regions’ Roundtable Network, sponsored by the NADO Research Foundation, highlights innovative community and economic development projects being implemented throughout the state. Stories presented from Tennessee’s diverse regions and communities demonstrate collaborative leadership strategic partnerships, and implementation-funding techniques that local government, planning, and community and economic development leaders can put to use in their own communities.

The new publication, *Navigating Our Future: Best Practices Case Studies from the Tennessee Regions’ Roundtable Network*, is the first project for Cumberland Region Tomorrow’s Surdna Foundation grant to build out the operations of the Tennessee Regions’ Roundtable Network.  
More than 20 case studies are featured in the publication demonstrating a wide range of projects in

urban, suburban, and rural Tennessee, including regional initiatives, neighborhood and corridor revitalization, historic preservation, multimodal transportation investments, entrepreneurship and small business development initiatives, tourism strategies, and others.  
Along with the Surdna Foundation, the publication was funded in part under awards to the NADO Research Foundation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Highway Administration. For more information, contact one of the five Steering Committee members from the lead regional partner organizations:  
• Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability: John Zeanah, Program Manager for the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan, 901-576-6601  
• Southwest Tennessee Development District: Joe Barker, Executive Director, 731-668-7112

- Cumberland Region Tomorrow: Bridget Jones, Executive Director, 615-986-2698
  - Southeast Tennessee Development District: Beth Jones, Executive Director, 423-266-5781
  - Knoxville Transportation Planning Organization: Amy Brooks, Senior Transportation Planner and Project Manager for PlanET, 865-215-4001
- Download the Navigating Our Future: Best Practices Case Studies from the Tennessee Regions’ Roundtable Network publication at [www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](http://www.cumberlandregiontomorrow.org).  
For more information, contact Bridget Jones, CRT executive director, at [bridget@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](mailto:bridget@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org) or call 615-986-2698.  
For more information about the publication or the national webinar, contact Sara Holloway, CRT program and development coordinator at [sara@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org](mailto:sara@cumberlandregiontomorrow.org) or call 615-986-2698.

## State’s February unemployment rate at 6.9 percent

Tennessee Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips announced Tennessee’s preliminary unemployment rate for February is 6.9 percent, which is three tenths of one percentage point lower than the January revised rate. The national unemployment rate for February 2014 was 6.7 percent, up one tenth of one percentage point from January.

In an Economic Summary: over the past year, Tennessee’s unemployment rate decreased from 8.2 percent to 6.9 percent while the national rate declined from 7.7 percent to 6.7 percent. The number of unemployed persons (209,800) is the lowest since July 2008 and is 8,900 lower than last month. Total non-farm employment increased 6,900 jobs from January to February.

## Governor signs supermarket wine sales bill into law



AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Gov. Haslam signed into law legislation to allow supermarket wine sales. But that doesn’t mean your neighborhood grocery store will be able to stock your favorite merlot or chardonnay any time soon. The measure, passed after years of legislative debate, requires voters to first approve supermarket wine sales in local referendums. The earliest wine could be sold in supermarkets and convenience stores would be in the summer of 2016 - or a year later if they are located near an existing liquor store. But liquor stores — as part of a compromise among liquor retailers, wholesalers and food stores — can start selling beer, bar accessories, party supplies, snacks, cigarettes and other products on July 1 of this year.

## TDOT opens first two lanes of State Route 109 bridge linking Gallatin, Wilson County



Commuters will have a new way to travel between Sumner and Wilson counties via the new State Route 109 bridge. The new bridge will serve as a gateway into Gallatin and Sumner County, opening “another commercial corridor for future development and growth,” said Gallatin Mayor Jo Ann Graves. TDOT recently opened the first two lanes of traffic on the bridge following a ribbon cutting with TDOT Commissioner John Schroer and representatives from both counties. Originally scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31, 2013, the project was delayed because of the additional work required in pouring concrete underwater on the deepest bridge pier. The current bridge, which is about 60 years old, will eventually be torn down. Crews will continue to finish minor work on the project, which is expected to be completed sometime this fall.

## Revenues below estimates

Tennessee tax collections were once again below the budgeted estimate in February, a trend that began in August of last year. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that overall February revenues were \$737.2 million, which is \$37.2 million less than the state budgeted.  
“February sales tax collections, which reflect consumer spending in January, recorded modest growth for the month as did franchise and excise taxes along with several of the smaller tax categories,” Martin said. “The modest growth rate in sales tax collections continues to indicate very slow economic improvement, and we continue to be concerned with the lack of positive growth in our corporate tax collections. We will remain cautiously optimistic while managing spending for a balanced budget.”  
On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.  
The general fund was under collected by \$40.2 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$3.0 million.  
Sales tax collections were \$14.8 million less than the estimate for February. The February growth rate

was positive 1.10 percent. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is positive 3.33 percent.  
Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$8.0 million below the budgeted estimate of \$46.1 million.  
For seven months revenues are under collected by \$215.3 million. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is negative 14.10 percent.  
Gasoline and motor fuel collections for February decreased by 0.24 percent, and were \$3.6 million below the budgeted estimate of \$68.1 million. For seven months revenues are under collected by \$4.3 million.  
Tobacco tax collections were \$4.0 million over the budgeted estimate of \$19.5 million. For seven months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$2.3 million.  
Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$2.1 million for the month. Year-to-date collections for seven months are \$17.2 million more than the budgeted estimate.  
Privilege tax collections were \$2.6 million less than the February estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through February, collections are \$7.0 million below the estimate.  
Business tax collections were \$12.6 million below the February budgeted estimate, and for seven months collections are \$11.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$63.6 million.  
All other taxes were under collected by a net of \$1.7 million.  
Year-to-date collections for seven months were \$259.9 million less than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was under collected by \$259.8 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$0.1 million.



# Updated TBI report exposes sex trafficking geographically in Tennessee

**TRAFFICKING** *from Page 1*  
amine clandestine laboratory incidents in 2010.

The counties profiled in the study with the highest number of reported sex trafficking cases, more than 100, are: Coffee, Davidson, Knox and Shelby counties. The counties with 26-100 cases are: Franklin, Rutherford, Warren, Carter, Hamilton, Lawrence, Madison, Roane, and Washington. The counties with the lowest number of cases, less than 25, are: Bradley, Dickson, Lake, Lewis, Marshall, Montgomery, Putnam and Sevier.

“It’s not that we’re seeing an increase of trafficking in certain cities across the state,” Gwyn notes. “It’s that we’re seeing more awareness, as we get out and train more people and make more people aware about what human sex trafficking really is. The public is going to notice things, like how traffickers are appearing on different websites or how you might see a guy in the mall and he’s got these young girls with him, who don’t seem to know each other or him very well.”

This recognition of sex trafficking grew with law enforcement officials in 2011, when the conflicting statistics from the first report caused Gwyn to nearly fall out of his chair. “I saw that 85 percent of law enforcement said they’d had a human trafficking case in the past 24 months and 90 percent of law enforcement said they hadn’t had enough training to recognize human trafficking cases,” he said, “which means the numbers were low.”

Today the agency is tasked with training law enforcement and much of the private sectors in recognizing and investigating human trafficking. And the TBI is asking the legislature for six additional positions to focus solely on human trafficking. “I don’t know if we’ll get all six,” Gwyn said, “but they will be spread across the state conducting training.”

Rather than the common assumption, that they are abductees, the majority of the youths involved in human sex trafficking cases are runaways, introduced to a “golden” opportunity within 48 hours of their

disappearance, according to Gwyn.

“They’re influenced and sold a bill of goods and before they know it they’re into something they can’t get out of,” he said.

The average age of the victims in Tennessee is 13 years old, sex trafficking awareness group, End Slavery Tennessee, reports. “The younger they are, the more expensive they are,” Juana Zapata, Freeing American Children from Exploitation and Sexual Slavery, says. Around 1,100 children are trafficked within Tennessee each year. “And it’s not the pervert everyone thinks of,” Zapata adds. Statistics show the johns cruising for under age victims are usually married with jobs.

Potential trafficking victims are often approached on social networking websites such as MySpace or Facebook. Pimps and Traffickers gain the trust of the individual by expressing sentiments of love or the willingness to make the individual a model, singer or actor. Pimps and traffickers will also pretend to be an employment agency promising an unbelievable job opportunity.

Once trust is gained the pimp or trafficker will convince the target to travel to a new location and possibly an isolated area. They will make the travel arrangements and purchase the ticket causing a sense of indebtedness for the individual. When the person arrives at the pimp or trafficker’s location, there are various techniques that the offender uses to restrict the individual’s movements (i.e. physical punishment, limited access to communication devices, threats of harm to loved ones). Once in the possession of the pimp or trafficker, the individual becomes a product and is advertised.

As of July 2013, 12 new anti-human trafficking laws in Tennessee have been created to address the human sex trafficking epidemic.

“These pimps are controlling these young girls and making them do these things,” Gwyn said. “We worked hard to change the laws and change the law enforcement culture to not treat these girls as prostitutes, but as victims.”

A missing person report turned into a larger nightmare for one Murfreesboro mother recently, when her mentally challenged, 24-year-old daughter resurfaced as part of an alleged Memphis prostitution ring. After speaking with her daughter by phone, the mother told news reporters her daughter behaved as if she were drugged and refused to come home.

“You’ve got to go through 25 men a day,” Clemmie Greenlee, a former sex trafficking victim from Nashville tells reporter Naomi Martin in *Nola.com*. Greenlee, age 53, recounts being held and brought to cities around the South for the purposes of prostitution at the age of 12.

As one of eight girls controlled by a ring of pimps, Greenlee said she was routinely gang raped, injected with heroin, handcuffed to beds and eventually stabbed in the back when she tried to run away. “If you don’t make that number, you’re going to severely, pay for it,” she said.

In 2011, the National Association of Attorneys General tracked 50 human trafficking instances in 22 states being advertised on *Backpage.com* over a three year period. While the website refused to shut down its escort services page, like its predecessor *Craigslist.com* did in 2010, following a lawsuit by seventeen attorneys general, other online giants have joined the ranks to end child sex trafficking.

According to the TBI report, in December 2011, Google granted \$11.5 million to anti-trafficking organizations supporting new initiatives utilizing technology to combat human trafficking. Also, in June 2012, Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit and Microsoft Research collaboratively awarded \$185,000 to research focusing on issues related to disrupting technology-facilitated sex trafficking and improving services to victims.

In a more creative method, anti-sex trafficking organization, The



Exchange Initiative, out of St. Louis, is asking hotel guests to snap photos of their rooms and send them in—so the organization can use the photos to identify hotels involved in sex trafficking. The Exchange Initiative is building a new website that catalogs photos of hotels by name and location in order to match the photos to images on escort directories such as *Backpage.com*.

According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, which recently profiled the group, hotels and motels often unknowingly play host to illegal sex trafficking as sites where sex workers typically meet up with clients. For this reason, hotels are often featured in the backgrounds of escort listings and classified ads.

Legislation championed by Gov. Bill Haslam in 2011 enhances the penalties for promoting prostitution for victims with intellectual disabilities. Other laws aimed at sex trafficking in 2011 are: SB2370-HB2492-To help and rehabilitate human trafficking victims; SB 2369/HB2489-Creates civil rights action

for victims of trafficking offenses, and SB 2368-HB2488- Enhances penalties for forced involuntary labor servitude upon victims under the age of 13.

Recently, Shared Hope International, an agency that strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, gave Tennessee a grade of 93.5, as a result of the state’s 18 pieces of legislation to combat human trafficking. However, Gwyn notes, the state could do more to help victims and their families.

“We have only scratched the surface in combatting sex trafficking,” he said. “There must be more education among Tennesseans, stricter laws and in-depth training for law enforcement and first-reporters,” said Gwyn.

To report suspected cases of human sex trafficking call the hotline at 1-855-55-TNHTH or 1-855-558-6484.

To view the full TBI report, visit [http://www.tbi.tn.gov/tn\\_crime\\_stats/publications](http://www.tbi.tn.gov/tn_crime_stats/publications)

## Identifying human sex trafficking victims

Some indicators raise a red flag that a person may be a victim of human trafficking.

They include:

- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Lying about age/false ID
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse (that they may be reluctant to explain)
- Has untreated illnesses or infections. Examples: diabetes, cancer, TB.
- Has STDs, HIV/Aids, pelvic pain/inflammation, rectal trauma, urinary difficulties, abdominal or genital trauma.
- Inability or fear of social interaction
- Carries hotel keys/ key cards
- Exhibits emotional distress such as depression, submissiveness, anxiety, panic attacks, confusion, phobias, disorientation, self-inflicted injuries or suicide attempts.
- Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events

- Unable or unwilling to give local address or information about parent(s)/guardian
- Presence or fear of another person (often an older male or boyfriend who seems controlling)
- Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites
- High number of reported sexual partners at a young age
- Talks about an older boyfriend or sex with an older man/boy friend
- Uses words associated with the commercial sex industry.
- Has a prepaid cell phone.
- May try to protect trafficker from authorities, have loyalty to trafficker, not identify as a victim
- Has an unexplained sudden increase in money, clothing or other goods
- Is frequently truant from school or not enrolled
- History of abuse and/or trauma (rape, violent crime etc.)

Source: *End Slavery Tennessee*

## Billboards promote Victims’ Rights Week

State-wide victim advocacy group, You Have the Power, along with a coalition of community and state organizations, has received funding and support to present important and powerful billboard messages about crime awareness and victims' rights across Tennessee during the 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) April 6 - 12. The 2014 campaign features national programs and events across the country. This year’s theme “30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice,” commemorates the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the U.S. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

One of the participating Tennessee organizations is End Slavery Tennessee, with the billboard message “He sold me a dream. Then he sold me for sex.”

The annual observance of NCVRW is a way to increase general public awareness of, and knowledge about the wide range of rights and services available to people who have been victimized by crime.

Most of the digital billboards will go “live” on a rotating basis during NCVRW.

The NCVRW CAP program is made possible by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Ad-

ministrators through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

You Have the Power was awarded the NCVRW Community Awareness Program (CAP) grant for Tennessee and coordinated the billboard campaign with victims' rights organizations across the state.

### Events

A free crime victim’s family event will be held Sunday, April 6, from 2-4 pm at Centennial Park in Nashville. For information about other 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities, or about victims' rights and services in Tennessee, contact You Have the Power or visit [www.yhtp.org](http://www.yhtp.org). For information about national efforts to promote 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at <http://www.ovc.gov>.

### Free Child Safety Program

You Have the Power (YHTP) will present a panel titled “Keeping Children Safe” on Tuesday, April 8, in East Nashville. The panel will be held from 5:30 - 7 pm at the East Library, 206 Gallatin Road. There is no cost to attend.

The presentation will examine

types of child sexual abuse, how to identify and properly report suspected abuse and what preventative measures can be taken. This topic is of increasing interest and concern for parents, schools and communities due to recently reported high profile sexual abuse cases in the national news.

Following introductory remarks by Cathy Gurley, executive director of You Have the Power, attendees will view the acclaimed documentary DVD “A View from the Shadows: Talking about Child Sexual Abuse” produced by YHTP. The DVD presents viewpoints of actual victims who provide valuable insights, information and tips for identifying signs of abuse, potential at-risk characteristics and recommendations for prevention. After the video presentation, a panel of child abuse experts will discuss the subject and answer questions.

The panel will include YHTP Education Director Nicole Heidemann, a victim of child sex abuse; Sharon Travis from the Sexual Assault Center-- <http://www.sacenter.org>-- and other local experts. For more information, contact Melissa at 615-292-7027 or [Melissa.Cross@yhtp.org](mailto:Melissa.Cross@yhtp.org).



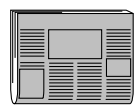
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Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence @TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR**  
COLUMBIA. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Development Services Director. This position plans and manages the activities and operations of the city’s Development Department, including building inspection and code enforcement, planning and zoning, facility maintenance, and engineering. The ideal candidate should have a bachelor’s degree in Urban Planning or a closely related field and a minimum of five years of progressive responsibility including supervisory experience and certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Experience providing technical support to MPOs, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development agencies, and other similar entities is preferred. Knowledge of GIS applications preferred. The director must be a strategic thinker with excellent interpersonal and communication skills necessary for dealing with active citizens, elected officials and professional colleagues in a service oriented manner; must be capable of making poised presentations in a clear credible manner before diverse groups and be capable of listening and acting on the feedback provided; must possess knowledge of the strategic use of federal funds for economic development, community development, and other services geared to improve citizens’ quality of life. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance. First review of applications will be April 4. Resumes, along with a cover letter and city application, found at [www.columbiatn.com](http://www.columbiatn.com), will be received at: Personnel Department, City of Columbia, 700 N. Garden Street, Columbia, TN, 38401. EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
MCMINNVILLE. The city is seeking well-qualified, innovative, professional applicants for the position of

TML Annual Conference June 22 - 24

**CONFERENCE** from Page 1  
The conference will kick off on Sunday, June 22, with the opening General Session, along with district meetings, workshops and the Host City Reception.

Monday, June 23, will be a day filled with educational workshops, TML’s annual business meeting, and will wrap up with The Pool’s fun-filled party complete with food and music. The Tuesday morning Awards Breakfast will bring the conference to a close.

As an added bonus, UT-MTAS has added more CEUs courses as part of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program. New this year, are sessions offered on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, as well as courses offered during the regular conference schedule, thus increasing the number of CEUs offered at the TML Conference. So stay tuned for a complete conference line-up and course descriptions.

To registration for the conference and to obtain more information about the various workshops and speakers, go to TML’s website at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

**Saturday, June 21**  
8 am - 3 pm MTAS EOA  
MTAS / CMFO  
6:30 - 8 pm Hospitality Suite

**Sunday, June 22**  
9 am - 5 pm Registration  
9 am - 11 am MTAS / CMFO  
11am Exhibit Hall  
12 - 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 - 2:15 pm District Meetings  
2:30 - 3:30 pm Opening Session  
3:45 - 5 pm Workshops  
6 - 8:30 pm Host City Party

**Monday, June 23**  
9 -10 am Workshops  
10:15 -11:30 am Site Selection  
Panel  
11:45 - 12:30 Business Meeting  
12:30 - 2 pm Lunch  
2:15 - 3:15 pm Workshops  
3:30 - 4:30 pm Workshops  
6:30 - 11pm Pool Party

**Tuesday, June 24**  
8 – 10 am Awards Breakfast

City Administrator. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in public administration, or a closely-related field (master’s degree preferred), with at least five years’ experience in municipal government management and finance. Major duties include: supervision of all city departments, staff employment and assignments, work procedures and schedules, budget preparation, monitoring of revenues and expenditures, development and implementation of goals and visioning for the city, provision of proper reports, initiation of grant writing, and the implementation of new technology across each department. The administrator will perform duties which will reflect the needs of a progressive city by serving on various boards, committees, agencies and civic organizations that promote retail, tourism, and industrial development in the area. The administrator will possess all the skills necessary to complete the successful operation and management of the city while fulfilling the expectations of the elected officials. The city administrator is selected by and reports to the mayor and a six-member board of aldermen. The starting salary and benefit package will be market competitive, depending on the professional experience and qualifications of the selected candidate. Reasonable relocation expenses will be negotiated. Interested applicants should email cover letters, resumes with references and salary history to Warren Nevad, The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service at [warren.nevad@tennessee.edu](mailto:warren.nevad@tennessee.edu).

**FIREFIGHTER**  
LA VERGNE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This position is under close supervision of the fire chief and assistant fire chief’s. This position performs fire suppression and fire prevention duties to protect life and property; provides emergency rescue and basic medical treatment as required; utilizes various tools and power equipment in rescue operations; maintains department equipment, vehicles and facilities; and performs related duties as assigned.. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at [http://www.lavergnetn.gov/?page\\_id=172](http://www.lavergnetn.gov/?page_id=172).

**POLICE CHIEF**  
MILLINGTON. The city is seeking a proactive and solution oriented individual as its new Police Chief. The job performs administrative, managerial and technical work in directing overall operations of the police department, protecting life and property and enforcing federal, state and local laws. The ideal candidate will need strong

leadership and supervisory skills. Duties and responsibilities include: planning, coordinating and directing all aspects of department operations; supervising interpreting and ensuring compliance with laws, ordinances, rules and regulations; supervising staff; developing departmental budget and controlling expenditures; instructing and preparing/maintaining documentation; and providing information and assistance to the general public. Candidate should be experienced in developing and implementing training programs and have understanding of procurement and maintenance of equipment and facilities and grant management experience. Candidate should have the ability to communicate effectively with city officials, school officials, employees, citizens, various agencies and the media and understand the nature of how smaller cities work along with community policing strategies. The successful candidate should have five years of command level experience with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice preferred, and have completed specialized training in the field of work, with six or more years of experience in a local government involving law enforcement, criminal investigation, and/or police administration, to include proven administrative and management skills; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. Command Level Training such as FBI National Academy or Southern Police Institute preferred. Must meet the Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106) for Police Officers. Requires a valid driver’s license. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the full Police Chief’s job description on the city website at [www.millingtontn.gov](http://www.millingtontn.gov). Letters of application, resumes, cover letter along with salary requirements, and three professional references with contact information should be submitted online via the website or forwarded to: The City of Millington, Attention: Personnel Department, 7930 Nelson Road, Millington, TN 38053. Position will remain open until April 16, 2014. EOE.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
CHAPEL HILL. The town is seeking an accomplished municipal government professional to be the town administrator. The administrator is appointed by and reports to the board of mayor and aldermen, composed of a popularly elected mayor and six aldermen, all elected at-large to staggered, four-year terms of office. The town has a \$1.6M budget with 17 full and part-time employees. Candidates are required to have a bachelor’s degree in public administration, business ad-

ministration, or a field closely related to local government management, with a master’s degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of five (5) years of professional governmental experience in a senior management position. This is an opportunity to take the organization to new levels of success and requires a person with a sound working knowledge of municipal policy execution, human resources, water and sewer utilities, and basic municipal services. The position description is available at [www.townofchapelhilltn.com](http://www.townofchapelhilltn.com). Send a cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Jeff Broughton, by April 21, 2014. Please direct questions to Jeff Broughton at [jeff.broughton@tennessee.edu](mailto:jeff.broughton@tennessee.edu).

**UTILITIES CLERK**  
PIPERTON. The city has an opening for a utilities clerk in its administrative office, with tasks to include reconciling utility customer lists and issuing periodic reports, resolving customer problems and explaining procedures regarding a variety of city functions including water, sewer, garbage and other issues; must have ability to interact with a variety of city staff, members of Boards and Commissions, vendors and contractors and have extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially Word and Excel which is required. Experience with automated applications is desirable; High School diploma or G.E.D. plus a minimum of two years related experience is required, along with effective communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills. Valid driver’s license from state of residence and attention to detail are also required. Email resume to [tparker@pipertontn.com](mailto:tparker@pipertontn.com). Pay is negotiable depending on experience and training. Piperton is an EOE employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, gender or disability.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR**  
WHITE PINE. The town is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator. Applicants must have a high school diploma, or GED, Tennessee Grade 2 Water Treatment and Water Distribution Grade 2 license. Must have a valid Tennessee driver’s license with the ability to obtain a Commercial driver’s license. Prefer applicant with ability to operate a backhoe. Subject to pre-employment drug and alcohol testing as well as random testing. Submit resumes detailing experience and training to: Town Hall, 1548 Main Street, PO Box 66, White Pine, TN 37890 or faxed to 865-674-2053 by April 15, 2014. EOE employer.



**April 5: Franklin**  
*Arbor Day Celebration*  
Join the Tree Commission and Parks Department for tons of fun in the trees with climbing, zip lining, kids’ activities, food, information and free tree saplings at Pinkerton Park from 10am-2pm. Master tree climbing instructor Tim Kovar, from Tree Climbing Planet, will guide individuals into the crown of a tree for a public tree climb with several stations, all certified equipment will be provided during this family friendly event. Participants will use the same rope-and-saddle method that canopy researchers use. Davey Tree Expert Company & Adventure Works will offer zip lining with all equipment provided. Both the tree climb and zip line are free. Participants must be at least six years old and wear closed-toe shoes. For more information, call 550-6947 or email [parksinfo@franklintn.gov](mailto:parksinfo@franklintn.gov).

**April 5: Smithville**  
*14th Annual Celebration of Craft*  
Held at the Appalachian Center for Craft, 1560 Craft Center Drive. Experience live craft demonstrations in glass blowing, blacksmithing, jewelry making, wheel throwing in ceramics, screen printing and weaving in fibers, furniture making and wood turning in the wood studio. Take a guided tour or wander on your own. Admission is free. Dance and sing-along to the music from the main stage. Spoonful and Just Friends will play a mix of blues, jazz, lite rock and more. Enjoy a 25 percent discount off all items in the Gallery store. Purchase art donated by regional artists at a silent auction. Children can make wood sculpture, colorful Chihuly-inspired pieces, clay rabbits, and embossed foil prints, or get their faces painted for a small fee. Artists will guide adults as they make their own marbled silk scarves and etched glass plaques for \$25 per piece. For more information, call 931-372-3051 or e-mail [craftcenter@mttech.edu](mailto:craftcenter@mttech.edu).

**April 12: Oak Ridge**  
*Egg Hunt*  
The Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks Department hosts this event at 11 am. Hundreds of children expected to participate, with more than 15,000 candy and prize filled eggs hidden in Bissell Park. A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize egg in each age group. Participants assemble in the Civic Center gymnasium prior to 11 am where children will be divided into separate age groups, 4 years- 4th grade. Held rain or shine. In severe weather, eggs will be given away in the gym and a drawing held for the prizes. Please call ahead for accommodations for participants with special needs. Volunteers, age 16 and up, needed to hide eggs, supervise the hunt areas and assist hunters. For more information, call the Civic Center at 865- 425-3450 or visit the Oak Ridge Recreation and Parks website at [www.orrecparks.org](http://www.orrecparks.org).

**April 12: Knoxville**  
*13th Annual Rossini Festival International Street Fair*  
Free event hosted by the Knoxville Opera from 11 am – 9 pm at downtown Gay Street and Market Square. A showcase of culture, live entertainment and education with areas for children, culinary offerings and artisan exhibits. Celebrates the arts with a feast of dance, music and opera from the region’s best talent. Local and Regional multi-cultural music and dance performances on five outdoor stages features more than 800 entertainers, artisan exhibits, hand-crafted works, world-class fully-staged opera performances of Bellini’s ‘Norma’ at the Tennessee Theatre, family-friendly KidsZone with interactive youth activities and arts and a plethora of food and beverage offerings. For more information, call 865-524-0795 or Email: [michaeli@n8promo.com](mailto:michaeli@n8promo.com).

**April 12: Nolensville**  
*“Little Miss Buttercup” and “Miss Buttercup” Pageant/Festival*  
Held from 10 am to 5 pm in the city’s historic district. The festival has a new Facebook page: Historic Nolensville Buttercup Festival. For pageant application information, e-mail [rachel@thepeacocklane.com](mailto:rachel@thepeacocklane.com) or interested vendors may contact Stacey Fish at 615-776-1279 or e-mail [stacefish@comcast.net](mailto:stacefish@comcast.net).

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



**The fierce winter of 2013-14 so far has caused almost \$5 billion in damage to the nation’s homes, businesses, infrastructure and agriculture, according to data from Aon Benfield, a global reinsurance firm based in London.** That’s about \$2 billion above average. The total does not include travel and transportation losses or other business disruption, however, which are likely to run into the billions of dollars. Lost flights alone have already cost airlines, airports and passengers an estimated \$5.8 billion, according to a report released by masFlight, an analytical group that studies aviation operations. While the \$5 billion damage total is above the recent 10-year average and the highest since 2010-11, it does not rank as one of the costliest on record. The standard, was the ‘Storm of the Century’ in March 1993,causing \$9 billion in damage alone. Despite the unusually high damage costs this winter, the toll is small compared with the costs of disasters such as 2012’s Hurricane Sandy (with a cost of \$65 billion) and that year’s Midwest/Plains drought (\$35 billion), according to Aon Benfield data. Final national weather data about how cold and snowy the winter of 2013-14 actually was (meteorologists define win-

ter as the months of December, January and February) will be released by the National Climatic Data Center.

**Moving beyond the lunch line, new rules that will be proposed by the White House and the Agriculture Department, would limit marketing of unhealthy foods in schools.** They would phase out the advertising of sugary drinks and junk foods around campuses during the school day and ensure that other promotions in schools were in line with health standards that already apply to school foods.That means a scoreboard at a high school football or basketball game eventually wouldn’t be allowed to advertise Coca-Cola, for example, but it could advertise Diet Coke or Dasani water, which is also owned by Coca-Cola Co. Same with the front of a vending machine. Cups, posters and menu boards which promote foods that don’t meet the standards would also be phased out. Ninety percent of such marketing in schools is related to beverages, and many soda companies already have started to transition their sales and advertising in schools from sugary sodas and sports drinks to their own healthier products. The proposed rules are

part of first lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move initiative to combat child obesity, which is celebrating its fourth anniversary. Mrs. Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the new rules at a White House event. The rules also would allow more children access to free lunches and ensure that schools have wellness policies in place. The proposed rules come on the heels of USDA regulations that are now requiring foods in the school lunch line to be healthier. Rules set to go into effect next school year will make other foods around school healthier as well, including in vending machines and separate "a la carte" lines in the lunch room. Calorie, fat, sugar and sodium limits will have to be met on almost every food and beverage sold during the school day at 100,000 schools. Concessions sold at afterschool sports games would be exempt.The healthier food rules have come under fire from conservatives who think the government shouldn’t dictate what kids eat — and from some students who don’t like the healthier foods. Aware of the backlash, the USDA is allowing schools to make some of their own decisions on what constitutes marketing and asking for comments on some options.

UT MTAS April-May Classes

This course begins with the basic definition of capital assets and continues through the accounting for depreciation of and disposal of assets. Topics covered include development of a capital asset tracking system, how to report capital assets, and how to handle the accounting of them using the modified approach for infrastructure reporting.

During the life of a capital asset, there are many things necessary to track, including maintenance, betterment, depreciation calculation and disposal. The course teaches how to accomplish all those activities and also presents the GASB requirements for reporting.

**Who should attend:**  
Certified Municipal Finance Officers, Finance Directors, Accountants, and any municipal employee charged with tracking and accounting for capital assets.

Capitol Assets

Schedule of Sessions

April 1- Collegedale  
April 3- Knoxville  
April 11- Johnson City  
April 16- Jackson  
April 17- Bartlett  
May 1- Franklin

**Locations:**  
**Collegedale**, Collegedale City Hall  
**Knoxville**, UT Conference Center  
**Johnson City**, Johnson City Memorial Park Community Center,  
**Jackson**, Univ of Tenn - West Tenn Research & Education Center  
**Bartlett**, Bartlett Station Municipal Center  
**Franklin**, Williamson County Ag Expo Park

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**ADVISORY SERVICE**

**Time:** All courses begin at 8:30 am and end at 12:30 pm.

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

CMFO-4 CPE (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).

COMING UP

**April 8-11:The Tennessee Personnel Management Association (TPMA) 22nd Annual Membership Conference** at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The theme is “Building the Bridge to the Future.” TPMA will be offering the 3 Pillars of Human Resource Certificate Program as a pre-conference activity. The sessions are led by the executive staff of the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. The program has recently been approved by the HR Certification Institute for continuing education credit. Registration is available on-line at: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=dqdhp>. For more information, contact Richard Stokes, TPMA executive director, at 615-532-4956 or via e-mail at [richard.stokes@tennessee.edu](mailto:richard.stokes@tennessee.edu).

**April 23: Tennessee City Management Association - 2014 Spring Conference** held at the Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro. Educational programs and networking opportunities targeted to local government professional administrators. For more information or to register, visit <http://tcma32.wildapricot.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1720583&eventId=789462&EventViewMode=EventDetails>.

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# Local autonomy key theme at 2014 TML Legislative Conference



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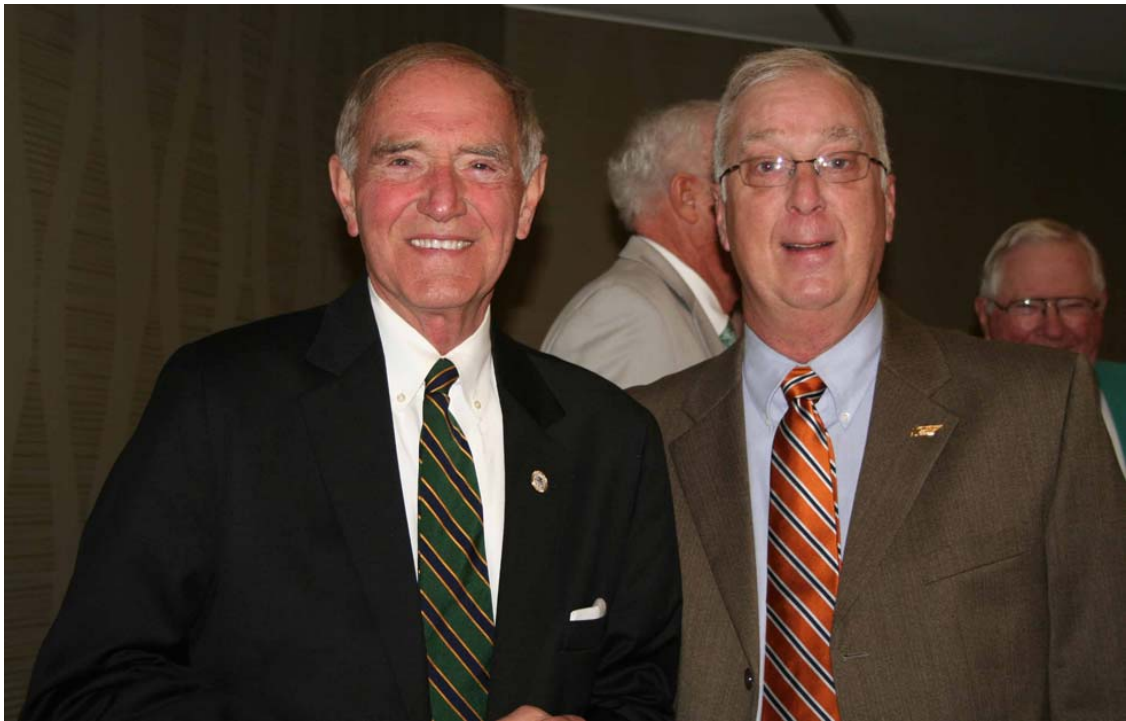
Sen. Ken Yager and Covington Mayor David Gordon



TBI Director Mark Gwyn and John Hickman, Waynesboro city manager



Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and W.C. "Bubba" Pleasant, Bartlett alderman



Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist and Medina Mayor Vance Coleman



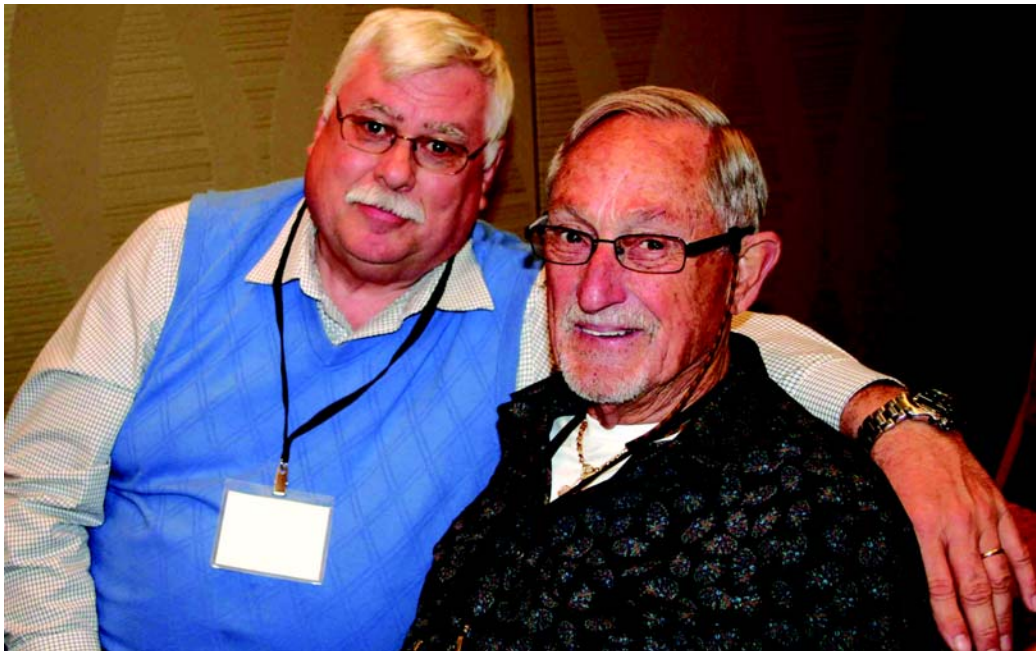
Sherry Spicer-Dudley, Pittman Center town manager, and Earlene Teaster, Pigeon Forge city manager



Ted Rogers, Collegedale city manager, and Katie Lamb, Collegedale commissioner



Bethany Huffman, Millington alderwoman; Hank Hawkins, Millington alderman; Millington Mayor Terry Jones, and Chris Dorsey, Millington city manager



Bottom row far left : Kingston Councilmembers Tony Brown and Norman Sugarman



Chris Thomas, Lakeland city manager and commissioners Sherri Gallick and Creighton "Gene" Torrey

Photos by Victoria South





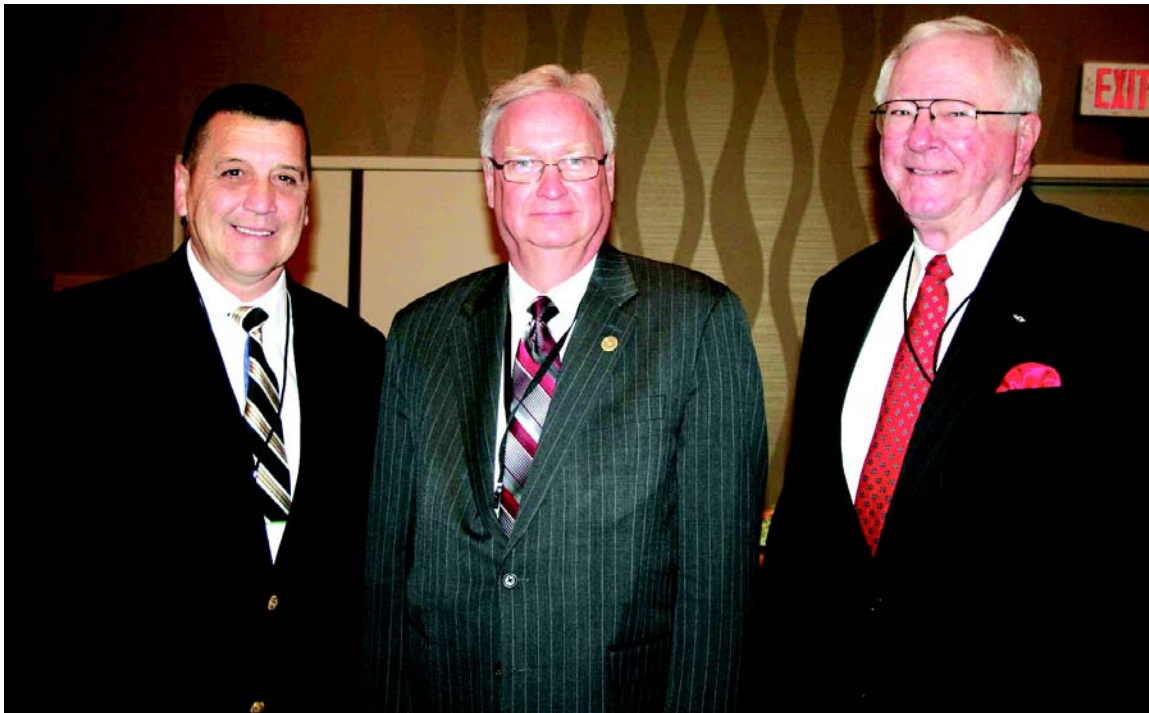
J.R. Reed, East Ridge chief of police; Mike Williams, fire chief; Andrew Hyatt, city manager; Diane Qualls, Administration and Finance manager/city recorder; Marc Gravitt, councilmember; Hal North, city attorney and Vice Mayor Jim Bethune



Jim Thomas, MTAS executive director, and Brentwood Mayor Betsy Crossley



Gordon Wildridge, Lexington alderman, and Jeff Griggs, Lexington vice mayor



Thomas Landers, Shelbyville councilman; Jay Johnson, Shelbyville city manager; and Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright



Bill Sorah, Bristol city manager; Jack Young, Bristol councilmember; Lea Powers, Bristol vice mayor; and Chad Keen, Bristol councilmember



Alamo Mayor Tommy Green and Bo Perkinson, Athens councilmember



Jody Baltz, Tullahoma city administrator; Jeff Fleming, Kingsport assistant city manager; and Todd Smith, Greeneville city administrator



Three-Way Mayor James Hill, Teresa Wade and Alderman Danny Wade



Charlie Beal, McKenzie CMFO; Kim Gilley, Medina CMFO; and Chad Lowery, Medina police chief



Farragut Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche and Kingston Mayor Troy Beets



# Local autonomy, annexation and meth epidemic among key topics discussed during 2014 TML Legislative Conference

CONFERENCE from Page 1  
grams, instead of 9 grams of pseudoephedrine within a 30-day period.

**Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey** told local officials that the 108th General Assembly was “chock full of controversial and complicated bills.” He briefed city officials on two issues of particular interest to local governments – annexation and the mixed drink tax.

“I was in the middle of the last annexation re-write 16 years ago. In my personal opinion, it has worked well and is still working well,” he said. “But there is a frenzy of annexation bills –and to be honest with you, I’m not sure where we will end up this year.”

He also discussed issues associated with the distribution of mixed drink tax collections .

“I believe we need to start from this point forward,” he said. “You can’t back up and say ‘by the way – you owe us back taxes from the last 20 years.’ So let’s be fair – counties wouldn’t want the same thing to happen to them. Let’s figure out how to work this through,” he said.

Ramsey also acknowledged that the budget was going to be one of the tougher ones the state has had to face in several years due to sluggish tax revenues.

“Revenue hasn’t done as well as we thought,” said Ramsey. “We thought it would grow about 3 percent and instead it’s been more like 2 percent. We have already cut out \$150 million and now we are going to have to cut out another \$150 million before we adjourn. So it’s not going to be easy.”

Quoting Thomas Paine, perhaps **Sen. Ken Yager** summed it up best, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” He was referring to the annexation issue and said it might apply describe the situation that municipal governments find themselves in right now.

He discussed the three different annexation bills that would be heard in his committee the following day (March 18).

“We are facing some tough issues that will have consequences and affect what you do or what you can’t do,” said Yager. “I can’t stress how important it is for you to call your legislator on these issues that are important to city governments.”

“When a mayor or city official from my district calls me about an issue, I listen,” Yager continued. “We all know that cities are the driving force for economic development and the infrastructure that cities provide. It’s important for you to remind your legislator of that and tell them how these bills will affect your community.”

**Comptroller Justin Wilson** addressed two key issues – his “Kick the Can Down the Road,” legislation and an update on the mixed liquor tax.

“This legislation (PC 529) does not restrict local governments from making responsible decisions nor does it prohibit any transactions,” explained Wilson. “But it requires that if are going to put in place certain types of transactions – like balloon payments or principal pay-

ments due on down the road – you must justify your actions. And if you can’t – you shouldn’t do it anyway,” he said.

Wilson also said that his department has been working with both city and county governments to resolve the mixed liquor tax issue. “We believe we have an agreeable solution and can put to rest this potentially divisive issue.”

Wilson said that as a whole, cities were in good shape and that he was pleased with the cities’ progress and the quality of financial management.

“I think you all need to be complimented for that. Going forward – the state of Tennessee is very fortunate to be in the condition we are in – we are in a lot better shape financially than many other states,” he said.

**House Speaker Beth Harwell** echoed Comptroller Wilson’s sentiment stating that in many ways Tennessee was the envy of the nation.

“We are the third lowest taxed state in the nation, lowest debt state in the nation, and we have completely restored our rainy day fund,” she said.

She also talked about local autonomy, saying, “We know there is a large issue of local control. And as a member of the Republican Party – that’s a part of our mantra – that government is best that is closest to the people. We want to uphold that.”

**Rep. Charles Sargent**, chairman of the House Finance Ways and Means Committee, updated city officials on the current budget situation, echoing some of the same sentiments as previous speakers, that sales tax revenues are flat and the biggest decline was with the franchise and excise tax.

“We started out the year \$126 million in the hole, since then, it has dropped even more,” said Sargent.

He also talked about legislation, SB2336 / HB 2015, that would cap a city or county property increase at 25 percent. Anything higher would require a referendum.

“This is not a well-thought out bill. People don’t understand what this would do,” he said. “What scares me – when you go to bonding agencies and need to borrow money for a project – and they look at your ability to raise taxes – this will hurt you. In Williamson County, we have a triple A bond rating. We’re very proud of that and don’t want anything to restrict that.”

Sargent urged city officials to talk to their representative about this bill. “You need to explain that this does not work in a real life situation. When you are talking to your legislators, do not assume that they know how local governments work. You may think they understand the financial side and they don’t.”

Sargent, who is a sponsor of two different bills that would eliminate the Hall Income Tax, said that he believed in the legislation and that the state needed to do away with it at some point. “Over a period of time – it will be phased out. But we need to give our cities and counties time to adjust. However, with the budget like it is this year, I can’t see that



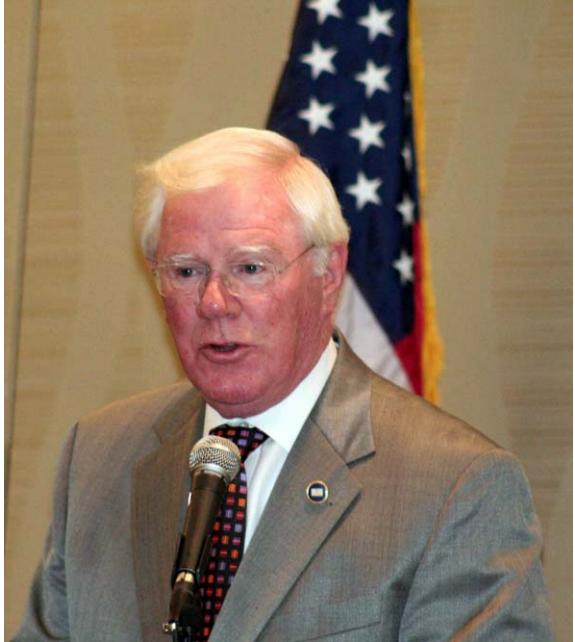
Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



House Speaker Beth Harwell



Sen. Ken Yager



Rep. Charles Sargent



Comptroller Justin Wilson



Rep. Matthew Hill

passing this year.”

**Rep. Matthew Hill**, chairman of House Local Government Committee, addressed annexation and the property tax cap in his remarks.

“As you know there are four ways to currently annex – and when it’s all said and done, there very well will be only two ways. It’s all going to come to a head in the next couple of weeks,” he said.

“I understand, from a city’s perspective, that you are quite troubled by this legislation. I ask that you take a step back – and view it from the

legislative branch. Whether it is a real fear or just perception – there is a feeling in the legislature – obviously, with 78 votes in the House and majority in the Senate – that there is a need to slow things down.”

“I personally think taking a step back, taking a deep breath and letting TACIR do its job is a good thing.”

With regards to the proposed property tax referendum, he said, “Over the last 14 months the legislature has voted to have referendums on where you can buy wine and

whether or not you can be annexed. I think it’s a natural progression to have a referendum on how much your taxes are raised. It passed the subcommittee and full committee in local government. It does have a fiscal note, which means it’s behind the budget, and will most likely have a hard time getting out of there. But none the less, the discussion has started,” he said. “You must understand that the mood right now in the legislature is driven by constituents and has precipitated some of this legislation.”

## Municipal League recognizes top leaders in Walk Tennessee competition



The city of Manchester was awarded second place, logging 26,000 miles. Manchester received an outdoor seated chest press station donated by Playcore to use in a city park. Pictured are: Russell Bryan, alderman; Tim Pauley, alderman; Cheryl Swan, alderwoman; Terry Dendy, citizen liason; Margaret Mahery, TML executive director; Mayor Lonnie Norman; Roxanne Patton, alderwoman; and Bonnie Gamble, parks and recreation director.

Photos by Victoria South



Jackson won third place, logging 1,753 miles. Jackson will receive a Summer Camp/After School Kit donated by Organwise. Pictured are Jackson Councilmember Johnny Dodd, Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, and TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery.

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ing healthier communities,” said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director.

TML has partnered with Ten-

nessee Parks and Recreation, who have fully supported this initiative and will further expand it into community parks and recreation departments.