



## TML Conference to feature expert industrial recruiters

As companies have become more internationally mobile, competition between locations to attract investment has also intensified.

When companies seek out new communities in which to expand or relocate facilities, a range of both qualitative and quantitative factors are part of their site selection decision.

So what do the top site selectors in the nation really think about communities like yours and how can you get their attention? Come find out by joining Mark Williams, president of Strategic Development Group, and Mike Mullins of J. M. Mullis, Inc., for an informative discussion on the "Secrets of Site Selectors."

Moderated by Kinglsey Brock, executive director of Jackson Regional Partnership, the panel presentation will be offered at TML's Annual Conference in Chattanooga on Monday, June 23. Surely to be a conference highlight, this session will help city leaders better understand the competitive environment for their sites and be able to identify targets for improvement.

Learn firsthand how the nation's leading site selectors evaluate potential locations and what it takes to land a project. Come with questions and get answers from the experts on how you can position your community for success.

Named as one of the top site consultants in the South, Williams has completed highly successful site location projects with major U.S. corporations and multi-national corporations based in Europe and Asia including Bridgestone, British Petroleum (BP), ASMO, Tupperware, JTEKT, and Commercial Metals Corporation. He was recently appointed to the Site Selector's Guild, which is a professional association comprised of the world's most respected site selection consultants.

Mullin's firm conducts location analysis work throughout the United States, and also has affiliate representations in Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Asia, where the firm participates in major new business developments annually. J.M. Mullis, Inc., typically does more than \$1.5 billion annually in major new project establishments on a global basis and represents internationally recognized companies as Boeing, FedEx, Delta Airlines, Toyota, Harley-Davidson, Whirlpool/Maytag, Pirelli, Wal-Mart, Brookstone, RadioShack, Tractor Supply, Nike, Ingram, Amway, American Eagle Outfitters, Tyson Foods, Hormel,



Kinglsey Brock



Mark Williams



Mike Mullins

PepsiCo, Smucker's, Mars, and Nestlé.

Brock joined the Jackson Chamber of Commerce in 2014. He had previously served as senior advisor and lead project manager for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for 12 years and is presently responsible for managing large recruitment projects.

The conference will also include information on key legislation passed during the 2014 legislative session including annexation, the mixed drink tax, and wine in grocery stores.

Other conference sessions will focus on smart growth planning, transportation funding, building healthy communities, workers comp reforms, and risk management.

See CONFERENCE on Page 4

## NLC to meet with new office of State and Local Finance

BY NEIL BOMBERG  
National League of Cities

Last week, the U.S. Department of Treasury announced the creation of a new Office of State and Local Finance that will focus on state and local finance issues, including distressed municipalities and their management of pensions and other unfunded liabilities. Treasury said the new office, which will be operational in mid-May will "[liaise with] state and municipal officials and associations, monitor developments in the bond markets, support policies to improve the management of public pensions and other liabilities, and develop potential federal policy responses to issues that emerge in municipal financing markets." Kent Kiteshew, formerly of JPMorgan Chase, will head the office. NLC is already planning a meeting with Kiteshew to gain a better understanding of the office's role and scope.

In a statement announcing the office, Treasury indicated that the

idea for the office originated after the White House kept receiving requests for assistance by "troubled local governments," but lacked a centralized way of responding.

The heightened attention to notable cases of municipal fiscal stress has created many misperceptions regarding the overall financial condition of state and local governments, particularly concerning bankruptcy, bonds, and pensions.

To address this concern, NLC and the national organizations representing the nation's governors, state legislatures, and state and local officials jointly released the 2014 edition of *Facts You Should Know: State and Municipal Bankruptcy, Municipal Bonds, State and Local Pensions*. The report details facts related to these issues and the degree to which they are having a financial impact on state and local governments. It also provides helpful links to reports documenting the fiscal health of states and localities, as well as the primary drivers of financial distress, where it exists.

## 108th Tennessee General Assembly Sine Die

The 108th Tennessee General Assembly concluded its business and adjourned sine die on April 17.

According to a release from Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey's office, the 14-week session marks one of the earliest adjournment dates in modern legislative history and no general assembly has used fewer legislative days since the inception of the two-year general assembly in 1967.

Among the many highlights of the session was the wine-in-grocery stores bill, continued progress in the war on meth, and Tennessee Promise, a program to provide free tuition to community college and colleges of applied technology starting with the high school class of 2015.

Several pieces of legislation will affect municipalities. Perhaps the most significant impact is a new requirement that municipal annexations are now subject to a referendum. A more detailed review of this new legislation, P.C. 707, will be presented at the upcoming TML Conference in June.

The following is a brief synopsis of other legislation that affect municipalities.

• **Mixed Drink Tax.** Lawmakers passed a bill requiring cities and counties that owe liquor-by-the-drink tax revenues to school systems to enter into negotiations by Aug. 31 for payment; if by Sept. 1, 2014, no agreement has been reached, the owing municipality is required to pay all proceeds collected since July 1, 1999, which were not remitted within 10 years. The legislation authorizes the Commissioner of Revenue to reallocate the amount of any delinquent proceeds from any state-shared taxes owed to a municipality to the applicable school fund, in the event the municipality defaults on payment of such proceeds.

• **Meth.** Lawmakers adopted a watered-down version of Gov. Haslam's legislation, capping purchases of pseudoephedrine without a prescription to a maximum of 5.76 grams within a 30 day period or 28.8 grams within per year, double what the administration proposed. Those under the age of 18 are ineligible to buy such products.

• **Diesel fuel tax.** Enacts the "Transportation Fuel Equity Act, which imposes a new 17 cents per gallon

tax on diesel fuel, the same as trucks pay. The legislation was introduced due to a decrease in state revenue to the Transportation Equity Trust Fund. Since the late 1980s, proceeds from the railroad tax have gone into a fund used by short line railroads to maintain track and bridges connecting the main lines to industrial sites in outlying communities.

• **High Gravity Beer.** Legislation passed that allows food stores that sell wine also to sell beer up to 8 percent alcohol by weight starting Jan. 1, 2017. The current limit is 5 percent. The earliest wine sales in food stores may begin, subject to local referendums, is July 1, 2016. The beer act also allows craft brewers to sell high-gravity beer on premises starting July 1, 2014.

• **Pensions.** The "Public Employee Defined Benefit Financial Security Act of 2014" requires all local governments operating defined benefit pensions plans to contribute annually the minimum required contribution rate as recommended by actuaries evaluating such plans. The new legislation requires all local government

See LEGISLATION on Page 4

## States scale back on road projects due to Congressional inaction on funding

BY DANIEL C. VOCK  
Governing Staff Writer

Concerned that Congress won't find enough money for planned projects by summer, Arkansas and Tennessee have scaled back transportation work. Other states are pondering similar moves.

Around the country, state transportation leaders are marking their calendars for July, when federal money for highways and other transportation projects could dry up without congressional intervention.

In a handful of states, though, the day of reckoning is coming even sooner.

Tennessee has already scaled back its plans for the summer. It has an \$8.5 billion backlog in projects, so its Transportation Department decided to stop engineering work on all new construction.

Tennessee uses cash on hand to pay for transportation projects and carries no debt for transportation purposes. But that means the state is trying to keep as much money in the bank as possible to get through the upcoming construction season, in case federal reimbursements slow down or get reduced.

"The last thing I want to do is not be prepared for a bad outcome out of Congress," said Transportation Commissioner John Schroer.

Arkansas officials have also canceled 10 construction projects for this summer, citing the uncertainty of federal funding.

"As cash flow from the (federal) Highway Trust Fund slows down considerably, we decided that instead of beginning projects that we would have to stop, we would just not start them," said Danny Straessle, a spokesman for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

The 10 canceled projects would have cost the state \$60 million. But the agency is still going ahead with 70 separate projects that will cost \$130 million.

If federal reimbursements slow this summer, the state would have to stop work on projects until the state coffers were replenished.

Arkansas officials picked the projects to delay—including bridge replacements and highway widenings—based on how long they would take and how disruptive they would be if they were left uncompleted for long stretches of time, Straessle said.

Darin Bergquist, South Dakota's transportation secretary, said his state must decide soon whether to shorten the list of projects it bids out this year. "We've waited and hoped about as long as we can," he said.

Even states that are not adjusting their budgets yet are still taking measures to prepare for interruptions



Tennessee has already scaled back its plans for the summer. It has an \$8.5 billion backlog in projects, so its Transportation Department decided to stop engineering work on all new construction.

in federal funding, said Tennessee's Schroer, who also heads a committee on finance and administration for the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

States get reimbursed for the money they already spent, so they are likely to hurry up and turn in their paperwork as soon as they can to make sure they get their money before the Highway Trust Fund runs out of money, Schroer said.

The trust fund has been the

federal government's main source of money for transportation projects since the creation of the interstate highway system in 1956, but it has repeatedly run low on money in recent years. The federal gas tax, which is now 18.4 cents per gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel, funds the Highway Trust Fund.

Because Congress has not raised the taxes since 1993, inflation has

See ROAD on Page 4

## Senate leaders announce plans for transportation reauthorization, funding could dry up by July

BY LESLIE WOLLACK  
National League of Cities

Earlier this month, Senate transportation leaders announced plans to move ahead on a transportation reauthorization bill to replace legislation that expires on Sept. 30.

Sens. Barbara Boxer and David Vitter, bipartisan leaders of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, told reporters that they hope to move a bill to the full Senate this summer, contingent upon revenues to prop up the Highway Trust Fund.

Subcommittee heads Sens. Tom Carper and John Barasso also participated in the session. Previously, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Bill Shuster also said he hopes to bring a bill to the House floor this summer.

In addition to the dire funding conditions for federal transportation programs, there are several additional important issues specifically impacting local governments in the

federal program funding highways, bridges, roads and transit programs. NLC will be advocating for a multi-year bill that allows local governments a greater say in spending decisions through their regional planning organization, including specific funding allocations that allow them to choose projects that improve mobility for people and goods and fit into their overall development goals.

The senators' plan to renew MAP-21, or Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, calls for a long-term bill at current spending levels plus inflation, keeping current formula programs intact, expanding rural program and "leveraging" local resources. Committee leaders conceded their recommendations would require \$16 billion each year in revenues to supplement the shortfall in gas taxes.

The announcement came as the House of Representatives voted on a FY 2015 budget that would limit federal transportation funding to

See MAP-21 on Page 3

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga is getting a \$62 million Coca-Cola distribution center which will create 43 new jobs, as announced by Coca-Cola Bottling Company United. The announcement comes on the eve of Chattanooga Coke celebrating 115 years in the city. The facility will occupy the old Olan Mills site off Shepard Road near Highway 153. The announcement follows months of speculation about whether Coke would choose Chattanooga or go out of state. Chattanooga Coke Bottling was the first ever Coca-Cola bottler.

## EAGLEVILLE

The city broke ground on a sewer step system that will benefit about 275 customers. The Phase I, \$4 million project, to be completed in about 12 months, should only enhance what's within the city's existing boundaries, according to Mayor Sam Tune, allowing about 20 housing lots to develop homes that will depend on the sewer system. Tune also noted how the sewer system will benefit the growing Eagleville School, where the county is providing nearly \$7 million to expand the campus with an auditorium, more classrooms and an enlarged cafeteria and kitchen. The city will pump the treated sewer water to irrigate ball fields at the school, which should save the county hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to Tune. Consolidated Utility District has committed to installing new water lines, while the sewer lines are being installed, which means better water quality, more water and improved fire protection.

## GREENEVILLE

The town recently announced two new financial programs designed to enhance the downtown area, the Downtown Loan Program and the Downtown Facade Grant Program. The loan program is a cooperative effort between the town and Andrew Johnson Bank, First Tennessee Bank and Greeneville Federal Bank to provide down payment and closing costs on loans of up to \$25,000 for property rehabilitation projects in the downtown area. It serves as a stimulus for projects capitalizing on the rehabilitation of existing properties or compatible new development in the downtown area. The Facade Grant Program is a partnership between the town and Heritage Community Bank to provide 50/50 matching-grant funds of up to \$2,500 to allow downtown business and building owners to make improvements to their properties. It is designed to enable businesses and building owners to improve their buildings, increasing commercial property value and making downtown a viable place for business. Qualifying properties must be located within the specified area for the programs, which includes the Main Street Greeneville district, plus portions of Depot and Church streets. More details about the programs can be found at [www.greenevilletn.gov](http://www.greenevilletn.gov).

## JACKSON

Orchid Orthopedic Solutions, headquartered in Holt, MI, announced the company has located its new manufacturing facility to Jackson. Orchid has invested up to \$1 million in the project, which will create 25 new jobs. The facility is an expansion

of Orchid's Alabama plant. Orchid provides medical device outsourcing services for orthopedic and medical device development and manufacturing. The new plant will support the machining of complex instruments. All special processes, finishing, assembly and inspection, will still take place at the Alabama facility.

## JACKSON

The West Tennessee Farmer's Market has something besides its fresh fruits and vegetables to brag about. The market, located in downtown Jackson, was voted the favorite farmers' market in West Tennessee by readers of *The Tennessee Magazine*. More than one million readers saw West Tennessee Farmers' Market listed among The Best of Tennessee winners in the October 2013 edition. Voters selected their favorites in 26 categories in the publication's readers' choice awards contest. More than 50 vendors sell produce to hundreds of folks each week during the growing season. Saturday attendance sometimes reaches 1,500 visitors and vendors sold more than \$1 million in produce during the past year. In addition to produce, the West Tennessee Farmers' Market sells milk, flowers, canned or baked items, and meats.

## JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City headquartered NN Inc. was confirmed as the manufacturer being courted by local economic development leaders hoping to land a new \$10 million corporate office building and 200 new jobs. Mitch Miller, CEO of the Washington County Economic Development Council, said the bearing, precision metal, plastic and rubber component maker is the corporation behind "Project Stone" the council's code name for the economically significant project. If NN Inc. keeps its offices in Johnson City and expands, it would mean hundreds of high-paying corporate jobs moving into the city with an estimated \$50 million direct effect on the regional economy each year.

## KINGSPORT

The city's Geographic Information System (GIS), which provides digital mapping and addressing that which supports the 911 Emergency Communications system, has achieved a 100 percent accuracy rate on its caller identification system, a mark which only three of 100 districts in Tennessee has achieved. As a result of the effort, both the Kingsport Emergency Communications District and Mayor Dennis Phillips have honored GIS Manager Jake White and GIS Analyst Bunny Campbell with commendations. Much more precise caller location information is available, thanks to the digital plotting of road center-lines, current residential and commercial addressing information and other data provided by GIS, according to Lt. Jerry Mowl, Kingsport Police Department Communications Manager and executive director of the Kingsport Emergency Communications District.

## LA VERGNE

The city's fire department has hired 11 new firefighters to help staff the newly acquired department. When the city purchased the privately held

# Greeneville mural project to benefit downtown revitalization



Photo by Sarah R. Gregory/The Greeneville Sun

Pictured at the mural of Davy Crockett are left to right: Jim Mays, president Greene County Heritage Trust; Andy Daniels, Heritage Trust Mural Committee member; mural artist Joe Kilday, Patty Solomon, the building's co-owner; Mural Committee members Linnie Greene and Becky Yonz, and Tim Massey, president of the Pioneer Friends of Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park.

The mural of Davy Crockett on the front of the historic Capitol Theatre on Main Street is the fourth that's been placed on buildings in downtown Greeneville. It's all part of the town's Downtown Revitalization strategy in its 20/20 Vision initiative.

The project, entitled "Windows to the Past," features three other murals unveiled last June at the town's first ever "Windows To The Past"

Festival. The other murals recognize: the significance of The Austin Company, and the county's history of tobacco production, President Andrew Johnson's local residence and participation in Free-Masonry, and a visit to Greeneville by William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his traveling Wild West show around 1900.

The project is overseen by the Mural Committee of the Greene

County Heritage Trust.

The next "Windows To The Past" Festival will be held downtown on West Depot Street June 7. There will be antiques and collectible vendors, food and music from 10 am to 5 pm. Davy Crockett will also make a special guest appearance.

For more information, contact Andy Daniels at 423-639-2626 or [ankdaniels@comcast.net](mailto:ankdaniels@comcast.net).

fire department on Jan. 1, officials planned to add new firefighters at the same cost as the previous contract. At the end of July, the La Vergne Fire Department will change from a 48-hours-on/48-hours-off to a 24-hours-on/48-hours-off shift. The new firefighters will begin on July 1. "I am very pleased they will be a part of our city family, but also quite happy our current firefighters are able to gain an industry-standard shift thanks to this wonderful addition," said La Vergne Mayor Senna Mosely.

## LEWISBURG

Meiwa Industry North America celebrated the grand opening of its first U.S. plant in Lewisburg. In June 2013, the company announced it would invest \$6.1 million and create 98 new jobs in Marshall County. The company currently supplies products to Japanese car manufacturers, including Nissan, Toyota and Honda. Meiwa Industry North America also donated \$10,000 to Marshall County High School.

## MURFREESBORO

A growing maker of mobile medical computer stations will locate its U.S. headquarters in the city, adding 410 jobs in Rutherford County. Enovate Medical, a manufacturer of work stations and medication transport-storage systems, announced it will invest \$13.1 million to expand operations. The expansion will include the company's corporate headquarters, manufacturing, and R&D facilities located in Murfreesboro, according to company officials. Enovate Medical, designs space-saving, ergonomically correct and comfortable-to-use, wall-mounted computer workstations, mobile computer workstations for the healthcare market. Enovate said the move stems from the consolidation of the company's operations in Canton, Mich.

# Jackson Energy Authority 5th time winner of Diamond Award



Photo by David Thomas/The Jackson Sun

The Jackson Energy Authority has won the American Public Power Association's Reliable Public Power Provider 1 Diamond award for the fifth consecutive time, the only public power provider to have accomplished such a feat. The award, referred to as the "RP3," was presented at the Jackson Chamber. JEA first won the award in 2006. Subsequent award presentations followed in 2008, 2010, 2012. The American Public Power Association represents 2,000 of the nation's public electric utilities. The program recognized utility divisions that demonstrate proficiency in four key areas: reliability, safety, work force development and system improvement. Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist and Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris proclaimed the day "Jackson Energy Authority Day." Pictured from left: Ted Austin, manager of the customer care center at Jackson Energy Authority; David Middlebrooks, JEA's senior vice president of electricity; Monte Jones, president of Commercial Bank and Trust in Jackson; and Jim Ferrell, president/ chief executive officer of JEA.

## NASHVILLE

AT&T is seeking to hire nearly 100 new employees in Tennessee, with 15 openings in the Nashville area. The expansion is part of a national push to hire more than 3,000 retail and sale management employees over the next several months. Among the Tennessee hires, more than 50 will be in the retail area and

nearly 40 will be technicians, according to company spokeswoman Cathy Lewandowski. The Nashville openings are for technicians. AT&T, which employs more than 5,000 people in Tennessee, has invested \$350 million in the Nashville area in the past three years, upgrading its networks and expanding its high-speed internet and video services.

## Investment Fiduciary Services and a zero-fee option? *Sweet.*

Nationwide's new 457(b) options offer smaller plans the same features normally only available to larger entities, including Investment Fiduciary Services provided by Morningstar Associates and a zero administration fee option.

Let's talk about how Nationwide can help sweeten your plan.

Contact Wayne Sellars:

- 865-803-6647
- [sellarh@nationwide.com](mailto:sellarh@nationwide.com)
- [NRSforU.com/457solutions](http://NRSforU.com/457solutions)

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**Nationwide**  
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# PEOPLE

After serving nearly 17 years as city administrator of Lenoir City, **Dale Hurst** retired in March. Hurst previously served as the city recorder and treasurer in Friendsville for seven years before taking the position in Lenoir City. Jim Wilburn, city recorder/ treasurer will assume extra duties as city recorder and Risk Manager Amber Scott will act as assistant city administrator.



Hurst

**Alton Dudley** "A.D." Caldwell, Jr., passed away April 18 in Clarksville. He was 78. Caldwell served as the city manager of Savannah, TN., for 11 years, Shelbyville city manager for four years, and Executive VP of Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool for 11 years, until he retired in 2000. He was born in Charlotte, TN., growing up in Clarksville, where he graduated from Clarksville High School. He received his bachelor's degree and pursued a Masters from APSU.



Dudley

State Rep. **Ron Travis**, Dayton, has been selected for the Legislator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Development District Association [TDDA] by the Southeast Tennessee Development District. The award was presented in conjunction with the TDDAA Annual Conference and Business Meeting. The TDDA is an association of Tennessee's nine development districts, which are regional planning and economic development organizations

**Fred Fletcher**, a commander with the Austin (Texas) Police Department, is the new police chief in Chattanooga. Fletcher has been with the Austin department for 20 years and has served as director of cadet training, SWAT commander, internal affairs manager and patrol commander.

## Jeff Fleming Kingsport's new City Manager

Jeff Fleming, Kingsport's assistant city manager for development, has been selected as the next city manager. Fleming will replace current City Manager John Campbell, whose retirement is effective June 30.



Jeff Fleming

A Kingsport native, Fleming has worked for the city for 29 years, beginning as a planning intern and rising through the ranks to one of the top administrative positions in the city.

## Sue Orr retires as Johnson City Senior Services director after 43 years

Athens born, Sue Orr, Johnson City's first and only Senior Services director and the city's first female department head, will retire April 30, after 43 years of service.



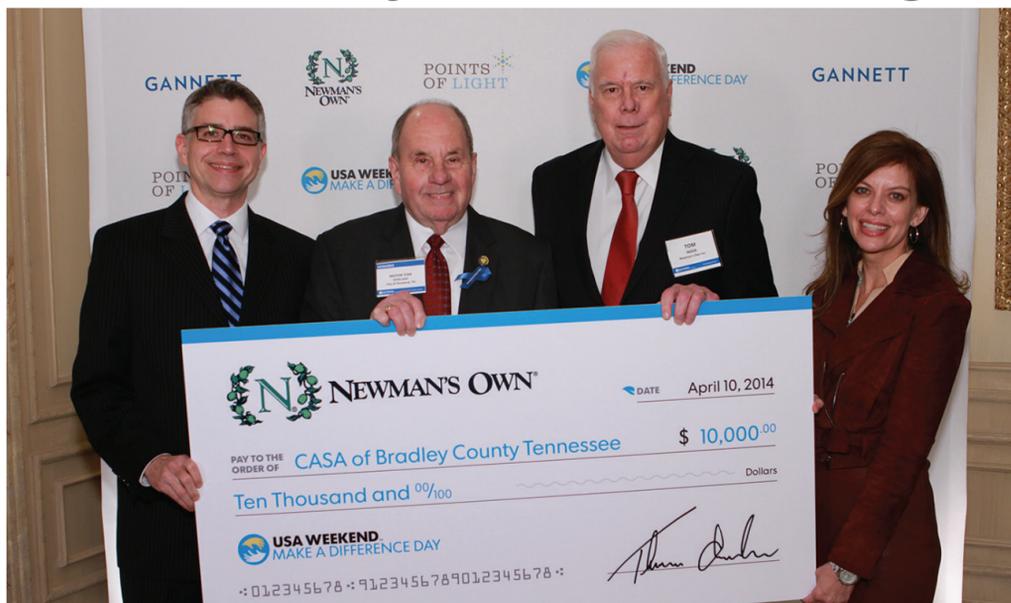
Sue Orr

Orr currently is the longest-tenured city employee. She began her career as the city's Senior Center director in the early 70s.

A public reception will be held for Orr from 3 pm-6pm on April 30 in the Senior Services foyer at Jackson's Memorial Park Community Center.

She said she plans to work seasonally as a vendor at national parks, beginning with Yellowstone and also move to Nashville to be closer to her daughter.

# Cleveland accepts \$10,000 Make a Difference Day award in Washington



Submitted photo

USA Weekend managing editor Jim Lenahan, Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, Newman's Own chief operating officer Tom Indoe and Points of Light President Tracy Hoover participated in the presentation of the \$10,000 Make A Difference Day award.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

He doesn't do lunch with Jon Bon Jovi every day, but around 20 years ago, when Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland decided to join the effort to make a positive difference in people's lives, he knew it was gonna rock.

USA Weekend Magazine treated Rowland and his wife Sandra to an all expense paid day trip to Washington, D.C., recently, where Cleveland was recognized as one of only three cities honored at the Make A Difference Day awards luncheon.

The event, created in 1992 by the Gannett Company Inc. owned magazine, in partnership with Newman's Own, Inc., and Points of Light, Make a Difference Day, has become America's largest day of service, where each October, millions of citizens from all walks of life, volunteer in their local neighborhoods and communities.

"Gannett's purpose is to serve the greater good of the communities we reach and the volunteer efforts that take place on Make A Difference Day inspire us to live that purpose," said Jim Lenahan, editor in chief for USA Weekend.

Newman's Own donated \$130,000 to the three recognized cities. "Paul Newman was always very enthusiastic about Make A Difference Day and was thrilled to be part of such an initiative," added Tom Indoe, president and COO of Newman's Own, Inc.

Among the 14 volunteer initiatives recognized, Today Show co-hosts Matt Lauer and Savannah Guthrie were honored for their advocacy of Today's Shine a Light Campaign, which promotes volunteerism across the U.S. Guthrie and Lauer have been working to create a playground in Newark.

The festivities also featured NBC News correspondent Jenna Bush Hager, as Master of Ceremonies.

USA Weekend is a regular section provided to The Cleveland Daily Banner readers in the Sunday edition.

"The Cleveland Daily Banner, is a member of USA Weekend, so several years ago, I joined with them in promoting the event," Rowland said. "We had several good events this year, and the prize was \$10,000. The publisher of the paper, Steve Crass and I, decided to draw one out of the hat. It turned out to be CASA — Court Appointed Special Advocates of Bradley County."

"When a child is a victim of a bad marriage, or crime, or anything where that child is thrown into the court system and decisions are made about that child's future, there needs



Grammy Award winning musician Jon Bon Jovi, Jenna Bush Hager, Samantha Guthrie and Matt Lauer at the Make A Difference Day awards luncheon in Washington D.C.

to an advocate that represents that child, and councils that child," Rowland explained. "That's what CASA advocates do."

According to The Cleveland Daily Banner, CASA was recognized for its annual Melisha Gibson Light of Hope Moonlight Walk held that evening in October.

Rowland took home the check for \$10,000, presenting it to CASA Board President Jim Metzgar.

CASA Director Suzanne Wisdom said the money will go a long way toward recruiting and training new volunteer advocates.

"When we presented the check, she was going to be present to receive it, but was in court instead on behalf of a child," Rowland said. "That's how important this work is to them."

Prospective CASA volunteers undergo an intensive background screening and 35 hours of training, including hands-on court training. After training, the volunteer is appointed by a judge to investigate and determine the best needs of abused and neglected children. The CASA volunteer makes independent recommendations to the court for services, which focus on the needs of the children and advocates for a permanent and safe home for every child within the shortest time. Advocates typically work with one to two cases at a time, and one advocate could handle up to 20 cases per year.

Other initiatives in Cleveland during Make A Difference Day include a project at Lee University where 75 students packed thousands of goody bags with non-perishable food and hygiene items for local elementary school kids as well as children in third world countries.

As for Bon Jovi, he was recognized for his tirelessly efforts to give

back to the community.

"You are truly the rock stars. I'm just here to open for you," said the Grammy Award winning rocker and founder of The Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation. Bon Jovi was honored for his work in creating the JBJ Soul Kitchen, a community restaurant that allows customers to pay by donation or by volunteering time at the eatery in Red Bank, N.J.

"There are no prices on the menu," Rowland marveled. "If you can pay, you pay, if you can't, you can't. The homeless can eat or work in the kitchen. These are not soup kitchens, they're nice restaurants."

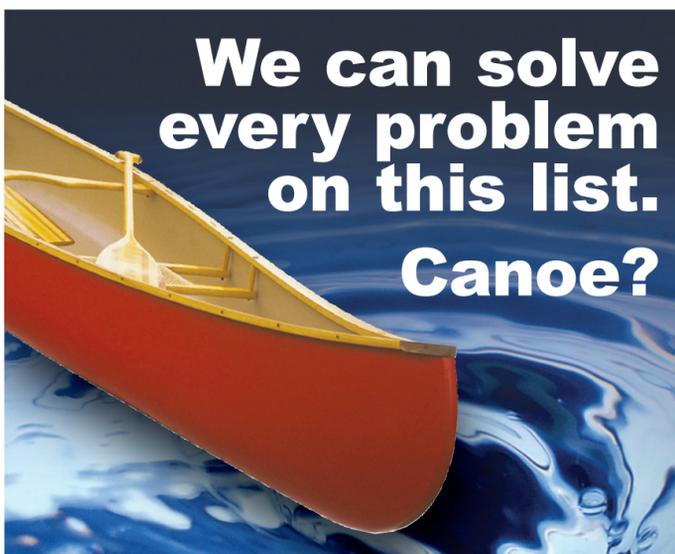
"This luncheon was a great event, where people all over the country were talking about what they've done to make a difference," Rowland continued. Cleveland's nickname is "city with spirit." It's easy to promote a day like this because of the volunteerism found in our community."

It wasn't Rowland's first brush with fame. Hager visited Cleveland just a couple of years ago for an "Empowering Women" event sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

"She remembered everything about Cleveland," Rowland marveled. "She began recalling names of people she met here. Her grandfather, George H. W. Bush was the founder of The Points of Light, which was the beginning of Make A Difference Day."

The citizens of Cleveland and others across America are getting geared up for next October's Make A Difference Day.

"It was rewarding," Rowland-surmised, "to know our country's in pretty good shape."



We can solve every problem on this list. Canoe?

As water and wastewater problems grow, more and more of our local communities are realizing that they may be up that famous creek:

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- technical challenges
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- revenue shortfalls.

Alliance Water Resources is a national leader in solving exactly these problems. When you're up the proverbial creek, call (731) 803-9634 or visit [www.alliancewater.com](http://www.alliancewater.com)



## Heartland actor Bill Landry delivers Etowah's charter change proposal



Pictured left to right are the town's city charter committee: Edie Perry, Mayor Jim Bull, City Manager Matthew Gravley, City attorney Russ Blair, MTAS Municipal Management Consultant, Margaret Norris, Tracy Miller and Commissioner Burke Garwood.



Bill Landry

The city of Etowah devised a unique way to present a adoption proposal for a revised city charter for the August 7 general election; a public reading of the entire charter performed by "The Heartland" series actor Bill Landry. Landry performed the reading at the city's Gem Theatre and will perform a second reading at the city commission meeting April 28. Copies of the proposed charter is available at city hall and on the city's website: <http://www.cityofetowah.tn.com/>.

# STATE BRIEFS

## Lawmakers move forward with monorail study

After abandoning the idea, the House Finance Subcommittee voted to go forward with a study of a 30-mile monorail along Interstate 24 linking Murfreesboro and Nashville. Sen. Bill Ketron, the primary sponsor of SB 2515, argued that state and federal officials should consider a monorail to relieve congestion in rapidly growing Rutherford County.

## Broadband adoption figures rising

Broadband adoption in Tennessee now surpasses the national average, with 72 percent of households subscribing to broadband service in 2013. That's up from 43 percent in 2007. According to the Pew Research Center, the national broadband adoption rate in 2013 was 70 percent, which marks a 23-percent point increase since 2007. The research findings are available via an interactive widget on the Connected Tennessee website, <http://www.connectedtn.org/survey-results/residential>, where viewers can compare adoption rates since 2007, track the growth in mobile adoption during that time, and examine barriers to adoption.

## Task force to explore virtual currencies

Greg Gonzales, the state's top banking official, has joined a task force exploring virtual currencies, including the growing usage of bitcoin. The Emerging Payments Task Force, comprised of nine state bank regulators, will study the impact of new payment systems on consumer protection and on the overall financial marketplace. The idea is to bring state regulators together with payment experts and users to examine the risks and opportunities tied to new currencies. "It's important for us to look at what's happening, to see how that impacts all these institutions we regulate," Gonzales said. "One of the practical things we want to accomplish is being able to provide advice to the public with respect to virtual currencies." The task force has had two meetings and is planning a public hearing next month in Chicago. The focus includes virtual currencies, but also new technologies related to moving traditional currencies.

## Local communities receive Multimodal Grants to Fund improvement projects

Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer announced the award of \$9.9 million in Multimodal Access Fund Grants to 13 communities across the state. The grants will fund infrastructure projects that support the transportation needs of transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists by addressing gaps along the state highway network.

Examples of projects eligible under the Multimodal Access Fund Program include sidewalks and pedestrian crossing improvements, bus shelters, park and ride facilities, and bicycle lanes. Multimodal Access projects will be funded 95 percent by TDOT, with 5 percent funded with local matching funds. Total individual project costs will not exceed \$1 million.

The Multimodal Access Fund was created in 2013. With an initial investment of \$10 million, TDOT was able to fund 13 projects through



Tennessee Main Street managers met for their second quarter in Union City. Hosted by The Tennessee Historical Commission, as part of a "Preservation 101" focus, the commission discussed historic building surveys, National Register nominations, grants and tax credits, historic building codes and how to build preservation partners. Preservation planners from the Northwest TN Development District and the Memphis Area Association of Governments also attended. As part of the day, Main Street managers toured Union City's new Discovery Park of America.

## Standardized tests to be posted online

Parents in every public school system in Tennessee will be able to go online next year and review the assortment of different standardized tests their children will take during the coming year. In a move toward transparency at a time when the volume of K-12 testing is under scrutiny, the 108th Tennessee General Assembly approved legislation that will require the Tennessee Department of Education and local school districts to post on their websites no later than Aug. 1, information on state-mandated tests. Districts will have to include the purpose and use of the test; the grade or class in which the test is to be administered; the tentative dates on which the test will be administered; and how and when parents and students will be informed of test results. By 2015-16, local school systems will have to include such information in student handbooks that are sent to parents.

## TVA to designate 13 Southeast communities as sustainable

Thirteen communities in the Southeast are hoping to be designated as sustainable communities by the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA designated 13 locations as Valley

Sustainable Communities last year and says 13 more are about to begin the review process. TVA executive John Bradley says the idea is to help communities be prepared when companies look for a site for their business. Corporate executives report sustainability is increasingly important in locating a site. Tennessee communities beginning the process are Blount County; Crossville/Cumberland County; Maury County; Memphis/Shelby County; Morristown/Hamblen County and Murfreesboro.

## TN State Parks partners with "TN Wildside" program

The multiple Emmy-winning TV program, "Tennessee's Wild Side," which produces stories about outdoor opportunities for people across the state, has formed a partnership with Tennessee State Parks. Tennessee State Parks is now a partner and sponsor of the program, which is in its 14th season. The show airs on all six PBS stations in Tennessee, as well as Kentucky Educational Television. The show is also broadcast on The Walk TV, a satellite and online network, carried by more than 200 independent television stations across the country.

a competitive grant process.

For a list of grant recipients and detailed information on each grant, please visit: <http://www.tn.gov/tdot/news/2014/Multimodal.htm>

For more information about the Multimodal Access Fund, project guidelines, and applications, please visit <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/publictrans/fund.htm>.

Multimodal Access Fund Grants were awarded to the following Tennessee communities:

- Athens- \$543,452: for a Multimodal Connections project
- Clarksville- \$803,425: for a sidewalk improvement project along SR 12 and Walnut Street
- Cleveland- \$961,624: for the SR 311/SR 74 Sidewalk and Bus Shelters project
- Dickson- \$294,096: for the SR 46/Pamona Road intersection improvements project
- Greeneville- \$1million: for the Walters State multimodal access

project

- Jackson- \$995,112: for the Highland Ave. multimodal improvements
- Knoxville-\$1 million: for the Merchant Drive/Clinton Highway intersection improvements project
- Lexington-\$664,775: for the Lexington Community Access Transportation Plan
- Lincoln County- \$496,455: for the SR 273/SR 50 intersection improvements project around the courthouse square
- Martin- \$751,990: for the SR 43 and SR 413 multimodal improvements project
- Ripley- \$988,050: for Phase 3 of the Washington Street improvements project
- Shelby County-\$440,000: for the intersection improvements at Greenline East Extension and North Germantown Parkway (SR 177)
- Sparta-\$1 million: for the U.S. 70/West Brockman Way sidewalk enhancement project

## States scale back on road projects

ROAD from Page 1

reduced the buying power of those revenues. At the same time, cars have become more fuel-efficient and Americans are no longer increasing their driving every year, as they had done for decades.

Efforts to find more money for transportation have been stymied in Capitol Hill, where tax increases are increasingly unpopular. The gas tax remains politically toxic, even though both labor and business groups support raising it.

President Obama has suggested creating a federal infrastructure bank; using savings generated by the winding down of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; or closing corporate loopholes to generate money. None of those efforts have gained traction, either.

Instead, Congress used more than \$53 billion in general funds to pay for transportation needs since 2009.

The U.S. Department of Transportation predicts the trust fund will essentially run out of money as soon as July. If that happens, states could face long delays in their reimbursements.

But if states ask for their reimbursements early, the federal government could run out of surface transportation money even sooner, Schroer said.

The bigger question that looms over state budgets is how Congress will respond to the funding crisis. Tennessee's road budget, for example, assumes that Congress keeps funding Tennessee at the same amount.

But state transportation officials worry restrictions placed on the Highway Trust Fund—it cannot run a negative balance or use additional borrowed funds—could cut off federal funding next year.

Schroer prepared two budget plans so Tennessee legislators and

Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, could see different scenarios. One showed the agency's plans if federal funds remained level. The other showed the consequences if federal funding were eliminated.

"A lot of (legislators) were taken aback as was, to some degree, our governor," Schroer said.

Oregon Department of Transportation spokesman Dave Thompson said the prospect of zero federal funds next year is "a tremendous game changer."

In previous crises, Congress used general funds to backfill the transportation account. But federal lawmakers agreed not to do so again. Oregon has not put off projects for this year, but its transportation planners are keeping a close eye on developments in Washington.

"We are absolutely worried," he said. "How can we plan six years ahead if we don't even know how much money we will be getting six months from now?"

## Mixed results for March revenue collections

Tennessee revenue collections reflected mixed results in March. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall March revenues were \$955.8 million. The general fund was under collected by over \$4 million for March and by \$263.9 million year-to-date.

"March collections continued to reflect weaker than anticipated revenues from the corporate sector, while sales tax collections were stronger," Martin said. "We believe the recent increase in retail spending is a reflection of renewed consumer confidence and indicates that the economy is slowly recovering. This growth is important in meeting current revenue projections on which the approved budget amendment was based."

"About a fourth of our corporate income taxes often - but not always - occur in the month of April. We will work with the legislature and others to manage the state's spending and resources regardless of the economic climate, as the state has always done."

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Total tax collections in March were 2.10 percent above the previous year.

The general fund was under collected by \$4.1 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$6.9 million.

Sales tax collections were \$9.4 million more than the estimate for March. The March growth rate was positive 5.51 percent. For eight months revenues are under collected by \$23.4 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was positive 3.58 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$11.7 million below the budgeted estimate of \$199.9 million. For eight months revenues are under collected by \$227.0 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was negative 13.51 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collec-

tions for March increased by 11.78 percent and were \$7.4 million above the budgeted estimate. For eight months revenues are over collected by \$3.1 million.

Tobacco taxes collections were \$4.6 million under the budgeted estimate of \$23.6 million. For eight months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$6.9 million.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$0.4 million for the month. Year-to-date collections for eight months were \$17.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$33,000 less than the March estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through March, collections are \$7.0 million below the estimate. Business tax collections were \$3.7 million above the March estimate. All other taxes were under collected by a net of \$1.8 million.

Year-to-date collections for seven months were \$257.0 million less than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was under collected by \$263.9 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$6.9 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2013-2014 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of December 19, 2012, and adopted by the first session of the 108th General Assembly in April 2013. They are available on the state's website at [www.tn.gov/finance/bud/Revenues.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/finance/bud/Revenues.shtml).

The Funding Board met on December 10, 2013, to hear updated revenue projections from the state's various economists. The board met again on December 17 and adopted revised revenue ranges for 2013-2014.

The revised ranges assume an under collection from the July 2013 budgeted estimate in the amount of \$111.2 million to \$134.5 million in total taxes and in the amount of \$126.1 million to \$145.6 million in general fund taxes for the current fiscal year.

## TML Annual Conference June 22 - 24 in Chattanooga

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.

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will offer several conference sessions this year as part of the CMFO program. The sessions offered will provide "Financial" and "Other" CPEs for CMFO graduates. On Saturday, MTAS will deliver a 2-hour session 9 - 11AM and again from 1 - 3 PM on *Navigating the CMFO Program and CPE Requirements*. Each session will offer 2 "Financial" CPEs for attendees. Registration for these sessions will be through the MTAS Solution Point registration system.

Other CMFO workshops will be offered as part of the regular conference schedule and will address such topics as ethics, communicating financial information, cash flow, water quality reporting, and mixed drink tax.

### AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

#### Saturday, June 21

8 am - 3 pm MTAS EOA  
MTAS / CMFO  
6:30 - 8 pm Hospitality Suite

#### Sunday, June 22

11 am - 5 pm Registration  
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 Reception

#### Monday, June 23

9 - 10 am Workshops  
10:15 - 11:30 am Industrial 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

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



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# Lighting upgrades at the Gatlinburg Convention Center latest in city's energy efficiency projects

BY MARK PENLAND & VAUGHN CASSIDY

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

The city of Gatlinburg continually searches for ways to improve its energy efficiency. In 2008, the city completed a very visible project, converting their annual Winter Magic lights program from incandescent to LED by switching older 5-watt incandescent bulbs to quarter-watt LED bulbs. This move saved the city approximately 85 percent in energy costs and allowed the city to power the entire 120-day festival for the same amount of energy it once took to power only six festival days.

In 2011, the city completed the implementation of a Tennessee Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) project that was designed to improve lighting in public facilities and traffic signal lights. These two successful projects spurred the city to explore ways to reduce energy consumption from the lighting in their convention center. It was with the same goal of reducing energy consumption that the city began exploring ways to upgrade the lighting at the Great Hall located within the Gatlinburg Convention Center in early 2013.

In 2012, they applied for a Clean Tennessee Energy Grant to upgrade the lighting in the Great Hall of the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The matching grant offered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation provided \$30,380 in funding to assist with the total project cost of \$61,923. The project was designed to replace 124 400-watt metal halide bulbs with 250-watt induction lighting fixtures in the Great Hall. The city estimates that the new lighting will save \$11,248 annually in energy cost, providing a relatively short pay-back period of 5.4 years based upon a facility usage of 8,760 hours per year.

The Great Hall is a large space, 67,000 square feet in total, and approximately 50 percent of its energy usage is attributed to lighting. Based upon this usage rate, it was estimated that the energy produced to light the hall annually generated 434 lbs of nitrogen oxides (NOx), 1,379 pounds

of sulfur dioxide (SOx) and 578 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) in air emissions. With the completion of the project in February 2014, it is now estimated that the air emissions generated during the production of the energy required to light the hall will result in a reduction of nitrogen oxides to 76 pounds, sulfur dioxides to 241 pounds and carbon dioxide to 101 pounds annually or approximately 45.9 metric and an overall reduction of the energy required to light the space by 17.5 percent or a savings of 140,601 kWh.

Scott Murphy, facility engineer for the Gatlinburg Convention Center, said, "We had wanted to upgrade our lighting at the convention center for years but we didn't want to go with just any solution. We wanted the best."

The city chose to use induction lighting for the facility lighting upgrades. As Murphy explained, the old metal halide lights were slow to turn on prior to an event and had a lot of heating problems while LEDs were not an option because so much of the light is directional and lost in the application.

"The colors are so much sharper and brighter with the new system and exhibitors and trade show organizers are very impressed with how products look in the light and there's the additional benefit of one-third lower operating temperature and ease of maintenance that makes this system so attractive" said Murphy.

Induction lighting technology is not a new science. In fact, the basic principles were first discovered more than 30 years ago, but were not commercially viable until recently. Basically it is gas discharge through magnetism. Rings with magnetic coils create an electromagnetic field using a high frequency that is generated by an electronic ballast. They are similar to traditional fluorescent lighting but the ballast is external. This difference allows the use of different gases to be used for the plasma phase without concerns of them reacting with the metal in the electrodes. These improvements allow for improved operating efficiency and longer life of the lamp.

Mary Evans with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and an organizer of the 43rd Annual Environmental Show of



The Great Hall is a large space, 67,000 square feet in total, and approximately 50 percent of its energy usage is attributed to lighting. The city estimates that the new lighting will save \$11,248 annually in energy cost, providing a relatively short pay-back period



the South Conference said, "We are looking forward to learning of the reactions from our exhibitors to the upgraded lighting in the Gatlinburg Convention Center. I believe the new lighting will brighten colors and enhance product displays in a positive way."

In addition to the lighting upgrade, Murphy indicated the city is

exploring the possibility of installing a solar array on the convention center roof, further proof that the city is committed to sustainability. This commitment is communicated to the community through its Gatlinburg Goes Green program. This voluntary educational program recognizes member businesses that have made a commitment to improve their

operations in order to reduce their environmental impact. This project is the culmination of the city's efforts to improve energy efficiency in all of its public facilities.

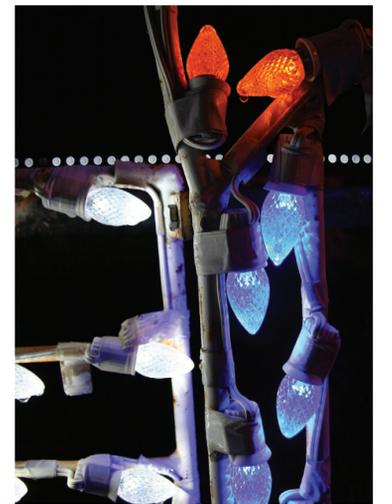
"I am very pleased with the results of the upgrade as are others who have used the convention center. The retrofits were quick and very easy," said Murphy.



In 2011, the city completed the implementation of a Tennessee Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) project that was designed to improve lighting in public facilities and traffic signal lights.



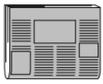
By converting their annual Winter Magic lights program from incandescent to LED and switching 5-watt bulbs to quarter watt LED bulbs, the city of Gatlinburg has saved 85 percent in energy costs.



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### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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

## Key legislation that affects cities

### LEGISLATION from Page 1

defined benefit pension plans to be fully contributing the minimum actuarially required annual contribution by June 2020. Failure to do so would result in a proportionate amount withheld from state shared taxes by the state and remitted to the vendor maintaining such pension plan. Local governments who do not meet the annual funding percentage must file a plan of correction to the state treasurer for consideration.

- **Gangs/Public Nuisance.** New legislation allows prosecutors to go to court and seek to enforce public-nuisance laws against gangs. The bill authorizes judges to designate a geographically defined area in any injunction issued against a gang, preventing members from gathering in public in groups of two or more, and preventing any gang members from entering any public ground, place or space where the gang has been found to carry out its operations.

### Taken off notice

- **Hall income tax.** Legislation to phase out the Hall income tax on earnings from stocks and bonds was taken off notice, despite pressure from two national organizations, Americans for Prosperity and Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform, to eliminate the tax. With the state facing a \$280 million deficit, the Governor and lawmakers agreed the state couldn't afford to make any tax cuts. In 2011, the legislature already voted to raise the Hall exemption for senior citizens, as well as eliminated the gift tax, cut the sales tax on food by a half cent and begun phasing out the inheritance tax by 2016.

- **Guns in Parks.** A bill that would have removed the authority of local governments to opt out of a state law that allows handgun carry permit holders to carry a handgun in a city park was taken off notice. In 2009, the General Assembly adopted PC 428, allowing handgun permit holders to possess a handgun while in parks, natural areas, campgrounds and similar public places. The law also allows local governments to prohibit such possession in parks and similar areas owned by the local government upon majority vote of its governing body.

### COLLECTIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

**COLLIERVILLE.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the full time position of Collections and Special Projects Coordinator. This is responsible, specialized administrative work managing services affiliated with the museum's operation. This position works under the direct supervision of the museum director. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree with major course work in Museum Studies, Art, Art History or a closely related field; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Must be able to pass a work related physical and drug test. May require attendance at business functions outside regular business hours. May require occasional lifting/moving of items between 20 -50 pounds, therefore, some physical strength and agility is required. Salary is \$25,747.00 with excellent benefits package. Must possess and maintain a valid motor vehicle operator's license. First-aid and C.P.R. certification required within six months of employment. FLSA Status: Non-exempt. Normal scheduled hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 8-5, but hours are flexible depending on events scheduled each week. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Job Number is: JN14-26AD. Job opened until filled. We regret we are unable to answer all inquiries. We will only notify candidates selected for testing or interviews. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017. Applications are also available at [Collierville.com](http://Collierville.com). Please submit a new application each time you apply for a town job. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. The town of Collierville is EOE and does not discriminate in hiring. Minorities, women and disables are encouraged to apply. If you have a disability and require special accommodations during the selection process, please notify the Human Resources Office at 901-457-2290. The town of Collierville is a drug free workplace.

### 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. 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.lavergnctn.gov/?page\\_id=172](http://www.lavergnctn.gov/?page_id=172).

### POLICE CHIEF

**PLEASANT VIEW.** The town is seeking applications from qualified individuals to fill the position of Police Chief. This position reports to the mayor and is responsible for the planning, organizing, and directing of all activities for the police department. The town offers competitive benefits and salary. Salary range for the position is \$42,347.82 to \$56,516.80 DOQ/E/ED. Applications may be obtained at Hall, 1008 Civic Court, Pleasant View, TN 37146. Please submit a resume with job application. All applications must be turned in at City Hall no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, May 5, 2014.

### 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.

## TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

### May 2-10: Portland 73rd Annual Strawberry Festival

The theme this year is "Just Good Ol' Berries." James Best AKA "Rosco P Coltrane" is grand marshal on May 10, the big parade day. For a complete schedule of events, visit <http://portlandcofc.com/m/events/view/Strawberry-Festival>.

### May 2-4: Memphis

*Memphis in May*  
The city's largest events like the Beale Street Music Festival, the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest and the Sunset Symphony. Memphis in May also produces extensive education, international, and economic programs for the city. The Beale Street Music Festival (May 2-4); Salute to Panama (May 5-11); Barbecue Cooking Contest (May 15-17); and Autozone Sunset Symphony (May 24). For tickets and complete festival information, visit <http://www.memphisinmay.org/>

### May 4-10: Humboldt

*West TN Strawberry Festival*  
Since 1934, carnival, parades, beauty contests and loads of fresh strawberries. Visit <http://www.wtsf.org/> for complete schedule and information.

### May 9: Franklin

*Eat the Street*  
A food truck festival downtown from 5-9 pm. Forty food vendors this year featuring a variety of delicious offerings. The festival serves as a fundraiser for the 21st Drug Court, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that offers a treatment alternative to traditional sentencing for nonviolent offenders whose crimes result from drug or alcohol addiction.

### May 9-10: Gainesboro

*36th Annual Poke Sallet Festival*  
Gainesboro-Jackson County Chamber of Commerce hosts in Historic Downtown. Join the activities, music, International Poke Sallet Cook-off, and The Outhouse Races. For more information, contact 931-268-0971 or e-mail [JacksonCountyChamber@TWLakes.net](mailto:JacksonCountyChamber@TWLakes.net), [Facebook.com/PokeSalletFestival](http://Facebook.com/PokeSalletFestival), or visit [Gainesboro-JCChamber.com](http://Gainesboro-JCChamber.com).

### May 10: Morristown

*Strawberry Festival*  
For a complete schedule of events, visit <http://www.morristownstrawberryfestival.com/>.

### May-Aug.: Knoxville

*Concerts on the Square*  
Held at Market Square. Get ready to swing, rock, or croon with hundreds of fellow music lovers at the The Jazz Tuesdays and Variety Thursdays concerts in May. Marble City 5 will provide the cool jazz on Tuesdays, from May 6 through August 26. The tunes will flow from 8-10 pm on the stage at the Bill Lyons Pavilion. The Variety Thursdays concert series starts May 1 and ends June 26. From 7-9 pm on consecutive Thursdays, get a sampling of the wide variety of genres performed by local bands – from classical music to blues, from swing to Americana, from soft rock to country. All concerts are free – including parking, which is free after 6 pm at Market Square, State Street and Locust Street garages. No alcohol or food sold on Market Square during the concerts, apart from what is served on the patios of surrounding restaurants. Concertgoers are invited to bring chairs or blankets to sit on the square and enjoy the shows. Like and follow the Special Events Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKnoxvilleSpecialEvents>, to stay updated on the bands and on any cancellations due to the weather.

### May 14-16: Nashville

*3rd Annual Tennessee Bike Summit*  
The Tour De Nash is the next day on May 17th and will be a great event to participate in after the Summit. To see the schedule, review the speakers and to register, visit: [http://www.tnbikesummit.org/?utm\\_campaign=TN%20Bike%20Summit&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_content=Bike%20Summit#schedule](http://www.tnbikesummit.org/?utm_campaign=TN%20Bike%20Summit&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_content=Bike%20Summit#schedule)

### May 16-17: Sevierville

*Bloomin' Barbeque & Bluegrass*  
Downtown. A family-friendly event featuring the biggest names in bluegrass music, up-and-coming artists on the Hard Rock Café Community Stage, the nation's top BBQ cook teams in the Bush's Best Tennessee State Championship Cook-Off, and the Mountain Soul vocal competition honoring hometown girl Dolly Parton. Event goers can also enjoy delicious foods, handmade crafts and kids' games, including a headline performance from rising bluegrass supergroup, The SteelDrivers. Festivities and music get underway Friday at 5 pm with a live performance from Grammy winning and national fingerpicking champion, Bill Mize. Living legend Bobby Osborne & Rocky Top Xpress will also perform two shows recognizing his 50 years as a member of the Grand Ole Opry. Saturday evening's headliner is the SteelDrivers. Admission and concerts are free. For complete musical lineup and festival information, visit <http://bloominbbq.com/>.

### May 17: Unicoi

*Wayne Scott Strawberry Festival*  
In honor of the late Wayne Scott, founder of Wayne Scott Farms. A grand festival kickoff begins at 9 am with a parade beginning at the parking lot of the Unicoi Funeral Home. Attendees can view at the field at Unicoi Elementary School. Festival's events include arts and crafts, a dunking booth which is likely to feature some local officials, pie-throwing, cornhole tournament, strawberry recipe contest, and bluegrass and gospel music throughout the day. Opening ceremonies get underway at 10 am. Sample strawberry desserts and try out some of the fresh-from-the-vine strawberries provided by Scott Farms. Those wishing to register for the cornhole tournament sponsored by the Clinchfield Senior Adult Center and Clinchfield Federal Credit Union may pre-register by calling 743-5111. The registration fee for a two-person team is \$20. Pre-registration is suggested as registration on the day of the event will be limited. The winning team will receive \$100 and plaques, while the second place team will receive ribbons. Those wishing to place entries in the strawberry recipe contest must do so by 11 am the day of the festival. Winners will be announced at noon.

### June 13: Livingston

*Live in Livingston*  
A free Summer Concert series the second Friday night of June, July, and August from 5:30 pm - 9 pm on the historic Courthouse Square downtown. Bring your family and experience true Americana Music from Overton County ... "Home of Americana Music." For more information, visit [www.homeofamerica.com](http://www.homeofamerica.com) or call 1.800.876.7393.

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**Industry partnerships and job force education are just two strategies states are using to fight persistent unemployment.** In every state and the District of Columbia, the labor force participation rate is shrinking, which represents the proportion of the population 16 and over that has jobs or is looking for work. Despite a dip in the national unemployment rate to 6.7 percent at the end of 2013, 10 million Americans remained jobless. Over the last five years, the national job participation rate has dropped almost 3 percentage points, to 63.2 percent—the lowest level since 1978. In 2008, as the recession kicked in, the rate was 66.0 percent. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) attributes about half the 3 percentage point decline in labor participation to the aging population and other long-term trends; about 1 percentage point drop to weakness in job prospects and wages, which prompts frustrated job-seekers to leave the workforce temporarily; and about one-half of a percentage point decline to discouraged jobless workers dropping out of the labor force permanently. The trend is expected to continue through 2016. CBO projects the workforce participation rate will continue to fall, dropping to 62.5 percent by the end of 2017. To help the unemployed get back to work, at least 17 state legislatures passed laws regarding workforce development last year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

**As electronic cigarettes soar in popularity, the U.S. government is proposing historic rules to ban their sale to minors and require warning labels as well as federal approval.** Three years after saying it would regulate e-cigarettes, the

Food and Drug Administration is moving to control not only these battery-powered devices but also cigars, pipe tobacco, hookahs (water pipes) and dissolvable tobacco products. Currently, the FDA regulates cigarettes, roll-your-own tobacco and smokeless products such as snuff. The proposed rules won't ban advertising unless the products make health-related claims nor will they ban the use of flavors such as chocolate or bubble gum, which public health officials say might attract children. E-cigarettes contain varying ingredients and levels of nicotine that are heated into a vapor that users inhale in a practice known as "vaping." Most look like conventional cigarettes but some resemble everyday items such as pens and USB memory sticks. An increasing number of states have cracked down by extending indoor smoking restrictions to e-cigarettes. Last month, U.S. poison centers reported a surge in illnesses linked to the liquid nicotine used in the devices.

**U.S. public high schools have reached a milestone, an 80 percent graduation rate.** Yet that still means 1 of every 5 students walks away without a diploma. Citing the progress, researchers are projecting a 90 percent national graduation rate by 2020. Their report, based on Education Department statistics from 2012, was presented at the Building a GradNation Summit. The growth has been spurred by such factors as a greater awareness of the dropout problem and efforts by districts, states and the federal government to include graduation rates in accountability measures. Among the initiatives are closing "dropout factory" schools. Most of the growth has occurred since 2006 after decades

of stagnation. In addition, schools are taking aggressive action, such as hiring intervention specialists who work with students one on one, to keep teenagers in class. The rate of 80 percent is based on federal statistics primarily using a calculation by which the number of graduates in a given year is divided by the number of students who enrolled four years earlier. Adjustments are made for transfer students.

**Transit agencies around the country are increasing their use of alternative fuels.** The American Public Transportation Association (APTA), reports that last year more than 40 percent of transit buses used alternative fuels. One in five transit buses runs on natural gas. Another 13 percent are hybrid-electric and 7 percent run on biodiesel. The 40 percent of buses using alternative energy compares with 3.4 percent for automobiles (including flex-fuel vehicles). The first transit agencies to use alternative fuel vehicles generally did so out of concerns for the environment, said APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy, noting that much of the alternative fuels being used are produced domestically. But more agencies are making the switch now that the technology is cheaper, smaller, safer and easier to use. The environmental benefits of using alternative fuels is still a matter of great debate. The industry group Natural Gas Vehicles for America, claims that new natural gas vehicles can emit as much as 21 percent less greenhouse gases than new diesel vehicles. But a study published earlier this year in the journal *Science* concluded that those savings were negated by methane leaks elsewhere in natural gas transmission networks.

## Senate announce plans for transportation

MAP-21, from Page 1

gas tax revenues and cut funding for Amtrak subsidies and transit capital programs.

President Obama and House Ways and Means Chair Dave Camp have offered proposals to use money from corporate tax reform to pay for a new transportation bill. The President's proposal would transfer \$150 billion to the Highway Trust Fund to fund a four-year infrastructure bill; Rep. Camp's proposal would transfer \$125 billion.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that the Highway Trust

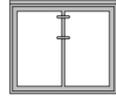
Fund will be depleted by the fall. The current gas tax at 18.4 cents has not been increased since 1993 and generates \$34 billion annually.

With key committees turning their attention to the transportation renewal, local officials are urged to contact their legislators to let them know how important federal transportation revenues are to their community.

NLC asks that in their conversations with their Congressional Delegation, they should be specific in outlining what critical investments have been made with federal dollars

and what would be lost without the funding. They should also stress that since transportation is so critical to job creation and economic output, along with the \$53 billion in additional revenues raised by local governments to fund transportation investments in 2011, it is the position of NLC that more funding decisions must be in the hands of local officials acting through their local planning organizations. Local decision-making is a key component to cost-effective and well thought out transportation projects.

## COMING UP



**TDEC second round of public input meeting dates for 2015-2025 Statewide Integrated Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan:** The plan will serve as a roadmap for the state's activities to reduce and manage solid waste in the future. The four public input meetings will be held May 5-8 in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville and Jackson. In addition, one interactive Web-based meeting will be held May 7. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about alternatives for managing waste that are being considered in response to priorities identified in the special focus meetings and through written comments submitted to date. Comments and questions may be submitted to TDEC's Division of Solid Waste Management at [solid.waste@tn.gov](mailto:solid.waste@tn.gov).  
**Meeting schedule:**  
 • May 5, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm EDT, Knoxville Environmental Field Office, 3711 Middlebrook Pike  
 • May 6, 1 – 3 pm EDT, Chattanooga Public Library, First Floor Auditorium, 1001 Broad St.  
 • May 7, 3 – 5 pm CDT, Ellington Agricultural Center, Ed Jones Auditorium, 416 Hogan Rd., Nashville  
 • May 8, 10 am – Noon CDT, Jackson State Community College, Ayers Auditorium, 2046 North Pkwy.  
 \* May 7, 11 am – 1 pm CDT  
 Noon – 2 pm EDT, Web-based meeting  
 Details for joining this meeting will be posted soon at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/solid-waste/plan-2025>.

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## No loan is too large or too small



The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Ripley closed a \$1 million loan for a new fire hall and equipment.

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# Earth Day 2014 revolves around sustainable projects, learning

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

## A time of Innocence

In the 1970s, on the heels of the Vietnam War, Woodstock and the height of the hippie/flower-child movement in the U.S., mainstream America relied heavily on demonstrations to express a growing awareness about the need for a safer, cleaner environment. Green energy, at that time, wasn't a household word and factory pollutants were routinely released into the water, soil and air by big industry with little fear of legal repercussions.

April 22, 1970, America's first Earth Day, brought 20 million protestors to the streets, parks and universities demanding government accountability. Not long after, amendments to the Clean Air Act were passed along with Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created.

On Earth Day 2014, environmental stewardship is exhibited in everyday acts, as citizens make greener choices from how they heat and cool their homes and businesses to curbside recycling—these small acts add up to big savings and rewards in sustainability.

## Goodlettsville, a learning center

A group of approximately 112 people are gathered around a long-haired bearded man at Goodlettsville's Moss Wright Park. No protest signs this time, just a peaceful discussion



On Earth Day 2014, third grade students from Algood Elementary identify species of trees at the Tennessee Residence as part of a free educational program launched by First Lady Crissy Haslam.

on the biodynamics of organic gardening by popular organic gardener Jeff Poppin, aka The Barefoot Gardener. The pilot program is part of a free Master Gardeners Education Series that runs May through October through a partnership between the city and the Sumner County Master Gardening Association.

The series features a variety of speakers and subjects ranging from edible and native plants, Tennessee trees, food preservation and bee-keeping to butterflies.

"More people are getting into growing their own food and paying attention to what food they eat and where it comes from," notes Master Gardener Sue Edwards. "Ten years ago, there were maybe five organic gardens in the Nashville area. Now there are probably 20 organic farms, some huge, that provide food to restaurants and grocery stores."

The Master Gardeners Association, organized in cooperation with the University of Tennessee Extension Service, requires participants to perform volunteer gardening services throughout local communities and complete continuing education classes regularly to qualify as Master Gardeners.

"Because all of the speakers for the series are so highly qualified, any Master Gardener that wants to attend these sessions will receive CEU credits," Edwards said. "It's good information for the community and helps Master Gardeners to continue their education."

The Master Gardeners have volunteered at the historic Bowen-Campbell House planting and harvesting the gardens since 2005.

It's all part of a learning culture in living off the land at Moss Wright Park, where pioneer re-enactments at Mansker's Station and the planting and processing of vegetables, flowers, herbs and even textile plants, fuel the imaginations of the hundreds of children and adults that visit there each year.



Earth Day, April 22, 1970 was held at the height of the hippie movement and Vietnam War protests. The Earth Day Network calls it a time when "Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans and the industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences." Public and political awareness grew, as the government established the EPA along with environmental acts governing clean air and water.

"We try to have a variety of plants that perhaps students haven't seen before, like cotton, flax, geiko, or buckwheat," Edwards said.

Nearly all of what's grown in the garden is used during the teaching process.

"For example we don't just grow

green solution to one form of river pollution.

The Parks Department agreed to donate a spot of land for students to develop the project and provided information and pointers before students, parents and friends constructed the garden.

"We were actually planning to develop a landscape around that restroom area and this rain garden will tie into that," said Brian Walker, Franklin Park & Rec Landscape and Grounds foreman. "Anytime you have rainwater coming off a roof, if you can capture that and allow it to filter naturally down into the soil, it can only benefit the environment as a whole."

"The first thing they did was take measurements of the roof line," he continued. "The students were able to calculate the size of the rain garden needed and get appropriate plant material that would help

filter the rain water so it would get down into the soil.

Although the plant material is still small, the garden's catch basin, which is about 12 inches deep, is fully functional. The basin catches the water and the plant material root system helps filter out pollutants.

The Franklin Parks Department will take on the responsibility of tending the rain garden in the future.

"It's a small garden," said Walker. "But when small pieces come together, it can solve a big problem."

## Tennessee Residence Tree-Mendous Trail program

On Earth Day, First Lady Crissy Haslam hosted 25 third grade students from Algood Elementary School at the Tennessee Residence to launch a new tree education program. Created in partnership with Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) Division of Forestry, the Tennessee Residence Tree-Mendous Trail invites students to learn about and identify different trees located on the property.

"Students can participate in the Tennessee Residence Tree-Mendous Trail to learn about how trees contribute to our environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife," Haslam said. The students participated in the tree education program with Tim Phelps, an education forester with TDA Division of Forestry.

More than 50 different species of trees have been identified on the property, which can qualify the Residence as a Level 1 Arboretum, according to standards enforced by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. An arboretum plays an important role in the area of conservation and preservation, where endangered plants and trees can be protected and propagated to preserve the biological diversity of the planet.

The First Lady introduced field trips at the Tennessee Residence in March, and the Tree-Mendous Trail program as an additional learning opportunity for students. Field trip reservations can be made free of charge through the First Lady's website, <http://www.tn.gov/firstlady/>



The city of Franklin joined with the sixth grade class from Freedom Intermediate School to create a model rain garden at Pinkerton Park. Pictured are: Aubri Hurt, kneeling. Other students are: Jady Steward, Eli Greiss. High School volunteers were Lelia Greiss from Centennial and Luke Lucas from Page. Parents and friends, Nancy Carter, Malia Greiss and Stephen Greiss. Also Brian Walker from Parks Dept. and instructor Barbara Orr from Freedom Intermediate School.

residence/tour-student.shtml.

## Oak Ridge, the green secret's out

The city of Oak Ridge, is on the verge of becoming the first city in the Southeast to be selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

a community event on June 21.

"If we can get 100 new green power purchasers, Oak Ridge will have the highest green power program participation rate in the Tennessee Valley," said City Manager Mark Watson. "The large green power



Well know organic farmer, speaker and author Jeff Poppin, aka "The Barefoot Farmer," answers numerous questions from the audience at Goodlettsville's Master Gardener's series at Moss Wright Park. The free series of speakers and topics, runs through the summer into October.

as a Green Power Community.

The EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy renewable energy. To be designated as a Green Power Community, a local government must purchase or produce green power in amounts that meet EPA minimum purchase requirements as determined by com-

purchase by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the City of Oak Ridge's recent commitment, and the ongoing support of the residents and businesses of Oak Ridge has made our community a leader in green power purchasing."

For more information about greenpower communities, visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/>



The city of Kingsport held a Zero Emissions Day on April 22, where participants were encouraged to reduce emissions by walking or biking rather than drive gas burning vehicles. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation also gave away free radon test kits to the public at a free guided bird walk "On the Kingsport Birding Trail." The city also presented its first ever Stormwater Management Award to Littlejohn Engineering, who uses rain gardens to mitigate run-off from the parking lot of a nearby restaurant.

community electricity usage.

Green power is defined as electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind, solar, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydropower.

Oak Ridge Electric Department customers can buy Green certified renewable energy through TVA's Green Power Switch program.

To qualify, local governments must also initiate a community-wide green power campaign to encourage renewable energy purchases. The city, playing off its nickname as the "Secret City" due to its historical origins, created a campaign called, "The Secret's Out: Oak Ridge Loves Green Power," to encourage residents and businesses to buy green power.

The city kicked off the campaign April 26 at its Earth Day Festival in Bissell Park and will conclude with

communities/index.htm.

## Green Cities Campaign

The Earth Day Network Green Cities campaign is designed to help cities around the world become more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint. Focused on three key elements— buildings, energy, and transportation— the campaign aims to help cities accelerate the transition to a cleaner, healthier, and more economically viable future through improvements in efficiency, investments in renewable technology, and regulation reform.

Earth Day Network will work with partners in strategically placed cities and towns to organize grassroots efforts to improve local codes, ordinances, and policies that will help cities become model green cities. For more information, visit <http://www.earthday.org/>.