The sales tax deduction of 2004 was to be about 75 percent of state governments and added to the popular measure to make the deduction available to those who itemize. As soon as possible, go to www.irs.gov for updated rules on how to make the claim when they file their return. As soon as possible, go to www.irs.gov for updated rules on how to make the claim when they file their return.
Bredesen names new staff members

Gov. Phil Bredesen named Stuart Branson as Deputy to the Governor and Steve Elkins as Deputy Counsel to the Governor. Branson replaces outgoing Deputy to the Governor Dave Cooley, who recently announced plans to return to the private sector. Elkins is a Bob Cooper, who was appointed Tennessee’s attorney general and reporter on Oct. 1.

“Stuart has been an important part of my political and public service success. He is careful and committed in style of management will be immeasurable to me as deputy not, said Bredesen. “Steve Elkins has proven himself to be a skilled and knowledgeable counsel to me, and I’m pleased that he is stepping into an important new role.

Branson, a longtime trusted advisor to the Governor, most recently led Bredesen’s 2006 re-election ef- fort as his campaign manager. The campaign achieved a historic victory, winning all of Tennessee counties and capturing the most votes in state history.

Branson also served as the campaign manager for Gov. Bredesen’s successful 2002 campaign. Following the election, Branson served as Deputy Director of Bredesen’s transition team, helping identify people to fill key posts throughout state government.

“Gov. Bredesen has laid out a positive, pragmatic vision for Ten- nessee, and I am honored to be a part of the team that will help move his agenda forward,” Branson said.

Branson, 39, is a Memphis, Tennessee, native who received a bachelor’s degree in English and history from the University of Memphis, Oxford, a law degree from the Univer- sity of Tennessee College of Law and has served Vanderbilts University Divinity School.

Branson’s appointment is effective immediately.

Branson’s replacement has not yet been announced as Tennessee’s attorney general and reporter. Elkins’ appointment is effective immediately.

At Tennessean, where he graduated cum laude, Elkins’ appointment is effective immediately.

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Aging demographic to impact health benefits, services

AGING, continued from Page 1

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According to the 2006 Government Finance Review, as benefit costs increase, financially strapped governments could find themselves raising taxes, cutting other spending, or more likely, scaling back current and future benefits.

As detailed in ICMA’s Management Strategies for Healthy and Livable Communities, cities can possibly lower the cost of retiree health benefits, services such as senior centers, meals, and targeting major goals for the future;

As the cost of insurance and medicare escalate, the; municipalities can benefit of citizens of all ages for generations to come.

As the 2006 program held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds, the Metro Parks Swinging Seniors Dancers perform all around Nashville at various events. Here they are at the Senior Expo

Congressman Jim Cooper encourages senior citizens to continue educating themselves and participating in government.

The city of Jacksonville participates in annual senior games where the winners compete in the Tennessee Senior Games then on to the national Senior Games. Programs such as this one help keep seniors active physically and socially.

Strategies for promoting active aging

When asked why they do not walk, older adults cite distance, walking difficulties, poor sidewalks, lack of resting places, and fear of crime as some of the top reasons, according to the ICMA guide for Active Living for Older Adults. Active aging and homeownership promotes healthy lifestyles and reduces insurance costs down.

“Beyond traditional aging services such as senior centers, meal-on-wheels programs, and home care, ICMA studies predict that older adults who live more physically active and social lives are healthier and prone to become more socially and civically involved with their communities, contributing years of experience and education.

“Our recent campaign is Get up, Get out and Get active!” said Sandy MacDairmid superintendent of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation.

MacDairmid is working on a campaign to permanently mark the distance along the community’s local walking trail.

“We promote walking and offer a wide variety of sports for seniors from table tennis to senior ladies volleyball,” MacDairmid said.

“We plan to participate in the 2007 senior Olympics. Our women’s basketball team has placed in the nationals and winners of our April senior games will go on to the state games in Clarksville. With several wonderful parks and walking trails, we are campaigning to get our younger and older seniors out and active.”

For governments interested in promoting and developing active aging concepts within their communities, ICMA suggests that local governments begin by fostering an understanding of current trends, conducting an analysis of the distribution of population, services and amenities within their communities to adapt policies and programs as they pertain to older adults and the concept of active living.

Where do these concentrations of older residents reside?

• Where are the basic services such as health care facilities, supermarkets, restaurants, post offices, and libraries located?

• Where are parks and walking trails located?

• Which areas have continuous network of sidewalks?

• Which areas are well served by public transportation?

• Which areas of town are already compact, walkable, and mixed-use in character?

• Where are vacant parcels of land located?

By synthesizing this information into a map format, local governments can begin to assess active living opportunities around the city for its older residents, identifying and targeting major goals for the future.

Other recommendations are:

• Communicating active living considerations across all depart- ments and coordinating and collaborating with partners from other local government such as churches, foundations and universities.

• Creating email-disciplinary task force to examine issues on aging and active living, involving older residents, particularly neighbor- hood associations and senior citizen groups in the process, and educating seniors about municipal planning policies and procedures, so that they may understand and take part in the process.

Today’s retirees will wish to stay active in their retirement years and seek municipal services to facilitate their choices.

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TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail or fax. Each Friday during the legislative session, TML prepares and distributes a weekly bulletin. To receive the TML Legislative Bulletin by e-mail or fax, please send your contact information to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, b-6-e-mail to mlawrence@TML1.org or call 615-255-6416.

Bank of America is proud to support Tennessee Municipal League.

TML is happy to keep the office of the Governor apprised of legislative happenings through e-mail or fax. Each Friday during the legislative session, TML prepares and distributes a weekly bulletin.

The City of Henderson recently closed a loan with TMBF for improve-ments to city-owned buildings, streets, and the water and sewer systems. Shown at the loan closing are (L-R) TMBF Vice President Kevin Barnett, Mayor Charles Patterson, and City Recorder Jim Garland.

Tennessee’s auto supply industry is being impacted by slower car sales nationwide. The state has seen more layoffs and plant closings over the year than job announcements by a 2-to-1 margin.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency’s system for pre-paredness and response to disaster has received conditional accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. The state has up to nine months to complete any corrective steps required and seek full accreditation. Eight states have achieved full accreditation and six states, including Tennessee, have been granted conditional accreditation by EMAP.

Eight governors have joined Gov. Bredesen in requesting President George W. Bush to provide the states $500 million in federal funds to help with costs related to the detainment of illegal immigrants.

Two Middle Tennessee watersheds, Red River and Upper Duck River, have been designated part of the national Conservation Security Program by the U.S. secretary of agriculture. The designation allows farmers living in the watershed areas to apply for Conservation Security Program funds through the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation projects a $2 billion gap between what the state’s highway needs will be and what the state can afford to do over the next 15 years. A study done by the Frontier Foundation, a libertarian think tank, indicates the state will need to build much more than 2,750 new lane miles to avoid traffic jams on the scale of Boston’s I-90 plans to emphasize maintenance of roads, improving roadway centers, encouraging vanpools and park-and-rides, and then adding to the capacity in areas where most needed.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol may be granted new enforcement power of federal immigration laws following the formal request filing for the power with the federal Homeland Security Department. The request is for one federally-trained trooper and special agent each to each of the state’s eight districts.

Plateau Properties has donated approximately $300 acres of land to the state. The donation, pending approval by the State Building Commission, includes a craggy-edged portion of Bandy Mountain and a piece of the Cumberland Trail along with an historic cave.

The Tennessee Fusion Center, partnership of the Tennessee Homeland Security and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has been created as a “one-stop shopping” network for information on potential sympathetic or criminal. The fusion center, paid for with federal Homeland Security funds and an appropriation from the General Assembly, will be a clearinghouse for information submitted and analyzed and forwarded to the state.

Tennessee professional licensees can be renewed online with the state Department of Commerce and Insurance with instant confirmation. This system is available through Tennessee’s online service. See www.TML1.org/online.

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The 2006 National League of Cities; Reno, Nevada

(Pictured left to right) Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk, Memphis Councilmember Barbara Swaninger-Holt, and Franklin Mayor Tom Miller.

(Led to right) Metro Nashville Vice Mayor Council Office Roseanne Hayes, Metro Nashville Councilmember and incoming State Representative Brenda Gilmore, and TML Director of Conference Planning Sylvia Trice.

Linda Ford and Farragut Mayor Eddy Ford.

(Metro Nashville Councilmember Eric Crafton and Miiko Crafton.

(Left to right) Murfreesboro Councilmember David Edwards, Susan Young, and Murfreesboro Councilmember Doug Young.

Chattanooga Councilmember John Franklin, Alamo Mayor Tommy Green, and Franklin City Administrator Jay Johnson.

(Left to right) Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg and President and CEO TN Municipal Bond Fund Bones Seivers.
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You also get the benefit of their unique tooling such as hydraulic test benches, engine dynamometers, and fuel system test equipment to ensure the quality of repair service they provide you.

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Governor and First Lady host annual “A Season to Remember”

Gov. Phil Bredesen and First Lady Andrea Bredesen hosted families from across Tennessee for “A Tennessee Season to Remember,” an annual holiday memorial event to honor Tennesseans who have lost their lives to violent crime.

Nearly 100 families gathered in the Tennessee House Chambers to hear the names of their loved ones read as they hang ornaments on one of two memorial wreaths. The wreaths will be on display in the Capitol throughout the holiday season.

“A losing a family member or friends to homicide is devastating, and there is no way to have a special or especially difficult time,” Conte said as she greeted the group. “Nothing can ever replace that precious life, but we honor the richness of their lives in our own.”

Joining the ceremony was Sen. Charlotte Burks who hung an ornament in memory of her husband, Sen. Tommy Burks. Representative presents from Tennessee’s Judicial District hang ornaments in remembrance of victims they have represented, and law enforcement officials and special honorary service representatives from across the state killed this year in the line of service.

This event has moved from the Mayor’s Office at the Metropolitan Court House to Centennial Park to accommodate the large crowds.

January Municipal Administration Program Sewer Rehabilitation Strategy Workshop

This program will review the success of the approach Nashville used to achieve a greater than 50 percent reduction in Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) utilizing a 10 step rehabilitation program. This session will also address what your operators can do to investigate and reduce I/I.

Instructors


Who should attend

This program has been developed for administrators, engineers and utility managers, collection system supervintors and managing operators to address the need for sewer system management and sewer rehabilitation.

Happy Holidays

And a Joyous New Year

From your Risk Management Partner,

The TML Risk Management Pool

May Your City Enjoy

The Blessing of the Season.
The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association recently presented the following individual awards during its annual conference at Paris Landing State Park in Buchanan, Tenn.

**Fellow Award** – The highest honor the association can confer on an individual. It recognizes professional members of TRPA that have made outstanding contributions to the recreation field, over and above their normal and expected duties.

- **Austin Feurer**, CPRP, Director Atkins Parks and Recreation

**Young Professional Award** – This award recognizes a young professional who exemplifies the management skills to plan a wide variety of parks and recreation opportunities and activities; and who through leadership, inspiration and incentive has made noteworthy contributions to their local service area and for the association.

- **Jeni Brinkman**, Aquatics Coordinator, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation

**Lifetime Member Awards** – Honors and recognizes individuals who have made numerous and/or significant long-term contributions within the parks and recreation profession.

- **Booker White**, retired from Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation

- **Homer Gray**, retired from Tennente Valley Authority

### Recreation and Parks Association Awards

- **Waynesboro**
  - The Wayne County Joint Economic Development Corporation is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Community Planner. This position is responsible for the management and coordination of all aspects of the Comprehensive Community Planning process including recruitment, proposal development, logistical development, and delivering training seminars. Requirements: bachelor's degree in planning or related field with minimum of three years of professional experience. Salary: $45,000 plus commission up to $25,000. EOE/M/F.

- **Sparta**
  - The city of Sparta is accepting resumes and applications for the position of Utilities Manager. Responsibilities include the management of water, sewer, electric, and gas operations and systems. Qualifications: bachelor's degree in engineering or related field with five years of related experience. Salary: $35,000 to $40,000. EOE/M/F.

- **Seymour**
  - The city of Seymour is accepting applications for the position of Senior Operations Manager. Responsibilities include the management of water, sewer, and stormwater systems to enhance efficient and effective water service. Qualifications: bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related field is required. Experience in water systems is preferred. Salary: $50,000 to $55,000. EOE/M/F.

### Regional Efforts

Aided by an interpreter (far right), four Russian delegates recently met with staff members of the Tennessee Municipal League and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to research policies and procedures relative to municipal self-governance. Self-governing legislation enacted in Russia in 2003 has vastly expanded the number of municipalities and local responsibilities for basic services.

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The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) encourages Tennesseans to participate in Main Street events and patron small businesses in downtown districts.

“Across Tennessee, local downtowns and businesses want to bring families together for holiday events and provide a personalized shopping experience,” said Kimberly Nyberg, ECD Main Street coordinator. “Shoppers have the satisfaction of investing dollars in the economic growth of our own community and experiencing a level of individual attention and customer service not found elsewhere.”

“When you visit downtown merchants, no matter what community you live in, you are greeted with attention with a smile, hands-on service and unique products,” said Shanee Mace, executive director of Main Street Columbia. “It is the experience of a slower pace and you feel good when you are there.”

Tennessee’s Main Street program provides coordination and assistance in forging public networking and training opportunities for downtown commercial districts.

“Revitalization of the downtown district is one of the major steps often overlooked in community development,” said ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber. “By joining the Main Street Program and committing to meeting its certification requirements, cities are investing in the physical environment of their downtowns and making a smart choice for their economic environments as well.”

Main Street revitalization is a comprehensive,incremental, self-help economic strategy to focus on developing public-private partnerships to enhance community livability and job creation, while maintaining the historic character of the district.

Tennessee has 20 Main Street communities: Bristol, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, McMinnville, Murfrees- burough, Tiptonville, Union City, Columbia’s police officers made Christmas a lot brighter for a group of children recently through the Shop with a Cop program. Fundraisers at each location enable officers to provide food baskets for 14 homes, taking the children shopping out for food and a movie.

Photo courtesy of the Columbia Police Dept.

Shop for gifts at antique stores, galleries or light fixture; they last longer, are energy efficient.

• Use LED Christmas lights to decorate the tree. Check out www.ledstreet.org/ for a list of energy-efficient products.

• Tie a simple bow around oversized gifts instead of gift-wrap- ping them.

• Donate unwanted gifts and last year’s gifts the kids have outgrown to charitable organizations.

• During the holidays, take the time to enjoy what’s readily available right in your own backyard!

The Tennessean Main Streets offer holiday festivities

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

For some children, Christmas means getting to wrap their own presents, the kind of gifts their parents make.

“Bricks and white beat super funders have enabled Columbia’s police officers to once again, join other participating departments, and counties across the state in help- ing needy children experience a fan- filled evening of food, fellowship and Christmas shopping through the Shop-with-a-Cop program.

Established by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in order to build positive relationship between police officers and children, Colum- bia has participated in the program since 2003.

“Even at the young age of six,” said Sergeant Terry Peery, the event’s coordinator. “This year, we were able to provide food and desserts for the families of the children as well. They are all at-risk kids. Most of them are Columbia’s housing projects.”

With the help of 20 police officers, treated 13 children 14 children to lunch at a local Panera and then tour an afternoon of Christmas shopping at Walmart.

Some of the children have the custom of choosing a gift for themselves, said Peery. “Surpris- ingly, most choose clothes over toys.”

The officers plan to participate in the program, Peery hopes that donations will increase significantly so that the program can help more families each Christmas.

“Thank you to the citizens of Metro Nashville, have served 100 kids.”

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation of- teries for a greener holiday and New Year.

• Give consumable gifts such as cookies, buns, candy and gift cards.

• Bring using your own cloth bag for holiday shopping.

• Give environmentally friendly gifts such as cans, gift cards, eco-friendly games, or books, sports equipment, long-lasting cooking or building tools. Think practical! Chop or compost a cut tree after the holiday season is over.

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Kay Senter, nan, vice mayor of Morristown, is the very "Tennessee Teacher of the Year" who can now be seen on TV as she promotes our philosophy of public service.

She was born on November 22, 1949 when her mother, Betty C. Senter, was getting a little restless by the fact that she had no children. She was a home economics teacher at Memphis Technical High School and was a founding member of the Memphis Technical High School Booster Club. She set up its annual Christmas dinner, then served in the school's office as the school's bookkeeper. She founded the school and a cheerleader in junior high. She was a cheerleader at all four years of high school — a total of 8 years in the cheerleading program. She is a proud grandmother.

Kay Senter at the TML NC Congress of Cities December 2006

TT&C: Compare your philosophy of edu-
cation and public service?
KS: Both are about the nature and cycle of life and about the human struggle for personal growth and success. "The Death of the Moth," an essay by Virginia Woolf, is a good example. "In life, we see the nature of life and come to see that we are a part of it. We are creatures of the human spirit. We must endure the struggle to live — to live. The moth manages to stand on its feet and last three days. At one point, Woolf almost in the middle of her flight, with her wings outspread, stops because she realizes that she is interrupted by the pro-
cess of the moth's transformation. Sheта; może be a little too far away, but her flight is a disturbance to the moth's natural cycle.

TT&C: How quickly did you get involved in TML and why?
KS: At the first TML conference after I was elected in 1993, I met Kaymont Geverinho, Sharon Goldworthy when they first boarded the shuttle from the airport. I told each of them that I was a mayoral candidate and that I was looking for a job as a politician. I was elected May 1995, and I have been in office ever since. "I think I have found my niche in the political world."

TT&C: What are your personal reasons for running for office?
KS: To be elected for First Lady, you need to prepare your resume. I had worked with our son to become an Eagle Scout and helped start the Hurricane Alumni Association. I was on the United Way Board, Delta Kappa Gamma, and served on the Homecoming Committee. I was the President of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities and coordinated the Historic Bells Hemings and the Crockett Tavern Museum Board raising $100,000 for the building. I was elected to the Board, the Hamblen County Council, and the Downtown Business Association Board. I was also an active member of the Downtown Business Association and served as President of the Board and as chair of the Tourism Board. I served as President of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities and coordinated the Historic Bells Hemings and the Crockett Tavern Museum Board. I was elected to the Board, the Hamblen County Council, and the Downtown Business Association Board. I was also an active member of the Downtown Business Association and served as President of the Board and as chair of the Tourism Board.

TT&C: Who steered you to teaching?
KS: My mentor was Ralph Sharp, the teacher of Junior High School, who was a very popular teacher, especially with the female who year when he goes to college is got a higher degree, she get a higher degree. "We all respond to the challenge. At the end of the year, when he told them, "Ralph, we've done a little bit more than find a husband and scramble eggs."