

Tennesseans head home for the holidays



Photo by Victoria South

Goodlettsville natives, actor James Denton of ABC's *Desperate Housewives*, and country recording artist Deana Carter served as Grand Marshalls of their hometown parade in Goodlettsville. Photos of Carter along with other state-wide celebrations on Page 3.

TML District Meetings set for January

As the second session of the 105th General Assembly is scheduled to convene on Jan. 8, 2008, the TML staff will provide a legislative update to municipal officials through its annually scheduled district meetings held in January.

The agenda will include an update on legislative issues, including the Open Government Study Committee, senior citizens property tax freeze, traffic and speed enforcement cameras, the Tennessee Responsible Vendor Act, and Streamlined Sales and Use Tax legislation. The TML staff will also provide an overview of the league's 2008 legis-

lative priorities.

TML has elected to move the annual legislative conference to mid April this year. This strategic decision will allow a more productive and fruitful conference as the Tennessee General Assembly will be conducting more thorough committee meetings and floor sessions when the conference convenes. However, this would also mean that the January district meeting will provide the only opportunity to fully brief and prepare municipal officials before debate begins on many of the issues affecting

See **DISTRICT** on Page 5

Second largest dividend provided TML Pool rings in New Year with good news for members

The second largest annual dividend will be provided to members of the TML Risk Management Pool, as approved by the TML Pool Board of Directors in December. The dividend for the 2008-2009 policy period will be \$8.3 million, almost twice the average annual dividend over the past 12 years.

The dividend will be applied as a reduction on each invoice for all members that have less than 100 percent all year loss ratios by line of coverage.

"The Pool's dividend program continues to be very successful in highlighting and rewarding good risk management practices within our partnership," said Tommy Green, TML Pool chairman. "The Pool's foundation is built on each member taking responsibility to continuously reduce our risk exposures through good risk management

practices."

Green explained that the dividend program is a result of members managing their risk and performing better than actuarial and underwriting expectations.

The combined cooperation of more than 500 municipal entities representing more than 90 percent of the municipalities in Tennessee has accomplished the following:

- A stable and viable municipal insurance market in Tennessee for almost three decades.
- A voluntary, self-insurance, risk-sharing partnership of Tennessee municipalities and municipal entities, not just another insurance company.
- A professional risk management and loss control philosophy that not only saves insurance dollars, but, helps each member better

See **POOL** on Page 4

Schwartz leaves MTAS

UT- MTAS bid a fond farewell to Bob Schwartz, MTAS executive director, last month, who left the agency to move back to South Carolina, where his daughter, grandchildren, and mother all reside.

Schwartz came to MTAS in December 1989, after serving in administrative positions in Georgia and South Carolina local governments and local government organizations.

Under his 18 years of leadership, MTAS made significant advances in providing services to Tennessee's cities and towns through the expanded and enhanced services for finance, fire, police, utility, personnel, codification, and management functions

During his tenure MTAS also took on significant training responsibilities for city officials and employees including the highly effective Elected Officials Academy.

He is also credited for taking a leading role in creating and raising funds for the Bingham Endowment, named after Herbert Bingham, former TML executive director,



Schwartz

with the purpose of enhancing municipal vision and leadership.

"Bob understands the importance of the Tennessee Municipal League and MTAS to Tennessee's towns and cities. He has been an advocate for all municipalities and will be missed," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director. "I wish Bob and Cheryl a lot of happiness and success as they embark on a new endeavor."

Mike Tallent, MTAS assistant director, will step in as the interim director, until the position is filled permanently.

Forecasters projecting revenue shortfall

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

State forecasters are saying it's not a recession, but the economy is slowing. The decline in the housing market, flat sales tax revenues, and a significant drop in corporate tax payments are all contributing to a possible \$200 million revenue shortfall this fiscal year.

State finance officials were given the news during the Tennessee State Funding Board meeting held last week in Nashville. The Funding Board uses the projections to make budget estimates for each fiscal year.

"I don't think we will bottom out, like in 2002-03. There are too many good things still happening," said Bill Fox, director of the University of Tennessee's Center for Business and Economic Research.

Commercial construction

(schools, churches and hotels) show strong growth, as well as the leisure and hospitality industry.

However, Fox predicts that the next several quarters will be very slow, with numerous revenue sources coming in less than what was estimated. Among those include an estimated:

- \$107 million shortfall in Franchise and Excise Taxes;
- \$50 - \$75 million less in sales taxes than projected; and
- \$51 million less in tobacco tax than expected.

For the past several years, the state has benefited from strong Franchise and Excise tax collections – a 6 percent tax levied on business profits. However, economists have been cautious not to depend on its growth long-term because corporate tax growth varies so significantly across the nation. Plus, many believe that businesses through corporate tax

planning will find ways to legally avoid paying the tax in Tennessee.

"The F&E has accounted for the majority of the growth of the last several years," said Jim White, executive director, Fiscal Review Committees of the General Assembly. "That's a lot of eggs to put in one basket."

White attributed the slow sales tax growth to the housing and credit crisis, the high gas prices, and the economic slow down.

Reid Linn, director of research with the Department of Revenue, was in agreement with White, saying "The housing troubles are showing up in the realty transfer tax. Last year, we saw a 11 percent growth, now it is down 3.5 percent."

The tobacco tax is also underperforming. The General Assembly approved last session a 42-cent tax increase on each pack of

See **REVENUE** on Page 5

TML applauds Delete On-line predator campaign

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The Tennessee Municipal League recently pledged their support and applauded the efforts of Gov. Phil Bredesen and the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) concerning the "Delete On-Line Predators" public awareness campaign by passing a resolution at a meeting of the TML Board of Directors.

The yearlong campaign, drawing on research-based messages developed by expert organizations including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, will distribute internet safety information and materials to parents and middle school students across the state.

Bredesen and platinum selling recording artist Taylor Swift, 17, joined forces this fall to kick off the campaign at Merrol Hyde Magnet School in Hendersonville.

"Because when you meet somebody online, you can never really know them," Swift said.

"The reality is that the risks are



very real," Bredesen said. "Be aware, be smart. You have got to protect yourselves and each other."

TACP President and Dover Chief of Police, Kim Wallace stressed that the campaign's educational outreach programs for children and parents enhances enforce-

ment efforts.

"Internet crimes don't occur within the confines of a city or county's limits," said Wallace. "They span boundaries between communities and states." One of the initiatives of the "Delete

See **PREDATORS** on Page 4

Ending homelessness the American way: partnerships, hard work, ingenuity



Photo by Victoria South

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports one-third of adult homeless men and nearly one-quarter of all homeless adults have served in the armed forces. Less than 200,000 veterans may be homeless on any given night; however, twice as many may experience homelessness during a year. Many are considered at risk because of poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and precarious living conditions.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Collaborations between David Habercorn, a Knox County photographer, and Matt Shafer Powell, a University of Tennessee journalist at WUOT spawned an eye opening radio show featuring riveting portraits and candid interviews with Knoxville's homeless.

Funding challenges didn't cloud the resolve of Rita Arancibia in Clarksville, who snagged an abandoned fire hall for a day shelter, now the hub for volunteerism and services.

Partnerships and old fashioned ingenuity have taken center stage across the nation as cities and counties battle an epic problem, chronic homelessness.

At the 2007 national leadership

summit in Denver, 22 mayors and county commissioners signed an agreement acknowledging the power of partnerships, vowing to reach out to area businesses, foundations, and faith-based agencies and to each other when facing housing dilemmas for the homeless.

"We're conspiring to undo what we've been told for so many years was an intractable issue," Phillip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency on Homelessness (ICH) declared at last year's summit.

With 10-year plans to end chronic homelessness in place in 320 cities and counties, officials said the agreement would "enable them to better share ideas and exert political influence to get homeless people off the streets," as reported by the Associated Press.

A landmark study conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) throughout 3,900 U.S. cities and counties reflects a 12 percent decline nationally in the number of chronically homeless individuals on a single day, which Mangano said, is consistent with the progression of the 10-year plans.

The National League of Cities indicates municipal leaders are placing a new emphasis on mobilizing citizens in order to make decisions, overcome conflicts, and solve critical public problems. As a result, governance arrangements are becoming more participatory, and collaborative toward problem solving and making the most of opportunities.

See **HOMELESS** on Page 7

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BRISTOL

A 10-member committee of downtown business owners, city officials and members of the Believe in Bristol board met with a Tennessee Valley Authority representative to learn how to use its Consumer Connection program. TVA is providing the service at no charge for one year, through its partnership with Bristol Tennessee Essential Services. Consumer Connection is TVA's approach to retail for economic development, providing marketing plans and strategies to help attract businesses and industrial recruiting.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga air has met federal clean air standards despite extreme weather, drought conditions, smoke from out-of-state wildfires and the city's bowl-like geography. Industrial permits and the use of highway funds are tied by law to compliance with clean air standards. Chattanooga and Hamilton County, like several other Southeastern cities, took early voluntary action to lower unhealthy ozone pollution. Nearly a half million cars in Hamilton County have passed emissions tests; land developers have switched from burning cleared trees to logging and chipping them; and twice as many truckers traveling on local roads have been ticketed for speeding, according to Tennessee and county records.

CLEVELAND

U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp delivered a \$75,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to Cleveland State Community College to be combined with more than \$350,000 already committed to fund a second business incubator on the north side of the CSCC campus. Only \$170,000 of the \$430,000 is needed for the expansion proposal. Design plans for the new facility are being completed and will be submitted to the Tennessee Board of Regents in the near future for approval. Once approved, plans will also be submitted to the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA has addressed the possibility of partnership in a "Green" Business Incubator toward energy efficiency, study and training, the first Incubator of this kind.

DYERSBURG

Dyersburg/Dyer County Chamber of Commerce has been chosen as one of three communities in a new Tennessee Valley Authority economic development program. The Valley Targeted and Prepared Community Program (The Valley TaP Program) features a planning process that includes an in-depth evaluation of a community's resources and strengths to target and recruit specific industry segments, which could result in additional jobs and investments. The program also helps communities identify key target industries and actively recruit them. More than 50 economic development entities that applied for the program in the TVA's seven-state region, Dyersburg/Dyer County, the Franklin Economic Development Board and the Shoals Economic Development Authority in Alabama were chosen to participate.

ELIZABETHTON

The Elizabethton Police Department is getting a new look and more security for its offices thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Renovations will be funded through Homeland Security's Physical Security funds. The department awarded a grant of more than \$42,000 to be shared equally by the Carter County Sheriff's Department and the EPD.

HUMBOLDT

FedEx Ground, a division of FedEx, is moving its Trenton distribution center to Humboldt late next summer. Following the move, the company will hire additional part-time package handlers. Employees with FedEx in Trenton will have the option of working in Humboldt. Construction on the 56,000-square-foot, \$4.4 million facility began this month.

LENOIR

The Lenoir City treasurer could be changed from an election-based to appointment-based position should the Lenoir City Council approve a reassessment under consideration by the charter review committee. To make such a change to the charter, the issue would require two readings with a public hearing in between to allow an opportunity for the citizens of the community to voice their concerns. Any change made to the position will come from a public vote in February. The position of city treasurer in Lenoir City has been filled by election since the original drafting of the charter.

MEMPHIS

Triton Systems expects to eliminate "a minimal number" of jobs at its facilities in Memphis as part of larger company-wide layoffs. A formal announcement by the automated teller machine manufacturer confirmed the job cuts but gave no specifics. The company release said it laid off "a limited number" of staff as part of a consolidation of its customer services activities to its corporate headquarters office. The company had said it expected to employ as many as 30 at its 30,000-square-foot call, support and training center in Bartlett when it opened in 2006.

NASHVILLE

Nashville will be one of 2008's Top 10 industrial markets to watch, according to Sperry Van Ness, a national commercial real estate brokerage firm. The firm makes the claim in its industrial edition of its "2008 Top 10 Markets To Watch" report, which examines economic factors that impact future industrial investment real estate. Sperry Van Ness cites the top industrial investment markets to watch as Austin, Texas; Charlotte, N.C.; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Fort Worth, Texas; Nashville; Oakland/East Bay, Calif.; Inland Empire, Calif.; Orange County, Calif.; and suburban Virginia. The report focuses on future trends and the markets that show the greatest potential for income growth based on these economic movements, rather than current market data. The firm says each market selected for the report had distinct dynamics that helped it rise into the Top 10.

Alexander elected chairman of Senate Republican Conference

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander was elected by his Senate Republican colleagues as the Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

"I thank my colleagues for giving me this opportunity and will work hard to make both the Senate and the Republican Conference as effective as possible," said Alexander, after the secret ballot election. "I look forward to working with Senator McConnell and the entire Republican leadership team as we work to solidify our party's base while attracting more independents."

The chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, the third ranking position in Senate Republican leadership, convenes meetings of GOP senators and leads efforts to communicate the Senate Republican message to the American people. He will oversee an operation that provides Republican senators a full range of communications services including graphics, radio, television, and Internet.

Alexander succeeds outgoing Conference Chairman Jon Kyl (R-



Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announces that Sen. Alexander has been elected chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

AZ) who now assumes the Republican whip role, the Senate GOP's No. 2 position. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is the Republican Leader of the Senate.

Alexander was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2002 and served as deputy whip from 2003 to 2006.

Alexander first came to the Senate 40 years ago, in January 1967, as a legislative assistant to Sen. Howard Baker. A former two-term governor of Tennessee, Alexander also has served as president of the University of Tennessee and U.S. Secretary of Education.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Gov. Phil Bredesen has named **Pat Miller** to fill the post of senior advisor and director of Legislative Affairs.



Miller

Miller, 49, a lawyer, has served as a director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) since 2002. In his new role, Miller will help develop the governor's legislative agenda and serve as his chief liaison to the General Assembly. Prior to his appointment to the TRA, Miller was chief of staff to Senate Speaker and Lieutenant Gov. John Wilder. He served the Tennessee legislature in 1987 as a fiscal analyst for the Fiscal Review Committee and was legislative liaison for the Tennessee Supreme Court from 1993 to 1997.

Bill Mason

Greenbrier has been appointed by the Governor to fill the post of director of Community Affairs. Mason, who joined the Governor's staff in November, worked with Al Gore for more than 16 years and was one of the longest-serving members of the former vice president's staff. In his new role, Mason is charged with identifying emerging issues of importance to state constituencies. He will oversee the Governor's Office of Constituent Services and the Boards and Commissions Office. Previously, Mason was chief of staff to Congressman Bob Clement from 1999 to 2003. He also served as chief executive officer for the Tennessee Alternative Educators Association, which is a statewide nonprofit association, composed of educators, counselors and administrators working in public alternative schools.



Mason

Will Pinkston

will rejoin Gov. Phil Bredesen in January as the governor's senior advisor. In his new role, Pinkston will focus on development and management of some of the administration's key policy initiatives. Pinkston previously served on the governor's staff helping manage communications, legislative and policy initiatives. Most recently, he worked as vice president for special projects at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations in Nashville.



Pinkston

Melissa Wright

will become Murfreesboro city recorder and finance director on Jan. 31 and **Sue Mahon** will take over duties of Murfreesboro Personnel director and city treasurer Feb. 1. The appointments were made by unanimous action during the Nov. 29 meeting of the Murfreesboro City Council. Wright worked for a public accounting firm before joining the city 15 years ago. She is past treasurer of the Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association. Mahon has worked for the city of Murfreesboro since 1990 and has 25 years experience in accounting, payroll and general office and personnel management.



Wright



Mahon

F. Ann Draughon, a food microbiologist at the University of Tennessee and professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources' Department of Food Sci-

ence and Technology

has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Draughon was one of 10 researchers to receive the nation's highest recognition for mentoring in her field in a ceremony at the White House. The award recognizes teachers who mentor students and colleagues who are underrepresented in a given field. Draughon mentors women and minorities studying food microbiology and food science. The Presidential Award includes a \$10,000 grant that Draughon plans to use for mentoring women and underrepresented minorities as they study food microbiology and food safety at UT. The funds will be used to help Draughon and her students with their professional development, for example by enabling their travel for professional meetings, workshops or internships.



Draughon

Democrat Andy Berke

of Chattanooga was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice William Barker as the new senator representing the 10th Senate District. An attorney, Berke won the Nov. 15 special election to replace former Sen. Ward Crutchfield, D-Chattanooga, who resigned in August. Berke won with 62.6 percent of the vote compared to 37.3 percent for Oscar Brock, his GOP opponent.



Berke

Germantown Alderman and bank executive **Mike Palazzolo** was inducted into the Rhodes College Athletic Hall of Fame. Palazzolo signed as a free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals in 1986.

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City celebrations reinforce sense of community



Country star Deana Carter as Grand Marshall in her hometown of Goodlettsville parade
Photo by Victoria South



Christmas in Belluckle



The Knoxville Christmas parade



The Fayetteville Christmas Parade
Courtesy of the Elk Valley Times



Clarksville's Christmas on the Cumberland



The Santa Train makes its annual toy run through Kingsport

Building community starts with neighbors getting to know neighbors. And it builds from there, until people in entire groups of neighborhoods are feeling like they belong to something bigger-- the community.



*The Tennessee Municipal League
wishes you
a Happy Holiday
and
Joyous New Year!*



STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

As part of the effort to **StopLitterT** in Tennessee, Gov. Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely awarded a total of **\$3.8 million in litter grants to all 95 Tennessee counties**. Litter grant funds are distributed annually by TDOT to all 95 counties in Tennessee to help local communities in their efforts to stop litter across the state. These funds are obtained through the collection of a specialty tax on the malt beverage and soft drink industry through the Litter Grant Bill that was enacted by the General Assembly in 1981. The funds that each county receives are determined by county road miles and county population in order to ensure an equitable distribution statewide. Funds must be used for litter pick-up activities and litter prevention education.

Tennessee will receive a **\$7.9 million grant from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand the Tennessee Telehealth Network (TTN)** to an additional 400 facilities and make health care services more readily available to Tennesseans in rural and underserved communities. TTN is a program of the non-profit Community Health Network (CHN), whose 62 clinics and the Tennessee Primary Care Association make

telehealth technology accessible to rural Tennessee health care providers. CHN will use the FCC grant to bring commercial-quality Internet and privacy-compliant data exchange infrastructure to health care providers in rural Tennessee areas that do not have access to these services. Rural and nonprofit health care facilities will be able to use this basic infrastructure to provide primary care and specialty health care services, such as pediatrics, psychiatry and ophthalmology. Ultimately, the FCC grant will allow health care facilities to provide telehealth and ePrescribing services, and to exchange patient data securely through electronic medical records. CHN has worked closely with Bredesen's eHealth Council and other state agencies to deploy TTN to federally-qualified health care clinics (FQHC) and other healthcare facilities in Tennessee. In September, the Tennessee Department of Health awarded CHN a \$1.6 million federal grant to establish the Middle Tennessee Rural Health Information Network (MTRHIN) to connect four, non-profit hospitals in Carthage, Gallatin, Hartsville and Lafayette to a single health information network. The grant is part of the FCC's \$400 million Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP) to expand access to health care to America's rural and underserved

communities through the creation of broadband telehealth networks in 42 states and three U.S. territories. The University of Tennessee's Health Sciences Center joins CHN and the state as a grant recipient along with Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga, \$2.2 million, and Mountain States Health Alliance in upper east Tennessee, \$93,000.

Thousands of Tennessee farmers may not realize that **beginning Jan. 1 they must have a state-issued "certificate" to qualify for state sales-tax breaks** on farm-related purchases such as fertilizer and tractors. At the same time, some hobby farmers may find themselves unable to qualify for the certificates under new standards set by the new Agriculture Sales and Use Certificate program. Under existing law, Tennessee has offered numerous exemptions to the state's 7 percent sales tax for equipment, feed and seed to benefit farmers. But standards now vary as to who qualifies. City and county governments also can levy up to 2.75 percent in local option sales taxes. Under the new Agricultural Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption program, farmers, timber harvesters and nursery operators must meet one or more of five criteria to qualify. Revenue Commissioner Reagan Farr said in Nov. the department sent out 75,000 applications to farmers and other businessmen identified as eligible through tax records and other means.



The TML Municipal Bond Fund and the city of Cleveland recently closed a \$10.5 million loan for utilities. Seated from left to right are City Recorder Mike Keith and Mayor Tom Rowland. Standing are Utility Finance Manager Ken Webb, City Manager Janice Casteel, and TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello.

Delete on-line predator initiative strives to protect state's children

PREDATOR from Page 1

Online Predators" campaign is to garner 150,000 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade signatures on the NetSmartz Safety Pledge, produced by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

The pledge can be viewed at www.deletepredators.com. The website will frequently be updated with current news items and information about Internet crimes and safety efforts in Tennessee and across the nation.

Alarming statistics within the resolution state: 75 percent of children willingly share personal information about themselves over the Internet in exchange for goods and services; 77 percent of youth of youths are contacted by online predators by age 14, yet only 25 percent of children will tell a parent about an online encounter with a predator.

As Internet and wireless options continue to grow at an exponential rate, including e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms, Web pages, blogs, cell phones, text messaging, camera phones, message boards, and Internet games, the dangers of solicitation by sexual predators, sexual or racial harassment, cyber stalking, cyber bullying, and other dangerous crimes against children and youth increase.

First Lady Laura Bush, during her opening remarks at the 2006 National League of Cities conference, named internet predators among the most serious dangers facing America's youth today as she announced the "Helping America's Youth" initiative. "Strong communities nurture healthy children by surrounding them with a network of loving people who keep them safe and can help guide them toward a successful future," Bush said.

City officials attend workshops on senior property tax freeze requirements



Photo by Victoria South

TML conducted four meetings across the state in November and December on the new seniors' property tax freeze program. Each meeting was conducted by Tom Fleming, assistant to the State Comptroller for Property Assessments, to provide city officials with a better understanding of the program's requirements and the impact these requirements will have on each municipality and its citizenry.

In November 2006, Tennessee voters approved a constitutional amendment providing for local property tax relief for homeowners 65 years of age and older. Last session, legislation was formulated authorizing the seniors' property tax relief program.

Good news for Pool members

POOL from Page 1

protect the safety and welfare of its employees and taxpaying citizens.

- A program that allows Tennessee municipal entities to control their own insurance market, with no surprises, no cities left stranded without insurance or facing huge insurance premium increases or assessments.
- Premium development unique to the respective entity and is soundly based on actuarial principles and not subject to "just reducing the price to get the business".
- A tradition of providing the best possible services and coverages to municipalities at a consistently

stable and affordable cost.

- A cooperative presence in the Tennessee Legislature to maintain reasonable Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Limits, as well as other checks and balances, to insure future municipal insurance market stability; and
- An Annual Dividend Program that has returned \$50,700,000 over the last 12 years (an average of \$4,225,000 a year). "We are pleased with the success and productivity of this partnership," said Lee Holland, TML Pool president. "And we thank our members for their continued support and for helping our taxpaying citizens get the very best for their tax dollars."

CDBG assist communities with infrastructure needs

Gov. Phil Bredesen and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber recently approved more than \$21 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to assist with infrastructure improvements in Tennessee.

The funds were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly. The grants were approved by the ECD Loan and Grant Committee following an application by each community.

Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known. The CDBG program is administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Below is a list of communities that were awarded grants:

Housing	
Gruetli-Laager	\$321,000
Altamont	\$207,000
Clinton	\$500,000
Soddy-Daisy	\$335,000
Community Livability	
Newport	\$282,328
Halls	\$185,000
Wartburg	\$168,300
Van Buren County	\$300,000
New Hope	\$203,700
Middleton	\$41,808
Perry County	\$300,000
Rutherford	\$157,412
Sewer Systems	
Waverly	\$500,000
Ripley	\$500,000
Rockwood	\$500,000
Brownsville	\$500,000
Copperhill	\$200,000
Lawrenceburg	\$500,000

Madisonville	\$438,480
Mt. Pleasant	\$400,000
Fayetteville	\$450,000
Savannah	\$500,000
Jellico	\$412,366
Whiteville	\$228,890
Bolivar	\$494,500
Church Hill	\$500,000
Cookeville	\$257,000
Dresden	\$400,992
Hohenwald	\$500,000
Greenfield	\$343,843
Huntingdon	\$500,000

Sewer Lines	
Bean Station	\$500,000
Friendship	\$408,259
Harrogate	\$400,833

Water Lines	
Cumberland County	\$430,944
Jackson County	\$500,000
Calhoun	\$500,000
Meigs County	\$479,000
Campbell County	\$400,000
Morgan County	\$432,000
Roane County	\$500,000
Bedford County	\$500,000
Sevierville	\$478,500

Water Systems	
Warren County	\$500,000
Loretto	\$300,000
Lexington	\$500,000
Baxter	\$500,000
Hartsville	\$500,000
Marion County	\$500,000
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Lauderdale County	\$500,000
Red Boiling Springs	\$500,000
Adamsville	\$500,000
Oakland	\$500,000
St. Joseph	\$206,666
Jonesborough	\$500,000
Mountain City	\$500,000
Petersburg	\$94,000
Carter County	\$477,750
Erwin	\$500,000



TML Risk Management Pool

rings in the New Year

with good news for its members!

The second largest annual dividend will be provided to members of the TML Risk Management Pool.

- **\$8.3 million dividend**, almost twice the average annual dividend over the past 12 years, will be given for the 2008-2009 policy period.
- The dividend will be applied as a reduction on each invoice for all members that have less than 100 percent all years loss ratio by line of coverage.
- The dividend program is a result of members managing their risk and performing better than actuarial and underwriting expectations.
- The Pool's foundation is built on each member taking responsibility to continuously reduce their risk exposures through good risk management practices.
- Through the success and productivity of this partnership, municipal governments are helping taxpaying citizens get the very best for their tax dollars.



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UT LEIC Forensic Academy receives Vollmer Award

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has recognized the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center's (LEIC) National Forensic Academy (NFA) with its 2007 August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award.

LEIC Executive Director Daniel L. Baker accepted the award at the IACP Annual Conference in New Orleans. Also present were acting U.S. Assistant Attorney General Cybele Daley for the Office of Justice Programs and Knoxville Police Chief Sterling Owen IV, who nominated the NFA for the award.

The IACP recognizes the significant impact forensic science has on the criminal justice system and the August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award honors proactive, innovative use of forensic technologies by law enforcement.

The NFA was recognized in the category of current or past contribution to forensic science by a police agency. A leading figure in the development of the field of criminal justice in the United States in the early 20th century, August Vollmer was also the first police chief of Berkeley, Calif.

Revenues down

REVENUE from Page 1
cigarettes. Despite the increase in revenues, most of the economists are predicting a shortfall due to discount store owners stockpiling cartons before the tax was implemented, as well as the belief that many smokers have opted to quit because of the added expense.

With less tax revenues coming in than expected, Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz said they will have to make adjustments in order to finish out the current year and to budget for the upcoming 2008-09 fiscal year.



LEIC Executive Director Daniel Baker receives the 2007 August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award from Ann Talbot, director of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Forensics

NATIONAL BRIEFS

U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Murfreesboro) now waits for President Bush to sign into law his bill which will help communities clean up methamphetamine lab sites. Approximately 400 of these harmful sites that have serious long-term health risks were reported in Tennessee last year.

"We have a duty to protect innocent families not only from the criminals who make and use this

illegal drug, but also from the after-effects of that crime. I have pushed this effort for a long time, and it is gratifying that it will soon become law," said Gordon, chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology.

Tougher state and federal laws are bringing down the number of meth labs. Across the nation, there were more than 7,000 meth labs seized last year.

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Jan. 17-18: Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development sponsors the 2008 "Agritourism: Cultivating Farm Revenue" conference at Paris Landing State Park in West Tennessee. Educational sessions and opportunities to meet with equipment dealers, service providers, and representatives from other related businesses. Annual membership meeting held during the conference. To register or for more information, visit www.picktnproducts.org or call 865-974-0280.

District Meetings

DISTRICT from Page 1
municipalities.
It is vital to TML membership that municipal officials take this opportunity to attend these meetings to prepare for the upcoming session.

The following district meetings have been scheduled:
District 1 TBA

District 2 – January 3 – Oak Ridge – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

District 3 – January 25 – Collegedale – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

District 4 - TBA

District 5 – January 7 – White House – 11:30 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

District 6 – January 11 – Chapel Hill – 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

District 7 TBA

District 8 – January 10 – Bartlett – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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NLC conference offers city leaders solutions for success



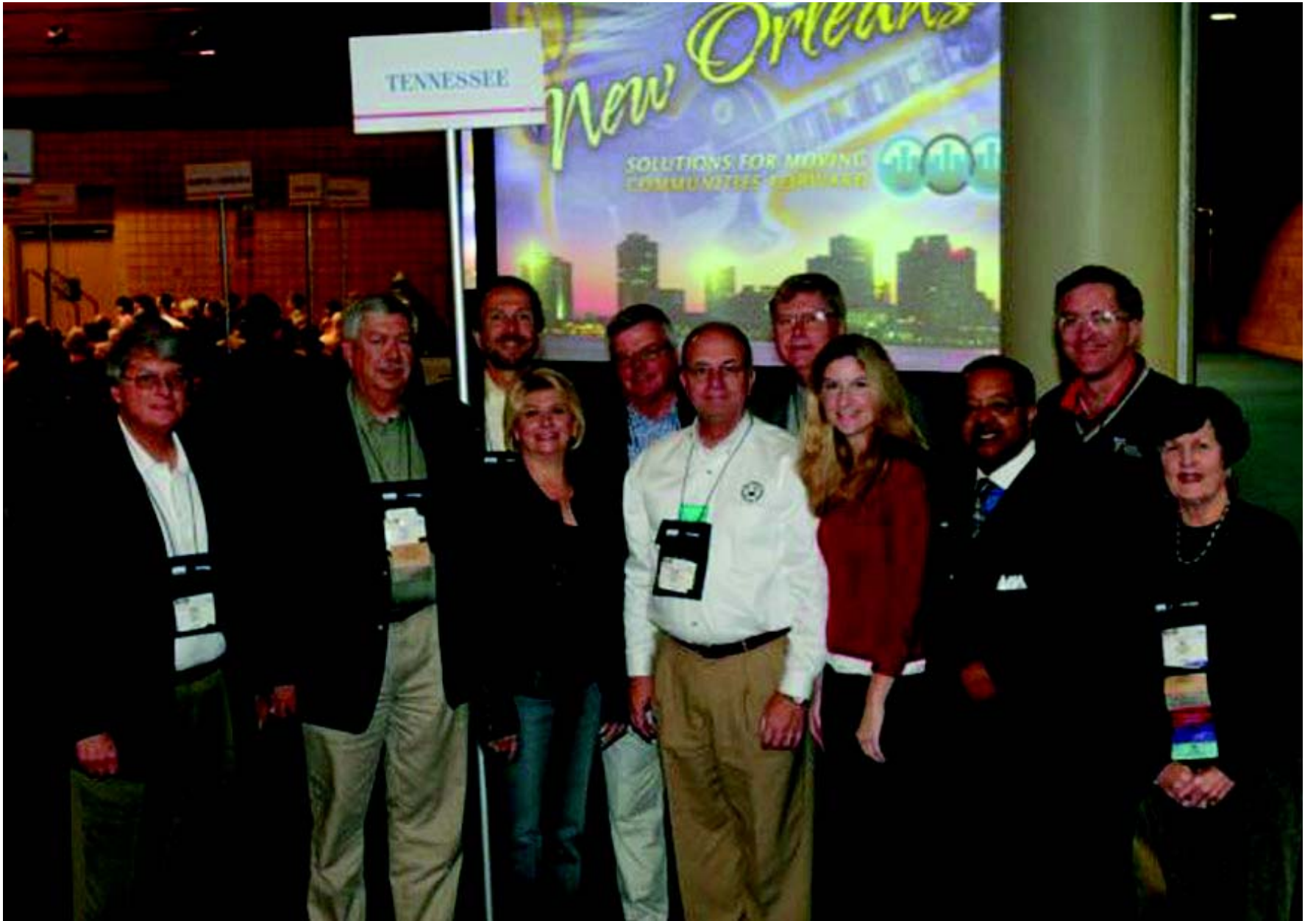
With New Orleans on the road to recovery, thousands of America's municipal leaders converged on the city Nov. 13 - 17 at the National League of Cities' (NLC) Congress of Cities, to learn from one another, help build the New Orleans of tomorrow, and share solutions to challenges all communities are facing today.

Expert presentations, nationally prominent speakers, workshops, hands-on learning experiences, an exhibit hall and leadership training seminars on major challenges and opportunities facing cities and towns gave municipal officials the tools and resources needed to galvanize public action at home on crucial issues.

Volunteers were also encouraged to lend a hand building new homes, constructing a playground for New Orleans' children, and repainting a community center.

Future Conference Dates

- Nov. 11-15, 2008
Orlando, Florida
- Nov. 10-14, 2009
San Antonio, Texas
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, 2010
Denver, Colorado
- Nov. 8-12, 2011
Phoenix, Arizona
- Nov. 27 - Dec. 1, 2012
Boston, Massachusetts



Front row left to right - Eddy Ford, Farragut mayor; Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge mayor; Margaret Mahery, TML executive director; Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor; Stefanie McGee, Bartlett city clerk; Myron Lowry, Memphis councilmember; Dot LaMarche, Farragut Aldermember. Back row: John Proffitt, Athens mayor; Tommy Green, Alamo mayor; Royce Davenport, McMinnville mayor; and Bo Perkinson, Athens vice mayor



Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro mayor; Jeanne Bragg; and Tommy Green, Alamo mayor and TML president



Doug Young, Murfreesboro councilmember; Bob Kirk, Dyersburg Alderman; Kay Senter, Morristown vice mayor; and Hal Buttram, Athens councilmember



Ronnie Stein and Tim Garrett, Metro Nashville councilmembers



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Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge vice mayor; Eddy Ford, Farragut mayor; Royce Davenport, McMinnville mayor and John Proffitt, Athens Mayor



Bo Perkinson, Athens councilmember with Mayor Green and Mayor Davenport

City partnerships to end chronic homelessness

HOMELESS from Page 1

A recent gallop poll commissioned by Fannie Mae indicates more than 90 percent of Americans think the country should do more to address homelessness, and more than 80 percent want to contribute by giving of their own time and money.

"We're at a time in our country of unprecedented resources being devoted to homeless people from all levels of government, unprecedented innovation in trying out new ideas and unprecedented results in decreasing chronic homelessness," said Mangano.

Chronic homelessness is defined by HUD as a single individual with a disabling condition who has been living in a place not meant for human habitation or in an emergency shelter for at least one year or having had at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

"We are ready to move forward in a very significant way," advised former Vice Mayor and Chair of Nashville's Homeless Commission Howard Gentry after his recent visit to Denver. Denver's plan to end homelessness calls for half the cost to come from public sources, 25 percent from foundations and 25 percent from individuals. The city is also working closely with Mile High United Way on a multimillion-dollar fundraising campaign. Fast becoming a Mecca for public-private partnerships, the city recently received a \$1.5 million check from the Quizno family foundation.

"When the commission was first established, we were not set up to receive private funding," said Gentry. "It was not part of our early mission. We are now putting a plan together to involve business and community leaders and to receive private funding. We have a video and statistics that will bring the face of homelessness to the business community."

"In 2003, we started our Homeless Commission," said Arancibia, director of Clarksville's Department of Housing & Community Development. Providers from the public-private sector were invited to the first meeting including representatives from area banks. "We needed to interface with one another to avoid duplication of services, to sew up the

safety net. Each agency said "this is what we do" in order to bridge the gaps between agencies, and we put our hopes and dreams on paper, then prioritized them."

Arancibia inquired about an abandoned fire hall which was donated to the Coalition for a period of eight months while the project was in the developing stages. Banks and agencies donated money and staff; others donated items such as bicycles, cleaning materials and paint; signs were made by area boy scouts. The group applied for and received a block grant to purchase the building, which now houses programs such as a career center, "Dress for Success," and "Room at the Inn" through area churches.

"We have met with other cities and utilized some of their ideas, said Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam. "Cities are reaching out to bring in philanthropic funding and working with other agencies for the homeless."

Knoxville-Knox County has housed 70 homeless individuals through the Housing First initiative this year, according to Jon Lawler, area Director of the 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

The initiative, part of most city 10-year plans, involves constructing permanent housing units and moving chronically homeless individuals into them providing important "wraparound" social services.

"We have funding for housing through agencies such as HUD and THDA," Lawler said. "It's raising money for the support services that's hard."

According to Lawler, at least 75 percent of the chronically homeless individuals Knoxville-Knox County deals with are suffering from mental illnesses.

"I feel encouraged," said Haslam. "But I am under no illusions. We need partnerships for funding and there are neighborhoods saying 'not in my back yard.'"

"Not all homeless people are drawn with the same pencil," stresses Shafer. "What most people don't know is that the homeless are a very diverse group of people, and not just geographically and economically. A great deal suffer from mental illnesses, some have addiction issues, yet, some never drank in their

lives. It is true that a few want to be there, but most really have a dream of getting off the streets."

The project by Shafer and Habercom is entitled, "The Other Side of the Street" referring to those who've only viewed homelessness from a distance. Habercom, who has not set a release date for the portrait exhibit, photographs homeless people just as they are when arriving for the interview, without clean clothes, hairstyling or makeup. The resulting cameos are breathtakingly beautiful, and starkly realistic, injecting an element of dignity and humanness into the situation of homelessness. The photos will be featured on WUOT's website at <http://wuot.org/>.

Another creative project in Chattanooga introduces what's known as the "invisible faces of homelessness." *The Chattanooga Times Free Press* partnered with the City to produce an art exhibit of photos and drawings by homeless children. The *Times* gave homeless children ages 4-17 years old disposable cameras and art supplies to show "what they see and their hopes for the future."

The city is partnering with the Chattanooga Housing Authority (CHA) to invest \$600,000 toward creating permanent supportive housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.



The Chattanooga Times Free Press "Through the Eyes of Children," an art exhibit in Chattanooga, is a collaborative effort between *The Chattanooga Times Free Press* and the city to introduce "the invisible homeless" to the public through drawings and photos produced by homeless children.

The HomeAgain funds will be used to acquire, construct, rehab or convert housing within the city limits of Chattanooga. Funding for the initiative comes from HOME In-

vestment Partnership Funds provided by HUD and CHA will act as the sub-recipient of the program and also assist the city by serving as facilitator.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Under the leadership of their **City Futures Panel on Democratic Governance**, NLC provides the resources *The Rise of Democratic Governance* as well as a guidebook, *Changing the Way We Govern: Building Democratic Governance in Your Community*, for city and town officials. Both are available on the NLC website www.nlc.org.

Applications are currently being accepted by **The National Civic League** for the 2008 All-America City Award, which recognizes exemplary grassroots community problem-solving and is given to communities that cooperatively tackle challenges and achieve results.

The All-America City Award has encouraged and recognized civic excellence since 1949, honoring communities of all sizes (cities, towns, counties, neighborhoods and regions) in which citizens, government, businesses and voluntary organizations work together to address critical local issues.

Communities that teach by example how to face difficult situations and meet those challenges in innovative and collaborative ways can become an All-America City.

To request electronic application materials by email, write to aac@ncl.org or to request that the application and instructions be sent to by mail, contact the

AAC program staff at NCL by emailing kristins@ncl.org, or by calling 303-571-4343 ext. 210.

The Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) accepts Innovative Initiative nominations to feature on their website. The page offers examples of collaborations between the business community and homeless providers, housing initiatives supported by managed care organizations, new housing technologies, research, or borrowed service methodologies focused on ending homelessness. For submission information, visit www.ich.gov/innovations/index.html.

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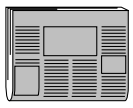
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BUILDING INSPECTOR

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is accepting applications for the position of Building Inspector until filled. The position is responsible for the inspection work in the enforcement of state and local regulations. This person performs on site building and structure inspections for compliance with state and local codes and regulations. They must ensure that land and building usage conform to health, safety, and zoning regulations. The Building Inspector advises the public and contractors concerning building, electrical, plumbing and other regulations and codes concerning construction. The salary range is \$30,290 - \$42,405. Application may be obtained from the Receptionist or Human Resources Department, City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148 or at www.cityofportlandtn.gov. Resumes may be sent to HR@cityofportlandtn.gov or fax to 615-325-5345. For more information, call 615-325-6776.

CITY MANAGER

PARIS. The city of Paris, a community of 9,800 operating under the Manager-Commission form, is seeking applicants for the position of city manager. The position is responsible for the day to day operations and administration of a \$10M+ annual budget and overall supervision of a workforce of 140 FTEs. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in a related field, though a master's degree in public administration is preferred. Candidates should possess a minimum of five years progressive experience in municipal government, preferably as a city manager or an assistant city manager. Equivalent educational qualifications or experience will be considered. Salary range is negotiable, depending on qualifications. Send resume to: Mayor David Travis, City Manager Applicant, P. O. Box 970, Paris, TN 38242 or email lrowlett@cityofparis.tn.gov.

CITY MANAGER

MOUNT PLEASANT. The city of Mount Pleasant, population 5,000 plus, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. The position is responsible to a five member Board of Mayor and Commissioners for the administration of all city services and departments, including, but not limited to, finance and administration, public works, budgeting, code enforcement, sanitation, streets, industrial development, recreation, planning and zoning, personnel, water and wastewater, and general management of the Mount Pleasant Gas System. The ideal candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field and will have experience as city manager/assistant city manager or equivalent. Experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, economic development, wastewater operations and planning are high priorities. The city has an annual budget in excess of \$9,000,000 and 63 employees. Resumes are public record. Salary range from \$65,000-\$85,000 (dependent upon qualifications) plus excellent benefits. Send resumes to: City Manager Search Committee, City of Mt. Pleasant, PO Box 426, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474. Telephone No. (931) 379-7717, Facsimile No. (931) 379-5418. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

CIVIL ENGINEER

OWASSO, OK. The city of Owasso Public Works Department seeks a civil engineer to service a population of 33,858. The hired professional will work under the direction of the Engineering projects manager and the Public Works director, and will be responsible for reviewing subdivision submittals, generating documents for city authorities, and working with other engineers for the design and construction of small capital improvement projects. Requirements: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major study in civil, environmental or transportation engineering, construction management or a related field; two to three years of experience in professional civil engineering work, preferably in the area of design and/or construction of streets and roadways; possession of an Engineer-In-Training (EIT) certificate preferred; and all education requirements must be verifiable from records of satisfactory completion of courses. Join a team dedicated to improving the lives' of its citizens through innovative engineering and public works concepts. For more information, visit www.cityofowasso.com. Send resume to: employment@cityofowasso.com or Human Resources, P.O. Box 180, Owasso, OK 74055. Position open until filled.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications for a Communications Director for Central Dispatch now through Friday, December 28, 2007. The director of Central Dispatch works directly with the chief of police and has the authority to perform the assigned duties in order that the responsibilities of the emergency dispatch system are met. Responsible for the proper management, discipline, and training of Central Dispatch personnel. Enforce all orders, rules and regulations that are in effect; prepare the annual capital and operation budget for the department; make necessary plans for the department in the form of long and short range goals. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing. Must have a B.A. degree in communications with at least five (5) years of experience in the field. Generous benefit package; salary beginning at \$43,430.00. EEO/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net. Please contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main St., Ste. 303, Jackson, TN 38301: Phone (731) 425-8252; Fax (731) 425-8673.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service (IPS) is seeking applicants for two economic development specialist positions. The positions will coordinate projects supporting IPS and university-wide efforts to assist with the creation, retention and expansion of high quality job opportunities for Tennesseans. One position will be based in Nashville while another will be based in Martin. Both positions will work statewide. Frequent travel is required for both positions. A minimum of five years professional work experience in an economic development environment is required. Work experience in a higher education environment and experience with a range of economic development issues includ-

ing community development, leadership development, entrepreneurship development, or technology development is preferred. Demonstrated experience in seeking and successfully securing grant funds is preferred. Strong verbal and written communications skills and strong listening skills are required. Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office computer software is required. B.A. or B.S. degree is required, Masters degree preferred; completion of IEDC basic course curriculum and/or additional economic development related coursework preferred. To apply send resume and cover letter stating salary requirements and preferred work location to: Economic Development Specialist Search, Suite 105 Student Services Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-0213

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

BENTON ARK. The city of Benton, Arkansas Utilities is accepting applications for electrical engineer/superintendent. This position involves shared responsibility for the successful management and operation of the city-owned electric utility. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, design, operation and maintenance of electrical facilities, construction coordination, and customer service. Preferred qualifications include: experience in the power utility industry or related business, SCADA knowledge, management experience, and a bachelor's degree in engineering. This position is responsible for an annual budget and management of a 22-25 member department. The successful candidate will be a key member of the management team and will assist in planning for future electric services and negotiating effective solutions. Salary DOE, up to \$70,000.00. An application, complete job description, and benefit summary can be printed from the city of Benton website at www.benton.ar.gov. Application with cover letter should be mailed to the Human Resources Department, P. O. Box 607, Benton, AR 72018-0607. Position is open until filled. EOE

FINANCE DIRECTOR

MANCHESTER. The City is seeking applications for the position of Finance director. The successful candidate must have a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting, or finance is required. MBA, CPA, or Certified Government Finance Officer designation is desirable. Seven years of increasingly responsible experience in government finance, including three years in a financial managerial capacity; or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential job functions. Salary: DOQ plus excellent benefits. A complete job description and applications are available in the assistant finance director's office at city hall. Submit application and/or resume to: City of Manchester Attn: Bridget Anderson, Assistant Finance Director 200 West Fort Street Manchester, TN 37355. For further information contact Bridget Anderson at 931-461-3530. Position open until filled.

FINANCE DIRECTOR/RECORDER

The Town of Signal Mountain is seeking applications for the position of finance director. The successful candidate must have a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance. MBA, CPA or Certified Government Finance Officer designation is desirable. A minimum of three years of increasingly responsible experience in government finance; or any combination of education, training and experience providing the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions. Knowledge of excel spreadsheet is also desirable. Salary: DOQ plus excellent benefits. A complete job description and applications are available at the Town Hall. Submit applications and/or resume to: Lynn Wampler, Interim Town Manager, 1111 Ridgeway Ave (Hwy 127N) Signal Mountain, TN 37377. For further information contact Lynn Wampler 423-886-2177. Position open until filled. The town of Signal Mountain is an equal opportunity employer. Full job description is located on the web at www.signalmountaintn.gov.

FIRE CHIEF

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is accepting applications for the position of fire chief. The position will oversee budget, operations, and personnel matters for a full-time department operating two stations. The successful candidate will have a degree in Fire Sciences or a minimum of fifteen years experience, with five years as a supervisor. Must possess or have the ability to possess certification as EMT, HAZMAT, NIMS, Fire Code Inspector, and Building Code Inspector. A complete job description is available upon request. Salary DOQ. Applications should be submitted to the City Administrator at 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or call (931) 433-6154 by January 31, 2008

FIRE CHIEF

HENDERSON. The city of Henderson will be accepting applications for the position of Fire Chief until Tuesday, January 15, 2008. The fire chief will perform his/her duties under the direction of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The Henderson Fire Department is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firemen that serves a population of 6,195. Salary depends on qualifications. Applications and Job Descriptions may be picked up at Henderson City Hall at 121 Crook Ave. requested by phone at (731) 983-5000 or emailing a request to: firechiefsearch@ci.henderson.tn.us. The city of Henderson is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability in its practices, programs, services or activities.

IT DIRECTOR

FAYETTEVILLE. The city of Fayetteville is accepting applications for the position of IT director. This position will be responsible for all network issues for the city and the Emergency Communications Center. The position will also manage the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of hardware and software for all departments; coordinate with hardware and software providers to troubleshoot problems; upkeep the city website; manage network security; and oversee the linkage of all departments to a single server using fiber connection. The successful candidate will possess a B.S. in a related field or have a minimum of fifteen years experience and have experience with Unix and Windows networks. A.M.S. and/or specialized certifications are a plus. A complete job description is available upon request. Salary DOQ. Resumes should be submitted to the City Administrator at 110 Elk Avenue South, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or call (931) 433-6154 by January 4, 2008.

IPS CONSULTANT III/MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

KNOXVILLE. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has an opening for a municipal management consultant in the Knoxville office. This organization is one of a kind in the nation. MTAS serves 347 cities in Tennessee by providing elected and appointed officials one-on-one help with all facets of local government. The municipal management consultant is the key contact for cities and serves as a generalist for 30-40 cities. Job involves answering questions from city officials, frequently traveling to cities in the consultant's territory, performing research, conducting training sessions, writing publications, attending occasional council meetings, and requires a few overnight trips. No two days are the same, independent judgment is a must, and the university emphasizes continuing education for its staff. For more about MTAS, visit the Website: www.mtas.utk.edu. Job requires a combination of education and experience equal to either: 1) Master's degree in public administration/equivalent degree and at least five years local government employment, including three years as a city manager or six years as an assistant city manager- prefer experience as a city manager/assistant city manager in a city with a minimum of 10,000 in population; or Bachelor's degree in public administration/similar degree and at least eight years as a city manager. Prefer experience as a city manager in a city with a minimum of 10,000 in population. Please send letter and resume to: Municipal Management Consultant Search, UT- MTAS, 120 Conference Center, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or email to: elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu. Position open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

PLANNER I

GALLATIN. Entry level planner responsibilities include development and design review, long-range planning, and other planning re-

lated activities. Position requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent and some professional planning experience. Starting salary: \$39,562.

PLANNER II

GALLATIN. Senior level planner responsibilities include development and design review, long-range planning, and other planning related activities. Position requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent and a minimum of 4 years professional planning experience or having AICP certification. Starting salary: \$45,906. To apply for these positions, please submit a completed application and resume to the Personnel Office. To obtain an application, visit www.gallatin-tn.gov, or contact the Personnel Office, 132 W Main St, Gallatin, TN 37066 - Ph: (615) 452-5400, ext. 319 - Fax: (615) 451-5960. EOE

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

OWASSO, OK. City of Owasso is seeking resumes for Public Works Director; position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the activities of the Public Works Department. Requirements: bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, masters of science in civil engineering or related field preferred; P.E. certification a plus; Five years increasingly responsible experience in a broad range of municipal services including engineering/architectural design or operations, refuse system operations, water/wastewater and/or street maintenance; Oklahoma Class "A" license as Wastewater Operator and Oklahoma Class "A" license as Water Operator or ability to obtain; other combinations of experience and education that meet the minimum requirements may be substituted. If you want to be part of an organization that promotes character and is dedicated to improving the lives' of its citizens through innovative public works concepts log on to www.cityofowasso.com for more information. Position open until filled.

SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

MURFREESBORO. The city of Murfreesboro is seeking qualified applicants for the position of director at the St. Clair Street Senior Center.

Four year degree with major emphasis on gerontology, social services or business administration preferred. Three years of management experience working with an aging program as well as experience working cooperatively with other community agencies to enhance coordination of service delivery. Excellent human relations and communications skills. Must maintain a minimum of \$100,000 automobile liability insurance. Salary - \$3,742.00 - \$5,425.83 monthly DOQ&E. Required application form and job description available at the Personnel Department, 111 West Vine Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130, phone 615-848-2553, TDD 615-849-2689, Fax 615-904-6506. Internet address www.murfreesborotn.gov. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. The city of Murfreesboro is an equal opportunity employer.

TOWN MANAGER

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN. The town of Signal Mountain, population 7,725, located in the metropolitan area of Chattanooga is seeking qualified applicants for the position of town manager. The manager is responsible to a five member council for the administration of all town services and departments, including but not limited to finance and administration, budgeting, code enforcement, storm water, police, fire, public works, water, recreation, planning and zoning, personnel and economic development. The ideal candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in public administration or related field and 5 years experience as town/city manager, assistant manager or equivalent. Experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, management of municipal departments, legislative issues, economic development, and planning are high priorities. The town has an annual budget in excess of \$10 million and 70 full-time employees. Resumes are public record. Salary depends upon qualifications plus excellent benefits. Send resumes to: MTAS, Attn: Warren Nevad, 120 Conference Center Building, Knoxville TN 37996. Resumes will be accepted until January 2, 2008. The town is an equal opportunity employer. Full job description is on the Town website signalmountaintn.gov.

Municipal Administration Program January Schedule

Budget and Property Freeze Workshop (3010)

A municipal budget should be much more than a legal document and an exercise in arithmetic. Developed properly, a good budget is a policy statement that reflects the goals and priorities of the city. This course will provide an overview of budgeting and is designed to help participants create a more effective and useful budget document in addition to learning the details on the property tax freeze legislation and how it affects your city.

Participants will learn how to identify and implement the steps in the budget cycle, prepare a budget calendar, and identify and project revenue sources (including property tax freeze revenue and project expenditures).

Instructor

MTAS finance consultants

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for all municipal employees who deal with fi-



nance and the implementation and collection of business tax.

Time

Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Dates and locations

Jan. 8	Jackson
Jan. 9	Bartlett
Jan. 10	Franklin
Jan. 24	Collegedale
Jan. 29	Knoxville
Jan. 30	Johnson City

Training Facilities

Bartlett Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling Road
Collegedale Collegedale City Hall,

4910 Swinyar Drive
Cookeville Town Center, One West First Street
Franklin Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane
Jackson West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard
Knoxville University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrissey at Elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu or 865.974.0411.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu. Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

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Mayor Allen Barker has Humboldt on the move

BY GAEL B. STAHL
Editor

Allen Barker's childhood roots were planted in Hayti, Mo., a small farming community of 3,000 just 22 miles west of Dyersburg, Tenn. He was born and raised there, but by the time he started school, his family had moved from Missouri to Toledo, Ohio. He was 10 years old when his father died and his mother took him back to be around his Hayti grandparents and her family. He was raised from then on in Hayti.

In 1968, looking for career options, he moved to Jacksonville, Fla., and lived with his older brother who was stationed in the Navy there. When he decided to get back closer to home, he remembered how people had commented about how Jackson, Tenn., was a nice and very progressive city located just an hour and a ferry ride from his hometown across the Mississippi River.

Young, single, and ready to explore Jackson jobs, he went to work for Montgomery Ward. Always fascinated by cars, he decided to try to sell them, and a job opportunity took him to Humboldt in 1972 where he has been selling cars ever since.

In Humboldt, Barker met his wife, Carol, who was still in high school when they started dating. They married in 1974 and had two daughters, Lisa, 27, and Cindy, 23. After working for new car dealerships three years, he went into business for himself and was one of the pioneers in bringing the wholesale car business to the Humboldt area. This is the selling of cars between dealers and carrying cars to auction to sell them. He still owns a small managed dealership but is not active in the business.

Buying, selling and trading cars is what he's always enjoyed doing. While he has collected cars, he's never kept them very long. His current collectible is a 2004 Corvette convertible he keeps covered in a garage. In two years he's put less than a thousand miles on it.

Six years before he entered politics, he became interested in zoning issues and consistently attended and observed meetings of the Board of Aldermen. Being in the car business in a community of 10,000, he was visible and well-known. In 1995, he was elected alderman, served two years and in 1997, was elected mayor. He took office in 1998, the first Humboldt mayor to serve a four-year term. He was re-elected twice.

In June of 2007, he was elected to the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors. He had previously served, in 1998, on the Public Chapter 1101 coordinating committee for city/county urban growth planning that helped put to rest annexation issues such as a civil suit with the Three Way community in adjoining Madison County that was later reincorporated.

Barker has been a member of the Lions Club, the West Tennessee Railroad Committee, chairman of the Joint Economic Community Development Board created by the PC 1101 legislation, the Tri-County Waste Board, and member and vice-president of the West Tennessee Mayors Association and member of the MTAS Advisory Board. He has completed the Local Government Leadership Program, Public Administrator Program, Policy Maker Program and the Elected Officials Academy.

For 12 years, he's been on the board of Humboldt Public Utilities, which is a co-owner, along with Jackson, Brownsville and Humboldt utility companies, of an energy acquisition company called Tennergy, which buys natural gas in large volumes at discounted rates and then resells it passing the discounts on.

Humboldt is home to the Annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival that is held during the first full week in May. The entire week is filled with events and involves hundreds of volunteers to make it bigger and better every year. May of 2008 will be its 71st year, which makes this the longest running festival in the state. Mayor Barker's last words in this interview were that he "would love to see you there."

TT&C: You settled in Humboldt to sell cars. Did you woo Carol with a convertible?

AB: Actually, I wooed her with a motorcycle. She was a Humboldt girl still in high school. I rode a lot of motorcycles back then and had been riding them since I was 12. I prefer to say I caught the eye of Carol, not the pretty red motorcycle I rode. She enjoyed riding. We became acquainted. She rode with me.



Allen Barker

She's always been adventurous. Six years ago, she decided to become a flight attendant for an airline out of Memphis, Pinnacle, which is an airliner partner of Northwest. She flies all over the United States but doesn't have a consistent daily route. Yesterday she was in Boston, the day before in Louisville, and this evening is home and I'm taking her to dinner.

TT&C: You stay on the move, too. What is the Japanese-America Society that you belong to?

My philosophy is to approach things for the city the same way I would if it were my own personal project. I want it done legal, I want it done to benefit the most people, and I want it done to where I can justify it.

AB: The Japan-America Society of Tennessee is headquartered in Nashville, led by the governor, and was created to facilitate trade and relations between Japan and Tennessee businesses. I'll be in New Orleans next week. I was invited by the Japanese Consul to an annual event to honor the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

I went to Japan in October for the annual Southeast United States/Japan meeting that is held in the United States one year and in Japan the next. Tennessee's assembly is called Japan-America Society of Tennessee, Inc., or JAST. After I attended the meeting in Tokyo for three days, I went on to China to join the approximately 80 state and local officials invited to attend the governor's 10-day trade-building mission to the People's Republic of China.

TT&C: How did you get involved in JAST?

AB: I accepted an invitation four years ago to attend the annual meeting in Atlanta. I went and became interested in such a great opportunity for expanding trade and contacts. I'm also excited about Gov. Bredesen's and ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber's initiative with China. It's truly a world economy we're in now, and if people don't realize it they will be left out.

TT&C: What did Humboldt accomplish during your first mayoral term 1998-2001?

AB: One thing we did was convert an old store into a senior citizen center. Our seniors were meeting on the third floor of our city hall building in a space that was too small. There were a lot of issues with that situation. I had committed to relocating the senior citizens, so we purchased and renovated an old grocery store building across the street from City Hall for a Senior Citizen Center.

It was during my first term that I began to focus on the city's existing

debt. Part of the old debt was for a defunct recycling facility. The funds used to purchase the facility were part of a larger tax exempt bond issue. The city had no viable use for the facility but since it was tied to the tax exempt status of the bond, we could not sell it or lease it to a private business. So we just had to continue to pay the debt that was scheduled to be paid off in 2011.

I was able to set aside enough funds so that in 2005 the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund allowed me to

pay off the portion of the debt that involved the recycling plant. That freed us up to sell or lease that facility to a business of any kind. As soon as we paid it off, I leased it for warehouse space. This year, Helena Chemical had an unfortunate fire that destroyed its facility. I contacted them about the possibility of relocating to the recycling plant building. Within three days we had a deal. They have since purchased it. They now have a much larger facility in an excellent location with room for expansion and the city no longer has that albatross – that debt service on a facility we had no use for – around its neck.

With regard to the rest of the debt we had with the Bond Fund, I kept the debt service at the same level we had prior to paying off the recycling plant. That allows us to pay off the balance of \$1.1 million three years early, in 2008, instead of 2011.

TT&C: What did you do during your second term 2002-2005?

AB: We built a sports baseball/softball complex. Next door to it we created a carnival ground for our Strawberry Festival. The festival began 70 years ago, but the city never owned an established carnival ground site for use from year to year. Needing more than 60,000 yards of dirt for the sports complex, I bought the property adjoining the ball fields and moved the dirt from the property I bought to the ball fields. That gave us a carnival site that we graveled – a neat, clean way of doing it – and saved the cost of buying and trucking dirt in. This was a good move for the city.

During my second term, we replaced \$600,000 worth of sidewalks that were in terrible shape and began revitalizing our parks and recreation facilities, updated our park equipment, built a new walking trail, and new pavilions in three of our parks.

During those first and second terms we also successfully applied for and were awarded Community

Development Block Grants to rehabilitate 50 to 60 houses for elderly and low-income people.

TT&C: What keeps you busy during this third term?

AB: We've converted Main Street Elementary School into the Humboldt Higher Education Center (HHEC). It started when Jackson State Community College approached me and the Chamber of Commerce about having a satellite campus of JSCC in Gibson County. We immediately thought of our Main Street Elementary School that had been vacated a year prior. Not long after, Tennessee Technology Center in Jackson and the University of Tennessee at Martin expressed interest in having a branch at this facility. We got cost estimates and saw that we needed about \$2.3 million for the renovation.

I said we could make it happen because there is enough community interest to support the use of tax dollars for the renovation and to give monetary donations, as well. The city borrowed money and the fundraising campaign has raised \$800,000 in cash contributions and pledges for the creation of the HHEC facility.

Just before the work began in late 2006, Dr. Shirley Raines at the University of Memphis said UM was interested in having a branch here.

I believe Humboldt is the only city in the entire state with a continuing education facility that houses branches of four higher educational institutions. This is a huge step forward for our area, for those seeking continuing education, and for our economic future. Prospective industry checks out the quality and availability of the workforce. We will offer a more educated workforce after HHEC opens in January 2008.

And our current and former residents are happy we've preserved a beloved institutional landmark.

TT&C: How did you go about raising so much money from past and present residents?

AB: The \$800,000 we've raised so far in pledges and cash is from a cross-section of local industry and local businesses and residents. We sent information to all our alumni who attended Humboldt schools. A lot of people attended school in this building going back nearly 70 years. The list of alumni we compiled goes back to 1939. We sent letters letting them know what was going on and asked if they wanted to contribute. They did. It was a mix of alumni pride and loyalty and sentiment for the preservation of the building. A huge majority of them had moved to other counties and states as far away as California or Texas, in fact, just all over. There were a few living overseas, but the contributions came in.

TT&C: Anything else to report this term?

AB: We are revitalizing the streets,

sidewalks, green space, and street lighting along Main Street with help of an enhancement grant from the state. We were midway through the lengthy bidding and engineering process for those projects when I decided if we do this much we have to enhance the traffic signals. With TDOT's help we combined two projects and will get mast arm signals to complement the other improvements. Construction began about 30 days ago. That million-dollar project, along with the Higher Education Center just two blocks away, anchors one end of downtown.

Another achievement concerns the former NCR building on the Highway 45 Bypass. It closed last year and has since been sold to Gray Metal South, Inc. of Dunn, NC, a pre-fabricator of air ducts and fittings.

A \$5.5 million 52,000-square-foot FedEx Ground Distribution Center is being built on nine acres of Humboldt Industrial Park. It's being designed and built by Rhino Construction located in Milan. We still have about 35 acres left in the industrial park – two good sites. Adjoining our city limits on the northwest side is another 550-acre county industrial park. There are currently two prospects looking to locate there.

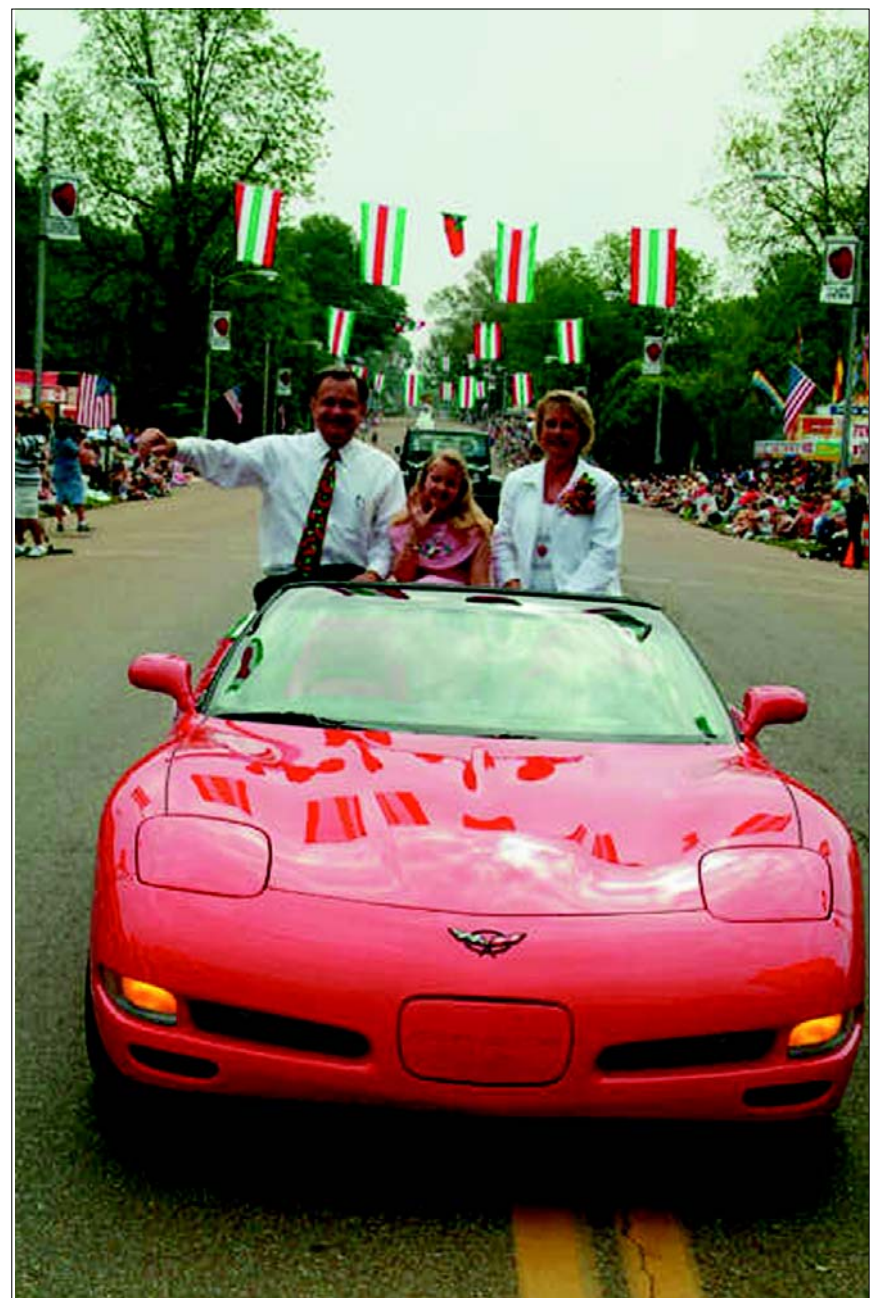
TT&C: You small-town mayors sure stay busy.

AB: What people don't realize is that a small-town mayor wears a lot of hats. In a city of our size, I'm the purchasing agent; I have to do all the specs to qualify purchases. I'm a human resource person. I'm a manager of multiple departments, and have responsibility for 100 employees and 10,000 citizens. When you get into the level of a city a little bigger than Humboldt you have personnel to administer some of these issues. In a smaller city the buck stops with you.

It's all geared to your population and to what you can afford. The responsibility falls on small-town mayors to take care of dog complaints or pothole problems, whereas in Nashville or Jackson you don't call the mayor. In a small city that's who you talk to since we don't have staff to take care of everything.

TT&C: What philosophy of public service have you developed over 10 years?

AB: My philosophy is to approach things for the city the same way I would if it were my own personal project or issue. I want it done legal, I want it done to benefit the most people, and I want it done to where I can justify it if need be. I don't do things "just because." I have to have a basis to act, and I always try to have a Plan B. I don't shoot from the hip but want to know what my options are and want them done to the best of everybody's ability.



Sitting in his 2004 Corvette, Mayor Allen and Carol Barker lead the May 2007 Strawberry Festival Parade with Holly Faulkner between them.