

COMMENTARY

## AT&T cable franchising bill fails consumers

BY MARGARET MAHERY  
*TML Executive Director*

Like a bad blind date, AT&T's cable and video service legislation fails to live up to the grand promises and high expectations which preceded its introduction.

The municipal leaders of this state believe the proposal offered by AT&T is bad for consumers and, therefore, is not in the best interests of the constituents they serve. For this reason, the Tennessee Municipal League and its member-municipalities oppose the "Competitive Cable and Video Services Act."

AT&T promises this legislation will benefit consumers by assuring all Tennesseans have access to cable or video service and an expanded choice of providers. Yet, the legislation proposes to eliminate the process by which local governments establish and enforce requirements that protect our citizens and ensure that all residents are assured access to cable or video services. In fact, the bill expressly prohibits the state and local governments from enacting any consumer quality and service standards or requiring that all neighborhoods in a municipality are served.

A consumer's access to cable should not be determined by where they live, how much money they make, whether they rent or own their home, or by an individual provider's corporate business plans and strategies.

Our goal should be to ensure every Tennessean, especially those residing in smaller cities and towns and the more rural parts of this state, has access to quality cable or video service at affordable prices. Eliminating the only meaningful process we have in place to address consumers' access increases the likelihood that cable and video providers will cherry pick customers and will make it more difficult to accomplish this goal.

Competition is good for our communities. Municipalities welcome fair and open competition between cable and telephone com-



Margaret Mahery

panies, but competition must come through a process that protects consumers.

If AT&T is sincere in its desire to bring competition to every corner of Tennessee and provide all Tennesseans access to quality cable or video service at affordable prices, then all they have to do is ask. Our cities and towns are eager to work with the company to facilitate competition through the existing local franchise process.

Upon reflection, this legislation leaves me pondering two questions: First, if there are more than 600 cable franchise agreements that have been entered into between cable and telephone companies and local governments under the existing local franchising process, then why is AT&T determined to take such extraordinary measures to avoid a process that works quite well? Second, if AT&T is as committed to bringing video service to all Tennesseans as they claim, then why are they so opposed to system build out requirements?

### Background

The federal government has established procedures and standards in order to foster competition and encourage the growth and development of cable systems, assure that cable systems are responsive to the needs and interests of the local community, assure that cable companies provide and are encouraged to provide the widest possible diversity of services to all, and provide for the orderly renewal of cable tele-

See **AT&T** on Page 2

## Gov. Bredesen presents 2007-08 budget – education top priority

Gov. Phil Bredesen presented his Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget proposal to the General Assembly last week. Calling it a practical, common sense approach to move Tennessee forward in a fiscally conservative manner, the \$27.48 billion budget, his fifth balanced budget representing a The \$27.48 billion budget - including \$13.3 billion in state dollars - funds key priorities in education, job creation, public safety and conservation.

"We're ready to take the next steps to seize the future for ourselves, for our children and for our children's children, and to do this we must start with education," Bredesen said. "We've put forth a balanced budget that asks for new classroom investments while offering a recurring revenue source to fund them."

Features of the budget proposal include:

- \$584 million, a near record investment in education

- School House Trust to give school districts greater borrowing power
- Fully Funded Basic Education Plan (BEP)
- Teacher Salary Increase
- Pre-K Expansion
- 100% At-Risk Funding
- 100% Growth Funding
- Free Community College Initiative
- Increased HOPE Scholarships
- ACT Testing 8th & 10th Grades
- \$85.7 million for employee pay increases (1% salary increase for state employees and higher education, plus a 2% one-time bonus)
- \$72.6 million for Alternative Fuels Initiative
- \$45.1 million for Next Steps Jobs Package
- \$10 million for Heritage Conservation Trust Fund
- \$505 million for Capital Outlay projects
- \$82 million for North

- Cumberland Plateau Land Preservation
  - \$31.7 million to MTSU for the Learning Resource Center
  - \$32 million to the UT Knoxville Cherokee Campus
  - \$7 million for the University of Memphis Land Bank
  - \$53.4 million for statewide Higher Education maintenance
- The FY 2007-2008 budget is a 3.5 percent increase over FY 2006-2007, with an increase in state funding of 6.8 percent and an increase in federal funding of 1 percent. With an appropriation of \$7.58 billion, TennCare represents 28 percent of the total budget, with Pre K-12 education and higher education combining for 29 percent of the budget.

Bredesen's 2007-2008 budget proposal, a Power Point presentation which outlines highlights of the his budget proposal can be found on the Governor's Web site at: [www.tennesseeanytime.org/governor/Budget.do](http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/governor/Budget.do).

## Officials ponder state road project shortfalls



Photo by Victoria South

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
*TML Communications Coordinator*

The long and winding road might be less bumpy for some of Tennessee's road projects with the recent congressional passage of a federal spending bill that will fund the state's highway program at 2007 levels.

Democrats assuming control of the formerly GOP-dominated House and Senate, placed emphasis

on FY07 spending bills unapproved before last year's recess by GOP lawmakers.

An increase of \$3.5 billion to \$3.9 billion allotted by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), a continuing resolution established in 2005 which authorizes the levels of annual federal funds received by state transportation departments, could cancel the delays in road construction previously projected by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), according to TDOT spokesperson Julie Oakes.

TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely had recently announced the department's plans to tighten its belt in response to the shortfall in federal funding for state roads and other projects, deferring some projects and barring others indefinitely from the pipeline.

"The department is still looking

at whether it will be necessary to delay any projects," said Oakes.

"Until we know for certain what our funding amounts will be, we won't know whether this will be a necessary action or not."

Nicely attributed TDOT's loss of a proposed \$80 million in federal funds "rescinded" in 2006 by the federal government along with authorized funding levels that "have not been met" by SAFETEA-LU as strong factors in the shortfall. Fifty percent of TDOT's budget comes from the federal government with no increases in state gas taxes since 1989.

Flat revenues combined with double digit inflationary costs of performing highway construction could leave the state with a projected \$2 billion shortfall over the next 10 years, affecting Tennessee's roadways, public transit, and environmental programs. "It costs approxi-

See **ROAD** on Page 5

## Japanese Consulate one step away from new Nashville home

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
*TML Communications Coordinator*

A "yes" by the Japanese parliament will set the stage for the Japanese Consulate in New Orleans to call Nashville its new home, according to Jim Hollingshead Assistant for Economic Affairs at consulate headquarters in New Orleans.

John Butler, VicePresident of International Business at the Nashville Chamber of Commerce confirms that consulate officials favored sites along West End Avenue and downtown with plans to relocate and become fully operational in a new Nashville office by January 2008.

The, news coincides with the recent move of Nissan Motor Corp. from its North American headquarters in Southern California to Nashville. A Toyota plant currently operates in nearby Kentucky.

Overall, close to 160 Japanese companies have operations in Tennessee employing about 40,000 workers.

While the Japanese consulate covers five states, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky, the largest concentration of Japanese nationals (80 percent) served by the New Orleans consulate, live in Kentucky and Tennessee, a strong factor in the decision to relocate, according to Hollingshead.

"We anticipate a yes," said Hollingshead "An announcement will be made by the Counsel General, Masaro Sakato, once its offi-

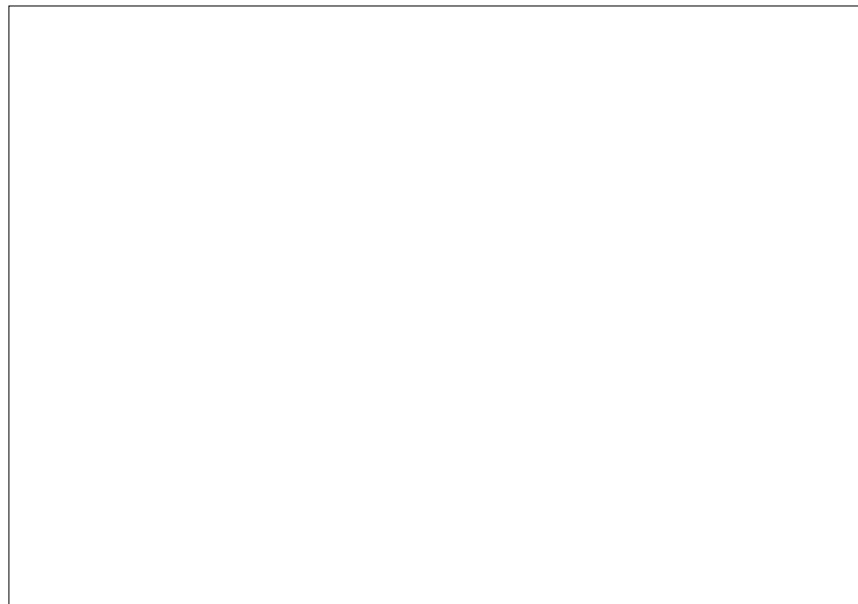


Photo courtesy of the Nashville Chamber

The Honorable Masaru Sakato, Consul General of Japan and John Butler, Vice President of International Business at the Nashville Chamber of Commerce

cial."

The final phase of the multi-staged process will take place in March or April as members of the Japanese Parliament review and approve a budget proposal for the project prepared by Japan's Ministry of Finance.

A decision has not been made concerning which or how many of the consulate's twenty employees will be relocating to Nashville should the proposal be accepted.

Members of New Orleans' Japanese community have tried in vain to persuade consulate officials to remain in New Orleans, where it has been since 1922. However, offi-

cials reiterate that their decision is final, business related, and not motivated by the extenuating circumstances of Hurricane Katrina.

"It's an unfortunate situation," Hollingshead said. "But, we are not leaving them. We are still very much committed to the people of New Orleans. We just have a different emphasis at this time."

The Japanese Consulate assists Japanese nationals with matters related to U.S. law enforcement and acquiring official documents such as passports while also participating in cultural and teaching exchange programs.

## TML Legislative Conference at March 5-6 in Nashville

It's not too late to register for the Tennessee Municipal League 2007 Legislative Conference, slated for March 5-6 at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Nashville.

The theme of the conference is: Today's Challenges are Tomorrow's Opportunities.

The conference will kick off at 1:00 p.m. on Monday with Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh, and Comptroller John Morgan slated to address our membership about key issues facing state and local governments.

The Monday afternoon session will also feature a presentation by Tom Fleming, assistant to the Comptroller for property assessments, on the proposed Senior Homestead legislation. There will also be time set aside for each district to meet. The Monday session will adjourn in time for city officials to attend the floor session in the Senate and House.

On Tuesday, a full breakfast will be served beginning at 8 a.m. The rest of the morning will be spent updating city officials on ethics

regulations and requirements of elected officials, as well as the status on the Cable Franchise bill currently being proposed by AT&T.

Registration forms are available at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org). Delegate fees are \$50 and spouse/guest fees are \$20.

### Monday, March 5

- 12 p.m. Registration
  - 1:00 Welcome
  - 1:15 Speaker Jimmy Naifeh
  - 1:30 Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey
  - 1:45 Comptroller John Morgan
  - 2:00 Break
  - 2:15 Tom Fleming
  - Comptroller's office
  - Sr. Homestead Exemption
  - 3:00 Break Out – TML Districts
  - Bill Review
  - Adjourn
  - 4:00 Floor sessions
  - 5:00 Legislative Plaza
- ### Tuesday, March 6
- 8 a.m. Breakfast
  - 9:00 Ethics Regulations
  - Cable Franchise Bill
  - Committee meetings
  - Legislative Plaza



# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



**BY TISH WOMACK**  
*TML Research Analyst*

**ALCOA**  
A new service center, consisting of more than one building, that will house several city departments is coming off the drawing board and starting construction. The \$15 million complex is scheduled for completion in spring 2008.

**BEERSHEBA SPRINGS**  
A \$190,000 Homeland Security grant will be used by the Beersheba Springs volunteer fire department for training and equipment.

**CHATTANOOGA**  
Global competition was cited for the announced closing of Velsicol Chemical Corp. that will leave 70 employees without jobs. The plant, maker of benzoic acid and plastic additives, is scheduled to close in mid-April.

**CHATTANOOGA**  
City officials were on hand when a time capsule installed in the cornerstone of city hall 99 years ago, was unearthed and opened. Inside were business cards and local newspapers from 1908. City hall is undergoing a \$12 million renovation.

**CLARKSVILLE**  
A \$1.5 million federal grant will allow the city to hire 15 new firefighters and help move toward the goal of having four fighters on each fire truck responding to a scene as suggested by the National Fire Protection Agency code.

**FRANKLIN**  
The Franklin governing body approved the Bicentennial Park's first phase, anticipated to begin in the fall. The \$29 million park, when completed, will be 15-30 acres in size and include new use for flood-prone areas and greater access to the Harpeth River.

**JOHNSON CITY**  
The Washington County Industrial Park will improve transmission

lines and get a new electric substation funded by a \$1 million grant from the federal Economic Development Administration.

**LAKE CITY**  
A design and feasibility study for a coal miners museum is underway. The vision for the project also includes a trail to sites of the 1902 Fraterville Mining Disaster where about 200 were killed and of the Coal Creek war, also known as the Miners Rebellion of 1891 and 1892.

**MANCHESTER**  
A Homeland Security grant of nearly \$128,000 will provide for the purchase of personal protective gear for firefighters.

**MANCHESTER**  
CalsonicKansei, an air bag controls and keyless entry systems manufacturer for the automotive industry, announced it will close the Manchester plant beginning in April. The 100 production workers will be offered positions in the Lewisburg plant and salaried workers will also be offered new positions in the company.

**MOUNTAIN CITY**  
A federal Economic Development Administration grant of \$652,000 and an Appalachian Regional Commission grant of \$500,000 will be used to upgrade the city's Silver Lake Water Treatment Plant.

**MURFREESBORO**  
March 1 is the starting date for Murfreesboro's first city-operated transit system of nine Rover buses that will run on six major corridors in the city.

**NASHVILLE**  
At the Mayor's Housing Summit, Mayor Bill Purcell announced that the city will spend \$600,000 on programs to address permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

**NASHVILLE**  
The U.S. Census Bureau has revised Davidson County's population up-

ward by about 30,000 to more than 600,000.

**OVERTON COUNTY**  
Hydroserre Tennessee, LLC announced it will build a facility to grow "Clean and Natural" lettuces and greens using hydroponics technology. The plant will provide nearly 300 jobs to the area.

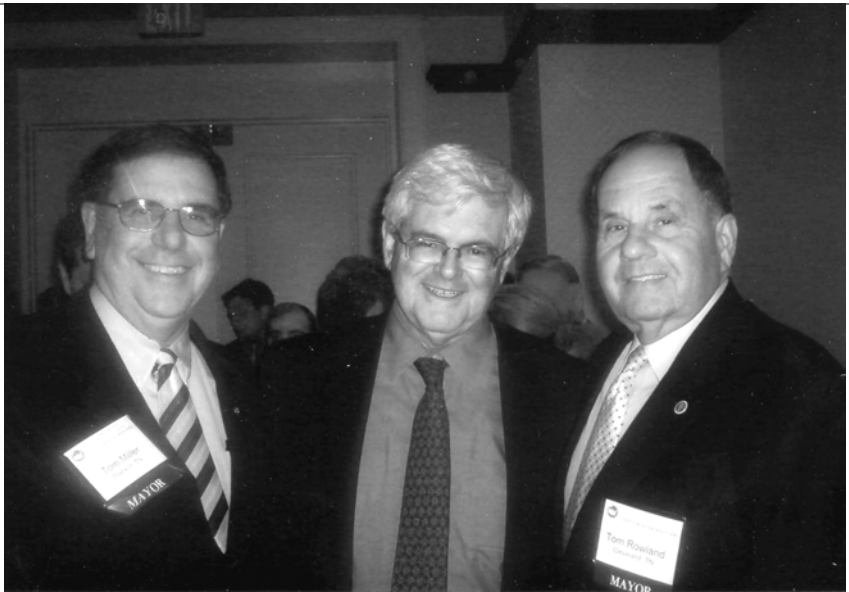
**ROANE COUNTY**  
Crete Carrier, a trucking company, will open a trucking facility that will employ 50. The facility will be located next to Interstates 40 and 75 in Roane County.

**SPRING HILL**  
A new fire truck with a 75-foot ladder has arrived in Spring Hill complete with rescue features that will allow the city to consider raising the 35-foot building height limitation to 75 feet.

**SPRING HILL**  
Saturn plant has announced it will furlough 2,400 workers while the plant is renovated following the move of the Saturn Vue and Ion lines to other plants. The ripple effect for employees in eight auto-parts suppliers will mean 900 will be laid off as a result. Many of the workers could be called back in 2008 when production resumes.

**TRI-CITIES**  
According to a report from East Tennessee State University, the Tri-Cities' fourth quarter job gain in 2006, the seventh consecutive quarter of job growth, meant the addition of 7,823 new jobs over the same period in 2005. The unemployment rate, in the same period, dropped from 9.17 to 4.18 percent.

**TULLAHOMA**  
Tullahoma has its fingers crossed with the news that the Arnold Air Force Base is in the running for the Air Force's new ground combat training program. That could mean a boost of 800 jobs to the area as well as \$80 million in development.



Franklin Mayor Tom Miller, left, and Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, right, are pictured with former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich during the U.S. Conference of Mayors recently held in Washington, D.C. Franklin and Cleveland were the only two Tennessee cities recognized for participating in the National Dollar Wise campaign that provides low-income families with sound financial advice.

## PEOPLE

**BY TISH WOMACK**

**Sen. Raymond Finney** has been invited to become a member of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. The invitation-only organization is made up of 400 legislators representing state legislators from all 50 states.



Finney

**State Rep. Parkey Strader** returned to his seat in the Tennessee House following nearly two months of cancer treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Tex.



Strader

**Decatur City Recorder Carrie Davis** resigned her position effective Feb. 9. She is moving back to her hometown to spend time with her family.

Former Columbia Mayor **Barbara McIntyre** will be the grand marshal of the 2007 Mule Day Parade.



McIntyre

Columbia Fire Captain **Charles Norman** has been appointed to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Local Assistance State Team as a team honor guard and ceremonial support officer. The team is deployed to help families when a firefighter is killed in the line of duty.



Norman

Alcoa has hired **Roger Robinson** as its fire chief. Robinson has been a full-time firefighter with the department since 1977.

Eagleville Police Chief **Everett Stone** resigned effective Feb. 14.

## STATE BRIEFS



**BY TISH WOMACK**

**Gov. Phil Bredesen announced the \$3.5 million alternative fuel grants and loans application process has begun.** The Alternative Fuel Innovations Grants, designed to help local governments and state-funded universities increase the use of alternative fuels in their fleets and measure positive impacts to state air quality, is accepting applications through May 31. The maximum grant, to be funded through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, is \$40,000 for fuel purchasing, maintenance or fuel promotional projects; and \$100,000 for capital projects. The Tennessee Departments of Agriculture and Economic and Community Development are accepting applications through March 15 for Feedstock Processing Demonstration Loans of up to \$500,000 to increase Tennessee farm income and production of alternative fuel feedstock. The third grant program, Green Island Corridor Grant Project, is to establish a statewide network of publicly accessible biofuel E85 and B20 refueling

stations across the state. Grant applications will be accepted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation through April 12.

**Tennessee earned an "A" for its efforts in combating obesity on the University of Baltimore's Obesity Initiative report card.** The state is one of the top 10 most obese states but is also one of the three states to receive an A grade for having passed seven of the eight types of obesity legislation being tracked by the report.

**The U.S. Census Bureau reported Tennesseans paid \$1,678 in state taxes in 2005, \$512 less than the national average.** The state tax on most consumer goods, including food, was \$1,282.50 per Tennessean, 22 percent higher than the U.S. average.

**The Tennessee Department of Transportation is using biodiesel in 47 vehicles in Chattanooga and Cookeville.** TDOT plans to begin using the B-20 fuel in its Nashville vehicles in March with a later spring start-up for Jackson and Memphis.

By the end of the year, all TDOT vehicles will be using biodiesel.

**In its Economic Report to the Governor, UT economists predicted the state's economy will have a slight slowdown.** It also predicted 31,900 new jobs and 5.5 percent growth in personal income.

**The "Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk" campaign by the Tennessee Highway Patrol during Super Bowl Sunday was deemed a success with no fatalities recorded statewide from Friday through Sunday night.**

**Bizjournals.com's 100 Best Places to Retire** listed several Tennessee cities: Crossville (4), Sevierville (57), LaFollette (64), Kingsport-Bristol (70), Harriman (78), Morristown (84), and Greeneville (87).

**The early February Florida storms killed all but one of the whooping cranes that were shepherded by ultra light aircraft from a stopover at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge near Birchwood, Tenn., on their way to wintering refuge in Florida.**

**AT&T, continued from Page 1**  
vision franchises. Having determined that local governments are best suited to decide what is in the best interest of the citizens of their respective city, town, or county, the federal government has granted cable franchising authority to local governments. While provision of cable television service through local franchising was originally reserved for cable companies, the cable market was opened to telephone companies in 1996.

Pursuant to this authority, cable and telephone companies desiring to provide cable and video service in a municipality or county must apply for a cable franchise with the city, town, or county they are seeking to serve. The provider and local government then negotiate an agreement (cable franchise agreement). This agreement provides a non-exclusive grant of authority allowing the provider to deliver service to subscribers within the municipality's or county's jurisdiction, under terms and conditions that enable local governments to ensure its citizens are afforded meaningful consumer protections, make certain the service provided is available to all of its citizens, provide for the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, and guarantee the rightful authority and enforcement powers of a municipal-

ity or county are preserved. The BellSouth/AT&T cable and video franchising bill terminates local government's franchising authority and replaces the existing franchising process with a single, statewide certificate. In addition, the legislation contains a provision which specifically prohibits the state or local governments from imposing "build-out" requirements on providers that secure a state certificate.

AT&T (then BellSouth) filed an application with the city of Bartlett to provide video service to city residents. The application was approved and a local franchise agreement was entered into in October of 1996. This agreement authorized AT&T (BellSouth) to provide video service for a ten-year period. This agreement has expired. At no point during the 10-year period did AT&T (BellSouth) attempt to provide such service. To our knowledge, this is the only local franchise the company has sought with a municipality in Tennessee.

Missed an issue?

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# A day in House of the 105th General Assembly



Rep. Ulysses Jones, Memphis



Rep. John Hood, Murfreesboro



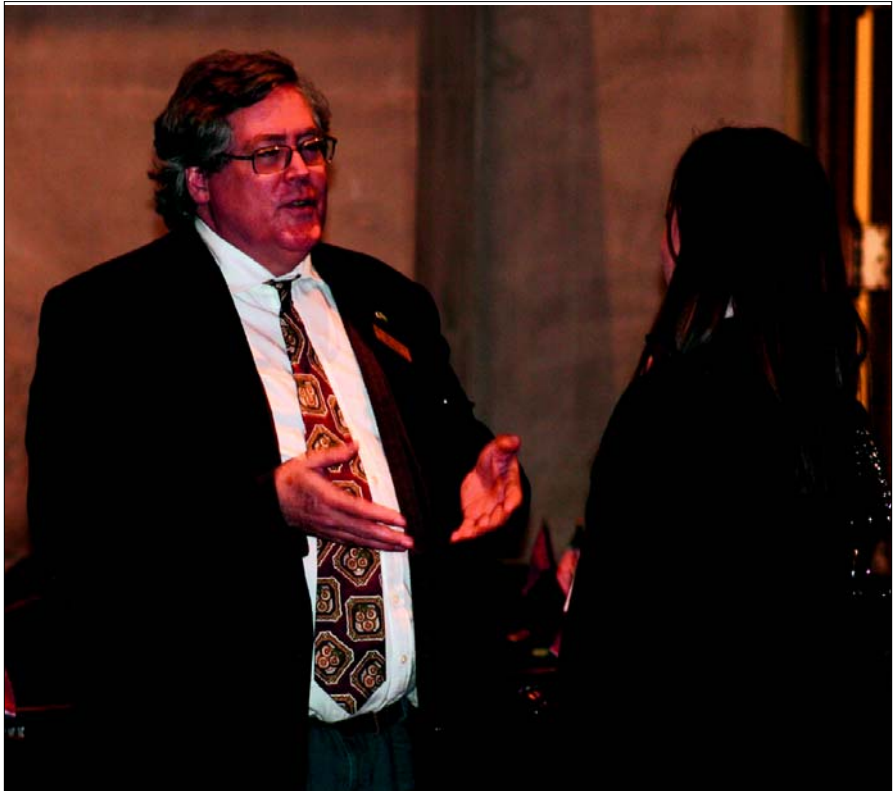
Rep. Susan Lynn, Mt. Juliet



Rep. Brenda Gilmore, Nashville



Rep. Joe Towns, Memphis, and Rep. John Mark Windle, Livingston



Rep. Mike Kernell, Memphis



Rep. Mike McDonald, Portland, and Rep. Kent Coleman, Murfreesboro



Rep. Mark Maddox, Dresden, and Rep. Janice Sontay, Nashville



ATTORNEY  
GENERAL  
OPINIONS

Compiled By  
**JOSH JONES**  
& **DENNIS HUFFER**  
*MTAS Legal Consultants*

Opinion No. 07-02: As the authority to issue criminal summonses and citations is statutorily derived, no local law enforcement agency may independently convey that statutory authority to a private security guard. Further, to do so could open the agency to liability for the guard's actions.

Opinion No. 07-03: Members of the National Guard activated for emergency purposes, without their consent, who are also municipal employees, shall continue to receive in addition to military pay their full salary and benefits from their local position, for so long as they remain on involuntary orders. Additionally, local government employees who are members of the National Guard are subject to orders of the governor to serve outside of the borders of Tennessee.

Opinion No. 06-177: County and municipal legislative bodies may not exempt those who qualify for the State tax relief program from the collection of storm water fees.

IN THE COURTS



Recent Tennessee Supreme Court  
opinions relating to municipalities

*Diane Jordan, et al. v. Knox County, Tennessee, et al.:* In an expedited appeal, the court holds that Knox County failed to comply with the legislation for instituting a charter form of government. Hence, Knox County has been governed by a de facto charter and government since 1990. Additionally, the term limits amendment is upheld and shall apply to all Knox County elected officials except court clerks and school board members.

*George R. Fusner Jr., as designated representative of the Mexican Consulate v. Coop Construction Co., LLC, et al:* Holds that non-resident foreign nationals can be “dependents” under our workers’ compensation laws.

*Steve D. Barnett v. Earthworks Unlimited:* In a workers’ compensation claim, an employee was terminated for unrelated reasons and filed a claim post-termination. Affirms trial court’s ruling that worker’s compensation claim is not time-barred because the statute of limitations did not begin to run until the employee’s

Opinion No. 06-176: A domestic nonprofit water cooperative may not merge with an adjacent municipality that operates its own water utility system. Such a cooperative may however, under certain conditions, transfer all of its assets to an adjacent municipality.

Opinion No. 06-175: A municipality may permit alcoholic beverages to be served during private engagements at its civic center, so long as the service is provided by a restaurant, hotel or caterer holding a valid caterer’s license.

Opinion No. 06-172: Upon the declaration of a state of emergency, municipal chief executive officers may, independent of the governor, direct and compel an evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within their jurisdiction. They also have the authority to forcibly remove persons who refuse to comply with evacuation orders.

Opinion No. 06-167: A municipal officer may arrest a person who refuses to sign a citation for a city code or ordinance violation or a person who violates a city code or ordinance and is unable or unwilling to provide proper identification for the issuance of a citation.

last-day-worked.

*Patricia M. Bryant v. Baptist Health System Home Care:* Upheld trial court’s decision which dismissed employer’s counterclaim, concluding that the employee’s false deposition testimony is not a “fraudulent insurance act” as that term is defined by the Workers’ Compensation Fraud Act.

*Anna Sue Correll, Individually and as Administrator Ad Litem for the Estate of Edward H. Correll v. E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co.:* In a workers’ compensation action, an employer’s subrogation right extends to the recovery an employee’s surviving spouse obtains in a products liability action filed out of state prior to employee’s death.

*Dennis Wilson v. Blount County, Tennessee, et al.:* In a property owner’s suit, affirms the Court of Appeals reversal of trial court’s finding that the Blount County Sheriff’s Department exercised due diligence in attempting to serve process of tax lien notice.

# Tobacco money a hard habit for states to kick

BY PAMELA M. PRAH  
*Stateline.org*

States are discovering just how addictive tobacco can be. While a number are looking to hike the price of a pack of cigarettes to dissuade people from lighting up, states hooked on big money from Big Tobacco might be facing some withdrawal pains themselves.

As they begin drafting their budgets for fiscal 2008, many states are facing a shortfall in the tobacco settlement dollars they have used in recent years to balance budgets and bolster health programs.

In exchange for agreeing not to sue cigarette manufacturers over health claims, states have received \$53 million between 2000-2005 as part of the 1998 multi-state settlement.

Now, states are taking Big Tobacco back to court, claiming they were shortchanged \$813 million in 2006. States are wary they could be stiffed \$1 billion this year when payments are due April 15.

The cigarette companies say the tobacco settlement allows them to pare back their payments under certain conditions, including loss of business to cigarette makers that haven’t signed on to the pact. “This is the most important dispute between the states and the tobacco companies since the master settlement was signed in 1998,” said Washington state Attorney General Rob McKeena, who co-chairs the tobacco committee at the National Association of Attorneys General, the umbrella organization that spearheaded the litigation for the states. McKenna said he doubts the litigation will be resolved by the end of the year.

While the two sides duke it out, many states learned their lesson last year and already are bracing for a smaller tobacco windfall this year. Virginia, for example, received \$21 million less than expected last year and had to reshuffle money to make sure the state Medicaid program wasn’t cut, according to Ric Brown, director of the commonwealth’s Department of Planning and Budget. While optimistic states eventually will win the legal wrangling, he said he’s not banking on the money this year. “We can’t spend it until we get it.”

Alabama last year found it was short nearly \$11 million, forcing cuts in the Children’s First Trust Fund, which provides grants to local children’s programs, said Deborah Kennedy, assistant director of the state’s Legislative Fiscal Office. Oregon received \$9 million less than expected and had to reduce payments to human services programs.

“This is definitely an issue because states were beginning to rely on this source of revenue for a range of different projects and the shortfall will now force them to re-align their priorities,” said Sujit CanagaRetna, a state budget expert for the Council of State Governments.

Forty-six states are part of the

original master tobacco settlement. Payments are based on how many cigarettes the tobacco companies sell in each state. (Four states — Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas — have their own agreements).

States can use the money to fund anti-smoking and health care programs, but the master settlement doesn’t require it and most don’t. During recent lean years, many cash-strapped states used their tobacco money to balance their budgets.

“Instead of using the money for its intended purpose, the states have squandered billions of dollars on ‘pet projects,’ such as golf courses and horse-breeding farms, roads and bridges, and state budget-deficit reductions — items completely unrelated to the stated purpose of the settlement funds,” R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. said on its Web site. The site includes a state-by-state tally of tobacco taxes and settlement payments in 2005.

Eric Lindblom of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids also faulted states for not spending more to reduce smoking. Only Maine, Delaware and Colorado fund tobacco-use prevention programs at levels the federal government suggests. The group says Mississippi used to be a national leader on this issue but “has fallen to dead last.” It blames Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour (R), a former tobacco lobbyist. The group’s recent report includes estimates of tobacco-use prevention spending for each state.

Arizona was the only state in 2005 to use all of its tobacco money for health issues, according to an April 2006 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the congressional watchdog agency of Congress. The report includes a state-by-state listing of how states spent their tobacco money in 2005. Of \$5.8 billion received in 2005, states set aside only about one-third for health and less than 5 percent for tobacco-control programs, according to the 2006 GAO report.

Fifteen states — including California, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Wisconsin — already have cashed in a big chunk of their share of the settlement, selling future tobacco payments to investors for an upfront lump-sum payment, known as securitization.

Some states are having second thoughts on how they have spent their tobacco funds. Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle (D) hopes to undo his state’s securitization deal and refinance the bonds with the money then being used to expand anti-smoking initiatives. A Colorado Senate panel recently approved a bill directing some of the state’s tobacco settlement money to health programs. During the economic downturn, the state used about \$20 million of the settlement for highway projects, *The Rocky Mountain News* reported. Voters recently also had their

say on how to spend the tobacco settlement. Last November, Florida and Idaho voters adopted measures requiring that 15 percent to 20 percent of their tobacco settlement be used for statewide tobacco education and prevention programs.

The original 1998 tobacco settlement involved four major tobacco companies: R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Lorillard, and Philip Morris USA, whose parent company recently changed its name to Altria Group. The settlement led 46 states to drop a massive lawsuit against cigarette companies in exchange for sharing an estimated \$206 billion over 25 years. Phillip Morris made its full payment to the states last year, but won’t say whether it will do the same this year.



2007 proposals for per-pack  
cigarette tax hikes

- **Connecticut** – 49-cent increase by Gov. M. Jodi Rell (R) to pay for health insurance programs
- **Delaware** – 45-cent hike by Gov. Ruth Ann Minner (D) for programs to reduce infant mortality and improve children’s health
- **Indiana** – 25-cent hike by Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) to fund health insurance coverage and anti-smoking programs
- **Iowa** – \$1 increase by Gov. Chet Culver (D) to curb smoking and provide health insurance to needy children
- **Maine** – \$1 hike by Gov. John Baldacci (D) to patch a hole in the budget
- **Maryland** – \$1 increase by Delegate Peter Hammen (D) to provide health insurance to low-income workers and subsidies to small businesses that offer coverage
- **Mississippi** – \$1 increase by Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck (R) to cut nearly in half the 7 percent state sales tax on groceries
- **Oregon** – 84.5-cent increase by Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D) to provide health insurance to uninsured children
- **Pennsylvania** – 10 cent increase on cigarettes and a new 36-cent tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco by Gov. Ed Rendell’s (D) to help cover those without health insurance
- **South Carolina** – 30-cent increase by Gov. Mark Sanford (R) to offset a proposed cut in state income tax
- **Tennessee** – 40-cent increase by Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) for education programs
- **Wisconsin** – \$1.25 increase by Gov. Jim Doyle (D) to pay for anti-smoking efforts and to offset the cost of tobacco-related illnesses

Stateline.org is an independent element of the Pew Research Center.

# Nominations open for 2007 Municipal Excellence Awards

The Awards for Municipal Excellence recognize outstanding programs that improve the quality of life in America’s communities. Given through a partnership between the National League of Cities and CH2M HILL, the Awards honor a range of population sizes, with two awards in each population

category. Past winning programs have exhibited:

- Successful public-private partnerships
- Productive citizen and community collaborations
- Effective management of municipal resources
- Innovative government policies

- Tangible project results
- Potential program implementation in other cities

Up to eight winners will be nationally recognized at a ceremony at NLC’s Congress of Cities Conference and Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana in December 2007. Nominated cities must be members

of NLC. Nominations must be postmarked by May 3, 2007. Visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org), under “Resources for Cities” and “Awards and Recognition” for a nomination packet and information about the Awards program. For more information, please call 202-626-3130 or email [awards@nlc.org](mailto:awards@nlc.org).

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# ETCFC success story: The clean cities of East Tennessee

BY JONATHON G. OVERLY  
Executive Director, ETCFC

One of the success stories for the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC) is the cities in East Tennessee that use biodiesel. To sum their collective action in our region using one word, That word would be “leadership.”

In all of the below cases, the ETCFC was either the lead actor or a major player in helping these cities make the switch to using biodiesel. We serve as an educational and informational link to regional fleets in working to help them get started using alternative fuels.

It began in 2004 when two cities, Maryville and Alcoa in Blount County, began testing the use of B20 in a couple vehicles each. That testing lasted about one and half years before they moved to fleet-wide B20 use in latter 2005. Alcoa has about 85 diesel vehicles running B10 in winter and up to B40 in summer; Maryville has 125 vehicles that run B20 year-round.

Meanwhile, the city of Chattanooga attended one of the ETCFC’s regional meetings at which there happen to be the regional biodiesel producer who spoke about their production. That was in late 2004. In early 2005, the switched all 385 diesel vehicles in the fleet to B5, and used the rest of 2005 to slowly segue up to B20. Then been on B20 since.

Similarly, during late 2004, two cities in Sevier County--Gatlinburg and Sevierville--started using biodiesel. Sevierville took the slow road ramping up from B5 to B20 over about a year while Gatlinburg started testing B20 in their mass transit fleet. As things went well, they moved all 85 of the cities vehicles to B20 before the end of 2005. The city of Sevierville has about 85 now on B20.

After several years of communication with the ETCFC, in 2005 the city of Knoxville figured out how to get their biodiesel program started. They selected one of their multiple refueling sites and moved to B5 there, then after about three months, moved that blend up to B20. Before the end of 2005, the moved their main site tank to B5, and in April 2006, ramped up to fleet-wide B20.

In the Tri-Cities area of north-

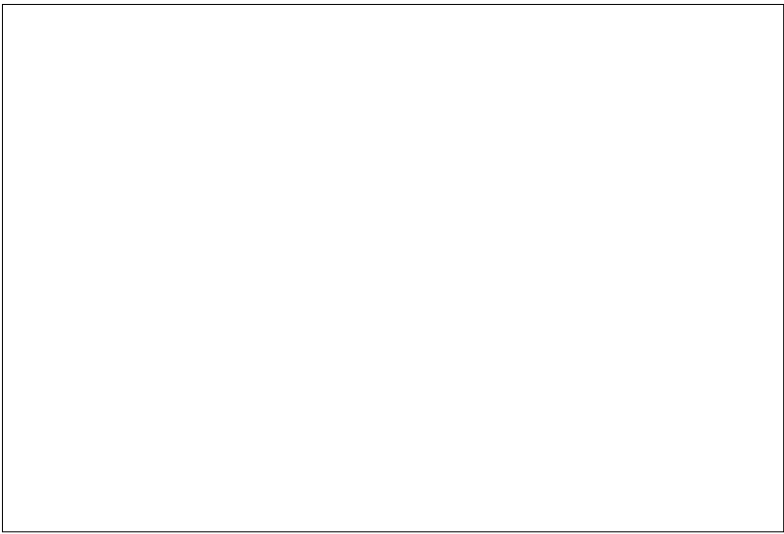
## Municipal Bond Fund Board to meet March 5

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 5, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board.

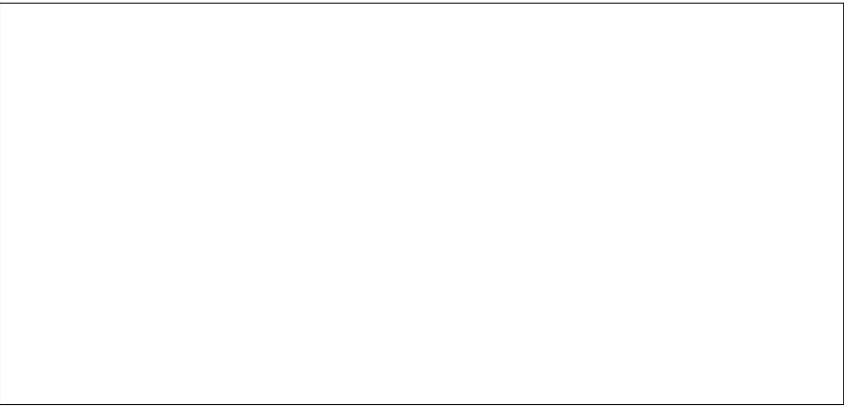
Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting.

If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Feb. 26, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville.

Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Lorrie Nelson at 615-255-1561.



Alcoa work trucks



Maryville fire truck

east Tennessee, Johnson City is unique because all of the city’s school buses, mass transit vehicles and service fleet fill-up at the same city station. After about two years of discussions with mass transit offi-

cials and city staff, in fall 2006 Johnson City moved their entire fleet to B5. As of early 2007, they were on B10 and expect to move to B20 in Spring 2007. They operate a total of 380 vehicles on biodiesel.

# Officials ponder state road project shorfalls

**ROADS** from Page 1  
mately \$10 million just to build one mile of interstate,” Nicely illustrated.

TDOT officials recently met with state lawmakers and municipal officials at the annual Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization luncheon in East Tennessee to discuss transportation objectives and provide constructive feedback to city officials.

Chief of Environment and Planning for TDOT, Ed Cole, discussed the specific challenges facing the state’s transportation system. In addition to the lack of a comprehensive transportation funding bill, Cole described an increase of 11 to 12 percent in construction and fuel costs for building and maintenance of Tennessee’s roadways, usually absorbed by TDOT at a rate of 3 to 5 percent, now disintegrated by high gas prices and a steel market currently cornered by China. TDOT’s 2007 budget is \$1.74 billion.

Of the 21.4 cents-per-gallon state gasoline tax, 12.7 cents is allotted to TDOT in addition to federal funding and other revenue.

Options to neutralize increasing costs and decreasing revenue studied by TDOT include road building by private sector and a revival of toll roads. Toll roads were used by the state in the early part of the last century; however, Tennessee now employs a “pay-as-you-go” philosophy spending no more than what is taken into the state’s transportation fund, a serious issue according to Tennessee Road Builder Association President Johnny Coleman.

“The gas and diesel taxes are not indexed to inflation,” Coleman states in the December 2006 issue of *Tennessee Road Builder Magazine*. “They remain the same regardless of the price of fuel and do not keep up with inflation ...Tennessee’s popu-

lation and economy have grown 30 percent from 1980 to 2000; yet our State’s transportation infrastructure has not kept the same pace of growth and many of the State’s roads have remained the same.”

According to Coleman, in 2004, \$1.6 billion in wages were paid to transportation construction workers in Tennessee and in that same year, \$133 million was spent on healthcare plans along with \$56 million on retirement plans by the transportation industry.

“There has been no major change in the way Tennessee funds its transportation system since fuel taxes were last raised in 1989,” Coleman stressed.

While Governor Bredesen acknowledges the funding dilemma clouding Tennessee’s roadways, press secretary Lydia Lenker does not foresee an impending gas tax increase.

“The issue of raising the state’s gas tax is not on the Governor’s immediate agenda, said Lenker. “As the cost of building roads in Tennessee increases, he is aware the matter may need to be addressed during his second term, but it’s not an absolute.”

Road fund woes are also spilling into the local sector, the counties, cities and towns where federal funding doesn’t reach. Inflationary costs of 18 to 25 percent for road construction and repairs are hitting local governments below the belt, according to Rodney Carmical, Executive Director of The Tennessee County Highway Officials Association.

“SAFETEA, at one time had guard rail grants, but the SAFETEA-LU program did away with safety program allotments and put the money in TDOT’s coffers,” said Carmical.

Maintenance funding for county and municipal roads is pro-



A refueling stop in Sevierville



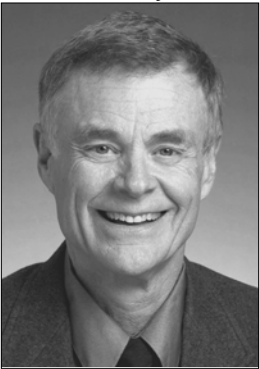
Chattanooga trucks

Other cities in East Tennessee have also either tested or tried biodiesel or are moving to using a fleet-wide blend. They include: Athens, Bristol, Cleveland, Kingsport and Oak Ridge. In summary, the

three largest cities in East Tennessee--Knoxville, Chattanooga and Johnson City--all use fleet-wide biodiesel. Many others are also showing leadership in our region by using this alternative fuel.



Nicely



Cole



Coleman



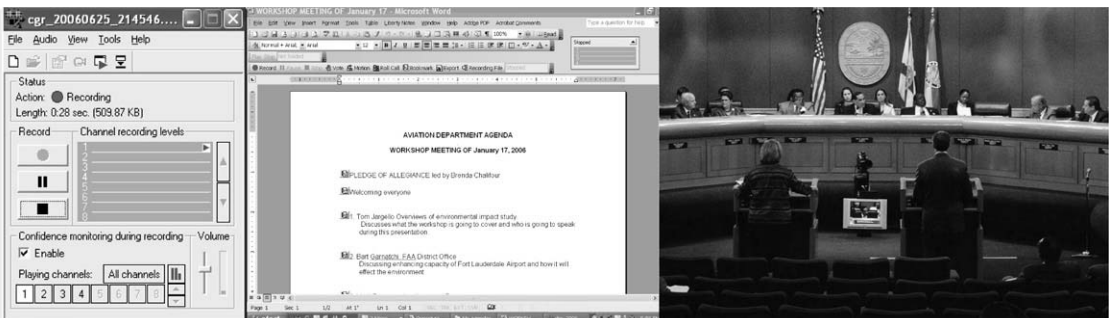
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## March – Municipal Administration Program

### Planning and Zoning: A Closer Look (4399)

Planning is a process that seeks to guide the future. Decisions regarding zoning, building development and growth issues affect land-owners, neighbors, and the entire community - often with significant impact on property values, community character and quality of life, and even the municipal budget. Municipal officials and municipal staff who have planning and zoning responsibilities should attend this class. This class meets the requirements of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals Training and Continuing Education Act 2002.

This course will focus on:

- Zoning’s function in implementing a land use plan
- Zoning adoption and amendment process
- Reading and interpreting a zoning map
- Extraterritorial zoning process
- Powers and duties of a Board of Zoning Appeals

**Instructors**  
Community Planning Director



Dan Hawk and Community Planning Regional Director Tim Roach of Tennessee Department of ECD Local Planning Assistance Program

**Who Should Attend**  
Municipal officials and municipal staff who have planning and zoning responsibilities should attend this class.

Dates and locations	
March 6	Knoxville
March 7	Johnson City
March 14	Bartlett
March 15	Jackson
March 21	Cookeville
March 27	Collegedale
April 5	Franklin ( <i>New</i> )

**Time**  
Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m., conclude at 12:30 p.m.

**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 Ctr for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd*  
**Johnson City** *Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard Street*  
**Knoxville** *University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley St*

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) or contact Sandy Selvage at [selvage@tennessee.edu](mailto:selvage@tennessee.edu) or 865.974.9833.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail [kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu](mailto:kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu). Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$50 per person per class for all other participants.

## March – Municipal Administration Program – Joint City/County Session

### Stress Management

Stress is a normal and natural part of life, but you need to know how to control it and make it work positively for you. This course will uncover the sources of stress and provide techniques to help you cope with stress. Learn how to meet life’s challenges while channeling your energy to get positive results. Learn to recognize your unique strengths and limitations and to anticipate how you will react to life’s pressures.

**Instructor**  
Patty Ritchie

**Who Should Attend**  
This course is designed for all municipal employees. Also, anyone

who deals with issues that increase stress in the work environment and at home will be able to utilize these skills to ease the causes of stress.

Dates and locations	
March 13	Knoxville
March 20	Jackson
April 19	Franklin ( <i>New</i> )

**Time**  
Leadership courses are offered at 8 a.m. and conclude at 12 p.m.

**Training Facilities**  
**Franklin** *Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane*  
**Jackson** *West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd*

**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](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) or contact Sandy Selvage at [Sandy.Selvage@tennessee.edu](mailto:Sandy.Selvage@tennessee.edu) or 865.974.9833.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail [kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu](mailto:kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu). Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$50 per person per class for all other participants.

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**March 10-June 9:** “Smoky Mountain Springfest” in Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and Sevierville features special events, local craft shows and more. Contact: 800-568-4748 for more information.

COMING UP

**March 5-6:** TML Legislative Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Nashville.

**March 10-14:** National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

**March 20:** Tennessee Department of Revenue new business workshop, 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at 1321 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville. Register online at [www.tennessee.gov/revenue/bustaxworkshops](http://www.tennessee.gov/revenue/bustaxworkshops).

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments asking for their assistance in providing updated addresses for their communities, part of an early, concerted effort to make the 2010 census as accurate as possible.

The first dollar coin was the Eisenhower, then the Susan B. Anthony and the Sacagawea. Presidents Day 2007, a gold-colored presidential dollar coin featuring George Washington was released by the U.S. Mint. This year there will be four presidential dollar coins honoring Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. Four new coins will be issued each year ending with Lyndon B. Johnson in 2015.

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**TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY**  
(ISSN: No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420 — Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery ([mmahery@TML1.org](mailto:mmahery@TML1.org)); **Editor:** Gael Stahl ([gstahl@TML1.org](mailto:gstahl@TML1.org)); **Classified ads and news briefs:** Tish Womack ([twomack@TML1.org](mailto:twomack@TML1.org)). **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to [dkluth@TML1.org](mailto:dkluth@TML1.org). Opinions expressed non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML. *Tennessee Town & City* is published, semi-monthly, 20 times per year at 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. **Postmaster:** Send changes of address to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894.





# CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
**MC MINNVILLE.** The city of McMinnville, population 12,783+, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of city administrator. The position is responsible to the mayor and board of aldermen for administration of all city services and departments. The person hired will supervise general fund and water/wastewater budgets of \$21,348,321, and a full-time staff of 160. A bachelor's degree in public administration, or closely related field, a master's degree is preferred, along with eight or more years of increasingly responsible supervisory, managerial experience are required. The person hired must live within the city limits during tenure and have a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary range: \$54,870.40-\$75,108.80. Send resume to: City of McMinnville, Attn: Mayor Royce Davenport, 211 West Colville Street, P.O. Box 7088, McMinnville, TN 37111. Mark envelope: Resume – City Administrator. For further information contact Personnel at 931-473-1209. Deadline: March 5. EOE.

**CITY MANAGER**  
**ARDMORE.** The city of Ardmore is accepting applications for a Lt. Captain or Assistant Chief police officer, depending on qualifications and experience. The successful candidate should have leadership capabilities with a minimum of five years of experience and be certified. Salary: DOE and rank. Required application is available at the Ardmore Tenn. and Ala. city halls. For more information call: 931-427-2124. Deadline: April 2. EOE.

**CITY MANAGER**  
**COLUMBIA.** The city of Columbia, population 35,000+ and growing, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of city manager. The position reports to a seven-member city council. The city has an annual budget of approximately \$59 million, a Class IV wastewater plant, sanitation department, police, fire, parks and recreation among the 13 departments with a total of 400 employees. The ideal applicant will have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field plus 10 years of city management experience; a master's degree is considered a plus. Applicant needs experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, and management of complex departments with multiple functions. Experience in legislative issues, economic development, redevelopment and planning are high priorities. The position requires a leader, a manager, a team player with strong communication skills and other skills of a professional city manager. Salary: DOE plus excellent benefits. Send resume to: Personnel, City of Columbia, and 707 N. Main Street, Columbia, TN 38401. Phone: 931-380-2700; Fax: 931-381-7722; e-mail: kcollier@columbiatn.com. EOE.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGER**  
**METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY.** The airport authority is seeking qualified applicants for the position of project manager for construction whose responsibilities include overseeing specific construction activities; monitoring construction work and ensuring compliance with construction documents and all applicable standards, codes and guidelines; scheduling and conducting pre-bid conferences, pre-construction conferences, and weekly construction progress meetings; coordinating construction activities among all concerned parties; maintaining project files in accordance with applicable guidelines; preparing change orders and amendments; keeping records and preparing reports; coordinating material testing; identifying changes to the scope of work; ensuring construction contracts are in compliance with applicable federal and state equal opportunity legislation; coordinating activities with external and internal agencies to ensure timely completion of all projects; and compiling and analyzing technical data and preparing reports concerning a project and related activities. The position is under the general direction of the director of construction. The ideal candidate must have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, architecture, or related field, a valid Tennessee driver's license, and must obtain security identification display area and airport operations area clearances. Related experience required, eight years in construction activities related to architecture (large renovation and new building construction) and civil engineering (concrete and asphalt pavement construction) along with knowledge of airport operations is preferred. Computer skills including Microsoft Windows, Excel, Word and PowerPoint are required. Salary range: \$65,000-\$75,000 DOQ/E. Send required application (available in the Human Resources Department) to: Human Resources Department, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, One Terminal Drive, Ste 501, Nashville, TN 37214-4114. EOE.

**ENGINEER/PROJECT MANAGER**  
**CLARKSVILLE.** The city of Clarksville is seeking a staff level engineer/project manager to assist in the maintenance and improvement of the physical infrastructure of the city's water, sewer, and gas systems. Responsibilities include performing engineering design and construction management of municipal utility projects. The successful applicant will also perform engineering studies and prepare reports, perform engineering analysis and computer modeling of water, sewer and gas systems, review developer's plans, perform project manage-

ment functions for contracts performed by outside consultants and contractors working for the city, and be available for public requests for information and complaints. A bachelor's degree in engineering from an accredited college, preferably with an E.I certificate, or the ability to obtain within six months is necessary. Send resume to: Ruth McPherson, Clarksville Montgomery County Career Center, 350 Pageant Lane, Suite 406, Clarksville, TN 37040. Phone: 931-648-5530; Fax: 931-648-5564; e-mail: Ruth.McPherson@state.tn.us.

**ENGINEER I**  
**GERMANTOWN.** The city of Germantown is seeking qualified applicants for two engineer positions. The jobs require bachelor's degree in civil engineering, EIT certified preferred. The persons hired must be able to do independent evaluation, selection and application of standard engineering principles, techniques and procedures. They must be knowledgeable of all areas of civil engineering including grading, streets, storm drainage, water distribution and sanitary sewer collections systems. The ideal candidates should have the ability to work independently, manage multi-project workloads, prepare project reports, and utilize engineering software. Individuals will represent the city and must have good public relations skills. Salary: DOQ. Must possess a valid driver's license. Send resume to: Human Resource Department, City of Germantown, 1930 S. Germantown Road, Germantown, TN 38138. EOE.

**FIREFIGHTER**  
**FRANKLIN.** The city of Franklin is accepting applications for full-time firefighter positions that require a 24 hours on/48 hours off shift (average 56 hours weekly), and live with a 45-minute drive of the fire department headquarters within six months of hire. The person may be subject to call-back 24 hours a day. A high school equivalency, 21 years of age, the ability to work under stressful and dangerous conditions, EMT license (Paramedic license preferred), a valid Tennessee driver's license, and a record free from habitual use of drugs or intoxicants, felony convictions and misdemeanors involving dishonesty or false statements are required. Applicants will be pre-screened for training, education, and experience. Highest-rated candidates will be invited to written test and pass-fail physical agility test at a date to be determined. The person hired must score 63 or higher on written test. Beginning salary: \$30,908 plus benefits. Send required application, available online at [www.franklin-gov.com](http://www.franklin-gov.com) or at Human Relations Department, to: Human Relations Department, City of Franklin, 109 3rd Avenue South, P.O. Box 305, Franklin, TN 37065. Phone: 615-791-3216; Fax: 615-791-3297; e-mail: [tracy@franklin-gov.com](mailto:tracy@franklin-gov.com). Deadline: March 7. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

**POLICE CHIEF**  
**SMYRNA.** The town of Smyrna is accepting applications for the position of chief of police. The position is responsible for performing administrative, managerial, and supervisory duties as the director of the police department and reports to the town manager who reviews work performance. The ideal candidate must have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, public administration, or closely related field, a master's degree and FBI National Academy preferred, and 15 years law enforcement experience with 10 years recent managerial experience including five years experience at a rank level of captain or above. The person hired must have good moral character; be free of all apparent mental disorders; have no felony or misdemeanor convictions involving "moral turpitude," including drug and/or alcohol-related charges; and not have been released or discharged under other than honorable conditions from the U.S. Armed Forces. The person must also have a valid Tennessee driver's license, Tennessee P.O.S.T. certification, or become certified within six months of hire, N.I.M.S. certification or become certified within two months of hire, passed the Police Command Proficiency Examination, be able to pass physical exam by licensed physician and have the ability to perform effectively under stress and in adverse conditions. Full job description and required application are available online at [www.townofsmyrna.org](http://www.townofsmyrna.org). Salary range: \$75,518.77-\$83,358.60. Send application to Smyrna Town Hall, 315 S. Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167; Fax: 615-355-5771; e-mail: [hr@townofsmyrna.org](mailto:hr@townofsmyrna.org). Deadline: March 2.

**STORM WATER MANAGER**  
**JOHNSON CITY.** The city of Johnson City is accepting applications for the position of storm water manager who is expected to perform difficult professional work in the management of the city's storm water program to ensure achievement of program objectives, and maintain compliance with applicable state and federal environmental permits and laws. The work involves: managing a storm water utility billing system and related geographic information system; review, inspection and design of storm water construction and maintenance practices; and evaluation of current and future programs related to compliance with applicable environmental laws. A bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering, construction technology, planning, or a related field and considerable experience in construction management and utilization of geographical information systems are required. A master's degree or professional engineer license is preferred. Post offer employment physical and drug screen is required. Salary range: \$40,190.33-\$60,599.11. Send resume to: Department of Human Resources, City of Johnson City, 601 East Main Street, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605. Deadline: March 5. EOE/AA.



In recognition of Arts Education Month in March, The Tennessee Arts Commission Gallery will feature an exhibit of quilts made by Tennessee school children, and photographs that document the journeys of the quilts and the people they touch. The exhibit, entitled *More Than Warmth*, will run from Thursday, February 22 – Friday, March 23 at the Commission Gallery, located at 401 Charlotte Avenue in downtown Nashville.

*More Than Warmth* is an educational and cultural project founded by artist and teacher Judith Biondo Meeker. As part of the project, Tennessee school children create quilts and write letters that are sent to children in other countries. The quilts have also been given to schools for girls, orphanages, daycare centers, schools for the deaf, street children, and trauma centers. The project fosters understanding, knowledge, and compassion between cultures through nonviolent, nonpolitical, and nonreligious means. Pictured: Children receiving quilts at a Baghdad Orphanage  
For more information on the exhibit, contact Nicole Pietrantoni at (615) 741-1701 or e-mail: [Nicole.pietrantoni@state.tn.us](mailto:Nicole.pietrantoni@state.tn.us).

# Vaughn & Melton: 40 years of success, satisfied customers

National Engineer's Week (February 18 – 24, 2007) has a special significance for leading southeastern engineering and architectural services company Vaughn & Melton, Inc. It also marks the company's fortieth year in business. Vaughn & Melton's Greeneville office is located at 219 West Depot Street, Greeneville, TN 37743.

Vaughn & Melton, Inc was founded in 1967 in Middlesboro, Kentucky by Robert W. Vaughn and Lewis N. Melton. The young, engineering school graduates selected this small southeastern Kentucky city as it was an area vastly underserved in terms of engineering services. "There were people who thought we had lost our minds to start an engineering company where we did," says co-founder Vaughn.

The founder's assessment of the market opportunity was correct and the fledgling engineering company quickly flourished, more than doubling its size in the first three years.

By the mid-1980's the company expanded geographically adding offices in Greeneville, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina, and the number of professional, technical, administrative and clerical employees grew to over 100.



The subsequent addition of offices in Knoxville, Tennessee; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Spartanburg, South Carolina brought the company's southeastern footprint to four states and six principal city offices. The company recently opened a branch field services office in London-Corbin, Kentucky further expanding its market coverage.

"We are very proud of our forty-year track record and the completion of thousands of high-quality engineering and architectural projects for clients throughout the Southeast," commented Randolph J. Scott, company President and Chief Executive Officer.

Included among the local, regional and national clients Vaughn & Melton, Inc has served are the U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S.

Army Corp of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, University of North Carolina, Eastern Kentucky University, the Departments of Transportation in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, and dozens of city and county governmental agencies.

One of the company's most notable projects involved engineering services in support of the construction of the Cumberland Gap Tunnel and the ongoing management, operations and maintenance of the \$250 million Twin Tunnels.

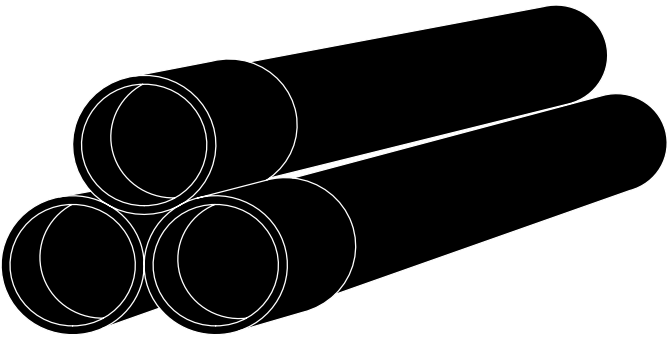
The company will be conducting open houses in each of its offices during Engineer's Week to thank clients for their business over the past forty years. Additional information about Vaughn & Melton can be found at [www.vaughnmelton.com](http://www.vaughnmelton.com).

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# Statewide Preservation Conference, Main Street Summit March 29-31

Land Conservation expert Ed McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow at ULI and the Charles Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development headlines the 2007 Statewide Preservation Conference and Tennessee Main Street Summit

Tennessee Preservation Trusts's (TPT) marquee program is the Statewide Preservation Conference, a gathering of hundreds of heritage supporters that comes to a different community each year.

After seven years, the conference returns to Franklin on March 29-31, 2007. This year's theme is "Keeping the Place in Place: How Heritage Enriches Our Communities." Once again, the Tennessee Main Street Summit will be held in conjunction with the conference.

Events begin Thursday afternoon with registration and exhibits opening at Franklin City Hall, which will serve as Conference Headquarters. A Main Street Managers' Meeting will kick off the sessions, with a limited attendance overview bus tour of Franklin offered from 1-5. "An Evening at Carnton" will be the theme of the opening reception Thursday at the renowned historic Carnton Plantation. This event is generously sponsored by Carnton.

On Friday morning, the keynote speaker will be Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC. His speech is titled "The Dollars and Sense of Preserving Community Character." McMahon will also present a workshop on sustainable tourism on Friday. Another major offering for Friday will be a variety sessions sponsored by TDOT on historic bridges and the importance of the context sensitive design process. The second Annual Preservation Leadership Luncheon

will take place mid-day Friday and Gov. Phil Bredesen has been invited to speak. This event is being generously sponsored by the City of Franklin.

Friday evening, the 2006-2007 State-wide Preservation Awards will be presented, and then the Rafter Raiser Gala celebration with live and silent auction will take place downtown.

Saturday morning, the registration and conference sessions move to the O'More College of Design. The Saturday plenary will be presented by A. Philip Morris of Birmingham, Alabama, noted former editor of *Southern Living*. Other Saturday sessions include a Certified Local Government Roundtable and a session on historic building diagnostics.

Additionally, conference participants will learn about historic stone wall repair through an informational session and by viewing a workshop being done by the Dry Stone Conservancy of Lexington, Ky.

Conference participants can also enroll in the workshop by going to [www.drystone.org](http://www.drystone.org) The 2007 conference concludes with an optional limited attendance afternoon bus tour of rural preservation examples in Williamson County, including a visit to Leiper's Fork.

A limited block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees March 29 and 30 at the Cool Springs Marriott for \$119 per night. Call 888-403-6772 and mention the TPT group rate.

An official conference schedule and registration information is available for downloading at [http://files.e2ma.net/5035/assets/docs/tpt\\_conference\\_brochure\\_latest.pdf](http://files.e2ma.net/5035/assets/docs/tpt_conference_brochure_latest.pdf)



The 13-member Advisory Council of the Governor's Three-Star program met recently to discuss best practices, initiatives, and new developments toward the program's continued success.

## Three-Star Advisory Council talks best practices, new initiatives

The Governor's Three-Star Advisory Council recently met in Nashville to discuss the community development program's best practices, initiatives and new developments. The 13-member council talked about strengths and improvements to help maintain and advance the Three-Star program's success.

"Economic environments are always changing and we must make the necessary adjustments to stay competitive," said Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matthew Kisber. "Creating

an avenue for community leaders to come together and share their strategies and resources for success ensures our state as a whole is prepared to attract new businesses and help existing industries grow."

The council discussed new benchmark requirements and streamlining the program guidelines. Cities and counties represented in the advisory council include:

- Haywood County, Anne Banks
- Lauderdale County and Ripley, Lisa Hankins

- Lewis County and Hohenwald, Philip Griner
  - Knox County, Daryl Brady
  - Warren County and McMinnville, Neal Cox
  - Wilson County, Sue Vanatta
- "All of these individuals have a strong community development background and we value their ideas and feedback," said ECD Assistant Commissioner of Community Development Rick Meredith. "We appreciate their time and service and look forward to implementing programs that can enhance the Three-Star program."

### Associate Profile



Redflex currently provides photo red light and speed enforcement services for 104 cities across 19 states throughout the United States.

Our digital system installation base is equal to all other vendors

## Redflex provides photo red light, speed enforcement services to cities

combined. Redflex has over 20 years of project experience including the design, installation, maintenance and integration of comprehensive leading edge technology photo enforcement programs, and has also been able to provide partner cities with superior program support and customer service with the most experienced, accessible and knowledgeable personnel in the industry.

A study conducted by the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running in 2006 found a strong corollary between the implementation of photo enforcement programs and the reduction in fatalities related to red light running.

Redflex has a long history of profitability and is the largest provider of photo enforcement solutions in the United States with a 50 percent share of market.

Redflex was the first vendor to recognize, develop and implement a system that provided both the highest resolution and quality color still photographs with the benefits of full motion video; with the introduction of our patented combination still-video system, allowing police officers to view all possible extenuating circumstances; providing true objectivity.

We now have over 740 fully operational systems spanning the entire nation. Our photo enforcement programs have empirically demonstrated ability to produce the greatest community safety statistics in the industry. These results are so profound, that many of our competitors will actually reference the benefits achieved by cities that have partnered with Redflex.

In 2003, the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University conducted a comprehensive study on the results of photo enforcement and found that right angle accidents were reduced by 42 percent and rear end crashes were reduced by 25 percent.

In Columbus, Ohio the number of drivers running red lights dropped by 71 percent following the installation of Redflex systems. Additionally, all red light running crashes have been eliminated, down from five -14 accidents per annum.

In Ventura, Cal., another long standing customer of Redflex Traf-

fic Safety systems, the city of Ventura Administrative Report issued in 2006 documents 80 percent reduction in red light intersection related crashes.

Redflex offers our partners guaranteed industry leading results, without the operational or legal risk that can be faced with less experienced vendors. We believe in a holistic approach to public safety, and are very proud to be working with cities in a consultative manner which ensures our programs are in the best interest of our clients.

Redflex offers the following city-centric benefits:

- Real-time access to Department of Motor Vehicles that provides a truly outsourced operation for our partners.
- Strategic partnership with NLETS to identify out-of-state license plates.
- Great system performance. Through controlled and audited procedures, the Redflex system has proven in many jurisdictions to achieve a 90 percent citable image rate, which is documented as the highest in the industry. Our industry-leading system performance translates directly into:
- Great Public Safety. In program after program, with the Redflex system, cities have reduced intersection crashes in the magnitude of 50 percent.
- Greatest Fiscal Returns. In program after program, with the Redflex system, cities have generated millions of net surplus revenue.

In city after city we have delivered full service turnkey programs that are inclusive of all equipment and personnel necessary for longevity and years of success.

Redflex is the only vendor fully dedicated to the photo enforcement industry, which not only has a long history of "real" profitability, but does not need any form of outside funding to support our partner cities.

With our advanced and proven technologies, Redflex has been privileged enough to partner with some of the greatest communities in the United States.

As demonstrated over the years, Redflex will provide a perfect complement of our state-of-the-art, tried and proven technologies; sterling customer service and the most robust back-office available.

## 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, by e-mail to [mlawrence@TML1.org](mailto:mlawrence@TML1.org), or call 615-255-6416.

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## TML Board to meet March 5

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 10.30 a.m. in the Tennessee Ballroom (Lobby Level) of the Doubletree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Feb. 26 at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.



# Jason Mumpower’s wholehearted devotion leads to the youngest leading the House

BY GAEL STAHL  
Editor

Jason Mumpower, the new House Republican leader, cites three fundamental influences in his life.

First, being fervently involved in the Boy Scouts. The Eagle Scout cherishes scouting for helping form his character.

Second was getting a car at 16 and along with it, the best job he’s ever had – including the legislature. He worked for the Food City chain of grocery stores for three years bagging groceries, running a cash register, and learning more about life than anywhere else. He calls the grocery store “the clearing house of life.” Whatever your walk of life, you came to shop and go through the line where Mumpower got to know you. He wouldn’t trade anything for the time he spent in the grocery store.

Third, he attended tiny King College in Bristol. That environment of 550-600 full-time students fostered friendships and a pursuit of academics. He majored in economics and political science, was active in student government, and got on a track to get where he wanted to go.

Born Sept. 22, 1973 in Bristol, he graduated from Bristol High in 1991. That August, just before starting college, a family friend asked him to hand out cards for a man running in his first primary. Politics was not a Mumpower family tradition. Why spend a hot August day handing out cards for someone he’d never met? Running for state representative? Crazy. What’s a state rep, anyway? As a family favor, he did go to Fairmont Elementary School and hand out cards for Ron Ramsey.

After Ramsey won the August primary, Mumpower forgot about it, started his first semester at King College, but come November, the friend asked him to hand out cards again. He was more willing this time. After Ramsey won, Mumpower got to know him, got involved in the Sullivan County Republican Party’s college Rotary Acts program and the Chamber of Commerce government relations program. Two years later, he was Ramsey’s unofficial reelection campaign manager coordinating door-to-door activities.

His idea of fun during the next two years was going to Nashville during breaks to hang out with Ramsey during legislative sessions just to learn what it was all about, and worked some statewide races.

At college, he did a work-study job in the Office of Advancement helping raise money, learning early to ask people for money for causes he believed in. It proved helpful when he started running for office. After graduation, he worked full-time in the department and four years later went to work for The Corporate Image, a Bristol-based public relations and marketing firm.

Less than a year later, in April 1996, 17-term incumbent Congressman Jimmy Quillen decided to retire. That sparked a chain reaction. Most seated state legislators in that neck of the woods ran for another office: Rep. Ramsey for the state Senate, Rep. Richard Venable – then Mumpower’s representative – for Congress. Mumpower, just 22 but knowing what he stood for, ran for Venable’s open House seat and won a four-way primary in August with 32 percent of the vote. He beat his Democratic opponent in November with 57 percent, and has won reelection five times against one opponent in one primary and against Democratic opponents in every general election except last year.

His district is tucked into the northeast corner of the state bordering North Carolina and Virginia. No other legislator lives farther than he from the state capitol.

He has served on the State & Local and the Health & Human Resources committees, on four sub-committees, as a member of the Republican TennCare Task Force, was one of the original sponsors of performance-based budgeting legislation and helped guide last year’s special ethics legislation into law.

Last fall, Mumpower, then Republican Caucus assistant leader who served in the caucus leadership for six of his 10 years, ran against the incumbent Minority Leader Bill Dunn and won. When asked to name someone who might best describe the kind of guy Jason Mumpower is, Mumpower suggested Dunn, saying, “We’re marvelous friends; he’s like a brother. I love him. My running for leader had nothing to do with him. I had served as assistant leader. Running for leader was something I had planned to do for a long time.”



The grocery store is the clearing house of life. I wouldn’t trade anything for the time I spent working in the grocery store.

Mumpower obviously doesn’t consider competitiveness personal. He loves the House, does not aspire to the state Senate and likes the House because it is more partisan, more raucous and more fun than the Senate. He likes running for reelection every two years.

But he was not bred to politics. The first political event his father Troy, who is in the office supply business, and his mother Cathy, who operates The Curves, a women’s fitness center, and his younger brother Adam, now a minister, ever attended was Mumpower’s at age 22.

Not so his wife. When Gov. Don Sundquist called the November 1999 special income tax session, Mumpower was a 23-year-old bachelor. He met and was smitten by a new legislative secretary, Alicia Point. Four months later he asked her out. Originally from Rogersville, an hour’s drive from Bristol, she had gone to UT and Vanderbilt when she called Rep. Ken Givens of Rogersville, a Democrat. He hired her as his secretary even though she was raised a Republican who would soon be dating a Republican legislator on the sly since they didn’t want anyone to know. It quickly became known; they became engaged in 2000 and married April 7, 2001.

Alicia moved back to East Tennessee and knows exactly what he’s talking about when he calls at night saying he’s with so and so or in a Budget Subcommittee meeting at 10 on a Tuesday night. She can imagine it clearly. The only life they’ve known is the one they married into. “That works well,” he says.

Getting bald while relatively young also works well for him. He loves the novelty of being bald. “Being bald is being free. You get up ready.” He chuckles at a picture of his mother and says that because people often associate baldness with being older and since he is heavier now, people often mistake his mother for his wife and his wife for his daughter.

**TT&C: Why did scouting, a grocery store, and a local college mean so much to your career?**

**JM:** When I started knocking on doors, many people recognized me from the grocery store and a lot of people at the local college helped me go door to door and contributed maybe \$25 to my campaign and helped by word of mouth. I started to run with a tremendous base of support even though I was, by far, the youngest person in the race.

**TT&C: What sparked your political career so early?**

**JM:** My activism in the local party organization after I worked for Ron Ramsey as a teenager. When I devote myself to something, it is my tendency to give it my wholehearted devotion. I latch on to something; I stick with it; I’m all-or-nothing.

I’ve collected comic books for 22 years and have more than 15,000 cataloged and organized. It’s something I like to do. When I go after something, I go after it whole hog.

The same with party, civic, and community organizations. During college I spent time building houses for Habitat for Humanity. I was born and raised and will die in upper East Tennessee. I want to do what I can to make it flourish. In the new role of minority leader, I have an opportunity to help make good things happen for the whole state.

**TT&C: Weren’t you a little inexperienced for the House at 23?**

**JM:** Our citizen legislature needs all voices represented – young folks, retired folks, and middle-age folks. What mattered was I came wanting to be good for business, small businesses like the one I work for, and be fiscally and socially conservative about issues I wanted to pursue.

No educational or vocational track can prepare you for service in the legislature. No specific degree or



I’m a bare-knuckled political brawler. I do not believe politics is personal....when we campaign against them.

job. You prepare by knowing what you believe and being willing to stand up for it. You have to get here and live the process to learn the process. My first years were learning the committee system and getting to know the personalities.

At first, I was quiet in the committees and on the floor. Later, I spoke out more and took more of a leading role. I’m a bare-knuckled political brawler. I do not believe politics is personal. People should not take it personally when we campaign against them. Every member deserves respect unless they do something to violate that respect. I have always had Republican and Democratic friends.

There’s nothing wrong with some things being partisan and for each party to stand up for its principles. Not every issue is partisan; some divide along geographical lines or rural vs. urban. A lot of upper east Tennessee issues are southwest Tennessee issues.

I represent all of rural Johnson County with a population of 17,000 and a third of Kingsport and the sixth largest county in the state, Sullivan County, which is not urban but suburban with 150,000 people. I’m often faced with issues that can affect the two counties in opposite ways. I work hard to try to keep the balance.

**TT&C: How did you approach the special session on ethics last year?**

**JM:** We were shell shocked that colleagues had apparently and willingly taken bribes to pursue goals. The great majority of legislators here are here for the right reasons, tested by the voters and sent to represent them. I’m embarrassed that one of my colleagues would take wads of money, one found guilty in court, one plead guilty. They cast on my good name when they say “it was business as usual here.” That is the farthest thing from business as usual here – offensive and blatantly untrue.

When the ethics special session geared up, it struck me that some of my colleagues were working hard to shut the legislature off from the citizens at large by proposing to wrongly cut off the access of citizens to the legislature. Some of the proposals would require anyone visiting a legislator to be registered to lobby. That’s nuts. It is 311 miles from my driveway to my parking place at the state capitol, yet every week, constituents from home come to see me – the chamber, home-builders, realtors, educators, home schoolers, you name it. It’s a big deal for them to come and interact with us.

But, I saw that we needed to do something. As a member of the State and Local Government Committee, I made it my business to be aware of just about every aspect of the ethics bill that went through S&L.

**TT&C: How did you come to lead in passing the new ethics law, some called the Mumpower Plan?**

**JM:** That was the media. I didn’t name it that, though if you’re going to have a bill named after you, why not the most comprehensive piece of ethics reform that passed the legislature in decades. What happened is that I had studied the bill carefully and was fortunate to be appointed to the conference committee where one day it became apparent that if a particular detailed question came up, I knew the answer. I emerged as someone who could help see that the compromise bill kept the things that were right and jettisoning some of the things that were wrong. The law became a big step forward toward transparency in campaign finance issues, more open meetings and recorded votes, and saw the creation of the independent ethics commission. The law passed with overwhelming approval.

**TT&C: Last year, a bill that would require firefighter unions**



Photos by Gael B. Stahl  
I do not think it is proper to have a union section of local government employees.

**be recognized was stopped by a single vote in the Senate. Where do you stand?**

**JM:** We (Republicans) did not vote for it in the House. I did not vote for it; I have not and will not. I do not think it is proper to have a union section of local government employees. They are in public service to a great degree and responsible to the taxpayers as well.

I’m a very pro business legislator with strong pro business ratings and have received the Guardian of Business award this year from the National Federation of Independent Business. I’m not very big on labor and labor unions. I respect employees and people who get out there and work hard. I recognize that unions had a very important role in American history. But by and large, that day is one that has passed us by.

**TT&C: How about the constitutional amendment that gives you power to let local governments freeze property taxes for seniors?**

**JM:** I represent a district with a high senior population, so the property tax is important to seniors and me. I’ve seen exciting business expansion mushroom overnight in Nashville and back home. People living for 50 years in the home place adjoining those areas suddenly see property values and taxes skyrocket. There is no need they should have that burden to continue living there. In rural Johnson County we have wealthy people I call ‘halfbacks’ who lived up north, went to Florida to retire and came halfway back to live in Tennessee. They’re building million-dollar homes on the side of the mountain and the nearby property values skyrocket.

The legislature is going to set a responsible ceiling. I see a \$60,000 (income) ceiling as about what’s best right now. I’m going to follow the lead of Sen. Norris, the prime sponsor of the amendment to help seniors in my community.

**TT&C: One county official said \$50,000 would include 75 percent.**

**JM:** There again, we don’t mandate this. The amendment passed, but counties can opt into it or choose not to depending on its population and tax base. It’s not a heavy-handed mandate from the legislature. I’m big on not mandating and don’t believe in unfunded mandates. I don’t like getting them from the federal government. I don’t like to hand them down.

**TT&C: Would you favor a reduction in the state sales tax on food?**

**JM:** It is an idea that we should pursue; and that my caucus will pursue. Also, because I live in a district that borders Virginia and North Carolina (with lower tax rates on food). We ended the budget year last year with a \$308 million budget surplus and gave some of that back to taxpayers with a sales tax holiday weekend. As we continue to have budget surpluses and we will have one this year though probably not as big as last year’s, we should begin to give that back to taxpayers by rolling

back the sales tax on food.

**TT&C: Are tort reform bills important to you?**

**JM:** Absolutely. Tort reform as a whole or something like product liability in particular, but especially medical malpractice reform. It is not just a health issue. It is an economic development issue that impacts the livability of a community. The cost of medical malpractice insurance in rural areas has gotten so high that many don’t have doctors. Doctors can’t afford to practice there due to a \$100,000 a year malpractice insurance premium before they hire a nurse, turn on the lights, or rent office space.

People in rural communities often don’t have insurance, or have Medicaid or TennCare that have reimbursement rates that are not so good or terrible respectively. To attract jobs, you have to have good schools and good health care. Medical malpractice reform is a vital part of what we’re going to do.

**TT&C: Do you get along with Speaker Jimmy Naifeh even though you ran for speaker?**

**JM:** My relationship with the speaker is cordial. We don’t agree on every issue but we get along well. I do not take politics personally. I don’t think he does either. People believe what they believe but can still be friends. I respect every member of this body. So long as they treat me with respect, we’ll get along famously. The speaker has been that way with me. He gave me the ability to author the ethics bill.

**TT&C: What kind of synchronicity is it to have the first Republican Senate speaker in 138 years with a Republican House leader from the same neighborhood?**

**JM:** Actually, I live in Ron Ramsey’s Senate district and he lives in my House district. I’ve remained close friends with him, continue to help him in his campaigns, and he has helped me in mine. Because of our close friendship, I expect more cooperation and coordination than anyone has ever seen between the House and Senate Republicans. We pursue the same agenda.

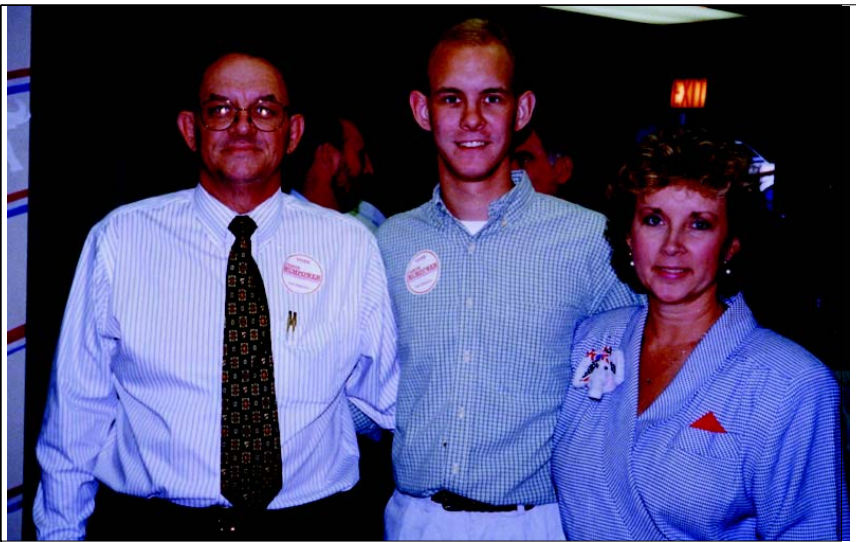
We’re holding weekly meetings of the House and Senate Republican leadership now. That’s never happened before. It will ramp up pressure on the House if the Senate can pass some legislation that people believe in. If the Senate can, why can’t the House, also?

**TT&C: Along with other constituent feedback, do you hear from local government officials?**

**JM:** Absolutely. That stack of letters on my desk is from constituents. I’m very involved with the city officials I represent: part of Bristol and Kingsport and Johnson City, almost all of Bluff City, and all of Mountain City. I communicate with my mayors, councilmembers, and city staffs.

Starting this year, Rep. Jon Lundberg, also of Bristol, and I will have an open breakfast meeting every Friday with the Bristol city manager at a local coffee shop and discuss local government issues. Nothing hard hitting, just a casual sit down over a cup of coffee before we go to work.

I relate well with Steve Godsey, county executive of Sullivan County, have a wonderful relationship with the Mountain City mayor, aldermen, and city recorder. The mayor of Bristol is a chiropractor and friend. He has worked on my back. Every Wednesday morning for the last 10 years, the Kingsport city attorney, who represents the Government Relations Committee of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce, leads a conference call between Kingsport’s three representatives and lone senator, Lt. Gov. Ramsey will continue to participate.



House Minority Leader Jason Mumpower with parents, Troy and Cathy, during his first campaign in 1996. He won by his smallest margin ever and has faced opposition almost every election since.