

League launches advocacy initiative

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

The Tennessee Municipal League has launched a new advocacy program called "Hometown Connection." The mission of the program is to foster better relationships between city officials and their legislators and enhance the League's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

TML's Hometown Connection will provide many resources to help city officials stay up-to-date on legislative activities, as well as offer more opportunities for the League's members to become more involved in issues affecting municipalities.

Among the many resources at their disposal are:

- Legislative Bulletins
- Action Alerts
- Special Committee Lists
- TML Web Site and the Hometown Connection
- District Directors' Program
- Hometown Champions
- Hometown Heroes
- Legislative Contact Forms
- Access to Legislators' voting record on key municipal issues
- Tennessee Town and City
- Legislative Conference
- Annual Conference

Legislative Bulletin

During the legislative session, See **HOMETOWN** on Page 4



Photo by Victoria South

Ceremony marks Governor Bredesen's second term

With First Lady Andrea Conte by his side, Gov. Phil Bredesen took the oath of office for his second term as the 48th Governor of Tennessee before members of the Tennessee General Assembly, justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court, cabinet staff, friends, family and close to 3,000 Tennesseans. The inauguration ceremony took place on War Memorial Plaza in front of the Tennessee State Capitol. After being sworn in, Bredesen delivered an uplifting 12-minute address focusing on education in Tennessee as his number one priority along with strengthening Tennessee's families. Bredesen praised Conte as an "amazing" first lady highlighting her efforts to help abused children by trekking 600 miles across Tennessee and thanked her for "32 years of love and friendship." Entertaining performances included the Tennessee National Guard Band and the Tennessee School for the Blind's choral ensemble. The ceremony was attended by all four previous governors, Winfield Dunn (1971-75), U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (1979-87), Ned McWherter (1987-95), and Don Sundquist (1995-2003) along with Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and former U.S. Sen. Dr. Bill Frist. Bredesen will specify his agenda for his second term during his upcoming State of the State address Feb. 5. The governor is pictured above alongside his wife First Lady Andrea Conte, his uncle, Milton Walburn, and newlywed son, Ben Bredesen, accompanied by his wife Dru.

See **INAUGURAL PHOTOS** on Page 9

State Emergency Board prepares to launch 911 modernization project

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

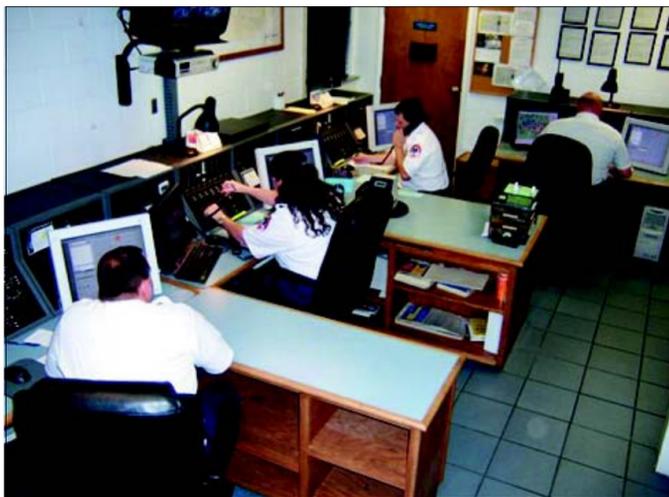
In the near future, current technology that consumers enjoy in leisure will vastly improve the capabilities of emergency 911 call systems across the state.

"Next Generation 911" is a statewide modernization project initiated by the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB) linking all of Tennessee's 911 call centers with an Internet protocol (IP) network.

Speedier and more reliable than old fashioned copper telephone wires, 911 calls will be transmitted through fiber optic cables and other high speed circuitry.

With the click of a button, call centers across the state will be able to transfer emergency calls to the correct districts or send instructional items such as maps, weather information, or first aid directions to callers via the Internet.

Likewise, callers could forward cell phone photos of accident scenes, crime suspects or vehicles to



The Putnam County 911 Emergency call center services the cities of Cookeville, Algood, Baxter, and Monterey.

the call center where it will be forwarded to the responding police officers equipped with squad car computer terminals.

"Think of NG911 like a big cloud in the sky," said Rex Holloway, TECB director of techni-

cal services. "All the phone companies and call centers, and other informational sources and the Internet world are connected to the big cloud where information flows freely and steadily."

See **NEXT GEN 911** on Page 4

Microsoft settlement garners \$3.5 million for state's schools systems

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

School administrators across the state will be scurrying to take advantage of more than \$3.5 million in software vouchers to be distributed by the Tennessee Department of Education, the result of a class action settlement with Microsoft Corporation.

The suit alleges that Microsoft maintained a monopoly by using unlawful trade practices and over-charged Tennessee consumers.

The state's suit, handled by Tennessee attorneys James Stranch of Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, PLLC and Ted Carey of Barrett, Johnston & Parsley resulted in one of the strongest settlements in the nation garnering \$15.3 million.

Each school district will receive approximately \$16.40 per student toward current or future Microsoft operating system software such as

Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office applications and encyclopedia software as well as certain non-Microsoft software.

In order to be reimbursed through the voucher system, school personnel must submit appropriate paperwork verifying proof of purchase of select software items to the Tennessee Department of Education by April 30, 2007.

"We are pleased that the outcome will allow Tennessee school systems to upgrade technology for the benefit of their students and allow additional resources to be directed toward improving teaching and learning," said Education Commissioner Lana Seivers.

"Schools may also submit receipts for items previously purchased," added department spokesperson Rachel Woods. "We've had no complaints, just phone calls from school personnel asking what types of software qualified and what forms



Lana Seivers

should be completed. The free money is for software falling under specific grievances."

"We definitely can't let this opportunity slide by," said Andy See **MICROSOFT** on Page 8

Statewide franchising legislation shortchanges local governments

The Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Association (TCTA) will fight against an anticipated proposal by BellSouth/AT&T to strip local governments of approval and oversight of cable and video franchising. TCTA instead urges that competitors go through the current process that has worked extremely well for local governments, consumers, and cable companies.

"Stripping power from local governments by creating a shortcut for new franchise approvals at the state level is unfair. It gives BellSouth/AT&T a competitive business advantage at the consumer's expense. BellSouth/AT&T will get to choose who they want to serve," said Stacey Briggs, TCTA executive director.

TCTA has launched a new Web site, www.CableConnectsTennessee.com, to inform the public about a legislative effort the organization believes would be bad policy for consumers.

Without the strong agreements that exist between current cable providers and Tennessee's

local governments, new companies entering the market can cherry-pick neighborhoods for services and effectively discriminate against lower income and rural areas.

"Companies offering new services should go through competitive channels already open to them," Briggs said. "BellSouth/AT&T has had the ability to enter this business for 10 years through the existing local application process and have chosen not to, and now they want a shortcut."

"Competition is good for consumers and the marketplace," Briggs said. "But all telecommunications companies should play by the same rules with like services treated alike. BellSouth/AT&T has new products and they should bring those to consumers through a front door that is already wide open to them through local franchise applications and contracts."

"These local agreements exist to protect consumers, local governments and the public rights-of-way. The fact of the matter is See **TELECOM** on Page 7

Governors lose in power struggle over National Guard

BY KAVAN PETERSON
Stateline.org

A little-noticed change in federal law packs an important change in who is in charge the next time a state is devastated by a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina. To the dismay of the nation's governors, the White House now will be empowered to go over a governor's head and call up National Guard troops to aid a state in time of natural disasters or other public emergencies.

Up to now, governors were the sole commanders in chief of citizen soldiers in local guard units during emergencies within the state. A conflict over who should control Guard units arose in the days after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. President Bush sought to federalize control of

guardsmen in Louisiana in the chaos after the hurricane, but Gov. Kathleen Blanco refused to relinquish command.

Over objections from all 50 governors, Congress in October tweaked the 200-year-old Insurrection Act to empower the hand of the president in future stateside emergencies. In a letter to Congress, the governors called the change "a dramatic expansion of federal authority during natural disasters that could cause confusion in the command-and-control of the National Guard and interfere with states' ability to respond to natural disasters within their borders."

The change adds to tensions between governors and the White House after more than four years of See **GOVERNORS** on Page 8

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

BRISTOL

The city council meetings will soon be streaming on the Web and plans are in the works for live broadcasting over cable by summer.

CHATTANOOGA

The Smart-Way camera program with 59 cameras located in one-mile increments on I-75, state Highway 153, I-24, and U.S. Highway 27 can be accessed on the Internet and is giving Chattanooga information on road conditions, backups, and crash sites. Chattanooga is the last of Tennessee's Big Four cities to launch the program.

CHATTANOOGA

The American Planning Association has awarded Chattanooga its 2007 National Planning Excellence Award for Implementation for its commitment to bicycle transportation. Plans over the next 20 years are for a bicycle network of over 400 miles in the city and region with nearly 200 miles of new, existing, or previously planned routes presently in place. The award will be given at APA's April national meeting.

CLEVELAND

Whirlpool announced it will cut 370 jobs and shift them from Chattanooga to Tulsa and Mexico. The cuts will begin in April.

COLUMBIA/MAURY COUNTY

Late 2007 will be the kickoff for the Columbia/Maury County bicentennial celebration with plans for a year of festivities. The selected bicentennial logo features a representation of the progression of change over the years.

JOHNSON CITY

Snap-on Tools plant will close by the middle of the year with the loss of nearly 150 area jobs. The decision to

close was made in an effort to be more competitive globally.

JONESBOROUGH

Mountain Homes magazine named Jonesborough to the 2007 Best of Mountains list in its Winter 2007 Annual Guide issue. The publication focuses on upscale communities in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

LAVERGNE

Moll Industries, a plastic parts manufacturer, closed its LaVergne plant leaving 153 workers without jobs.

MADISON

Construction on Phase One of the Greenways Peeler Park began in December and is expected to be completed by April at the latest. Included in the park are walking and equestrian trails that will wind around the Cumberland River.

MARTIN

A Fire Act Grant of \$94,321 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be used toward replacing 20 worn out and defective air packs.

MEMPHIS

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division's 20-year contract with Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corp. (TEAC) for natural gas will save the city's residents \$102 million. MLGW is one of seven utilities participating in the prepay offer financed by TEAC with tax-exempt bonds. MLGW will purchase 13 percent of its gas needs during the first 10 years and 20 percent in the last 10 years of the contract.

MEMPHIS

In the next few years the eight-county Memphis area will become the first large metropolitan area in the nation with a majority African-American population. In 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that

African-American residents made up 45.1 percent of the residents in the area and that if current birth-death and migration trends continue, that group will comprise more than 50 percent of the population in the near future.

NASHVILLE

Mayor Bill Purcell is one of several Tennessee mayors who signed on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement setting goals for cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

OAK RIDGE

In the next three years, before the U.S. Department of Energy closes the Oak Ridge incinerator, about 10 million pounds of toxic waste will be burned. The waste will be brought to the Oak Ridge facility from 11 facilities outside the state. All residual waste will be removed by the generator or be sent to a permitted disposal site.

PULASKI

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters grant of \$67,445 will be used by Pulaski's fire department for purchasing self contained breathing apparatus and accessories.

SPRING HILL

City officials have decided it is time to conduct another census count in the fourteenth fastest-growing city in the country. The city estimates the population has grown to 24,000 from the 2005 count of 17,325.



Main Street innovation grant money available to Tennessee communities

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) has launched an Innovation Grant program for Main Street communities to develop new, innovative projects for their communities.

"We are encouraging Main Street communities to develop innovative ideas to improve their historic downtown districts," said ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber. "Community development is the first step to successful economic development and this grant helps communities improve their quality of life and position themselves for economic growth."

The one-time Main Street Innovation Grant is a new program designed for Tennessee's 20 certified Main Street communities. The grant supports the development of new and innovative projects, programs, activities, and technology that exhibit best practices in downtown revitalization.

Each certified Main Street community is eligible for \$10,000 in grant money and 20 percent must be matched from the certified Main Street Program.

"The projects proposed for the

grant should follow the Main Street four-point approach to downtown revitalization," said Kimberly Nyberg, Tennessee Main Street program coordinator.

"This community-driven comprehensive approach, which includes design, economic restructuring, promotion and organization, addresses the specific needs in a traditional commercial district. This grant encourages communities to create innovative solutions to downtown revitalization."

The Main Street program is part of the Community Development Division at ECD. It provides communities with technical assistance and guidance in developing long-term strategies that promote economic growth and development. The program provides information and assistance in forging public networking and training opportunities for downtown commercial districts.

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



PEOPLE



BY TISH WOMACK

U.S. Sen. **Lamar Alexander** was elected co-chairman of the bicameral, bipartisan Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus.

Gov. Phil Bredesen named Tennessee Regulatory Authority Director **Eddie Roberson** to a new subcommittee of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities



Roberson

commissioners that will analyze its education and research programs and opportunities.

Bredesen named **Perry Gibson** of Memphis to be the new executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission.

Dayton Police Department's in-house computer crime division is headed by Patrolman **Steve Rievley**, the area's only certified computer forensic technician.

Mount Juliet hired **Eddie Stott** as its full-time finance director, effective Jan. 16.

Bartlett Assistant city Attorney **Edward McKenney Jr.** has been ap-

pointed city attorney. He replaces retiring **Fred Kelly** who served as city attorney for 24 years.

Bolivar City Administrator **James Lee** retired effective mid January.

Alcoa Fire Chief **Larry Graves** announced his plan to retire effective Feb. 9. He has been a member of the fire department since 1965 with the exception of a military hitch from 1966-68. Graves has been chief since 1992.

Former Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice **Charles O'Brien** died on Jan. 18, at age 86. He served as a state representative from Memphis beginning in 1961, was elected to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in 1970, and appointed to the state Supreme Court in 1987 where he served as chief justice in 1994. His wife of 40 years is former state Sen. **Anna Belle Clement O'Brien**.

Former state Rep. **Bobby Hicks** died at age 68 on Jan. 7, following an extended illness. He served two terms in the Tennessee House from 1994 to 1998.

John Birdwell, husband of former Newport mayor and TML Mayor of the Year **Jeanne Wilson Birdwell**, died Jan. 3, of cancer. He was the Newport 2004 Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

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New members in the 105th General Assembly

Senate Members



Dewayne Bunch (R-Cleveland) represents the District 9 part of Bradley County. He served four terms in the House before winning the open seat of Jeff Miller. An attorney with a B.S. from TTU in Cookeville, a master's from ETSU, and a J.D. from UT Knoxville, he is vice chair of Environment, secretary of Rules, on Commerce, Government Operations committees.



Lowe Finney (D-Jackson) represents the District 27 parts of Madison, Gibson, and Carroll counties) that he won by defeating incumbent Don McLeary. Lowe is an adjunct professor at Lane University and Lambuth College. He will serve as vice chair of State & Local, and as a member of the Environment and the Government Operations committees.



Shea Flinn (D-Memphis) was appointed to represent the District 30 part of Shelby County that Steve Cohen vacated until a special general election is held in March. An attorney with a law degree from Memphis University, he is not a candidate. He will be vice chair of Government Operations and members of State & Local, and Judiciary committees.



Ophelia Ford (D-Memphis) represents the District 29 part of Memphis, the seat her brother John Ford held. She earned a B.S. from Tennessee State University, is a certified funeral service practitioner, involved with St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Carnival Memphis Krewe. She is secretary of Government Operations and member of the General Welfare committees.



Jack Johnson (R-Brentwood) won the District 23 seat vacated by Jim Bryson that represents Williamson and part of Davidson counties. He grew up in Texas and has a B.S. from Southwest Texas State. He has worked for then Third National Bank, became Sr. Vice President with Pinnacle Financial Partners. He is secretary of Transportation and member of Government Operations and General Welfare committees.



Paul Stanley (R-Memphis) served in the House for three terms before winning the open District 31 seat of Curtis Person. An investment banker for the Stanford Group Company in Memphis, he has born in Savannah, Tenn., and has degrees from Tyler Junior College and Texas Tech University. He is vice chair of the Commerce and member of the State & Local, Government Operations, and the Judiciary committees.



Reginald Tate (D-Memphis) won the District 33 open seat of Kathryn Bowers after she withdrew from the race last year. An architect, he is vice chair of the Education and member of Commerce and Government Operations committees. He has a bachelor's in architectural engineering technology from Memphis State University. He is president and CEO of Accent by Design.



Bo Watson (R-Hixson) served one term in the House before winning the open seat of David Fowler representing District 11 in Hamilton County. A physical therapist at Parkridge Medical Center, he teaches physical therapy at UT-Chattanooga and Chattanooga State Community College. He is secretary of State & Local, and member of Finance and Government Operations committees.

House Members



Eddie Bass (D-Prospect) beat primary candidates and one in the general election to win the open District 65 seat vacated by Joe Fowlkes representing Giles and Marshall Counties. The former sheriff of Giles County, is on the Agriculture and Judiciary Committees.



Mike Bell (R-Riceville) represents District 23 that includes McMinn and part of Monroe counties, having defeated incumbent Bob Mc-

Kee. Having attended Cleveland State Community College, he is a beef cattle farmer and owner/operator of his own business. He serves on the Agriculture and Government Operations committees and was also elected Republican assistant floor leader.



Robert Bibb (D-Springfield) won the open seat of Gene Davidson in District 66 representing Robertson County. With a B.S. in agriculture from the UT-Knoxville, he is assistant executive director in Economic Development for the Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association. He serves on several economic, industrial councils and boards. In the House he serves on the Agriculture and State & Local committees.



Kevin Brooks (R-Cleveland) beat several primary opponents to represent part of Bradley County in District 24. His B.A. is from Lee University in Cleveland and he coordinates public relations and conference management for the Church of God. He has been a Cleveland City Planning commissioner. He is on the Children & Family Affairs and Consumer & Employee Affairs committees.



Jim Cobb (R-Hixson, Spring City) won the open seat of Sen. Bo Watson in District 31 representing north Hamilton and Rhea counties. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Memphis State University. A retired TVA Manager at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, he serves on Government Operations and Health & Human Resources.



Jim Coley (R-Bartlett) a civics teacher at Bolton High School, serves on the Education and State and Local committees. He has a B.A. with honors from Memphis State University and an M.A.T. from the University of Memphis. He represents District 97 in the northern part of Shelby County, having won the open seat of Tre Hargett.



Vince Dean (R-East Ridge) who filled the District 30 seat representing part of Hamilton County last year after Jack Sharp died while in office. The 27 year policeman then retired from the Chattanooga PD Police Department and resigned as mayor of East Ridge. A former member of the TML Board of Directors, he serves on State & Local and the Transportation committees.



Henry Fincher (D-Cookeville) represents the District 42 part of Putnam County, winning the open seat vacated by Jere Hargrove. Born in Cookeville in 1969, he graduated with a B.A. summa cum laude from UT-Knoxville in 1991, then earned a law degree from Harvard. The former chairman of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance is on the Transportation and Judiciary committees.



Richard Floyd (R-Chattanooga) won the open seat of Chris Clem to represent the District 27 part of Hamilton County where he was born in 1944. He serves on the Children & Family Affairs and the Conservation & Environment committees. A retired sales manager for the Chattanooga Coca-Cola Bottling Co, he was chair of the city/county Big Brothers/Big Sisters and of Bethel Bible Village.



Dale Ford (R-Jonesborough) won a hard fought contest against five other Republican candidates by a few votes. He's had a career of close calls. For 27 years, he was an American League Professional Baseball umpire. Succeeding Congressman David Davis, he represents District 6, including parts of Washington and Hawkins counties. The Jonesborough native serves on the Agriculture and Transportation committees.



Brenda Gilmore (D-Nashville) a Metro Council member, beat six-term incumbent Edith Langster in the primary to represent the District 54 part of Metro Nashville/Davidson County. The retired director of university mail service at Vanderbilt University has a bachelor's in business from Tennessee State University. Her master's in human resource development is from Vanderbilt. Her house assignments are secretary of Conservation & Environment and as member of Commerce committees. She has many civic involvements and has chaired many city council committees.



Ron Lollar (R-Bartlett) represents the District 99 part of Shelby county. He was born in Jackson in 1948, served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1967-1971, got his associate degree from Jackson State Community College in 1973, and his B. S. from Austin Peay State University in 1975. He won Bubba Pleasant's open seat by winning 46 percent of the vote against seven other Republicans in the primary, and then defeated a Democratic candidate in the general election. He serves on the Agriculture and Education committees.



Jon Lundberg (R-Bristol) was born in 1961 at Royal Oak, Mich. He has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Southern Colorado and attended graduate school at Wichita State. He is in public relations, broadcast news, and advertising. He won the open District 1 seat of Steve Godsey. He is on the Commerce and Judiciary committees.



Jimmy Matlock (R-Lenoir City) represents the District 21 parts of Loudon and Monroe counties. He owns a tire dealer business and is past president of the Tennessee / Kentucky Tire Dealers Association. He attended MTSU and UT. A board member of the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency, he won the open seat of Rep. Russell Johnson. The former chair of the Loudon County Republican Party serves on State & Local and Transportation.



Steve McManus (R - Cordova) serves the District 96 part of Shelby County, having won the Republican primary to win the seat vacated by Sen. Paul Stanley. Born in October 1951, a B.A. graduate of the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., he is an investment adviser who has co-chaired the Cordova Leadership Council, the Board of Germantown Community Theatre, and is a regional business commentator for Fox News. He serves on the Commerce and State & Local committees.



Eddie Neal (D-Memphis) will serve on the Government Operations & Transportation committees representing District 92 - part of Midtown and Inner City Memphis. He fills the interim seat vacated by Henri Brooks until a special election is held. Neal, 61, has owned for 43 years, Neal Masonry, a member of Brick Layers Local. In the past he ran for this seat and twice for city council.



Joe Pitts (D-Clarksville), born August 1958 in Clarksville, graduated from Austin Peay State University with a B.S., and is a banker. He is the chairman of the Memorial General Hospital District Board of Trustees of and a member of the Downtown District Partnership Board of Directors. His district 67 seat represents Montgomery County. He is currently Vice President at Planters Bank in Clarksville. His committee assignments are the Commerce and State & Local committees.



Gary Rowe (D-Memphis) is actually a returnee in that in January 2006 he won the interim seat of Kathryn Bowers who moved to the Senate, representing the district 87 part of Shelby County. He serves on Commerce and Government Operations committees. Born in Kansas City, Mo., his bachelor's in business administration is from LeMoynne-Owen College in Memphis. He is president and general partner of Memphis Business Development Corporation and president of the Black United Fund of Tennessee, Inc., and past chair of the Economic Development Council.



Kent Williams (R-Butler, a suburb of Elizabethton), is a restaurant owner and farmer. He represents the District 4 part of Carter County. He defeated incumbent Jerome Cochran in the primary. Carter's community involvements include the Elizabethton-Carter County Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessean Restaurant Association, and the Elizabethton-Carter County Hunting and Fishing Club.

Photos courtesy of *The Tennessee Journal* and the Tennessee General Assembly web site

Legislative Leadership – 2007 - 2008

SENATE



Speaker/Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



Speaker Pro Tem Rosalind Kurita



Republican Leader Mark Norris



Democratic Leader Jim Kyle

Officers and Members of the Tennessee Senate Committees

Calendar

Raymond Finney, Chair; Jim Kyle, Mark Norris.

Commerce, Labor Agriculture

Steve Southerland, Chair; Paul Stanley, Vice-Chair; Charlotte Burks, Secretary. Mae Beavers, Dewayne Bunch, Tim Burchett, Ward Crutchfield, Reginald Tate, John Wilder.

Education

Jamie Woodson, Chair; Reginald Tate, Vice-Chair; Mike Williams, Secretary. Charlotte Burks, Rusty Crowe, Ward Crutchfield, Joe Haynes, Bill Ketron and Jim Tracy.

Environment, Conservation, Tourism

Tommy Kilby, Chair; Dewayne Bunch, Vice-Chair; Doug Jackson, Secretary. Lowe Finney, Raymond Finney, Roy Herron, Bill Ketron, Steve Southerland and Mike Williams.

Finance, Ways and Means

Randy McNally, Chair; Douglas Henry, Vice-Chair; Tim Burchett, Secretary. Diane Black, Raymond Finney, Joe Haynes, Rosalind Kurita, Jim Kyle, Mark Norris, Bo Watson and John Wilder.

General Welfare, Health, & Human Resources

Rusty Crowe, Chair; Rosalind Kurita, Vice-Chair; Raymond Finney, Secretary. Diane Black, Ophelia Ford, Douglas Henry, Roy Herron, Jack Johnson and Randy McNally.

Government Operations

Thelma Harper, Chair; Shea Flinn, Vice-



Republican Caucus Chair Diane Black



Democratic Caucus Chair Joe Haynes

Chair; Ophelia Ford, Secretary. Mae Beavers, Dewayne Bunch, Rusty Crowe, Lowe Finney, Jack Johnson, Paul Stanley, Reginald Tate and Bo Watson.

Judiciary

Mae Beavers, Chair; Doug Jackson, Vice-Chair; Jamie Woodson, Secretary. Diane Black, Shea Flinn, Jim Kyle, Mark Norris, Paul Stanley and John Wilder.

State & Local Government

Bill Ketron, Chair; Lowe Finney, Vice-Chair; Bo Watson, Secretary. Tim Burchett, Jerry Cooper, Thelma Harper, Joe Haynes, Mark Norris and Jim Tracy.

Transportation

Jim Tracy, Chair; Tommy Kilby, Vice-Chair; Jack Johnson, Secretary. Jerry Cooper, Doug Jackson, Rosalind Kurita, Steve Southerland, Mike Williams, and Jamie Woodson.

Ethics

Joe Haynes, Chair; Diane Black, Charlotte Burks, Steve Southerland and Mark Norris.

Rules

Mark Norris, Chair; Randy McNally, Vice-Chair; Dewayne Bunch, Secretary. Rosalind Kurita and James Kyle.

Delayed Bills

Speaker Ron Ramsey, James Kyle and Mark Norris.

HOUSE



Speaker Jimmy Naifeh



Speaker Pro Tem Lois DeBerry



Majority Leader Gary Odom



Republican Leader Jason Mumpower

Officers and Members of the Tennessee House of Representatives Committees

Agriculture

Stratton Bone, Chair; Willie Borchert, Vice-Chair; Robert Bibb, Secretary. Eddie Bass, William Baird, Mike Bell, Chris Crider, Bill Dunn, Dale Ford, Dolores Gresham, John Litz, Ron Lollar, Steve McDaniel, Johnny Shaw, Eric Swafford and John Mark Windle.

Calendar and Rules

Larry Miller, Chair; John Hood, Vice-Chair; John Litz, Secretary.

Children and Family Affairs

John J. DeBerry, Jr., Chair; Sherry Jones, Vice-Chair; Beverly Marrero, Secretary; Tommie F. Brown, Kevin Brooks, Glen Casada, Barbara Cooper, Joanne Favors, Richard Floyd, Matthew Hill, Brian Kelsey, Mark Maddox, Donna Rowland, Johnny Shaw, Mike Turner, Nathan Vaughn.

Commerce

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STATE BRIEFS



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

The Tennessee Department of Transportation announced two new grant projects aimed at reducing emissions from diesel engines in non-attainment areas. The pilot projects will provide \$1.6 million in competitive grant funds for retrofitting older diesel engines used in road construction equipment and locomotives. The funds are provided under the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has recovered \$3.5 million on behalf of the Tennessee Medicaid Program in 2006 from efforts to curb healthcare fraud in Tennessee.

Financial disclosure information must be filed by Jan. 31, by all local elected officials and certain state officials, according to the Tennessee Ethics Commission. Further information can be obtained by contacting Bruce A. Androphy at 615-253-2666.

One hundred twenty-six new grants for after-school programs using about \$12.3 million in unclaimed lottery prize money was announced by Gov. Phil Bredesen and Education Commissioner Lana Seivers.

The state Department of Education announced 51 Tennessee teachers have completed the National Board Certification requirements as defined by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. To date, 232 teachers

have earned National Board Certification.

The official 2007 Tennessee map is available from the Department of Transportation. Organizations and schools may order up to 100 maps either by going to www.tn.gov/tdot/MapOrder/maporder.htm or mailing a written request for up to five free maps to: Tennessee Department of Transportation, Map Sales Office, 505 Deaderick Street, James K. Polk Building, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37243-0345.

City, county, and state maps can be accessed by clicking on <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/maps.htm>.

A new Department of Homeland Security program, TRIPwire (Technical Resource for Incident Prevention), has been made available to the 16 bomb squads in the state. TRIPwire allows the bomb squads access to up-to-date information on improvised explosive devices (IED) used by terrorists worldwide.

A toll-free litter hotline for people to report litter bugs has been launched as a part of the anti-litter campaign, StopLitter. By calling 1-877-854-8837, a person can report the license plate number (Tennessee plates only), type and make of the vehicle, day and time incident occurred, location where incident occurred, and the type of item tossed or blown from the vehicle. TDOT will then mail a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle reminding the recipient of the law and fine of up to \$1,500. A car trash bag and other anti-litter information will also be included with the letter.

TECB prepare to launch 911 modernization project

NEXT GEN 911 from Page 1

Internet protocol is also more prone to repair a broken connection as opposed to copper wiring, rerouting and correcting itself toward another destination.

"The 911 network that we have now is antiquated," said Randy Porter, Putnam Co. 911 Emergency Director and Chair of the TECB Board. "Much of Tennessee's present 911 infrastructure is built on 30-year-old analog technology that was put in place to facilitate the phone companies' landline phone billing. That infrastructure is not working ideally for the new VoIP technology.

A feasibility study was conducted by L. Robert Kimball & Associates where it was determined that the project could be completed by 2011. However, board officials are in no hurry to rush the process."

"We're going to start a step at a time," said Lynn Questell, TECB executive director. "We're very lucky. Other states such as Indiana, Vermont, and Montana already have

the system in place and we can gather information and make observations. Our goal is to get the state's emergency systems (143 call centers) digitized where they can talk to each other and share information."

According to Questell, the project will keep Tennessee in the forefront as a current national leader in 911 technologies. "We will continue to be of service to all Tennessee customers, whether wireline, wireless, or other devices, and hope to provide more services, for example, for those with hearing problems," explained Questell. "We will choose the best technology we can and continue moving ahead slow and easy."

The TECB is currently preparing a request for proposal (RFP) toward bidding on the project, with cost estimates based upon a similar \$6 million system in Indiana.

The plan will be funded by a \$1 fee collected monthly by the state from wireless telephone customers, Questell said.

TML launches new advocacy efforts: Hometown Connection

HOMETOWN from Page 1

The *Legislative Bulletin* is one of the main tools that TML uses to communicate with its members on issues affecting local governments. Distributed each Friday to every city hall in Tennessee, the bulletin focuses on priority bills as they move through the legislative process, recaps the week's legislative activity and previews the upcoming week.

It's important that at least one staff person is designated as a point of contact and given the responsibility for immediate review and distribution of the *Legislative Bulletin* and for initiating a timely response to legislators and/or to the League.

Action Alerts

With the fast pace of the legislative session, often legislation is filed or an amendment proposed that requires an immediate response from municipal leaders.

Action Alerts will be distributed via email that will inform you of recent developments and request that you contact your legislator immediately.

Whenever possible, action alerts will be targeted and tailored to members who have either expressed interest in a specific issue area or his or her legislator serves on a key legislative committee.

For example, if a bill of importance is calendared for the House State and Local Government Committee, city officials whose representatives serve on that committee, will receive an Action Alert, requesting they take action.

TML Web site and the Hometown Connection

A new section to TML's web site, entitled Hometown Connection, has been developed and will serve as a legislative library that's open 24/7.

By accessing the Hometown link, city officials will find information on the League's 2007 legislative agenda, complete with talking points, background information, and recent news articles.

This section will also feature a series of legislative folders packed with information on key issues that affect municipalities, a bill tracking system to stay current on specific legislation as it moves through the process, as well as access to Legislative Bulletins, and Action Alerts distributed throughout the session.

District Directors Program

The District Directors will help build, foster, and facilitate key relationships with city officials and state legislators throughout each district. Lobbying efforts will become more localized by establishing each district as primary points of contact and a point of origin for all lobbying efforts.

District Directors will actively engage in arranging meetings for city officials with legislators, serve as a media spokesperson, and provide feedback to the League on what they are hearing in the "field."

Often, District Directors will be the League's first contact on important legislative matters and they may be asked to disseminate the information to city officials within their area.

Hometown Heroes

Hometown Heroes is a TML initiative that provides willing municipal officials the opportunity to travel to Nashville to testify, to lobby, or simply to demonstrate a municipal presence before a Senate or House standing committee on key issues.

Hometown Champions

Hometown Champions are those municipal officials with unique relationships with legislators other than their own. For example, a municipal official from West Tennessee roomed with a legislator from East Tennessee while attending college. Those municipal officials who register to be a Hometown Champion should rest assured that every effort will be made to respect these relationships and to mobilize this list sparingly.

Legislative Contact Forms

Members will be able to access an on-line contact form that will as-

sist staff in preparation of weekly whip reports and help to ensure each legislator is contacted on key legislative matters. This information will be used to develop a real-time picture of legislator's positions on issues of importance to municipalities and enable District officers and staff to effectively target outreach efforts. Access to **Legislators' Voting Record** on Key Municipal Issues TML will create a permanent record of legislators' committee and floor votes on bills and amendments of interest to municipalities. Members will receive timely updates of votes, as well as receive an annual scorecard at the end of each session. In addition, the membership will be able to access legislator's voting records through a members-only, password protected section.

Tennessee Town and City

Published semi-monthly, the League's newspaper reports on local, state, and federal government issues, legislative concerns, affiliated association's activities, and innovative municipal services and programs. Readership includes municipal officials throughout the state, the governor's administration, the Tennessee General Assembly, Tennessee's Congressional delegation, and the media.

Legislative Conference

In late February or early March of each year, TML hosts a legislative conference in Nashville to update the membership on developments of the current legislative session and to facilitate and encourage member participation in the legislative process.

Annual Conference

TM's annual conference offers a broad range of educational programs combined with networking opportunities for city officials from across the state. Offered in June following the legislative session, the conference rotates each year between Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Gatlinburg.

Parks, recreation grants available to local governments through the Tennessee Recreation Incentive program

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation wants to remind local governments that do not currently have parks or recreation departments that they can take advantage of the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP) grant program to help create parks and recreation opportunities in local communities. Applications for TRIP grants are due in April.

"Approximately 30 percent of Tennesseans are not currently served by an organized local parks and recreation program," said Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke. "I am always pleased to see communities access this program to help provide parks amenities for their citizens."

The Department of Environment and Conservation has taken several steps to get the word out about this grant program for local governments that do not currently have a parks or recreation program.

"We did a mass mailing to let communities know about the current grant cycle and we will conduct a TRIP Grant Workshop on February

21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon (CST) in Nashville," said Mark Tummons, director of the department's Division of Recreation Services. "Information is also available on our Web site at www.tdec.net/recreation."

With the April deadline approaching, Tummons reminds local governments to start working on their applications now so they can be completed and submitted by the April 2 deadline.

Those interested in participating in the February 21 TRIP Grant Workshop should contact the Division of Recreation Services at (615) 532-0748. The workshop will be held in the L&C Tower in Nashville. Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP) Grants provide funding to governments that do not currently have parks and recreation services within their jurisdiction.

Eligibility: Any incorporated city or county government that meets the criteria may apply through a competitive matching grant process.

Grant Awards: TRIP grants are for a three-year period. During

the first two years, the community shall match up to \$50,000 from the State.

In the third year, the community is responsible for 100 percent of the funding for the program.

Deadlines: The deadline for filing a TRIP grant application is April 2, 2007. Grant recipients will be announced in May.

The Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program was created in 1995 by the General Assembly. TRIP grants are administered through the Department of Environment and Conservation and provide funding to governments that do not currently have parks and recreation services within their jurisdictions.

Any incorporated city or county government may apply for funding through a competitive matching grant process.

For more information about parks, recreation and trails grants, visit: www.tdec.net/recreation and click on "Grants."

For further information, please contact: Dana Coleman at 615-253-1916.

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TML Board approves 2007 legislative agenda

Each year, through a member-driven process, the TML Board of Directors adopts several priority issues that directly affect the future well-being of Tennessee's cities and towns, and those who live in them. The League then has these issues introduced as legislation before the Tennessee General Assembly and then works to usher these issues through the legislative process.

During the fall, TML members submitted initiatives to be considered by four policy committees – Finance and General Administration; Public Safety; Utilities, Environment and Transportation; and Economic and Community Development. Participation in the Policy Committees was open to any TML member-municipality and its employees.

The priorities established by each committee were presented to the TML Legislative Committee and ultimately the full board of directors for approval at the November board meeting.

For the 2007 legislative session, the TML Board approved six initiatives to pursue. More information on each legislative initiative can be found on TML's web site, www.TML1.org.



(Pictured left to right) Shelbyville City Manager Ed Craig, Springfield City Manager Paul Nutting, and McMinnville Mayor Royce Davenport



(Left) Bartlett Mayor Keith McDonald and Tennessee Chapter American Public Works Bo Mills



(Left to right) Jim Brown, Tennessee Building Officials Association president, Alcoa Mayor Don Mull, and Alcoa City Manager Mark Johnson



Jackson Mayor Charles Farmer and TMBF President and CEO Bones Seivers



Cookeville Vice Mayor Jean Davis and Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley



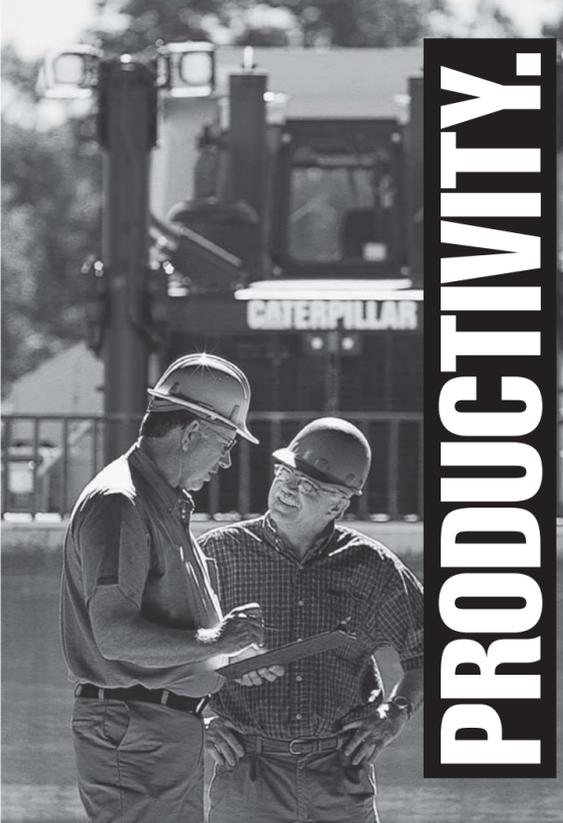
Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk and Edna Holland, TML Risk Management Pool, Government Relations



TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery reviews legislative process with board members.

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Elected Officials Academy 2007 sessions



The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will be hosting Elected Officials Academy sessions across the state this year. To register or for additional information please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.utk.edu, or contact MTAS at 865-974-0411. Level one sessions can be registered thru your local MTAS management consultant. Pictured: A recent session at the TML offices in Nashville featured Gerald Parrish of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Parks and Recreation Technical Advisory Service (PARTAS).

Statewide franchising legislation shortchanges local governments

TELECOM from Page 1

BellSouth/AT&T has not made good business decisions. They have chosen not to invest in Tennessee where cable has. The cable industry has invested \$1 billion in infrastructure in Tennessee since 1996. But it appears BellSouth/AT&T would rather gain a financial advantage and not have to play by the very rules that are in place to protect consumers. A shortcut for them will shortchange the public."

The process of contracting locally to provide service in accordance with federal and state laws has worked well for decades. The existing law and process enables companies to apply with local governments to provide services in the market place. Under the law, every

county and incorporated city in Tennessee contracts with companies who want to use the local rights-of-way to offer cable service. These contracts known as franchises require cable operators to build out and serve the entire community regardless of whether the customer takes cable or not.

The FCC now requires local cable-franchising authorities to act on applications from competitors within 90 days.

BellSouth/AT&T is expected to request a shortcut in the law so that it can gain single approval through the state rather than work with each local government entity. The shortcut approach would save BellSouth/AT&T from costly build out requirements in areas they do not intend to

serve. In comparison, cable companies have chosen to invest in all communities and neighborhoods in compliance with local agreements and build-out requirements.

Cable's local franchise agreements also result in \$40 million annually in local franchise fee payments to Tennessee local governments.

"The question must be asked why BellSouth/AT&T wants to avoid the local agreement process. We welcome fair competition that protects consumers and local governments, but cannot support handing over an enormous and blatantly unfair advantage to companies like BellSouth/AT&T who can certainly afford the investment if they choose," Briggs said.

TML 2007 Legislative Conference

Today's Challenges are Tomorrow's Opportunities

The Tennessee Municipal League 2007 Legislative Conference, "Today's Challenges are Tomorrow's Opportunities," will be held March 5-6 at the DoubleTree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, in downtown Nashville.

Located in the heart of Music City USA, the hotel is located one

block from the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the State Capitol and within blocks of the Gaylord Entertainment Center, Country Music Hall of Fame and Nashville Convention Center.

All conference registration must be received by Friday, Feb. 16. Delegate fees are \$50 and spouse/guest fees are \$20. Hotel registration

deadline is Feb. 5.

All cancellations must be in letter format and postmarked by Friday, February 16. Please make checks payable to the TML Legislative Conference and mail to: Tennessee Municipal League, Attn: Legislative Conference, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710 Nashville, TN 37219.



BY TISH WOMACK

Let us know the particulars about your most important festivals at least six weeks in advance of the event. E-mail Tish Womack at twomack@TML1.org or fax to 615-255-4752.

Feb. 2-4: Eagle Festival at Reelfoot Lake with tours, art contest, story telling, a birds of prey program and more. Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-250-8617.

Feb. 10: Jonesborough Music on the Square Winter Concert featuring the King of Gypsy Swing, John Jorgenson, at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center at 7:30 p.m. Contact: Elizabeth Berry at 423-753-1013.

March 1-4: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, Tennessee State Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day; 5 p.m. closing on Sunday. Fee: \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$1 for children under 12. Visit www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com for more information.

COMING
UP

Jan. 31: Stormceptor, Nashville Stormwater Technology Workshop at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, Nashville. For more information call: 800-475-6302, ext. 241.

Feb. 1: Stormceptor, Nashville Stormwater Technology Workshop at the Holiday Inn Select Downtown, 252 Henly Street, Knoxville. For more information call: 800-475-6302, ext. 241.

Feb. 5: Gov. Phil Bredeesen's State of the State address, Nashville, TN.

Feb 20: Tennessee Business Matchmaking Program, Jackson Civic Centre, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration deadline: Feb 11. Register at www.tnecd.gov/matchmaking. Registration fee: \$35.

Feb. 23: Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association Winter meeting at Mariott Cool Springs, Franklin; 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Featured speaker: Bruce Androphy, Executive Director, Tennessee Ethics Commission. Visit www.tmaa.us for more information.

Feb 26-27: ICMA, Smart Growth Network, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency present "Smart Growth for Local Governments: Creating and Sustaining Livable Communities" in the First Floor Training Rooms at ICMA Headquarters, 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC. Registration: \$195 for individuals, \$150 for teams of three or more from the same jurisdiction, or \$95 for students. Registration closes Feb. 21. For more information and to register: www.icma.org/smartgrowthdc.

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CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR

MILLINGTON. The city of Millington is seeking qualified applicants for the position of chief building inspector who is or certified or eligible for certification as a building inspector/building codes analyst. The successful applicant must have a high school diploma (or equivalent), associate's degree in building inspection/engineering, construction, or architecture (or related preferred), with training in building inspection, building construction or architecture, and with a minimum of seven years of experience of an increasingly responsible administrative nature as a building inspector, engineer, architect, or construction superintendent, foreman or mechanic (or related); or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. A valid Tennessee driver's license is also required. Send resume to: Director of Personnel, P.O. Box 247, Millington, TN 38083; email: cdonaldson@cityofmillington.org; fax: 901-873-5636; or, apply in person at: 4836 Navy Road, Suite 3, Millington, TN. No phone calls. Visit www.ci.millington.tn.us for more information. Deadline: Feb. 9. EOE.

CITY CLERK/FINANCE DIRECTOR

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Finance/City Clerk. The position is responsible for assisting the city manager and other department heads with the development and implementation of financial policies, procedures, and controls; supervising the preparation of financial statements and related reports; supervising disbursement of city funds; coordinating development of the annual budget with the city manager, assistant city manager, department heads, city council, and outside agencies; updating statistical tables and schedules, and complete an application and grading sheet for a government-sponsored budget recognition program; managing the preparation of city council agendas and reviewing minutes of council meetings; coordinating city code updates, maintain official city files, records, minutes, leases, deeds, contracts, and financial records; assisting the public with requests for information and attest official records; supervising staff and performing various personnel functions including hiring, training new employees; planning, assigning, and directing work; appraising performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, addressing complaints, and resolving problems. Other duties may be assigned. Salary: \$69,452 to begin. Send letter of interest with resume to: City of Cleveland Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519; email: jdavis@cityofclevelandtn.com. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol, population 25,435, is accepting applications for the position of fire chief (ISO Class 3). The qualified individual will manage a \$3 million plus budget and direct a paid staff of 54 persons. The department provides fire and emergency medical service (ALS) to a service area of 31 square miles operating from four stations. The qualified individual will be appointed by and reports to the city manager. The position performs complex professional and difficult administrative work planning, directing, and supervising fire and emergency medical services. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated knowledge of fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical services, incident command, fire ground operations, and safety procedures. The candidate will have the ability to be open and visible in the fire department with demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with all levels of the department. A bachelor's degree in fire science/public administration, or related field, and 10 years experience in a paid fire service environment with a minimum of six years as chief or senior officer in comparable department, or the equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Salary range: up to \$76,000 plus excellent benefits. Send resume and required application which is available at www.bristoltn.org to: City of Bristol, Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189. Position open until filled. EOE.

FIRE CHIEF

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin, a full-service city with a population 25,000, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of fire chief. The fire department has 34 employees, a \$3.2 million budget, and serves a diverse community. The position reports to the mayor and is responsible to the city council. The job entails planning; programs; directing and evaluating the operation of the department; developing annual department budgets; controlling budgeted expenses; formulating and implementing fire policies; managing employee relations; attending community meetings; and making presentations related to fire activities. The person hired will have any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree with major course work in fire science, public administration, or related areas and extensive administrative experience, 10 years or more preferred, in fire service. Up-

per-level management experience and Tennessee experience with knowledge of all controlling laws applicable to fire agencies in the state preferred. Highly desire a person with fire experience in a community and department of like size or larger with experience as chief/assistant chief or command level. A Tennessee driver's license required and the ability to meet all departmental and statutory standards as well as willing to meet residency requirements is necessary. Salary range: \$60,614-\$89,981 plus excellent benefits. Submit cover letter stating interest, qualifications, and salary history along with a resume and three professional references to: UT-Municipal Technical Advisory Service, Attn: Gary Jaeckel, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 606, Nashville, TN 37219. Deadline: Feb. 7. EOE.

PLANNING AND CODES DIRECTOR

FAIRVIEW. The city of Fairview is seeking applicants for the position of director of planning and codes under the direct supervision of the city manager. Responsibilities include comprehensive plan development, design criteria, codes administration, building inspection, zoning, and subdivision regulations enforcement. The position requires a bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, or related field, and five years of progressively responsible experience in planning or public administration, or equivalent combination of experience and education. Send resume with salary requirements to: City of Fairview, Attn: City Manager, P.O. Box 69, Fairview, TN 37062. E-mail: cm@fairview-tn.org. Position open until filled. EOE.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is accepting applications for the position of senior accountant who will be responsible for supervising and managing property taxes, utility billing, records management, customer service, and managing the general ledger for these areas. The position will be involved with the annual financial audit and preparation of the city's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and will also work with the director of finance regarding achievement of departmental goals and objectives and other accounting related projects. A degree in accountancy and a minimum of five to seven years in a related field with supervisory experience is required. A CPA is preferred. A demonstrated knowledge of Governmental Accounting Standard Board pronouncements; generally accepted accounting principles; governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; comprehensive annual financial reports; and statements of auditing standards are necessary as well as ability to perform accounting and financial research. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and other related software and network programs is necessary. Skills in interpersonal communication, tact and diplomacy, keeping confidentiality, resourcefulness, and in building and maintaining effective relationships with city staff and officials are desired. Send resume and application, available at www.bristoltn.org, to: City of Bristol, Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189. EOE.

SR ENGINEERING ASSOCIATE – GIS / CAD

Alcoa. The city of Alcoa Public Works & Engineering Dept. is accepting resumes from interested persons for the position of Sr. Engineering Associate – GIS / CAD. This is sub-professional engineering work in the Computer Aided Drafting and Geographic Information System fields. Employees in this class are expected to perform, under the direct guidance of a qualified civil engineer, design duties involved in the construction, maintenance, and operation of municipal public works projects. This employee will create and maintain facility & utility GIS geodatabases that will support the PW&E Department; the employee will also assist other City departments in maintaining their respective GIS geodatabases. This is a safety-sensitive position. Salary DOE/DOQ. Successful applicants will be submitted to pre-employment physical, background check and drug screen. Excellent benefits package. Applications and/or Resumes will be accepted until position is filled. Resumes shall be mailed (no fax resumes accepted) to The City of Alcoa, 223 Associates Blvd., Alcoa, TN 37701 or email to chouseholder@cityofalcoa-tn.gov. Applications may be picked up and delivered to same address. The City of Alcoa is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer & Title VI compliant. No phone calls please.

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Governors lose in power struggle over National Guard

GOVERNORS from Page 1

heavy federal deployment of state-based Guard forces to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, four out of five guardsmen have been sent overseas in the largest deployment of the National Guard since World War II.

Shortage of the guard's military equipment – such as helicopters to drop hay to snow-stranded cattle in Colorado – also is a nagging issue as much of units' heavy equipment is left overseas and unavailable in case of a natural disaster at home. A bipartisan majority of both chambers of Congress adopted the change as part of the 439-page, \$538 billion 2007 Defense Authorization Bill signed into law last October.

The nation's governors through the National Governors Association (NGA) successfully lobbied to defeat a broader proposal to give the president power to federalize Guard troops without invoking the Insurrection Act. But the passage that became law also "disappointed" governors because it expands federal power and could cause confusion between state and federal authorities trying to respond to an emergency situation, said David Quam, an NGA homeland security advisor.

"Governors need to be focused on assisting their citizens during an emergency instead of looking over their shoulders to see if the federal government is going to step in," Quam said. Under the U.S. Constitution, each state's National Guard unit is controlled by the governor in time of peace but can be called up for federal duty by the president.

The National Guard employs 444,000 part-time soldiers between its two branches: the Army and Air National Guards. The Posse Comita-

Microsoft settlement garners \$3.5 million for state's school systems

MICROSOFT from Page 1

Arnold Director of Technology for Bristol City Schools in the Tri-Cities area awarded \$62,000 in vouchers.

"We have already spent close to \$25,000 across our school system," said Arnold. "There's a tight window of time and we still have a lot of questions. We will try to take advan-



National Guard members conduct drill training exercises

tus Act of 1878 forbids U.S. troops from being deployed on American soil for law enforcement. The one exception is provided by the Insurrection Act of 1807, which lets the president use the military only for the purpose of putting down rebellions or enforcing constitutional rights if state authorities fail to do so.

Under that law, the president can declare an insurrection and call in the armed forces. The act has been invoked only a handful of times in the past 50 years, including in 1957 to desegregate schools and in 1992 during riots in south central Los Angeles after the acquittal of police accused of beating Rodney King.

Congress changed the Insurrection Act to list "natural disaster, epidemic, or other serious public health emergency, terrorist attack or incident" as conditions under which the president can deploy U.S. armed forces and federalize state Guard troops if he determines that "authorities of the state or possession are incapable of maintaining public order."

Backers of the new rules, in-

clude U.S. Sens. John W. Warner (R-Va.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) said the changes were needed to clarify the role of the armed forces in responding to serious domestic emergencies.

Mark Smith, spokesperson for the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said local and state emergency responders know what their communities need during a crisis better than officials in Washington.

"The president should not be able to step in and take control of the National Guard without a governor's consent. The Guard belongs to the states and should remain a function of the states," Smith said.

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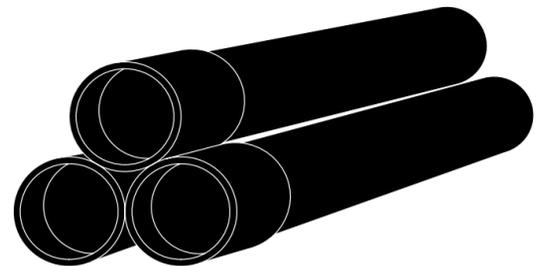
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Governor Bredesen is sworn in for second term



Following his swearing in ceremony, Bredesen delivers a 12-minute speech highlighting his objectives for his second term as governor of Tennessee.



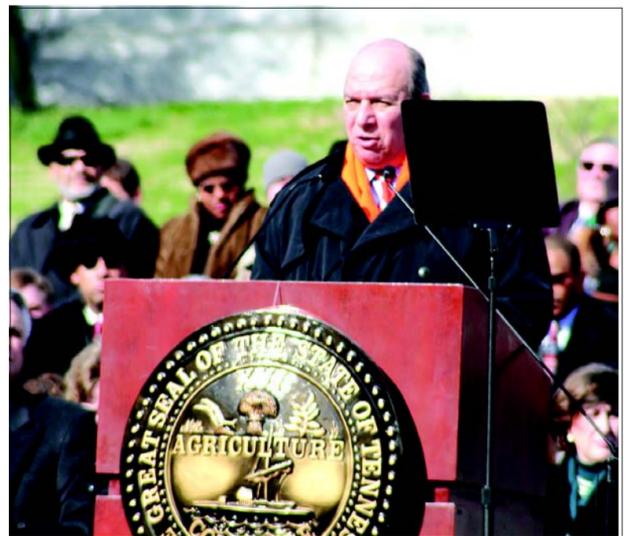
With First Lady Andrea Conte at his side, Bredesen takes the oath of office as 48th governor of Tennessee.



(Pictured Left to right) Former Governor Sen. Lamar Alexander, Sen. Rusty Crowe, and Supreme Court Chief Justice William M. Barker.



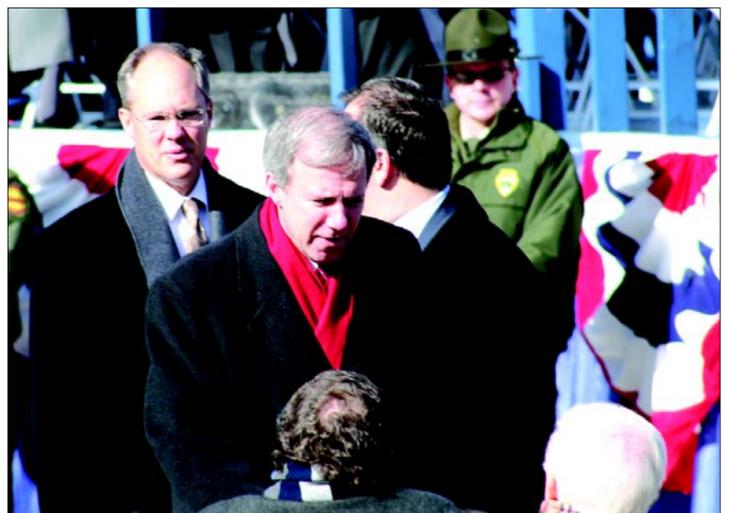
The 153-year-old State Capitol flanked by Tennessee National Guardsmen serves as the backdrop for the governor's Inauguration ceremony themed "Our State, Our Future" on War Memorial Plaza.



House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh makes opening remarks before the Governor's inauguration.



(Left to right) Former Govs. Sen. Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter are seated on the platform along with Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey as Bredesen cabinet members take their oaths of office.



Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell greets attendees.



The Bredesen family bow their heads during the opening prayer.



(Left to right) U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, Sen. Rusty Crowe, and Sen. Lamar Alexander

Gary Odom just second House majority leader from a Big Four city

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Gary Odom came to the legislature in 1987, as did Bill Purcell, now mayor of Nashville. Purcell was the first House member from a large urban district to be elected majority leader; Odom was the second. Purcell had the support of the governor and speaker at the time and won by one vote. Odom had the support of neither and won 33-18. The difference may be that Odom grew up in a rural area and now represents an urban area and it didn't hurt that he campaigned for Democratic candidates across the state last year.

Odom was born in Carter County in 1951 to Luther and Marcella Odom. His father was a construction welder. When Gary started first grade, his mother began working in the school cafeteria. He received his bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City, all of eight miles away from his home. He got his master's degree in public administration and criminal justice at Eastern Kentucky University.

He moved to Nashville in 1975 and worked in state government for three years, some of the most interesting jobs he's ever had. For one year, he was the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office (AG) only investigator during which he was heavily involved in a lawsuit with the contractors of the ETSU mini dome regarding multi-million dollar construction problems. Odom found witnesses who testified unskilled workers were used in highly technical jobs directly related to the installation of the faulty roof.

Another was the Tennessee vs. Arkansas dispute over ownership of an island in the Mississippi River. When not under water a few months of the year, it was valuable agricultural property. Before it went to the U.S. Supreme Court, Odom found an old Arkansas map showing the island to be in Tennessee.

Before and after that year, he spent a year as an investigator at the Department of Health's Division of Health Related Boards, then after his year at the AG office, he returned to Health to become assistant director of the Regulatory Board. It prosecuted violations of state law by licensed health care professionals — physicians, nurses, and dentists — and unlicensed practitioners of regulated health professions.

In 1978, he became executive assistant director of government relations with the Tennessee Medical Association. In 1980, he became executive director of the Tennessee Optometric Association (TOA). He is still there 27 years later.

In 1983, in local government, he ran for a seat on the Metro Nashville City Council and won. In 1987, he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives and served in both legislative bodies until 1995 when he left the council. He has also been a faculty member of Aquinas Junior College for three years.

During his 20-year career in the House, he received five awards from environmental groups and 10 from healthcare groups. He was a member of the House Conservation and Environment Committee for about 14 years and served as chair for two years. He was on the Education Committee for two years and a member of the Health and Human Resources Committee ever since he arrived in 1987. He's served on the House Calendar and Rules Committee, the Joint TennCare Oversight Committee, and chaired the House Professional Occupations Subcommittee.

Odom is single with two grown children.

TT&C: Where did you grow up?

GO: I was raised in a rural suburb of a suburb of Elizabethton called Valley Forge. Actually in a suburb of Valley Forge called Coal Chute because of the coal chute concrete box next to the railroad. I've been urban since 1975.

TT&C: Describe your city council experience 1983-95.

GO: I ran against a charter member of the Metro Council. With four of us in the race, I got into a runoff with the incumbent. Being a neophyte, I just went door to door and won the runoff by a good margin.

I know the difficulties of local government by being there when we had issues that could have split our city apart, especially landfills. It wasn't my preference to serve simultaneously in the House and the council, but I kept running for city council partly because constituents and



Leader Gary Odom, left, confers with Finance Committee Chair Craig Fitzhugh in the House Chamber.

Photographic Services- State of Tennessee

community leaders told me they did not "need a rookie coming into the dilemma." That was back when Mayor Bill Boner was trying to find a landfill site in Metro. Constituents said they needed me there more than in the legislature because there were three landfill sites in my district that private developers wanted.

I felt that Nashville didn't have the geology conducive to sanitary landfill sites. When Gov. Bredesen became mayor during my last council term, he agreed the geology wasn't conducive. We needed to find a way to recycle more and send the limited supply of waste out of the county if we could.

Having done both, I greatly respect officials in state and local governments. It is year-round service in the legislature too, but our work in session is for three or four months. City councils and county commissions meet year-round.

TT&C: Not having a House opponent enabled you to campaign for Democratic candidates?

GO: Yes. I'm very disappointed we didn't pick up at least two seats during this election.

TT&C: You opposed the Bredesen cuts on TennCare and the Naifeh tax reform by state income tax. Is that a problem?

GO: I do not think it a bad thing at all for reasonable people to differ on important, complicated issues. Often, it's about the issues, not the personalities.

Right out of the chute, I differed with Phil Bredesen about a charter amendment by petition to establish an independent audit program that I initiated when he was running for mayor. It was passing easily in early voting, he knew he was going to win and spent considerable money on TV spots right before the general election attacking it. He wasn't attacking me — just that it was "good intentions, bad idea." I respected that. We differed on the way government should function. His approach came from a CEO background. He believed that if he was responsible for the operation of government then he should be in charge. I'm happy that proposal was recently passed by voters and is finally in place, thanks to Mayor Purcell who has used internal auditing and now supports an entity outside of his control to be a watch dog. It's something like the Government Accounting Office in Washington and the Tennessee Comptroller Office.

TT&C: How will you work to pass the governor's agenda?

GO: I've met with the governor and expect to work well with him and his staff because part of the responsibility of the majority leader when the governor is from the same party is to shepherd governor-initiated issues into law.

I'm going to approach things perhaps a little differently. I'm going to be looking to our caucus members who have constituents affected by governor-initiated legislation to be there presenting that legislation. I may want them to sign the bill first and be the prime sponsor with me second. I will always be consulting with them and, if necessary, go with them to the committee and subcommittee meetings and, certainly, be with them in the well.

I've sponsored a lot of legislation before I became a member of the leadership. I'll continue that, but be selective.

TT&C: How do you prepare for a new session, for 19 new House members?

GO: I've already sent out communi-

cations to each member of the House requesting their preferences for committee assignments. From the Democratic caucus standpoint, I've sent out communications asking members for input on developing the caucus' legislative agenda before that is finalized this month. We'll get feedback from various districts on issues believed to be important for the legislature and the House Democratic caucus to pursue. It's going to be a busy month.

TT&C: For a decade, House Republican leadership has striven to be more partisan about issues. Does that affect you as leader?

GO: I hope that the House will be less partisan. As I told the fairly large class of freshmen when I met with them a few weeks ago during their orientation, the elections are over; the people of Tennessee have spoken; they have elected their House and Senate members; and now we have to try and move ahead and address the issues that they want us to address.

I said there are going to be temptations at times to fall into partisan gamesmanship. I said that if that happens, we'll have to deal with it. I hope it doesn't. I'm the first to tell you that I understand reasonable people having different positions on important complex issues. That's different than pure partisanship, which I'm hoping we can minimize.

I felt good about some of the response I got. For the most part, they agreed with that. Opinion polls show citizens want legislative bodies everywhere to address issues, not simply play partisan games.

TT&C: You sponsored bills for 20 years. Want to single out a few?

GO: One of municipal interest goes back to years ago when we had problems due to people starting construction on homes, then finding out they had significant septic tank issues. I sponsored a bill years ago that everybody supported. It had a provision requiring you to have your septic tank testing done before you could get a permit for electricity to your building site. Serious mistakes had been made by some who invested before finding the property wouldn't perk.

I passed a bill several years ago that increased the transfer tax to do a number of things including the acquisition of wetlands. It is also used by local governments to pay for infrastructure needs for new developments. It was widely supported by the Farm Bureau and local governments.

TT&C: You won 10 healthcare awards. Have you been interested in health care since your first job?

GO: I really have, first with the health-related boards division and then when I got into the legislature. Naturally, there were turf battles involving nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and the state's ability to use those professionals more effectively, like other states do where there are voids in physicians. I was involved in a bill that had to do with the ability of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and physician extenders to prescribe medicine in areas of this state that did not have enough healthcare providers.

TT&C: Why are you now intensely interested in CoverTN?

GO: The CoverTN program is extremely important to all Tennesseans. It's one of the most important issues facing small businesses, in particular, to be able to offer health insurance to their employees. We passed the enabling legislation, and in the past year, I've been appointed

to serve on the Access Tennessee Board for the Uninsurable to give ability to citizens who are uninsurable to have access to a health and pharmacy policy with premiums subsidized by state government.

All Tennesseans need to understand it is in our best interest that fellow citizens have health insurance coverage. What's true of regular oil changes is true of health care, "You pay now, or you pay more later." Besides, cities and counties operate hospitals with emergency rooms. The costs to local government are much higher if clients are uninsured. The rising costs of charity care are a major local issue if they don't meet Medicaid standards. We all need to work hard to make sure this program works. I support the governor and his efforts to make sure everything is in place and ready to go when the programs are started up. We don't need to be rushing just to meet arbitrary deadlines as happened with TennCare.

TT&C: You just published an article outlining the history of the Basic Education Program (BEP). What was your main point?

GO: The BEP is a very complicated formula for allocating education dollars. I sometimes wonder if it could be used to reach or justify any goal. I don't think any funding formula should be that complex. It should be simple and fair. Simple so folks can understand it enough to come to their own conclusions as to how fair it really is.

I represent an urban area now, but spent the first 20 odd years living in a rural area. I understand the challenges, having gone through public schools from elementary through my master's degree. I raised two kids in Metro's system. These educational environments are often contrary to one another, but the goal is the same: we must educate our children well. We need a formula that addresses the challenges of both.

TT&C: How about the constitutional amendment permitting the freezing of property tax rates of homeowners 65 and older? Cities worry that you may mandate a high household income rate.

GO: I certainly want more feedback from local governments on what they see the ramifications being in their own community with regard to the ceiling on income. I haven't gotten much feedback on that from Metro Nashville. I want feedback from urban and rural areas.

Let me say something that is important to convey to your members. I told you earlier I have the utmost respect for people who serve in local government because I've been there and faced those chal-

Profile Gary Odom



- 1951 Born, Coal Chute, Carter County
- 1973 B.S., ETSU
- 1975 Masters, EKU
- 1975 Dept. of Health, Tenn. Attorney General's Office
- 1978 Asst. Dir. of Govt. Relations, TMA
- 1980 Executive Director of Tennessee Optometric Assn.
- 1983-1995 Metro Nashville Councilmember
- 1987 House Member
- 2007 House Majority Leader

lenges. I'm generally going to be one of those who pays a lot of attention to what local government is saying to the state. For example, when the legislature passed a pre-emption on local governments regarding the regulation of smoking I opposed that pre-emption, because it took away the ability of a local government to regulate smoking.

TT&C: How about municipal cable franchises and rural broadband access?

GO: Apparently BellSouth wants to get a statewide franchise and bypass cities' control and the right of local governments to negotiate cable franchises. That's a local issue that is best determined by local government. I haven't heard the other side's argument, but by past experience, and having gone through the awarding of franchises and stipulating services, it's mostly about the people who are going to be served in the community. That's what's important to me.

I don't see why we would want to take away the ability of local governments to do what is best for their constituents. I'm always going to defer to local governments on things like that, all things being equal. That's because they are the governments closest to our citizens and know the needs and concerns of their constituencies best.

TT&C: Have you taken a stand on the media's efforts to change the open meetings laws?

GO: My personal stand is that I have chaired subcommittees and full committees, and the bottom line is that I've never been afraid to say in public anything that I would say in private. That's the way I operate. Any committee or subcommittee that I have chaired has never met privately before we met publicly. I support open meetings, I support transparent government, and I've never heard a good explanation as to why government activities should not be open. So in regards to the open meetings law, bottom line, I think the legislature should function in the same manner that local governments do. I was amazed to find out from an attorney general's opinion that the open meetings law applied to all local governments but not to the legislature that passed it. If you'll notice, one of the first things we'll do this year is to ensure that our rules mirror the open meetings requirements included in last year's ethics legislation.

TT&C: What is your stand on local governments proposing immigration enforcement ordinances?

GO: I know of state legislative races where that was apparently the overriding issue, but to my knowledge the state and local government don't have access to a border patrol or an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). I've always thought, like most people, that the federal government is important for regulating immigration into the country. That's why we have a U.S. border patrol and an INS.

We have an immigration problem. I'm just not sure that tens of thousands of local ordinances in cities and counties and 50 immigration polices in 50 different states make a lot of sense. We don't have checkpoints on the interstates at our boundaries.

We need to and can deal with education and health care and public safety issues.

We've got two people at INS for the entire state. It's the federal government that has to get up and get going.