

TML initiatives win approval, others pending

Three of TML's 2007 legislative initiatives have won approval in both Houses, with others still pending in the Tennessee General Assembly.

SB 2056, sponsored by Sen. Randy McNally, and HB 1471 sponsored by Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, was signed into law May 3, and becomes effective immediately. The legislation made corrections to 2006 Municipal Purchasing Law.

SB 499, sponsored by Sen. Jack Johnson, and HB 326, sponsored by Rep. Charles Sargent, clarifies the time period a municipal planning commission has to approve or disapprove a subdivision plat was signed into law May 10, 2007, and becomes effective immediately.

SB 1624, sponsored by Sen. Raymond Finney, and HB 0968, sponsored by Rep. Doug Overbey, that grants cities legal authority to enforce junk vehicle ordinances passed both houses earlier this month. It is waiting the governor's signature.

Municipal purchasing law

This legislation authorizes municipalities that have charter provisions or private act requirements that govern the competitive bidding and purchasing process to establish exemptions to the bidding process by ordinance as an alternative to establishing the exemptions by charter amendment only.

30-day plat determination

SB 499/HB 326 clarifies that the time period a municipal planning commission has to approve or disapprove a plat commences upon receipt of a completed application. In addition, the legislation provides that each applicant maintains his or her right to voluntarily waive the statutory time limit and agree to a mutually acceptable extension of the time period. Lastly, the legisla-



Sen. Randy McNally



Sen. Raymond Finney



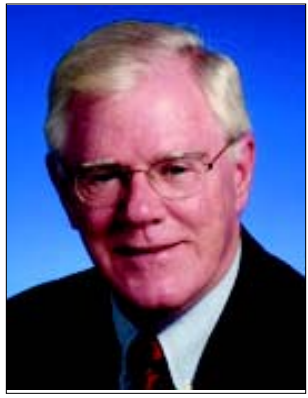
Sen. Jack Johnson



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh



Rep. Doug Overbey



Rep. Charles Sargent

tion allows the commission to extend the review period for up to 60 days for applications involving ei-
See **LEGISLATION** on Page 9



Photo by Victoria South

Local governments are especially indebted to Chairman Charles Curtiss and Chairman Ulysses Jones. If not for the actions of these two men, the objections of cities and counties might not have been heard.

House holds AT&T cable franchising bill until 2008

Last Thursday morning, in a meeting of the House Commerce Committee held on the House floor, Rep. Steve McDaniel, the House sponsor of the "Competitive Cable and Video Services Act," asked that the bill be taken off notice and suggested that he may try to pass the bill next year.

It is unclear what affect, if any, the actions in the House will have on the Senate. The companion legislation, offered by Sen. Bill Ketron, which passed out of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee last Tuesday, is scheduled to be considered by the full Senate this

week.

In making his request, Rep. McDaniel said, "I am very disappointed that we were unable to give the consumers of Tennessee the choice that we believe will drive technology, and investment, and new jobs to this state. So, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to maybe come back next year, if you would allow me to take this legislation off notice." There was no objection to the motion and the bill was taken off notice.

Thursday morning's meeting brought to a conclusion, if only temporarily, a process which included See **CABLE** on Page 9

U.S. House passes funding increase for COPS program

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
Nation's Cities Weekly

Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation that would boost the authorized funding levels for a federal program that helps local law enforcement agencies hire more police officers. H.R. 1700, which passed 381-34, would increase the authorization for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to \$1.15 billion in each of the next six fiscal years, beginning in 2008.

The authorization includes up to \$600 million annually for officers hired to perform intelligence, anti-terrorism or homeland security duties; \$350 million per year for technology grants; and up to \$200 million annually to help local district attorneys hire community prosecutors. The bill also authorizes funding for a recruiting program for military veterans to pursue law enforcement careers.

The COPS program, a legislative priority for the National League

of Cities and first authorized in 1994, was originally designed to help states and localities hire more police officers as part of a national effort to reduce crime. Although the Bush administration has repeatedly targeted the program for reduced funding, Congress has consistently supported it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a companion measure (S. 368) on March 15, but the full Senate has not yet considered it.

Edward Byrne grants

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance is seeking applications for funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program. Funds awarded under this program can be used to assist state and local jurisdictions in improving the criminal justice system and assisting communities in preventing drug abuse and crime.

Applications are due on June 25, 2007. For more information, go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/otherrequirements.htm

Wear your orange!

Pearl to speak at TML awards event



Basketball is his passion, winning is his reputation, caring and inspiring his student-athletes is his gift. Bruce Pearl, University of Tennessee men's basketball coach, will be the keynote speaker at TML's annual awards ceremony, Tuesday, June 12, in Knoxville during the League's Annual Conference. Pearl's philosophy on coaching is that it is a way to help young adults grow and mature not only on the basketball court but also, and more importantly, in life. You won't want to miss his inspirational message – and be sure to wear your orange! To register for the conference, go to www.TML1.org. See Page 3 for a complete, pull-out conference schedule.

State earthquake commission conducts first response meeting

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Every day, people across the state work and play with little thought to seismograph readings or Richter scales, yet earthquake response and preparedness will be a continuing priority for 12 Tennesseans recently selected by Gov. Phil Bredesen to comprise the West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission, a voluntary pool of professionals with diverse occupations ranging from fire prevention to emergency health, insurance and architecture.

With most members primarily from Shelby County, the commission will work closely with state,

federal and local governments, and is authorized to make recommendations, hire experts, accept grants, review codes, and initiate public awareness campaigns all in an effort to protect the property and lives of those living along the infamous New Madrid Fault line in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

Stretching from northeast Arkansas and northwest Tennessee up into southeast Missouri, Kentucky and southern Illinois, the fault straddles one of the most active earthquake zones in the United States and is responsible for hundreds of minor rumblings each year.

Concerns over the state's ability to handle major earthquake damage

coincides with scientists' prediction of the "Big One" – a devastating earth buckler that could rival the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in densely populated areas such as Memphis, the largest city closest to the fault.

"When it comes to natural disasters, people think 'not in my neighborhood or city,'" said fellow commission member Elaine Clyburn, a Red Cross disaster planner stationed in Memphis. "People make decisions based on perceptions. This commission wants to make sure the public understands the information available and modifies risk behaviors by taking action." According to See **EARTH QUAKE** on Page 9



The COPS program was created to help state and local governments hire more police officers. Community Oriented Policing is a philosophy of personalized policing where the same officer is assigned to a specific area on a permanent basis to work in partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems. Pictured above is the White House Police Department's bicycle patrol.



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

ALGOOD

Using a grant administered by Tennessee Department of Transportation, Algood has built a nearly mile-long sidewalk from Main Street to the new Algood School.

BRENTWOOD

The May election brought a tie vote between two candidates for the city commission. The commission decided not to appoint one of the two candidates but opted for a runoff election to decide the race.

CHATTANOOGA

The city, with a 2.5 percent job growth, topped the state for job creation, according to University of Tennessee economist Bill Fox.

CHATTANOOGA

National Print Group, a multi-format printing company, will bring its entire eastern U.S. operations to Chattanooga and will invest \$4.5 million in the move. Boosting sales and adding efficiency to the company were the prime motivations for the company's decision.

CLINTON

Life-sized statues of the "Clinton 12," the 12 students who desegregated Clinton High School in 1956, were unveiled at the Green McAdoo Cultural Center on May 17. According to Richard Rist, owner of Large Art Co. that created the statues, it is the largest collection of figurine statues in the country.

COOKEVILLE

The city council has returned to renovated quarters for the first time since construction began in December. Major improvements to the room included an audio visual equipment upgrade, new carpeting and wood paneling, a new ceiling, and relocation of the council bench.

JONESBOROUGH

Nearly two years ago, Jonesborough Mayor Tobie Bledsoe and Town Administrator Bob Browning implemented a literacy and communications project. Together with corporate funding, the town pays for a home-delivered subscription to the Herald & Tribune for every household within the town limits. It is the town's most recent attempt to get information about town meetings, policies, and updates to residents.

KINGSPORT

A partnership of Eastman Credit Union and the Greater Kingsport Alliance for Development is providing free wireless access in the downtown, midtown, and MeadowView areas of Kingsport.

LAKELAND

A new census shows Lakeland's population at a record level of 10,129 citizens, up 9,000 from the 1990 census. There are about 650 census forms still to be returned, so the numbers are expected to increase.

KINGSPORT

The United States Specialty Sports Association Super National Invitational Tournament was hosted by Kingsport in mid-May with 150-200 teams participating. The tournament is a qualifier for the USSSA World Series in Orlando.

LEBANON

Dell announced it will move its computer manufacturing operations from Austin, Texas, to Lebanon, Tennessee, with an expected 400

jobs for the area.

MCMINNVILLE

Knowing that children like to collect baseball trading cards as well as other types of trading cards, McMinnville police decided to create cards containing an officer's picture and biography as well as a personal message.

NASHVILLE

The 70-year-old Metro Courthouse was rededicated May 3 after a three year renovation effort that cost \$45 million.

PORTLAND

A special census placed the city's population at 10,941, an increase of 895 residents since the last census was conducted in 2004.

ROGERSVILLE

Rogersville City School system provided individual lap top computers to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and teachers in early May. The school system is the first in the state to provide every student with a PC.

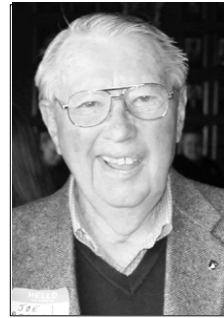
SPRING HILL

A new 120-foot radio tower has been erected in the city that will increase communication abilities by 600 percent and eliminate dead spots that plagued the previous system.

SPRING HILL

The newly completed census revealed that there are 23,482 residents, more than 2,000 less than anticipated.

Brentwood city commissioners elected **Joe Reagan** to be mayor for the next two years.



Reagan

Jackson voters elected **Jerry Gist** as mayor on May 8. He will relinquish his position as mayor of Madison County June 30 to take over from Mayor **Charles Farmer** on July 1. Farmer did not run for re-election.

Dayton Mayor **Bob Vincent** was re-elected by the council to another two-year term as mayor.



Vincent

Millersville city commissioners appointed **Dan Toole** mayor for the next four years.

Kingsport Mayor **Dennis R. Phillips** was re-elected to another term in the May 15 election.



Phillips

Slayden voters returned **Michael L. Davenport** to the mayor position. He served as mayor from 1987-1997 and since

2005 to the present.

Jonesborough has hired **James Harness** as director of Parks and Recreation. He replaces **Melinda Copp** who resigned.

Monterey has selected **Steve Qualls** as city judge to replace Rep. **Henry Fincher** who is now a member of the Tennessee House.

Cleveland Assistant City Manager **Janice Casteel** was appointed to succeed City Manager **Joe Cate** who retires June 30.



Casteel

Elizabethton Police Chief **Roger Deal** will retire following a 33-year career with the department.

Tazewell City Recorder **Douglas Harbin** announced his retirement effective June 30. He has served the city for 28 years and will be replaced by **Diane Widner**.

White House Police Chief **Stan Hilgadiack** resigned his position.

Coopertown Police Captain **Bill Rush** has been promoted to police chief replacing **Dave Barrera**.

La Vergne Mayor **Ronnie Erwin** is recovering from heart surgery.

Retired Franklin Fire Chief **Jessie Wallace "J.W." Culbertson** died May 6. He was fire chief from 1975 to 1989.

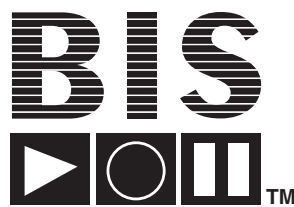
Margaret Anne McKenna McNally, mother of Tennessee Sen. **Randy McNally**, died at age 90.

TML Board of Directors to meet June 9

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center in Room 200 E 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 Thursday, June 7, 2007, 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.



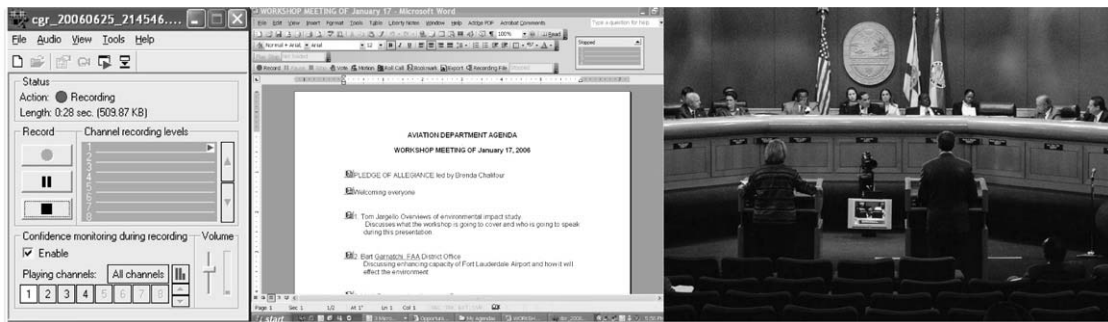
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Special Pull-Out Page

TML 68th Annual Conference June 10-12

Knoxville Convention Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. *UT Conference Center*
Elected Officials Academy

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. *200E, Knoxville Convention Center*
TML Board Meeting

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. *Hall B, KCC*
Registration

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Open

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. *Hall B, KCC*
Jazz Brunch
Music by Rocky Wynder Trio

12 – 3 p.m.
J.R. Wauford & Co. Ice Cream

12- 2 p.m. *Room 200E, KCC*
TCMA Luncheon

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. *Hall B, KCC*
First Vendor Workshop: ING Financial Advisers, LLC
Retirement Income Strategies for Baby Boomers and Others
Presenter: Ed Stewart

The presentation will cover how to determine how much retirement income you will need, how to make sure you don't outlive your income, what percentage of retirement assets can you safely withdraw, and how to integrate Social Security and Roth IRAs into the mix.

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. *Hall B, KCC*
Second Vendor Workshop: Bulli Ray, animal control
Occupational Dog Bite Safety
Presenter: Mitzi Robinson

This presentation will feature live dogs and allow attendees to experience the full force and reality of a crisis situation. The live dogs bring a reality and sense of urgency that video or books cannot deliver. After just one session, you will be significantly more prepared to handle an attack.

2:15 – 3:00 p.m. *Hall B, KCC*
Third Vendor Workshop: RedFlex, red light cameras
Next Generation in Photo Enforcement
Presenter: Cherif Elsaddek and Peter Fogarassy

This presentation will provide insight on how to improve traffic safety and revenue in your community through state-of-the-art photo enforcement technology as we have in 135 cities across USA.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 1 *Room 200BC, KCC*
Annexations and the Fiscal Fate of Cities
Speaker: David Rusk
Herb Bingham Speaker



David Rusk

Annexing land is an important route to economic health and the development of our nation's urban areas. The flexibility to annex surrounding land and communities is as important to a city's bond rating and a sign of fiscal health as the area's poverty rate or median household income. Expanding elastic cities maintain growing tax bases and can sell bonds at lower interest rates, meeting needs for both municipal facilities and major infrastructure with regional benefits. Come hear from one of the nation's top urban policy experts on the relationship between a city's annexation patterns and its fiscal health.

Workshop 2 *Room 200DE, KCC*
Interstate and Intermodal Transportation: Threats and Opportunities Loom on the Horizon for Tennessee's Cities

Speakers:
Ed Cole, Tennessee Department of Transportation
David Clarke - Director, UT's Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program
Michael Testerman, RailSolution

Heavy truck traffic, deteriorating air quality and growing congestion on the state's arterial interstates I-81, I-40, and I-75 greatly impact those communities along each corridor. Come participate in a roundtable discussion on alternative solutions including highway expansion, tolling, and shifting freight to intermodal rail, as well as the proposals in the State of Virginia for the I-81 corridor and their potential impacts.

Workshop 3 *Ballroom E, KCC*
Parks & Recreation Panel
Speakers:
April Johnson, PARTAS Consultant, TDEC
Candi Rawlins, TRPA Executive Director
Gerald Parish, PARTAS Consultant, TDEC

This workshop will be an informative panel presentation on various Parks and Recreation initiatives including information on a new benchmark program within TDEC's Three-Star program, background checks for parks staff and volunteers, and tips for keeping your parks safe.

Workshop 4 *Ballroom F, KCC*
Senior Property Tax Freeze
Speaker:
Chad Jenkins, TML Deputy Director

Tennessee voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing local governments to enact a local tax relief program for senior citizens. The Tennessee General Assembly was charged with defining eligibility limits for the freeze. This session will review the various administrative requirements and proper procedures for adopting this program in each local jurisdiction.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

7:30 – 8:15 a.m. *Park Concourse, KCC*
Continental Breakfast

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. *Room 301E, KCC*
TMAA Meeting

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.
District Meetings

District 1 *Room 200A, KCC*
Jim Messimer, Mayor, Bristol

District 2 *Room 200B, KCC*
Kay Senter, Vice Mayor, Morristown

District 3 *Room 200C, KCC*
Avery Johnson, Vice Mayor, Cleveland

District 4 *Room 200D, KCC*
Tommy Pedigo, Mayor, Sparta

District 5 *Room 200E, KCC*
Paul Nutting, City Manager, Springfield

District 6 *Room 300A, KCC*
Ed Craig, City Manager, Shelbyville

District 7 *Room 300B, KCC*
Randy Brundige, Mayor, Martin

District 8 *Room 300C, KCC*
Keith McDonald, Mayor, Bartlett

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Registration / Exhibit Hall Open

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. *Ballroom ABC, KCC*
Opening General Session
Presiding: Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro Mayor
TML President
Presentation of Colors:
Knoxville Police & Fire Departments
Welcome: Bill Haslam, Mayor, Knoxville
Awards:
TCMA Excellence in Governance Award
TCAPWA Murphy Snoderly Award

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. John Petersen
President, University of Tennessee

In just two years since taking the helm of the University of Tennessee, Dr. John Petersen's accomplishments are already on a grand scale. He will discuss several new initiatives he has helped launch, including a partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a biofuels initiative that could position the state as a leader in the nation's efforts to reduce dependence on imported petroleum, and UT's new strategic plan for increasing the number of Tennesseans who have four-year degrees.



John Petersen

Dr. Matt Murray
Associate Director, UT's Center for Business and Economic Research

Dr. Murray will present an economic forecast for the state and discuss future revenue trends, in particular the future of the property tax and sales tax and how it will meet the demands of public services.



Matt Murray

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Ballroom ABC, KCC*

Annual Business Meeting
Presiding: Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro Mayor, TML President
President's Annual Report: Tommy Bragg
Executive Director's Report: Margaret Mahery
Nominations Committee Report
TML Risk Management Pool Annual Report:
Lee Holland, President
Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Annual Report:
Charles "Bones" Seivers, President & CEO
2007 Legislative Overview:
Chad Jenkins, TML Deputy Director

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. *Exhibit Hall B*
Buffet Lunch

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. *Exhibit Hall B*
Exhibitor Prize Drawings

2:15 – 3:00 p.m.
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 5 *Room 200A, KCC*
The Art of Negotiation
Speaker: Alex Miller, Herb Bingham Speaker
William B. Stokely Professor of Management

This session will introduce the concept of negotiating through mutual gains and collaborate problem solving rather than contentious bargaining. Dean Miller will discuss the major differences of the two approaches: how to move away from contention to cooperation, and what to do if the other party does not want to "play nice."



Alex Miller

Workshop 6 *Room 200B, KCC*
My Most Experienced People Are Retiring – How Do I Build a Succession Plan?
Speaker: Rona Vrooman
Quality Performance Coordinator, James City County, VA.

Most organizations realize that the anticipated baby boomer retirement wave will cause a shift in workforce demographics, but very few have implemented programs or policies to deal with the change. This session will focus on the personal and organizational issues involved in successful succession planning, provide information about what other localities have done to address the inevitable exodus of talent, and will include thoughts on what has worked as well as pitfalls to avoid.

Workshop 7 *Room 200C, KCC*
The Looming Federal Fiscal Crisis & its Effects on Tennessee
Speaker: Rose Naccarato
Senior Research Associate, Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Federal budget deficits and the resulting growth in federal debt are likely to lead to decreases in federal spending in the years to come, meaning less money will be sent to Tennessee to help pay for government programs. At the same time, there is little likelihood that federal requirements will be cut, leaving the state and local governments to pick up the slack in paying for services. Come hear more about how the federal fiscal crisis could hit local governments in Tennessee particularly hard and how they should prepare for such an eventuality in order to cushion the blow.

Workshop 8 *Room 200D, KCC*
Small Town Success Strategies
Speaker: Dave Ivan
Community & Economic Development Specialist
Michigan State University

Based on personal visits to more than 250 best practice communities in 10 states, this presentation offers approaches to improving community sustainability in a fast-paced virtual tour of successful initiatives in small towns across the Midwest and Eastern United States.

Workshop 9 *Room 200E, KCC*
Options for Funding Stormwater Systems
Speaker:
John Chlarson, MTAS Public Works Consultant

This session will review some of the mandated EPA stormwater system improvements and management practices, as well as provide options for local governments to consider for funding these required improvements.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.
Concurrent Workshops
Workshop 10 *Room 200A, KCC*
The Art of Negotiation
Speaker: Alex Miller

This workshop is a continuation of Workshop 5.

Workshop 11 *Room 200B, KCC*
Making a Connection: The Buzz about Broadband
Speakers:
Ron Holcomb, Pulaski Municipal Electric
Stacey Briggs, Tennessee Cable Telecommunication Assoc.
Michael Ramage, Connected Tennessee

Assuring that broadband is available to everyone in the state will have a ripple effect economically and socially, creating a better place to do business and a better place to live. Come learn what it takes to bring broadband to your city; how this infrastructure can benefit your community; and how the state's new initiative, Connected Tennessee, is working to accelerate the expansion of broadband to every corner of the state.

Workshop 12 *Room 200C, KCC*
Planning for U.S. Census 2010: Is your community ready?
Speaker: Cathy Friedenreich
Program Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau

Accurate census data is important to your community in a number of ways. The Local Update of Census Addresses program is an integral part of the Decennial Census Program. This workshop will provide information about the operations for the 2010 Census; it's importance to local governments; and how to become involved early to ensure a successful outcome.

Workshop 13 *Room 200D, KCC*
Small Town Success Strategies
Speaker: Dave Ivan
Community & Economic Development Specialist

This is a continuation of Workshop 8.

Workshop 14 *Room 200E, KCC*
Managing Street Resurfacing Costs
Speaker:
John Calvert, Director Tennessee Public Works Institute

This session will explain why resurfacing costs have doubled in the past three years, making annual funding requirements necessary in order to avoid joining the list of towns and cities predicted to experience a large amount of deteriorated roadways. Local officials should attend this session to determine if their city is among those predicted to face financial consequences for years of inadequate funding.

6:30 – 11 p.m. *Ballroom EFG, KCC*
TML Risk Management Pool Party

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

8 – 11 a.m. *Ballroom ABC, KCC*
Second General Session
Awards Breakfast
Presiding: Tommy Green, Alamo Mayor
TML First Vice President
Keynote Speaker: **Bruce Pearl**
UT Men's Basketball Coach

In just two seasons, Coach Pearl has elevated the Tennessee basketball program to among the nation's elite. Come hear what the buzz in Thompson-Boling Arena is all about.



Bruce Pearl

Annual Awards: TML Achievement Awards
Stand by Your Spouse Award
City Manager of the Year
Tommie Goodwin Mayor of the Year

Installation of 2007-2008 TML Board of Directors

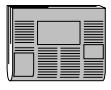
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BUILDING INSPECTOR I

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is accepting applications for the position of building inspector I, an entry professional skill level, who will be expected to perform responsible professional, technical, and administrative work in relation to inspection activities and regulatory standards for permitting and licensing approval of residential and commercial building construction. The person hired will be responsible for enforcing adopted city ordinances and codes; inspection process; assessing, evaluating and enforcing adherence to and compliance with all applicable 2006 International Code; city, state, and federal code; and regulatory requirements regarding new and existing construction. A high school diploma or GED, supplemented by the appropriate certifications for the entry level position as designated under the provisions of the Department of Commerce and Insurance-Division of Fire Prevention, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience are required. The successful applicant must obtain state building certification within 12 months of hire and must reach building inspector II level within 18 months. Computer proficiency is necessary as is the possession of a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary range: \$14.42-\$15.43 per hour. Send application to: Human Resources, 801 Anderson Street, Room 204, Bristol, TN 37620. Women/minorities/disabled encouraged to apply. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

NORRIS. The city of Norris is looking for a person with experience in a municipal government position and who has strong supervisory skills as well as good communication skills to fill the position of city manager. The person filling the position reports to the mayor and city council and is responsible for the administration of all city services and departments as well as the supervision of the general fund and water/wastewater budgets and a full-time staff of 18. The ideal candidate must have experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, and management of complex departments with multiple functions and be a good team player. Eight or more years of increasingly responsible supervisory, managerial experience; computer literacy; residency within the city limits during tenure; and a valid Tennessee driver's license or the ability to obtain one are required. A bachelor's degree in public administration or closely related field or equivalent experience is preferred. Salary range: \$43,000-\$46,000 plus excellent benefits. Send resume and references to: City of Norris, Attn: Mayor Sharon B. Wallace, P.O. Box 1090, Norris, TN 37828. EOE.

CODE ADMINISTRATOR

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is accepting applications for the position of code administrator who will be responsible for ensuring adherence to, and compliance with the 2006 International Code, all applicable city, state and federal code and regulatory requirements for both residential and commercial sectors including regulatory standards, inspection activities, and permitting and licensing functions regarding new and existing structures throughout the city. A high school diploma or GED, supplemented by eight to 10 years progressively responsible experience in building, inspection and code enforcement, and all appropriate certifications for the management position in all respective trades/disciplines as designated under the provisions of the Tennessee Building Code, or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience are required. The person hired must have a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary range: \$1,684.62-\$2,111.54 biweekly. Apply to: Human Resources, P.O. Box 1189, 801 Anderson Street, Room 204, Bristol, TN 37621-1189. EOE. Women/

minorities/disabled encouraged to apply.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

BRISTOL. The city of Bristol is seeking qualified applicants for the position of community development director who will report to the deputy city manager and whose responsibilities will include providing professional leadership that will positively affect both department and community; performing complex administrative and supervisory work involving the planning, code enforcement, MPO, and community development divisions; and being responsible for day-to-day management and administration of this multi-faceted department with 17 employees and a budget of \$1,700,000. A master's degree in planning, public administration, geography, or related field is required along with seven to 10 years of progressive public management experience, preferably within a municipal government organized under the council-manager form of government, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities. Management experience in planning, community development block grant program, and building code administration is desired as is grant application and administration experience. Must possess knowledge and proficiency in PC operation and geographic information systems. Competitive salary DOE. Send resume and application, 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.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C. The town of Black Mountain seeks a visionary, experienced and energetic individual for the position of parks and recreation director who will oversee all recreational and facility needs including programs, parks, and an expanding network of greenways for the town located 15 minutes from Asheville in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The successful candidate will be a strong manager, excellent communicator, and a key member of the town's management team. Graduation from a recognized college or university with a degree in recreation administration, public or business administration, or related fields preferred. Salary range: \$44,449-\$60,684 with starting salary DOE. Submit required town application form, available at www.townofblackmountain.org, and resume to: Recreation Director Applications, 102 Montreat Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Position open until filled. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

MONTEAGLE. The town of Monteagle is recruiting a public works director to manage its public works facilities and programs including gas, water, streets, and other related activities as may be directed by the board of mayor and aldermen. A four-year degree in public or business administration with five years experience in public works is required and the person hired must obtain certification in Water Quality Distribution Grade I within one year. Salary range: \$36,500-\$42,000. Send resume and required application, obtainable from the city recorder's office, to: Joy Sturtevant, P.O. Box 127, Monteagle, TN 37356. Position open until filled. EOE.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

SPARTA. The city of Sparta is accepting applications for the position of water treatment plant operator who will be working mostly nights and weekends. The person hired must have a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license, and Tennessee Grade IV Water Plant Operator Certification. Application forms and job descriptions are obtainable at Sparta City Hall, 6 Liberty Square, Sparta 38583 or by emailing llspivey@citylink.net. Phone: 931-836-3248. EOE.

Collierville opens universally accessible playground



Collierville town officials christened Ryan's Place, the town's first universally-accessible playground, on Saturday, May 5. The town and the nonprofit organization Ryan's Hope built the playground in honor of Ryan Derenburger. The son of Todd and Corinne Derenburger, Ryan was born with profound special needs in 1994. Ryan's Place is just the third universal playground in the state; Nashville and Knoxville also have similar facilities. Construction of the playground was completed this spring with Collierville and Ryan's Hope splitting the \$180,000 cost. The playground has cushioned, poured flooring and is built for both able bodied and disabled children. The facility features wheelchair ramps throughout, inclusive basketball goals, swings and picnic tables. Estimates indicate that about 1,000 special needs children live in the Collierville area. Collierville Mayor Linda Kerley praised the project stating, "This is a wonderful and needed amenity for our town. All the feedback I have heard has been overwhelmingly positive."

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NLC urges passage of immigration bill

BY LESLIE WOLLACK
& CYNDY LIEDTKE HOGAN
Nation's Cities Weekly

NLC weighed in on the immigration reform debate in Congress by testifying last week at a hearing on the impact of comprehensive immigration reform on states and localities.

Dennis Zine, chair of NLC's Immigration Task Force and a member of the Los Angeles City Council, testified before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, urging Congress to quickly pass comprehensive legislation.

"Because immigrants — whether legal or illegal — generally live and work in our cities and towns, new legislation to significantly improve the federal immigration system is a critical issue for the National League of Cities," Zine said. "NLC asks you to act quickly to enact comprehensive reform of the current immigration laws to bring some sense and reasonableness to America's immigration policy."

The absence of a functioning federal system regulating an orderly flow of immigration has resulted in financial, cultural and political strains in communities across America, he said.

"As this debate drags on, local governments are caught in the middle — the federal government controls the flow and regulation of immigration but the responsibility for integrating immigrants into the community and providing services rests primarily with us," Zine said. "Local elected officials work very hard to build vibrant and stable communities that are centers of commerce, promote economic development and sustain families. Major changes such as large influxes of new residents — illegal or legal — create instability."

In addition to cultural impacts on the community, Zine told the subcommittee the responsibility for providing social services, education and health care is falling to state and local governments, which are feeling the financial impact of both legal and illegal immigrants in cities and towns.

"Based on my discussions with colleagues, cities across the country report that increases in immigrant populations pose new service challenges at the same time that they bring benefits to the community," he said. "While immigrants are impor-

tant contributors to local economies, cities also absorb the cost of providing services and are challenged by the social integration of those immigrants into the fabric of the community."

Zine cited research from the Migration Policy Institute that several states have experienced significant growth in their immigrant populations, including several beyond the traditional states where immigrants previously settled. In these areas, the lack of experience in dealing with immigrants have posed both major benefits and challenges in the communities where they choose to live, he said.

Zine told the subcommittee that many local governments are working hard to integrate immigrants into their communities.

"In general, most of these residents are hard-working people trying to provide for their families and build a brighter future for their children," he said. "Many communities have established welcome centers, held diversity events, and undertaken other activities to make the new residents feel that they are a valued part of the community."

Under the current federal immigration system, local governments face a significant challenge in documenting identity when needed, Zine said. Local law enforcement has difficulty building trust with undocumented populations and many immigrants are reluctant to report crimes or cooperate in criminal investigations.

"The lack of valid documentation also leaves immigrants vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous people and makes it easier for the small minority of immigrants involved in criminal activity to 'hide' and even exploit others with impunity," he said. "Local government's primary concern is to protect the safety of all residents by building trust across all populations within our cities regardless of immigrant status."

Zine told the subcommittee that comprehensive immigration reform legislation should include enforcement of existing laws, better verification and identification systems, better avenues for legal immigration and funding to help alleviate the impact on communities including public safety, language services, housing, health, education and social services.

"Border security along with employee verification and other reasonable measures will bring about

safety and security for the American people and at the same time assist those desiring to achieve America's dream which we are enjoying," Zine said. "This isn't a partisan issue, this crosses all political lines and impacts hundreds of communities across America... the solution rests in your hands and we implore you to act to finally bring this to conclusion. The NLC and I look forward to working with you to enact comprehensive immigration reform for a stronger and more secure America."

Senate to debate immigration bill

The Senate will begin debate this week on a comprehensive immigration deal hammered out after months of negotiations between the Senate and White House.

The agreement would allow the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants now in the United States to get green cards after an eight-year wait, paying a fine of \$5,000 and leaving the country to re-enter legally.

The compromise includes a series of so-called "triggers" that would indicate that borders are secure, a temporary worker program for seasonal workers and one for non-seasonal workers. Key to Republican support was a provision reducing the number of family members accompanying non-seasonal workers that would be eligible for green cards.

Senate leaders will need 60 votes on the bill to begin debate, since the bill will be considered under a special rule for legislation that bypasses the committee process.

NLC has sent letters to members of the House and Senate urging quick passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

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May 25-Oct 26: Frist Friday Concerts on the last Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts on Broadway in Nashville. Live music by various performers. Free for Frist Center members and visitors 18 years and younger; \$8.50 for adult non-members; \$7.50 for seniors and military; \$6.50 for college students with ID. Visit www.fristcenter.org for more information.

June 1-9: Smoky Mountain Springfest in Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville featuring special events, local craft shows and more. Contact: 800-568-4748.

June 2 Sunshine Festival at Hohenwald featuring solar, geothermal, alternative energy vehicles, alternative building methods; waterfall and wildflower hikes, bird watching, musical entertainment, and more. Contact: Becky Newbold at 931-796-3191.

June 2: The Humphreys County Arts Council's "Art on the Square," a competition of artists' colored chalk art on pavement in Waverly.

June 8-9: "Eye-full of Paris" Weekend. There's entertainment, food and fun all weekend. For more information, call the Arts Council at 731-642-3955.

June 15-17: Selmer's Cars for Kids, Southern Style with car show, antique tractor pull, tractor pull, carnival rides, food and music. Visit www.carsfor-kidsusa.org or call 731-645-6676.

June 15-16: Oak Ridge Secret City Festival with tours of the Y-12 National Security Complex, the Graphite Reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, music and more.

June 16: Bell Buckle's 13th Annual RC-Moon Pie Festival with a 10 mile run beginning at 7 a.m., games, contests, a parade, arts and crafts, live entertainment, and food. Contact: 931-389-9663.

June 16: Summer Grill Party and Ugly Tomato Festival at Nashville's Farmer's Market from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 23-24, 28-30: The 6th annual Lawrenceburg Liberty Festival with a theme of "A Salute to the Golden State of California" and contests, music, food, fun and fireworks. Contact: 931-762-7617 or email abmorrow@bell-south.net.

June 30: Alcoa's Freedom Fest beginning at 1 p.m. in the Springbrook Park/Alcoa Duck Pond vicinity. Fireworks at 9:45 p.m. Contact: Tricia Tipton at 865-380-4787 or visit www.cityof-alcoa-tn.gov.

June 30-July 1: The 37th Jonesborough Days in the historic district with visits to villages from different periods of time, hand made crafts, free concerts and children's activities. Contact: 866-401-4223 or visit www.jonesboroughtn.org for more information.

July 4: Kingston's Fireworks on the 4th celebration with Miss Firecracker Pageant, children's activities, car show, and the first annual raft race. Contact: Debbie Russell 865-376-1356.

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STATE BRIEFS



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

Revenue figures for April came in at \$72.2 million more than estimated; year-to-date revenues were \$257.2 million more than budgeted. The final revenue estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, is potentially \$750 million more than budget estimates made last year, according to the State Funding Board.

A 35-acre forested track in Hickman County has become the newest state natural area. The Bon Aqua Woods State Natural Area contains exceptionally large oak and hickory trees along with umbrella magnolia trees, uncommon on the Western Highland Rim.

Tennessee and 25 other states and the District of Columbia have filed agreements with Purdue Pharma, manufacturer of the narcotic pain killer OxyContin, concerning the company's advertising practices. Tennessee will receive \$719,500 as its part of the agreement.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has taken the first step toward ensuring statewide high-speed Internet and video service with the creation of Connected Tennessee, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving broadband access and use. The organization is to develop a statewide plan to

expand broadband deployment and usage.

In a report released by the Southern Education Foundation, Tennessee ranked in the middle, 25th in the nation, in the percent of children attending Pre-K classes. The South, according to the report, leads the nation in early childhood education enrollment and quality of programs.

Tennessee Regulatory Authority directors have approved a \$5,000 settlement with a California telemarketer over nine complaints that the company violated the state's Do-Not-Call telephone solicitations law in January.

Tennessee has qualified for nearly \$2 million in an incentive award given by the U.S. Department of Labor. The award is for exceeding all performance goals set for the state's innovative workforce development and education activities. The state is one of 10 in the nation that qualified for the award and its award is second highest.

Tennessee Highway Patrol will be part of an eight-state multi-jurisdictional campaign "Hands Across the Border" that will be ticketing vehicles with people not wearing seat belts or with children who are not properly restrained. The goal is to increase seatbelt usage to 85 percent.

New signs to identify Tennessee watersheds

TDOT, TDEC launch program designed to protect water resources

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) are partnering on a project to place watershed signs along roadways across the state. The purpose of the signs is to increase public awareness regarding the importance of watersheds, and to encourage good stewardship of the state's valuable rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, and ground water.

"This educational effort is intended to help the people of Tennessee become more aware and interested in watersheds," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "We also hope to inspire our residents to keep these areas beautiful and free of pollution."

"Protecting our natural environment is a bigger job than any government agency or private organization can do alone," added TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke. "It requires the participation of all citizens, and I hope creating greater awareness of our watershed boundaries will lead Tennesseans to be more active in their protection of our water resources."

A watershed is the entire land area that drains into a lake, river, or other water body. Watersheds can be small, like the area that drains into a neighborhood creek, or large areas that drain into a major river.

"Local ownership of watersheds by citizens is essential to our efforts

to protect waters of the state, which are held in trust for the people of Tennessee," said TDEC Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan. "We are extremely pleased to partner with TDOT on this project."

"This program provides an opportunity to showcase some of the state's most valuable resources," said TDOT Chief of Environment and Planning Ed Cole. "We can also educate motorists about the value we place on watersheds and watershed protection."

"It's been our experience that when you attach a name to something, it becomes more recognizable and more important, and it allows people to better attach a value to it," added Margo Farnsworth, senior fellow for the Cumberland River Compact. "It's wonderful to see these two agencies partnering on something like this to help raise awareness that everyone in Tennessee lives in a watershed and has an interest in protecting it."

The watershed signage program will place 187 signs along Tennessee interstates and state routes. The signs will be located at entry points to the 55 watersheds throughout the state. Each watershed may have between two and 10 signs based on the geographic location and how many major highways enter the watershed.

TDOT's current plan is to have the majority of the watershed signs installed by the end of 2007.



Gov. Phil Bredesen and First Lady Andrea Conte proclaimed May 11 "Melinda Doolittle Day" in honor of *American Idol* top-three contender Melinda Doolittle. Gov. Bredesen gave her a Day of Recognition Certificate to honor her on her success. Doolittle is a Brentwood native and a graduate of Belmont College. The governor was shown on *American Idol* in a video depicting her journey on the program when she was eliminated on May 15.

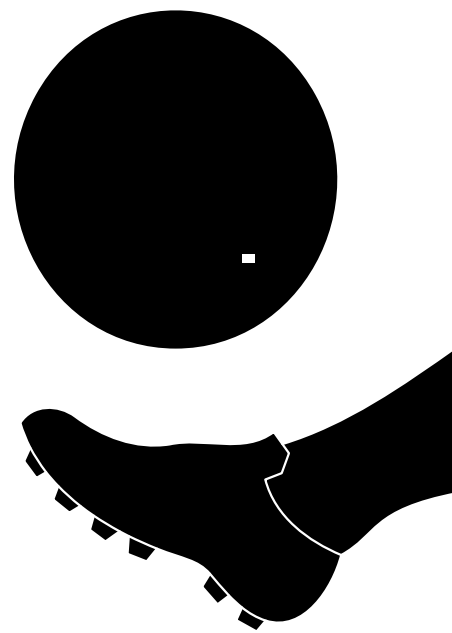
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TMBF Board of Directors to meet June 9 in Knoxville

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 11 a.m., EDT, in the Godfrey Room at the Holiday Inn for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before said board. Some members of the Board of Directors 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 Thursday, June 7, 2007, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, Nashville, Tennessee. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Lorrie Nelson, at 615-255-1561.

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Earthquake commission reviews state's preparedness

EARTHQUAKE from Page 1

Clyburn, scientists stress the need for earlier warning systems. "Earthquakes are unpredictable. There's actually only 5-10 seconds to take cover," she said.

With their initial meeting May 18 in Memphis, the state's first earthquake commission got down to business with opening remarks by commission member Rep. Mike Kernell, Kevin Roper and Beverly Cook of the University of Memphis Government Relations Department.

Topics discussed included: a brief history of the commission; by-laws, and responsibilities of board members along with meeting dates and locations for 2007-2008.

Some of the goals of a seismic safety board, according to the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) in *A Guide to Earthquake Risk Management* is "reviewing, evaluating, and helping the work of governmental agencies and the private sector; monitoring seismic safety programs to ensure their adequacy and effectiveness, and focusing attention on seismic safety providing a consistent framework for integrating and implementing needed programs."

"We are not competing against anyone," said Clyburn stressing the commission's partnership with state and federal agencies. "Any allies we can get to spread the message about the likelihood of this high impact event is very important."



If a major earthquake happened in Tennessee, the consequences would be catastrophic. Scientists predict as many as 4,300 people could be killed and 65,000 injured during a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the Memphis and Mid-South region with 179,000 homes destroyed along with major bridges and utilities. City governments would have to make many major decisions.

Tom Charlier in his article "The Big Quake: How Ready Are We?" in *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, advises that scientists predict as many as 4,300 people could be killed and 65,000 injured during a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the Memphis and Mid-South region with 179,000 homes destroyed along with major bridges and utilities.

A series of major tremors along the central Mississippi Valley in the winter of 1811-1812 caused widespread damage, a significant loss of life and redirected the flow of Mississippi River.

"The consequences now would be catastrophic," said Clyburn. "There would be long-term reconstruction afterward and city governments would have to make many major decisions."

A 2006 meeting between state lawmakers and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, who led relief efforts after Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, stressed that reliable communications systems would be a challenge in the event of a New Madrid emergency with Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen accentuating the prominent role local governments would play in these situations.

Recent accounts published by the Associated Press state that a four-county committee including Davidson, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties are currently utilizing concepts outlined by a federal report card on communications readiness to improve their overall communications capabilities in the event of a natural disaster.

"I look forward to participating in the efforts of the West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission to improve statewide readiness through further planning, exercising those plans and educating the public on improving their safety," said James Bassham, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and board chairman of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium.

TEMA will participate in two large earthquake planning sessions in 2008 as a step toward a multistate catastrophic exercise in 2011. "Middle Tennesseans will be crucial in an earthquake," said Bassham. "They will be the first responders available to West state victims, and Nashville and surrounding counties will be hosts to any evacuees from the disaster."

Informational guides for earthquake preparedness and updates concerning the West Tennessee Seismic Safety Commission can be found at the University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information website at: www.itmat.tennessee.edu or www.ceri.memphis.edu.

Cable bill taken off notice

CABLE from Page 1

discussions in at least part or all of eight separate meetings of the House Commerce Committee as well as a special joint meeting of the House Commerce and State and Local Government Committees.

Committee Chairman Charles Curtiss offered the following remarks as he brought the committee's consideration of the cable legislation to a close. "The bottom line is the cities and counties have taken a lot of heat over this, but at the end of the day the counties and cities did step up to the plate and they worked

TML 2007 initiatives moving through legislative process

LEGISLATION from Page 1

ther 10 or more acres of land or 50,000 square-feet in building space.

The changes to the current statute are designed to eliminate ambiguity in the process of approving plat submissions. Planning commissions will no longer be compelled to deny applications simply because their complexity or incompleteness did not allow for thorough review within the allotted 30 days. As a result, planning commissions will be given more time to work with property owners and developers to ensure that property is developed in a way that is beneficial to the community and property owners and developers will not see their hard work rejected simply because of the complex nature of their proposals.

Removal of junk vehicles

TML sought approval of the legislation to allow the enforcement of orders issued by municipal courts pertaining to the removal of junk vehicles by local governments.

Junk vehicles can present a health and safety hazard as well as undermine the aesthetic attributes of a community.

The state has enacted statutes and most municipalities have adopted ordinances that regulate the storage of motor vehicles on private property.

However, the statute exempts any persons removing vehicles pursuant to state laws authorizing the removal of abandoned and junked motor vehicles from criminal or civil liability.

If after repeated warnings and after ignoring several fines levied to enforce a municipal junk vehicle ordinance, a property owner refused to remove the offending vehicle(s); or, if after several attempts, the city was unable to locate an absentee owner, then the city might seek a court order to remove the vehicles under the state statutes.

However, if a municipal employee were to enter private property, under a court order issued by a municipal court, for the purposes of removing a junk vehicle, it is possible that this action would violate T.C.A.55-5-122 (a), and subject to the municipality and its employee to civil and criminal penalties.

The state statutes clearly authorize the removal of junk vehicles from private property under court order, but, as municipal courts are not generally considered courts of record, municipal judges do not have the authority to enter orders allowing municipal employees entry onto private property.

As a result of the absence of an exemption for municipal court orders in the statute, cities must hire attorneys and file actions in courts of

record (Chancery or Circuit courts) to obtain orders to enter private property and remove junk vehicles when the property owner refuses to comply with local ordinances.

Cities will now have clear legal authority to enforce junk vehicle ordinances and to remove junk cars from private property absent the risk of civil or criminal liability which currently exists under state law. Clarifying municipalities' authority in this regard will enable cities to more fully satisfy citizen complaints regarding junk and abandoned vehicles, making communities safer and cleaner.

Pending legislation

Streamlined Sales Tax: SB 2223/ HB 2281 (Kyle/ Odom) delays the implementation of streamlined sales tax provisions on sourcing until July 1, 2009. SB 2223 is scheduled for or Senate Finance May 29. HB 2281 scheduled for House Finance Budget Subcommittee May 30.

Purchase of Used or Secondhand Items: HB 1788/ SB 1723 (U. Jones/ Ketron) expands the ability of local governments to purchase secondhand items from governmental agencies as well as private individuals or entities provided the price range is comparable with national standard. HB 1788 is scheduled for the House Floor May 29. It passed the Senate April 30 with a unanimous vote.

RFP Authority for Municipalities: HB 1789/SB 1722/ (U. Jones/ Ketron) allows municipalities to use competitive sealed proposals to purchase goods and services instead of competitive bids when the purchasing agent determines that the use of competitive bidding is either not practicable or not advantageous to the municipality. HB 1789 is scheduled for the House Floor May 29. It passed the Senate April 30 with a unanimous vote.

Owner-Occupied Parcels: HB 969/ SB 1623 (Overbey/ R. Finney) allows municipal ordinances prohibiting weed growth and debris on private property to be enforced against owner-occupied properties. HB 969 is scheduled for the House Floor May 29. It passed the Senate May 7 with a 24-2 vote, with 4 present but not voting.

Single Article Cap Increase: HB 1461/SB 1468 (Ferguson/ R. Finney) will be amended to allow local governments to collect local sales and use taxes on purchases of single articles up to \$3,200. HB 1461 is scheduled for the House Finance Budget Subcommittee May 30.



BY TISH WOMACK

The U.S. minority population reached 100.7 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Hispanic remained the largest minority group followed by Black, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Four states and the District of Columbia are "majority-minority"—Hawaii, the District of Columbia, New

TML Pool holds annual photo contest

The TML Risk Management Pool is once again having a photo contest for all its members. Submitted photos will be used proudly in a presentation at the TML Annual Conference this June in Knoxville.

Rules: The theme of the photos this year is "City Hall." Photos should be of a city hall or city administration building only. The Pool will only accept one (1) photo per person. The photo should be submitted, in a "jpg" format only, to Lottie Scobee, at lscobee@tmlrmp.org. Include your name, address and phone number on the e-mail.

Prizes will be awarded to the

top three photos submitted as determined by a panel designated by the TML Pool. The grand prize will be a 30GB iPod that can store and play videos, photos and up to 7,500 songs. The winners of the photo contest will be announced at the Pool Party on Monday, June 11, 2007, at the TML conference. All submitted photos will become the property of the TML Risk Management Pool.

(All employees and family members of the TML Risk Management Pool, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and the Tennessee Municipal League are excluded from participating.)



The City of Celina recently closed a \$2 million loan with TMBF for water and sewer projects. Shown at the loan closing are City Recorder Donna Watson, Celina Mayor Buddy Thompson, and TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello.



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Rep. Tommie Brown is a fighter for social & educational enrichment

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Fifty years ago, May 17, Rep. Tommie Brown graduated from Dillard University. But, she wasn't in New Orleans to celebrate with her classmates this year. She was her usual vigilant self at the General Assembly doing what she's done nearly every day for 50 years – trying to live up to her father's mandate "to give back" by improving the social options and educational opportunities of children.

She is well placed to do that as vice chair of the House Education Committee, chair of the House Higher Education Subcommittee, and as member of the House K-12 Subcommittee as well as of the Joint Lottery Scholarship and the Joint Education Oversight committees.

This year it was more important than ever to be at her station because potentially history making changes in Tennessee's K-12 educational system are in the works. That includes long awaited reform of the "BEP" funding formula for K-12 state schools.

What really got her attention, though, was Gov. Bredesen's declaration that the state might well take over 20 failing state schools. While making her way to her office for an interview, she is stopped by someone hoping she'll attend the next meeting with regard to the failing schools.

Brown declares, "I'm sending word to the governor, don't even try to take over Orchard Knob Elementary School. Not only is it in my district, it is the school I attended from the first through the ninth grade. I will be standing in the door with a broom and a mop and I will beat away any state officials coming to take over my school. We'll fix it ourselves."

Brown has lived in the same house in Chattanooga most all her life except for when she was born. That was on June 25, 1934. Philip Brown took Louise Brown to Rome, Ga., where her paternal grandparents lived. During those Depression years, the family didn't have much.

Neither parent had a high school diploma. She calls her father, who did basic skilled and unskilled labor, her "Pell Grant," meaning he would go out and get another part-time job to help out. The three children were expected to hold full-time jobs – doing well at school and at home. Louise had a full-time job, too – at home.

Philip Brown didn't have many suits, but the children had nice clothes. His wish was they get an education and use it to give back, to pass it along to others.

After attending Orchard Knob Elementary, Brown graduated from the "old Howard High School" in 1953. When historically black Dillard University sent a dean, Joseph P. Taylor, to recruit Chattanooga students, he sat down with the Browns. He showed them pictures of the campus and gave them information. Brown was ecstatic. The family studied maps and marveled how far she was going. Her grandmother came up to help the first ever college-bound Brown family member pack.

Lest she get too full of herself, her father clarified what was happening. "Let me tell you something, young lady. I'm not sending you down there for them to make a better person of you. I'm sending you down there to make it a better place." To Brown's great joy, he lived to see her earn a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree.

Her mother accompanied her to New Orleans on the train. Louise returned four years later when Brown graduated. It was the last time a parent attended one of her graduations – as though they just knew she'd made those campuses better places.

Brown then attended Atlanta University School of Social Work for a year, worked a year with the Department of Public Welfare, took Child Welfare Training, and began working as a social worker for the state welfare program in Chattanooga. In 1971, she was named national social worker of the year and went to Washington University where she graduated with a master's in 1972 – later returning as alumni of the year.

National recognition led to her joining the faculty of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga (UTC), which was starting a School of Social Work. She became the first ever African American on the UTC tenured faculty. She got her doctorate in social work at Columbia in 1984, and since 1993, has repre-



I told her, "You don't know me if you think you could thrust 300-400 children in my life and expect me to keep hands off, not be involved."

sented House District 28 that includes UTC.

Her changing district includes Chattanooga's downtown, some of the poorest citizens in the city and county and also some of the most affluent who have assisted with the marvelously renewed downtown, including a new school named for her.

She keeps an office there and created a project to increase parental involvement, the most essential ingredient for academic success. Tommie F. Brown Academy is a magnet school for children in pre-school-5th grade, most of them from needy families.

Besides education, Brown is on the powerful Finance Committee as well as serving on the House Children and Family Affairs and House Calendar committees – and is a full board member of the Southeast Tennessee Development District.

TT&C: What can you tell us about Tommie F. Brown Academy?

TB: I am working with Dr. Hoover Dempsey, chair of the Department of Psychology and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. Her extensive research was used to develop constructs that undergird her theoretical model of parental involvement. I was able to get some funds. We tested her model on parent involvement and got results.

Since I don't have children, it's wonderful to be able to work with their parents. Even though I don't go into the classrooms at the academy, I know virtually all of the children from seeing them in the halls passing back and forth. I eat lunch with them and always sit at different tables.

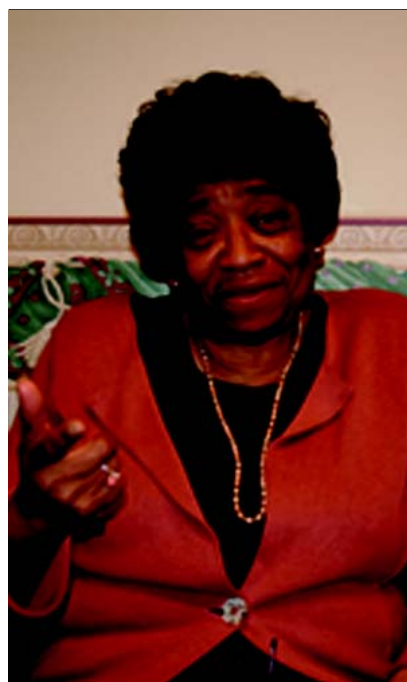
They say, "We know who you are, Tommie Brown Academy." I tell them, no, I'm Tommie Brown, and teach them to chop off the Academy, so they ask, "Do you own this school?" I tell them no. But I know who owns the school. Your parents do. Soon as they get that straight, they graduate and another class comes in and starts it all over again.

TT&C: How did Brown Academy come to be called after you?

TB: School board member Debra Matthews and a group of others made the recommendation to the county school forum. When first approached, I declined saying that I had retired from the university after 28 years and it was a quieter period in my life.

She said, "You're in the legislature and call this a quieter period in your life?" I told her I usually have two or three different things going and this would be disruptive for me. "What has it got to do with you? It's a school building! It's just standing there," she said.

I told her, "You don't know me if you think you could thrust 300-



I worked as a welfare child worker, supervisor, and director for welfare workers. I did adoptions, foster care, just all of it.

400 children in my life and expect me to keep hands off, not be involved." That ended it for a long time.

One night, I was working late when a paper floated from a book I was reading. It was given to me after a Black History Month program at Orchard Knob. A little boy had written it after pulling my name from a list of different people students might want to write about. It said, "Tommie Brown is three times a leader, a social worker, a teacher, and is in the legislature. Tommie Brown cares about people like me. I want to be like Tommie Brown."

I thought, "O Lord, I know what this is all about." It was about 3 a.m., but I picked up the phone and called her. "Debra, is that offer still on the table?" – About the school? "Yes." – Why? "I'd like to take you up on this." Call me later today. I knew you were going to come to your senses, one day. – And, the rest is history.

TT&C: What kinds of social work have you done in your career?

TB: I did many things working hard in my field of social work for almost 14 years. After starting out in child welfare training, I worked as a welfare child worker, supervisor, and director for welfare workers. I did adoptions, foster care, just all of it. When I became a supervisor and dealt with child-adult protective services, I became the director of child abuse training for the department. I provided orientation and in-service training for 19 counties. Workers from across the state received their orientation and on-going in-service training. There were three of those federally required training centers set up in the state. I was also active in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

TT&C: After about five years as social worker, you got a master's?

TB: Yes, the Department of Administration encouraged me to return to school. Washington University in St. Louis has prestigious schools of social work, medicine, law, and others. I considered getting a double master's in law and social work, but it would have forced me to stay an extra year and I looked at my parents and my age and decided to just get a master's. It would have been awesome. I remember I was completing my master's about November 1963 when Kennedy was assassinated.

I continued doing social work, and stayed involved in NASW to the point that I was named the National Social Worker of the Year in 1971.

TT&C: Is it coincidental that shortly after that award, you joined the UTC faculty?

TB: That national publicity caused a university official to contact me. They were trying to start a specialist program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. I'd be a good person to have on the faculty. At the time, some social work courses were housed with sociology, not in a free-standing social work program.

That's when the fun part started. I was an active member of the local chapter of the NAACP. We had a mission to integrate the university, and I was on the committee to try to get people hired. None of us taught on the college campus, so we had no way of knowing the process. When we went to talk to somebody about hiring, the chancellor told us each department did its own hiring. He gave us a catalog and said we'd have to go to all these departments and try to determine if they had any vacancies we could apply for. We did that. There was never any opening.



Photos by Gael Stahl

Perhaps my most meaningful role has been the opportunity to influence the lottery scholarship process.

TT&C: How did you break through the Catch 22?

TB: After the phone call, I took the precaution of calling the NAACP. They told me, "Find out how it works!" The young man, bless his heart, had an application form that he told me to complete. We had been told that little form didn't exist. He left it with me.

I'll always remember that day. I took petty leave from work, told them I was off the clock, and leaving the premises. I went straight to the NAACP office with the forms and said, let's make 2,000 copies of these and pass them out on street corners.

They offered me a teaching position at UTC, and I applied. He explained that the position they offered me was a lecture position they wanted me to fill. I said I didn't want that because lecture positions are not part of the team. He told me to make sure I didn't do something to negatively affect the future. I did all that he said.

The president and board advised me that opportunity had knocked on my door. I had to answer. That I did. However, I did not get a response. The position had been filled. I heard nothing from UTC. Then, I picked up the phone and called him, and said, "Mister, what happened to the position?" He said he'd been praying that I would call him. That position was filled. I said, "Wait a minute, they can't do it."

So, I picked up the phone and called the head of the Department of Sociology and said, "Sir, I am ready. I have cleaned out my desk, and I just want to know what my office number is because I'm prepared to move in and do my job."

TT&C: Why did you go on to get a doctorate?

TB: At UT-Chattanooga it was understood I would earn a doctorate. I told them that since I had been in school all my life, what was another year or two? Meanwhile, I had the privilege of helping create a new social work program and by the time I retired in 1996, I had done all I'd wanted to accomplish. By then, I was in the legislature.

TT&C: When did you go on for the doctorate degree?

TB: Not until about 1981. I had worked hard in my field and was very active in the NASW and knew a lot of people. When I served as its secretary, I was on the national board with all these deans from across the country that encouraged me to earn my doctorate at their schools. I was admitted to the University of Michigan because there I could earn a joint doctorate.

However, I was national secretary at the time that Dr. Ginsberg was dean of Columbia's School of Social Work and president of the national board. In addition to Columbia being rated as the No. 1 school for social work, I had also come to know the dean. So, I was admitted to Columbia. When I got there, I attended faculty gatherings where they often called me "The Dean's Colleague." I wondered what they meant. It proved to be a wonderful experience. I stayed in the International House about a year and a half for the

course work and returned to UTC. I defended my dissertation about 1984. There were five or six years between there. I did my full-time faculty job and commuted back and forth to Columbia for consultations on my dissertation.

TT&C: What interested you in running for a House seat?

TB: In teaching social work, one of the courses dealt with the history of social welfare and the making of laws pertaining to welfare and research. It involved public policy making and analyzing it. We just came to think the legislature has got to do better. We've got to make changes. Some of the black students were first to take that up, and eventually I did.

I had held office before. I was part of the Metro Charter Study Commission in Hamilton County. I ran for a place on the commission in a countywide field of 60 people. I came in second or third. Even though Chattanooga did not adopt a metro charter, I got the bug. Some people came to me and said they had been watching the polls. What did I want? I said I didn't want anything except to go back to my classroom.

I also served on the local board of the local Model Cities program, national board that oversaw programs involving millions of dollars. A committee of 50 was created. No one expected Tommie Brown to go out and knock on doors to qualify to serve. That was back when "the fathers of the community" controlled things. We, the Poor Neighborhood Group Downtown, filed a lawsuit because we directed some of our money to other areas.

TT&C: Was that an open seat you ran for in 1992?

TB: Yes. I knew you don't run against an incumbent like Rep. C.B. Robinson for whom the Chattanooga Bridge was named. When he retired, I ran against a large group including his handpicked candidate, a very hardworking lieutenant of his, and one who sat on the school board and, later, became a city councilman.

I won in 1992. This is my 15th year in the legislature. I was here for the dismantling of the welfare system in Tennessee and the creation of the Families First legislation. I take great pride in being the only professionally trained social worker in the legislature. I remember what I said to the Black Caucus when we heard that Gov. Sundquist was about to reform welfare following the national direction. "We cannot stay silent. Let's create a Welfare Reform Subcommittee of the Black Caucus. I want to chair it." Reps. Henri Brooks and Kathryn Bowers, and two or three others were appointed. Gov. Sundquist permitted his staff to meet with us at 7 a.m. every morning. Legal staff joined us. We developed white papers and worked hard to make the deadline.

Another piece of legislation I feel really proud of is the one that dealt with inequitable treatment of children who were in the state's care. Failing to enact legislation to address this issue, I asked the Comptroller of the Treasury to do a full investigation. His report substantiated the allegations that were made. I called the lawyers handling TennCare who gave me the names of a group of New York lawyers who deal with children. They came into Chattanooga, filed a lawsuit, and we got results. There were consent decrees entered that directed the state's future action and care of children.

TT&C: Your emphasis has been on education during your 15 years here?

TB: Well, yes, I'm an educator. I'm also a social worker. I've been identified with children by the media and have served on the House Education Committee.

The people in my district decided I would also be an environmentalist, because the Chattanooga Creek runs through my district. I sat on the House Conservation and Environment Committee for four years and was its secretary. I championed environmental issues. We got funds for removing contamination from Brownfield industrial sites so those areas can be used for commercial purposes, and we got other actions.

Perhaps my most meaningful role has been the opportunity to influence the lottery scholarship process. That is, to ensure that every tenured student would be given access to these scholarships. I often say that I stand on the back line of defense for the children. There are only a few of us holding the line.



Tommie F. Brown Profile

- Born June 25, 1934
- Rome, Georgia
- B.A. Dillard University, New Orleans, 1957
- MSW Washington University St. Louis, Mo. 1971
- National Social Worker of the Year, 1971
- D.S.W./PhD Columbia University, 1984
- Univ. of Tennessee, Chattanooga faculty 1971-1998
- Member of Tenn. House 1993
- Current Vice Chair, Education