

Republicans, Democrats caucus, elect key leadership positions

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Republicans and Democrats in both the Senate and the House recently held caucus meetings to elect their officers for the 106th General Assembly.

Republicans, who now hold the majority in both Houses, are in a position for the first time since Reconstruction to have control of both legislative bodies. Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey was re-elected as the GOP's choice for Speaker of the Senate. And with the Republicans now holding 19 seats to the Democrats' 14, Ramsey is expected to keep the position of Senate Speaker when the Legislature convenes Jan. 13 and the entire Senate votes for top leadership position.

Other elections in the Senate Republican Caucus include Mark Norris as Senate leader, Diane Black as caucus chair, Mae Beavers as treasurer, Jack Johnson as secretary, and Bill Ketron as floor leader.

Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus elected Sen. Jim Kyle



Mark Norris
Senate Republican
Majority Leader

and Sen. Roy Herron to serve as minority leader and caucus chair respectively. Sen. Doug Jackson was re-elected as vice chair and Sen. Andy Berke was chosen as secretary/treasurer.

In the House, Rep. Jason Mumpower was chosen as House Republican Leader and the party's nominee for House speaker. Rep.



Jim Kyle
Senate Democratic
Minority Leader

Steve McDaniel was elected House Republican Caucus chair. Under GOP caucus rules the leader will be the party's nominee for House speaker and the chairman will be the nominee for House speaker pro tempore.

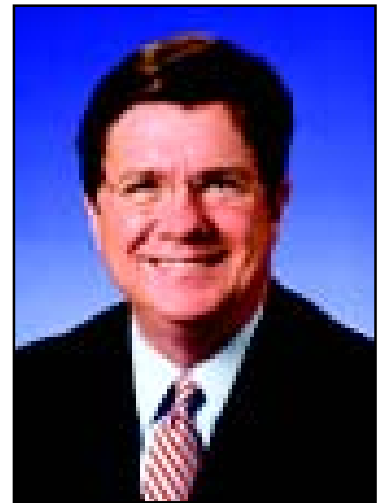
With only a slight edge over the Democrats, all 50 Republican must vote for Mumpower as House Speaker to replace Jimmy Naifeh, the longest serving House Speaker in Tennessee history. If Mumpower is elected speaker, McDaniel would then replace Democrat Rep. Lois DeBerry as speaker pro tempore.



Jason Mumpower
House Republican
Majority Leader

House Republicans also elected Rep. Glen Casada as assistant Republican leader and would, presumably succeed Mumpower as leader if he is elevated to speaker. Rep. Kevin Brooks was elected caucus vice chairman. Others elected included Rep. Debra Maggart as Republican whip; Rep. Jon Lundberg as floor leader; and Rep. Judd Matheny as secretary.

The House Democratic Caucus elected Rep. Gary Odom as the Democratic leader and Rep. Mike Turner as its chairman. House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh was chosen



Gary Odom
House Democratic
Minority Leader

again to be the Democratic nominee for speaker. Naifeh has held that position for 18 years but faces Mumpower, who has gotten commitments from all 50 Republicans to vote him in as speaker over Naifeh.

Other Democratic elections include Lois DeBerry as deputy Democratic leader, John Litz as assistant leader, Mark Maddox as whip, Dennis Ferguson as floor leader, Larry Turner as secretary, Henry Fincher as vice chair of the caucus, and Sherry Jones as caucus treasurer.

Researcher Krushenski joins Municipal League

The Tennessee Municipal League has hired Kevin Krushenski as a research analyst. He will officially join the staff Jan. 5.

A six-year veteran with the State Comptroller's Office, Krushenski brings to TML extensive knowledge of the legislative process. During his tenure with the Comptroller, he has authored and negotiated passage of legislative initiatives, researched a wide variety of topics at the will of the legislative members, moderated negotiations between competing interests, testified before House and Senate committee meetings, as well as authored various publications and reports issued by the Comptroller's office.

"Kevin has proven to be proficient in numerous policy areas, is an effective communicator, and will be a welcomed addition to the TML legislative team," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director.

He began his career as a legislative intern for House Majority Leader Eugene Davidson and was voted Best All-Around Legislative Intern. He holds a B.S. degree in Business Management with minors in Statistics and Economics from



Kevin Krushenski

the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he graduated Cum Laude.

In 2002, he participated in a Global Leadership Program in Prague, Czech Republic, where he lived for one month while attending leadership training seminars with multinational participants.

"The Tennessee Municipal League is an extraordinary institution with a similar mission as the state Comptroller's office and that is to help local governments be effective as they can," said Krushenski. "I'm excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with municipal officials as together, we strive to accomplish common goals."

TML District Meetings set for January

In preparation for the 106th General Assembly scheduled to convene Jan. 13, 2009, TML district meetings have been scheduled across the state throughout the month of January.

These are very trying times that are certain to present some challenges for local governments. In addition, the election has resulted in significant changes in leadership at the national and state level. TML staff will present updates on the latest happenings and news coming out of our nation's and state's capitols affecting municipalities as well as the board-approved TML legislative initiatives for the upcoming session.

The agenda will include an update on legislative issues, as well as

provide an overview of the League's 2009 legislative priorities.

These district meetings will provide the only opportunity to fully brief and prepare municipal officials before debate begins on many of the issues affecting municipalities. It is vital to TML membership that municipal officials take this opportunity to attend these meetings to prepare for the upcoming session.

The following district meetings have been scheduled:

Jan. 6	District 4	Crossville
Jan. 7	District 6	Brentwood
Jan. 9	District 5	Gallatin
Jan. 15	District 8	Ripley
Jan. 16	District 7	Jackson
Jan. 21	District 1	Johnson City
Jan. 22	District 2	Gatlinburg
Jan. 23	District 3	Chattanooga

AG rules red-light cameras lawful

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

In the closing days of November 2008, the Tennessee Attorney General released an opinion (No. 08-179) upholding the constitutionality of T.C.A. § 55-8-198, relating to traffic citations based solely upon evidence obtained from a surveillance camera.

With this ruling, municipalities can now confidently adopt their own ordinances, enacting surveillance camera ticketing programs. Cities with such programs, however, must be careful to have law enforcement personnel review the evidence and not rely on the private vendor.

The attorney general opinion upholds the constitutionality of the statute against claims of equal protection, due process, and right to privacy violations. Much of the

opinion's reasoning mirrors that of the Tennessee Court of Appeals, who upheld a municipal ordinance creating a camera program in *City of Knoxville v. Ronald G. Brown, No. E2007-01906-COA-R3-CV, 2005 WL 2925730 (Tenn. Ct. App. July 30, 2008)*.

The due process challenge quickly eroded when examined with any scrutiny. The *Brown* court found, and the Attorney General agreed, that the state has a legitimate interest in ensuring the safety of the state's roads and highways and that it is rational to conclude that this interest is served by the statute. Likewise, the claim that the statute violates equal protection fails under analysis. Again, the applicable standard is "rational basis." The state needs only show that the statute is rationally related to a legitimate state See *CAMERAS on Page 4*

State revenue projections at all-time low

BY CAROLE GRAVES

The state's economic conditions continue to deteriorate, with November tax collections hitting historical lows and projections for future revenue growth to be the worst in almost 50 years.

Describing the state's financial situation as perilous, finance officials were given the news during the Tennessee State Funding Board meeting held earlier this month in Nashville. The Funding Board, which is made up of Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz, Secretary of State Riley Darnell, Comptroller John Morgan, and Treasurer Dale Sims, uses the projections to make budget estimates for each fiscal

year.

Commissioner Goetz set the tone of the meeting with a preliminary report for November tax collections that are expected to be \$106 million below projections, representing a negative 7.7 percent growth and bringing the shortfall for the current fiscal year to more than \$324 million under projections. Estimates of the total revenue shortfall this year could range from \$700 million to more than \$1 billion, Goetz said.

November is the fourth consecutive month this fiscal year and the twelfth consecutive month beginning November 2007 that revenue collections have come in under the budgeted estimates.

"It would be hard to say that we have seen the last of it," Goetz said.

Several of the state's expert economists provided revenue projections for the current budget year, as well as made predictions for FY 09-10. Projections ranged from a negative 3.6 percent to a negative 6.9 percent growth for the current budget year to a 0.4 to 2.72 percent growth for next year.

"Not only are the problems that we face today unprecedented, but the peril is very grave, and I don't think it's an understatement to say we are looking into the abyss," said Jim White, executive director of the legislative Fiscal Review Committee. "We haven't fallen into it yet, but

REVENUES from Page 4

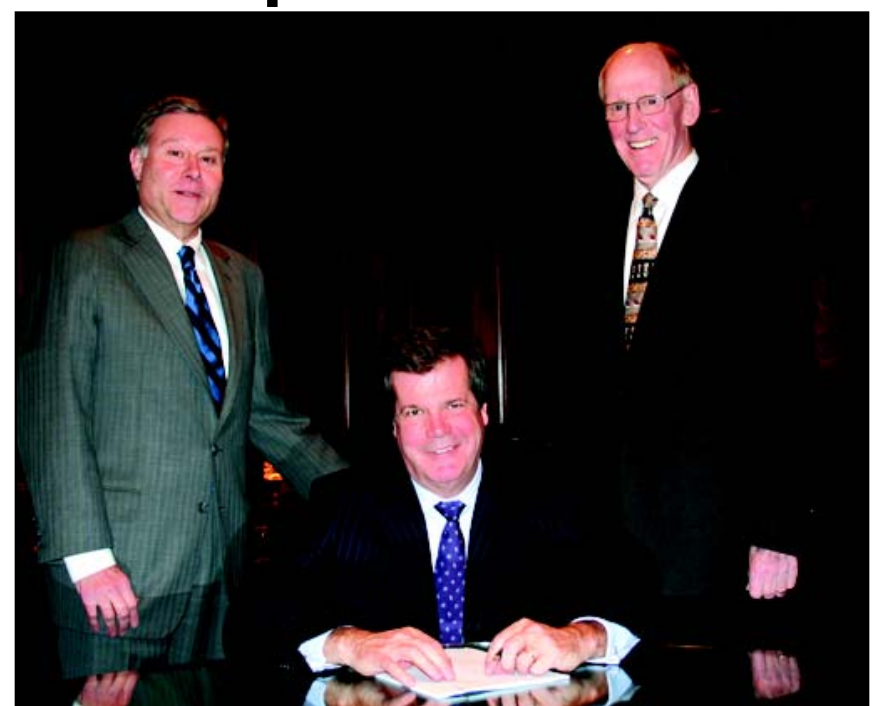
Metro Nashville refinances \$59 million loan with TN Municipal Bond Fund

Metro Nashville recently refinanced \$59,140,000 in outstanding bonds through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund (TMBF).

"We are pleased to have Metro Nashville join the Bond Fund program and feel quite certain that the savings in our program will be beyond the expectations of Metro Nashville," said TMBF President and CEO Charles "Bones" Seivers. "We hope this is just the beginning of a wonderful working relationship with Metro Nashville as we continue in our pursuit of saving money for all Tennessee municipalities."

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund provides low cost methods of financing basic municipal and county needs that save cities and counties money. Those local governments that have participated in TMBF programs since 1994 have saved more than \$252 million in interest expenses alone. These savings have been converted into additional infrastructure improvements, additional employment opportunities and new equipment for Tennessee cities and counties.

Finance Director of Metro



Metro Nashville refinanced \$59.1 million in outstanding bonds with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. Pictured are: Metro Finance Director Richard Riebeling, Mayor Karl Dean, and TMBF President Charles "Bones" Seivers.

Nashville Richard Riebeling stated, "Metro Nashville faced a difficult situation due to the financial markets

and the Bond Fund stepped up to provide a method to refinance portions of our debt at a critical time."

Collierville prison puppies find homes

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

After serving an eight week stint at the Mark H. Luttrell Women's Correctional Center in Memphis, four four-legged buddies find themselves released for good behavior and moving on to forever homes thanks to the Prison Puppies Achieving Worthy Service program, or PPAWS, in which shelter dogs are trained by inmates to increase their adoptability.

Sponsored and funded by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Memphis in cooperation with the city, the dogs

were adopted from the Collierville Animal Services by the SPCA specifically for the program.

Four dogs from Collierville Animal Services, three labrador retriever pups and Jack, an Australian shepherd, were welcomed with open arms by eight inmates, with each dog paired within a team of two inmates per cell, 24 hours a day. The two inmates care for and teach the dog basic manners including: leash walking, sit, stay, high five, and wait at the door. The dogs are house and crate trained while being socialized among the inmates, officers, and prison staff.

"This has been a phenomenal

experience and a real joy for the inmates," said Nina Wingfield, SPCA president and director of Collierville Animal Services.

"The community has really embraced the program. We try to work with all the shelters, and give all dogs an opportunity."

According to Wingfield, none of the dogs used in PPAWS exhibit aggressive behavior patterns, but may suffer from shyness or other issues related to abuse or neglect.

"Most dogs that come to us are under a year old," Wingfield explains, citing common puppy mannerisms such as chewing and jump- See *PPAWS on Page 6*

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

There were plenty of happy faces at the dedication of the new Alcoa Service Center which was open to the public for tours. The new building is expansive with 40,000 square feet of office space, 44,000 square feet of warehouse space and 41,250 for vehicle storage. Crisp and modern in design, wells reach down to establish the geothermal energy system that will reduce the heating and cooling costs for the building by one-third. The Service Center, which also includes a couple of existing buildings that have been refurbished and are used for storage, brings together the city's departments of Public Works (Engineering, Sanitation, Streets, Water and Wastewater, and Support Services), Electric Department, Meter Division of the Finance Department, the Credit Union and Health Clinic.

CHATTANOOGA

Cutbacks at two Chattanooga facilities will eliminate more than 400 local jobs. The U.S. Postal Service's remote encoding center in Chattanooga will close in April, eliminating 391 jobs, and Aerisyn LLC, a Chattanooga company that makes towers for wind turbines, announced that officials will lay off 54 employees there. An official with the Postal Service said the Chattanooga remote encoding center at 911 Eastgate Loop was scheduled for eventual shutdown from the time it was established 14 years ago as it was designed as a temporary solution to automate and expedite the processing of handwritten and poorly printed addresses.

CLEVELAND

An energy audit of city government buildings is revealing ways to save money, fuel and electricity, according to city officials. The audit is part of the city's goal to cut energy consumption by 15 percent by July 2010. The council has been given a list of suggested energy-saving mea-

asures for each of the city's downtown buildings. Lights with magnetic ballasts have been shown to be fire hazards as well as energy guzzlers and fuel is getting attention too. Residents may see fire trucks filling up at gas stations from time to time. Officials said it takes fuel to drive trucks across town from fire stations to the city's fuel pumps, so the city signed on to a Fuelman management program, which allows city officials to track and record fuel usage.

COLLIERVILLE

In early 2009 Sears, Roebuck and Co. is opening the first Sears Appliance Store in Shelby County. The Illinois-based retail leader and its local "dealer," True Vine Enterprises LLC, signed a five-year lease to occupy 7,800 square feet in the City Center Shopping Plaza.

COOKEVILLE

A new mental health facility that will provide services in the Upper Cumberland opened recently. Generations Mental Health Center, a non-profit agency with a home office in Morrison, is one of several satellite health facilities opened throughout the state since its founding several years ago.

FRANKLIN

Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. is laying off 338 employees and contract workers. The company announced the layoffs as part of a company-wide workforce and business restructuring to reduce operating costs, conserve liquidity and improve operating efficiencies. Noranda says it expects the restructuring to generate cash cost savings of about \$23 million annually.

JOHNSON CITY

Tennessee leaders say they're trying their best to prevent the state from completely shutting down the Johnson City lottery office. The state announced it was closing the office due to high costs. Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and State Sen. Rusty

Crowe have reportedly asked Tennessee Lottery CEO Rebecca Paul Hargroveto keep a part-time office open there.

KINGSPORT

The nation's economic slump has trickled down to the Tri-Cities. According to the latest labor market report issued by East Tennessee State University, the metropolitan area lost 2,341 jobs in the third quarter vs. the same time last year. Job losses were reported in professional and business services, government, durable and nondurable manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, wholesale trade, retail trade, transportation and utilities, and other services. Job gains were reported in education and health, construction, information services, and finance. Kingsport lost 543 jobs during the quarter, Johnson City lost 785 jobs, and Bristol lost 173 jobs. Kingsport's unemployment rate increased from 4.21 percent to 6 percent in the quarter; Johnson City's jobless rate rose from 4.37 percent to 6.23 percent; and Bristol's unemployment rate increased from 4.32 percent to 6.02 percent in the period.

LA VERGNE

Bridgestone Firestone plans to lay off 158 workers at its La Vergne tire plant and is considering ending production of light-vehicle tires there by the middle of next year, which could cut an additional 350 jobs. Bridgestone Firestone North America Tires LLC, the Nashville-based company that operates the La Vergne facility, said the economic slowdown has decreased the demand for passenger and light-truck tires.

MARYVILLE

Clayton Homes, the country's largest manufactured housing company, has laid off 90 people at its corporate headquarters. The company continues to operate 41 plants employing 15,000 workers.

MEMPHIS

The Regional Medical Center at Memphis is among a select number of Level 1 trauma centers in the United States chosen to participate in a national clinical trial on brain injuries sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Timothy C. Fabian and Dr. Martin A. Croce from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center will lead the



Engineer, Chris Soro speaks at the formal dedication ceremony of the new \$17.6 million Alcoa Service Center. The 32-acre Service Center complex centralizes departments that were once housed in five different buildings throughout the city.

trial. They will evaluate the results of concentrated salt solutions given intravenously to patients with traumatic brain injuries. The treatment will be given by emergency medics or nurses at the scene of injury or in an air ambulance. The salt solution injections should result in less brain swelling according to UTHSC reports.

NASHVILLE

Piedmont Natural Gas decided on Donelson for its new Nashville operation center because of its more central location, interstate access and the ability to create an environmentally efficient facility there. Piedmont plans to start work on the operations center at Century City in February. Officials hope it will be complete in late spring or early summer 2010. Around 210 employees would move from the current operations center on Mainstream Drive at MetroCenter.

NASHVILLE

Two Nashville-area banks have received preliminary approval to participate in the government's economic stimulus program for banks. Franklin-based Tennessee Commerce Bancorp Inc. (NASDAQ: TNCC) and Nashville's Pinnacle Financial Partners have both received preliminary approval from the U.S. Treasury Department to participate

in the \$700 billion government economic stimulus program for banks. The Capital Purchase Program is a voluntary initiative designed for U.S. financial institutions to build capital and increase the flow of credit to support the economy.

SEVIERVILLE

The Wilderness in the Smokies resort and waterpark is nearing completion and management is looking to hire about 300 people soon and about 200 more seasonal workers in the spring. The resort has been open since June, when a 234-room hotel opened.

SOUTH PITTSBURG

The mayors of South Pittsburg and New Hope want to highlight their link, the Shelby A. Rhinehart Bridge, by making it sparkle. Installing lamp-posts across the bridge would illuminate the structure and light future bicycle-pedestrian lanes, and the reflected light would illuminate the bridge. New Hope Mayor Mark Myers said the lighting project could make the bridge a potential link for other activities such as walkways, greenways and bicycle trails. Funding for the \$218,000 project is the biggest obstacle. Both towns own the Nickajack Port Authority, which has more funding options than cities, but officials are still discussing how to split funding responsibilities.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Americans are driving less despite falling gas prices, reflecting the deepening recession and signaling a shift in lifestyles and driving habits that could outlast the current turmoil. Drivers logged 10.7 billion fewer miles in September than they did the same month a year earlier — a 4.4 percent decline, according to data issued by the Federal Highway Administration. The data reflect the effects of the worsening economy.

Battered by record foreclosures and falling tax revenue, cities are laying off workers, raising fees and closing libraries and recreation centers. A survey in September found that city finance officers expect revenue from property, sales and income taxes to decrease 4.3 percent this year. According to Chris Hoene, director of policy and research at the National League of Cities, the problem will be worse next year because there is a lag between current economic conditions and when they affect city revenue. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is asking Congress for a \$90 billion stimulus plan to help cities with infrastructure projects, the creation of green jobs and community development and Friends of Libraries USA says cities are making the wrong cuts, closing libraries just as

more people use their free services.

The new Federal Highway Administration Worker Visibility Rule is in effect requiring anyone working on a road funded with federal dollars to wear brightly colored vests in effort to reduce accidents and fatalities. The rule applies to construction crews, tow-truck operators and even journalists working along major highways and interstates. In 2007, nationwide, 342 people were killed while on the job in vehicle vs. person accidents, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The housing crisis has kept thousands of older Americans who need support and care from moving into retirement communities or assisted-living centers, effectively stranding them in their own homes. Without selling their houses or condominiums, many cannot buy into retirement homes that require a payment of \$100,000 to \$500,000 just to move in.

Two new forecasts point toward a tough holiday season for retailers offering evidence that consumers may not be in a spending mood. Traffic at retailers is expected to decline 9.9 percent during the holiday season, according to a report from research firm ShopperTrak RCT Corp.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon has been re-elected chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology for the 111th Congress. "We made substantial progress during the 110th Congress, and many of the committee's efforts will benefit Tennessee and the rest of the country," Gordon said following his reappointment.



Gordon

Larry Zehnder, Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Administrator, was recently awarded the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) 2008 Fellow Award at the annual state conference in Memphis. The Fellow Award is the TRPA's highest professional honor and chronicles Zehnder's 35 years of service in the areas of advocacy and leadership, advancement of new policies, ideas, methods of practice, and professional training on local, state, regional, and national levels.



Zehnder

Eric Stuckey has been selected as Franklin's new city administrator. Currently serving as assistant county administrator for Hamilton County, Ohio, Stuckey is the third city administrator in Franklin's history; and is scheduled to begin in January.



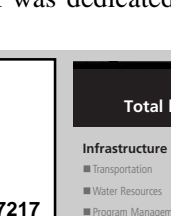
Stuckey

U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, will leave the Sixth Circuit for senior judge status on Jan. 1. Daughtrey, 66, has held the seat since she was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1993.



Daughtrey

Margaret Pearson, 87, former Sparta mayor, president of the Tennessee Women in Government and Tennessee Municipal League Board member, passed away at White County Hospital in Sparta. An award winning educator, Pearson is noted as the first female to serve as alderman and vice mayor of Sparta where Pearson Park was dedicated in her honor.



Pearson

Tennessee's first lady, Andrea Conte, recently honored the work of child protective investigative teams at the fifth annual Connecting for Children's Justice Conference in Nashville. Conte presented awards to professionals who respond to severe and sexual child abuse.



Conte

The 2009 leadership roster for the National League of Cities Committees, Councils, and Panels include three vice chairs from Tennessee: Erica Gilmore, Nashville councilmember and vice chair NLC CityFuture's Panel on Equity and Opportunity; Dot LaMarche, Farragut alderman and vice chair Congress of Cities Program Committee; and Bo Perkinson, Athens vice mayor and vice chair NLC Small Cities Council.



Gilmore



LaMarche



Perkinson

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Tennessee restoring the palaces of yesteryear

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

As Tennesseans step out for the holidays to enjoy movies and plays, musical revues or other fine performances, one great option is to pay a visit to the ghosts of venues past in cities across the state where historic 19th century theaters and movie palaces of the 1920s and 30s have been restored to their former splendor.

Growing trends throughout the U.S. toward urban renewal have breathed new life into these historic gems, resurrected as performing arts centers through the dedicated efforts of preservationists, citizen's committees, and civic leaders.

The crystal chandeliers, elegant drapery, art deco carpeting and a Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ are sure to inspire feelings of déjàvu for the patrons of historic theaters, while restoration members may find the planning and development process unique and requiring much more imagination and forethought than the initial creation.

"What we continue to learn from our members is that one size (or model) doesn't fit all communities," said Colleen Poehlman, director of Membership Services, League of Historic American Theaters in Baltimore, MD., an international, not-for-profit membership associa-

and musicians. After 1982's restoration, it was apparent that the larger Broadway shows, the life blood of the Orpheum, were too large to be staged there requiring the removal of the original back wall in 1996.

A 28-year veteran of the group, Halloran had originally planned a two-year stint with the foundation in 1980, but soon became enamored by the constant challenges and opportunities of running the successful venue, which now nets \$12 million annually, not including the millions collected by the city through the patronage of hotels, shops, clubs and restaurants frequented by the patrons.

"If it's not done right, it won't take long for a theater to fall back into disrepair and decay," Halloran stresses. And an important part of "doing it right" for theater preservationists is figuring the start up costs for the investment, so that the theater can thrive once again as a new business.

"A committee needs access to funding," says Halloran. "Establish the potential donor(s) early on; those who will be responsible for the costs of the feasibility studies and due diligence. That's one reason why many new businesses fail. They need money to sustain the venture while it's new."



Photo by Victoria South

The Palace Theater in Crossville, built in 1938 and owned by the city, plays an important role in the lives of the people of the community.

city, the theater functions beautifully as a multi-use community auditorium, that is perfect for hosting events such as local pageants, meetings, and school award programs and as an entertainment center featuring local and visiting musical artists or a venue for classic movies.

Fully restored in 2001 to its art deco brilliance of the 1930s, the Palace is the place to be for Saturday night jamborees featuring all local talent, while the lobby area serves as a welcome/information center where visitors can inquire about local attractions.

Famous artists, such as steel guitar player Don Helms have been known to stop by and in 1989, author David Naylor listed The Palace as one of Tennessee's best surviving theaters in his book "Great American Movie Theaters."

Earning a spot on the National Historic Register, the theater underwent renovations completed in 2001 funded by a city bond referendum, grant money from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and donations from several corporations and private entities.

Construction work by local students and instructors from the Tennessee Technology Center and the wide use of the theater by local citizens, marks The Palace as "the people's theater." Owned and fully funded by the city, the venue does a brisk business in space rental.

"We don't have to go out and contract groups for the theater, we're filled up by locals booking for fundraisers, church groups and weddings," said Terry Ashburn, Palace Theater Director. "We've booked 37 different groups in December alone."

Ashburn notes the Palace is a favorite spot for field trips and daily tourists.

"Kids love this place," he said. "And, people love the novelty in general. They would much rather experience the character of The Palace, than a mere block of four walls and a screen at modern movie theaters."

The demand for live performances combined with outstanding programs for children has become the staple for The Paramount in Bristol. Built in 1931, the Paramount is a prime example of opulent art deco with its Venetian-styled murals and richly embellished interior. There, the Mighty Wurlitzer organ rises to stage level by hydraulic lift from an orchestra pit constructed at the front of the stage.

ful, largely because it is used by our region's arts organizations including the children's theater, ballet schools, the country music alliance, and others," said Merle Dickert, executive director of the Paramount Center for the Performing Arts. "The greatest challenge, of course, is generating a steady source of income."

Dickert suggests corporate and private support as a vital link for the maintenance of restored theater venues along with building a fee into each ticket sold toward a preservation account.

"The Paramount serves as a nucleus in our downtown," Dickert said. "And, is a great source of pride for all of our citizens; a joyous place, so everyone who enters is glad to be here, especially the children."

The Tennessee Historical Commission has many programs related to history and historic preservation. Visit their website at <http://state.tn.us/environment/hist/>.

Another site dedicated to theater preservation is Cinema Treasures at <http://cinematreasures.org/>.



Generous donations from all across Tennessee helped restore the Tennessee Theater in Knoxville to its former splendor. The theater was declared Tennessee's Official Theater in 1999.

tion that promotes the rescue, rehabilitation and sustainable operation of historic theatres throughout North America.

"Successful historic theaters vary significantly from one community to another," Poehlman continues.

"Know your goal, what you're trying to do," agrees Pat Halloran, director of the Memphis Development Foundation. "Restoration is one thing, renovation or expansion is different."

According to Halloran, planning the vision and purpose of the restored venue is imperative before construction begins. Truly one of Memphis' great success stories, the Orpheum Theater overcame a full range of adversities to become one of the mid-south's premier performing arts centers and an important source of revenue for the city.

Rebuilt in grand style after a devastating fire in 1928, the Orpheum was rescued from decay in 1982 by the Memphis Development Foundation and is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2008 as the home of local arts groups, Ballet Memphis, and Opera Memphis and host to large-scale Broadway shows, well-known entertainers

For many theater projects, this funding includes grants and donations. By 2003, East Tennessee had given more than \$14 million toward the restoration of the Tennessee Theater in Knoxville. By 2004, that figure had reached \$20 million and nearly \$24 million by the end of 2006, according to Becky Hancock, development director for Knox Heritage.

One of the great movie theaters of the 1920s and designated Tennessee's official theater in 1999 and a registered national landmark, the Tennessee Theater reeks with the opulence of yesteryear; plush reds and golds glisten under crystal chandeliers.

"Most historic theater restorations take place in phases," said Hancock (due to lack of funding in most cases). "But our Board had the foresight to raise all the money at once and close the theater for full restoration."

On a smaller scale, once referred to as "The Jewel of Main Street," The Palace Theater in Crossville, built in 1938, has always played an important role in the lives of the people of the community and surrounding east Tennessee. Sheltered under the financial wing of the

Audiences at the Paramount share passion and drama, the joy of music and the pride in learning through educational outreach. "The theater has been success-



A classic shot of the Paramount Theater in Bristol.

Where to go for help in restoring a historic theater

Do you know of a theater slated for demolition? Don't know who to contact? Here is a short list of organizations and groups that may be of help. The League of Historic American Theaters 334 N. Charles Street, 2nd Floor Baltimore, MD 21201 USA 410-659-9533; www.lhat.org

A resource for people involved in restoration efforts of theaters of all types, nationwide. LHAT provides consulting services, maintains resource lists of people in various specialties related to theater restoration, advocates on behalf of historic theater preservation, hosts conferences and seminars on restoring and operating historic theaters, and serves as a national network for interested individuals.

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, in Washington D.C. Phone 202-624-5465 or visit www.ncshpo.org/. A source for information, funding, and support for any historic preservation project. The Theater Historical Society of America. Phone 630-782-1800 or visit www.theatrhistoricalsociety.org/.

The society has, for over 30 years, been dedicated to the collec-



Intricately carved molding is a classic design of art deco palaces from the 20s and 30s

tion of archival material documenting more than 9,000 theaters nationwide. Their materials are open to the public and an invaluable resource for preservationists.

Excellent print resources include: National Trust for Historic Preservation "Curtain Up! New Life for Historic Theaters" and "Great American Movie Theaters" by David Naylor.

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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is embarking on a corridor feasibility study to identify improvements for the 160 mile Interstate 75 corridor extending from the Georgia State Line to the Kentucky State Line. The study will include a series of public meetings along the I-75 corridor beginning in December 2008. The intent of this study is to identify multi-modal (car, truck and rail) solutions for deficiencies identified along I-75 with emphasis on corridor capacity and freight diversion. The corridor study will address all modes of travel that use this corridor. In addition, the study will also look at travel along parallel highways, rail and waterways.

Unemployment rates dropped in 53 Tennessee counties in October, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The rate increased in 27 counties and remained the same in 15 counties. The Davidson County unemployment rate for October was 5.5 percent, down from 5.8 the previous month.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers were presented the 2008 National Medal of Arts during a Nov. 17 ceremony in the East Room of The White House. One of nine recipients, the group was presented the award by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the U.S. government by the President to individuals or groups for their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the U.S. Honorees are selected by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Only four Tennessee public high schools are preparing students to pass basic academic courses when they go on to college, if their ACT entrance exams are the indicator. In Tennessee, a score of 21 out of a perfect 36 is one of the requirements to earn a lottery scholarship. Students from Hume-Fogg and Martin Luther King magnet schools in Metro Nashville, Merrol Hyde Magnet in Hendersonville, and Gatlinburg-Pittman in East Tennessee averaged ACT scores high enough over a three-year period to be considered ready for basic college coursework. Only 18 percent of Tennessee's class of 2008 students who took the test met that standard, compared with about 22 percent of students nationally.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is asking residents to use real Christmas trees this holiday season instead of artificial types. Fake trees are made of plastic and take years to biodegrade once they are discarded. On the other hand, experts said farm-grown trees help the environment while they are growing and can be recycled once the holidays are over.

A new federal study predicts Tennessee would see the highest level of damage if a major earthquake were to shake the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the southern and central part of the country. The Federal Emergency Management Agency released the two-year study as part of the Catastrophic Earthquake Disaster Response Planning Initiative.

The U.S. Census Bureau says it has openings for 3,000 temporary workers in Tennessee to assist in preparing for the 2010 census. Offices have been opened in Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis to begin developing address lists for the census, and applications are being taken for the jobs, which include full- and part-time positions. Pay begins at \$9.75 an hour, and workers will be needed in all 95 of the state's counties. The jobs include address listers, office clerks, recruiting assistants, crew leaders, and field-operations supervisors. Applicants must be U.S. citizens at least 18 years old, and most of the positions require the applicant to have a valid driver's license and the use of a car.

State and regional officials are looking at new ways to increase the number of black professors at Tennessee colleges and universities, but a tough economy and com-

petition in the private sector stands in the way of progress. Nationally, of the nearly 315,000 full-time faculty in four-year colleges and universities, 5 percent are black. In Tennessee, black faculty numbers are slightly higher: about 9 percent of the state's nearly 6,500 public university professors in 2005-06 were black.

The Tennessee Department of Safety cautions motorists to watch out for deer. October through December is deer mating season. Deer are on the move during this period, meaning an increase in deer-related crashes is more likely. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency offers these tips to help prevent deer-related crashes during peak mating and hunting seasons. Whenever you see deer cross the road, expect more to follow. Many times, the second or third deer crossing becomes the one that motorists hit. Be attentive, especially at daybreak and dusk, when deer tend to be on the move. If you do collide with a deer, never approach the injured animal. They are powerful and can cause bodily harm to a human. Tennessee law allows deer killed in a collision to be taken and used as food, as long as you contact the nearest TWRA regional office to report the accident within 48 hours.

Nearly 1,425 workers in East Tennessee have been hired this year to resume construction of what's slated to be the first new nuclear reactor completed in the U.S. in more than 15 years. Nuclear industry leaders say those hired by Bechtel Corp. and its subcontractors to work on a second reactor at TVA's Watts Bar nuclear plant could represent the first of thousands of new jobs created in the Tennessee Valley from a renaissance of nuclear power. They say rising energy demand and concerns about global warming could create a need for the U.S. to triple the number of nuclear plants by 2050 at a cost of more than \$900 billion.

Thousands of Tennesseans who have been unemployed for most of this year will get an extra three months of federally paid jobless benefits under an emergency measure signed into law by the Bush Administration. Despite the extra help from Uncle Sam to help cushion the economic downturn, the state's unemployment trust fund still may be drained for the first time

in 25 years if the recession continues to worsen.

As a part of the state's StopLitter campaign, \$4.6 million in litter grants will be doled out to Tennessee's 95 counties. The amount that each county receives is determined by county road miles and population. Funds must be used for litter pick up activities and litter prevention education.

The Tennessee Board of Regents is overhauling its developmental courses — high-school and some middle-school-level classes — in hopes of boosting the confidence and the graduation rates of low-performing students. Every year, more than 15,000 students enter Tennessee colleges unprepared for class work. Frustrated by curricula they don't understand and a lack of progress toward degrees, a third of them won't show up at their universities the next fall; nearly half will leave their community colleges.

Prison officials have confiscated 600 cell phones smuggled into Tennessee inmates this year. It's a growing problem that could jeopardize the safety of prison guards as well as the public. The phones are usually smuggled during visitations or by staff taking money in exchange for cell phones. Officials are concerned about inmates calling in threats or orchestrating drug deals, escapes or even gang murders. Metal detectors do not pick up cell phones so the Tennessee Department of Correction is looking at new technology that detects cell phone frequencies.

About one in six Tennesseans received food stamp assistance in the latest monthly reporting period, an increase of more than 75,000 people since the start of the year. Nearly 1 million people participated in the recently rebranded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in October, up more than 8 percent compared with January's figures. Monthly costs increased 22 percent over that period to \$112 million, all of which is covered by the federal government. National data compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows 3.8 million more people were on food stamps in September compared with the beginning of the year, a 13.8 percent increase. Tennessee food stamp use began setting new state records in January when food stamps were issued to more than 900,000 people for the first time. About 977,000 people received food stamps in October.



The town of Sparta closes a loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for \$3 million to be used for utility construction. Pictured are Mayor Tommy Pedigo, TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello, City Administrator Marty Carmichael, and City Recorder Tonya Tindell.

AG rules red-light cameras lawful

CAMERAS from Page 1
interest.

The final challenge made to the statute was that it violates a driver's right to privacy. As a person in a motor vehicle has a lesser expectation of privacy, a challenge based upon this rationale has a tougher burden to overcome. In the present situation, the camera is capturing images of the vehicle, not the driver, and no one's expectation of privacy is violated.

The second part of the opinion states that private vendors are prohibited from making the determination as to whether a violation has occurred. Hence, as explicitly stated in the statute, a law enforcement employee

must review the photographic or video evidence to determine whether a violation has occurred. The private contracting entity is not authorized to make that determination.

Coupled with the aforementioned *Brown* ruling, cities wishing to implement camera surveillance ticketing programs now stand on solid ground. And as the Knoxville ordinance has already passed constitutional muster, an adopting city would be wise to use it as a model. If you have any further questions or require assistance in implementing a similar program in your city, contact your MTAS management consultant.

Tax revenues shrinking

REVENUE from Page 1
we're certainly looking at it."

Dr. Bill Fox, director of the Center for Business & Economic Research at the University of Tennessee, said that when compared to the rest of the nation, Tennessee has been hit hard, with only Florida and Arizona experiencing deeper declines in tax revenue collections.

"Tennessee is feeling the brunt of the economic downturn from the tax revenue perspective much worse than is the norm around the U.S., at least through this part of the fiscal year," said Fox. "Income tax states have not been hit as hard, but they will."

All of the economists agreed that the depth and the length of the eco-

nom recession is difficult to forecast, with the best case scenarios seeing a slight up tick by mid 2009 while others predict that it will be 2010-11 before the state sees an increase in revenue collections.

"Almost always, when there's a slowdown or an economic problem, it lasts three to five years," said Fox. "2008 was the start of it. We're now in fiscal 2009; it's continuing will be the worst part, but it likely will continue into fiscal 2010."

"The next two years we will be at levels lower than where we were in 2008," agreed Dr. Dennis Wilson, professor with the University of Memphis Sparks Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

But Wilson was a little more optimistic than others, pinning his projections on the fact that the worst of the subprime mortgage crisis is behind us and the federal government is promising to lower interest rates, as well as offer some type of a stimulus package. As a result of those actions, he predicted that we could see a slight turn around by mid 2009.

National Outlook

According to a November 2008 survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) of the nation's state legislative fiscal officers, states are facing a \$32 billion budget gap after already closing a \$40 billion gap since the current fiscal year began. Their projections for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1 for most states, reveal another \$65 billion gap.

NCSL said the news will pose difficult decisions for state legislators across the nation as they prepare for the 2009 legislative sessions.

"These budget gaps are approaching those seen in the last recession, which were the worst since World War II, and show every sign of growing larger," says William Pound, NCSL's executive director.

"While the data we collected from state legislative fiscal officers are pretty sobering, our discussions with legislative leaders tell us that they expect the problem to only get worse," Pound says.

The report exposes ballooning budget gaps spreading across the nation that threaten the viability of essential state programs and services. Rising expenses for health care—especially Medicaid—and other social service programs are squeezing state budgets from the spending side of the ledger.

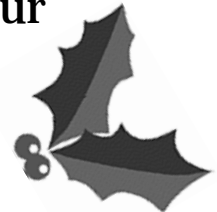
NCSL's report says deteriorating revenues in nearly every state are the main culprit behind current state fiscal conditions. Sales, personal and corporate income tax revenues are shrinking as consumer confidence plunges, unemployment rates rise and businesses continue to close.



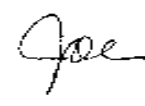





Season's Greetings

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Finally a green light for smart infrastructure?

BY NEAL PEIRCE
The Washington Post Writers Group

Even as America plunges into recession, a bright shaft of light has appeared.

It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity, driven by a popular president-elect, to mount a massive national infrastructure-rebuilding program.

There's no doubt we need it: Estimates of our deferred spending on roads, bridges, rail lines, transit, schools, water and sewer systems run into the trillions of dollars. Other nations are racing ahead of us on issues such as high-speed rail, crucial in a post-carbon era. Our long-term global competitiveness is at stake.

No administration of the last four decades has had the courage to challenge the country to step up to the plate, to support really serious infrastructure reinvestment for our future.

But the next stimulus package — perhaps \$700 billion, backed by President-elect Barack Obama and a good bet to get swift congressional passage once he's sworn in — provides an ideal vehicle.

Economists often denigrate infrastructure projects as too slow to combat recessions. They've preferred cash infusions like the \$300 government checks President Bush had mailed out earlier this year.

But it's becoming clear the current recession is so deep that people will just pocket quick cash. The time for serious infrastructure projects, covering an extended recession, has arrived.

And lots of projects are "shovel ready" or close to it. In very short order, states and localities are reportedly ready to launch 3,000 highway and bridge projects (\$18 billion). Hard-pressed transit agencies, ridership up 32 percent since 1995, could mount 559 improvement and repair projects within 90 days.

Fifty-eight new and expanded public transit lines, at a cost of \$25 billion, could move into construction within four months to a year. And \$325 million of bicycle and pedestrian projects are ready to go.

Such spending creates blue-collar work with ripple effects across the economy, increasing demand for steel and machinery, and augmenting, says Obama economic adviser and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, the country's "productive potential in the long run."

It's true, of course, that not all projects are smart ones — the 3,000 highway projects, for example, include a good share of bridges and roads to nowhere.

To use this opportunity smartly, it's crucial that stiff "fix it first" criteria be set — early attention to truly imperiled bridges, seriously decayed subway lines and roads, leak-plagued water systems, schools crying out for basic repairs, for example.

But we need a wider vision than that. And if Obama is to be taken at his word, we need to reject politics favoring friends and insist on core "national priorities" for these times. Energy conservation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions seem to top his list — "freeing our nation from the tyranny of foreign oil, and saving the planet for our children."

To reach those goals, the mega-infrastructure measure the Obama crew hopes to push through Congress quickly after Jan. 20 will need some real teeth. With a dire recession, job loss, new president and eager Congress, the big stimulus package may be the vehicle for a large share of Obama's entire agenda — conceivably the most important legislative action in decades.

The measure is likely to push his vision of 2.5 million new "green jobs" (solar, wind power and the like) within two years. And it's virtually sure to include considerable

aid to fiscally floundering state and local governments.

But if the "smart growth" principles Obama has embraced are to be served, it won't do just to turn huge chunks of cash over to state transportation departments, few questions asked — a step some of the macro-economists signed up early for his White House and administration might unthinkingly make.

States instead could be instructed to use "mode neutral" measures to decide between road and transit projects, and employ a "three E's" filter — evidence a project not just stimulates the economy, but is also environment-friendly and sensitive to equity issues. Plus, major chunks of the stimulus cash should go directly to existing metropolitan planning organizations, with instructions to give major attention to such Obama priorities as public-transit funding, biking, walking and health, maybe even connections with affordable housing.

The bill could even pick up on proposals to speed our freedom from foreign oil and stimulate new made-in-U.S.A. technologies by increasing the federal gasoline tax from its ridiculously low 18.4 cents a gallon level to \$1 or even \$2 a gallon. The fiscal hit could be rebated to consumers in reduced income tax or earned income tax credit allocations.

The political bars to any of these ideas are normally sky high — indeed prohibitively high. But with the window of opportunity suddenly opened, the new president and Congress actually have it in their power to reset national priorities for decades to come. And with luck and care, to refashion the compact between Washington, the states, cities and metropolitan regions for dramatically better results.

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Tennessee Municipal League.



Dec. 20: Old Saint Nick Nights
Historic Jonesborough. Visit with St. Nick and spend a wonderful evening in beautifully decorated historic Jonesborough. For more information, call the Jonesborough Visitor's Center at 421-753-1010.

Dec. 24: Old Country Store Christmas Eve Breakfast
Jackson Brooks Shaw's Old Country Store. This legendary Christmas Eve breakfast takes place for its 24th year at the famed Brooks Shaw's Old Country Store. As a gift to the city, the Old Country Store serves their world famous Southern breakfast buffet from 6:30 am to 2 pm. with live music throughout the day. For more information, call: 800-748-9588.

Dec. 27: Kwanzaa Celebration
Nashville Gordon Memorial Church. Presented by The African American Cultural Alliance. Kwanzaa commemorates family, culture and community. This is a great event with food, history and fun. For more information, call 615-251-0007.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Bicentennial Kickoff
Pulaski Courthouse Square sponsored by the Giles Co Tourism Foundation. Food, entertainment, and fireworks will fill the night in celebration of Giles County and Pulaski's 200th birthday! A family affair fun for all ages. For more information, call 931-363-3789.

Jan. 13: AppalachiaFest
Pigeon Forge. An evening of Smoky Mountain music by Tim O'Brien, Dirk Powell and Riley Baugus. For more information, call 865-429-7350.

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Prison pups find homes

PPAWS from Page 1
ing, as significant deterrents to the adoption process.

"People acquire these pets and don't pay attention to them anymore," Wingfield said. "The dog gets bored and starts to chew everything in sight."

Unfortunately, the simple acts of chewing and jumping or being unsocialized could lead a shelter dog right down the road to euthanasia, Wingfield explains.

"Most shelters simply don't have enough time in the day to teach dogs basic manners," she said.

The screened groups of prisoners work with volunteer Elta Woodliff, a certified, professional dog trainer, who provides books and other learning resources to help prepare them for their charges.

"I am like a chess piece on the board, but Elta is the one that really makes it happen," Wingfield said. Woodliff visits the correctional facility once a week, according to Wingfield, to assist the trainers and check up on the dogs.

Inmates have become so involved with the program that they have reportedly paid for their own correspondence courses and learned to use treats and toys to train dogs more efficiently. In return, the program has provided great therapeutic benefits for the inmates, teaching life skills such as patience,



Photo by Nikki Boertman/The Commercial Appeal

Shakera, a lab-mix, shows off her "high five" with Mark Luttrell Correctional Center inmate Laura Jones at the conclusion of an eight-week training program with the SPCA.

responsibility, social interaction and acceptance while allowing the inmates to contribute to society and obtain the skills to land a job upon release.

Three of the four dogs have found forever homes, with the last one scheduled to receive a visit from a potential family, according to Wingfield.

"We simply don't have anything but great things to say about this wonderful program," said Chris Werner, who, with his wife Kathy, adopted a black lab, Cheyenne, a recent graduate of the program.

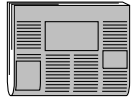
"She is incredibly well behaved, playful and loving," said Werner.

"We need more government shelters," Wingfield stressed.

"Cities can save money by training animals. It is actually more expensive to euthanize them."

Items in order for inmates to participate in the PPAWS program include:

- Have 3 years or more remaining on their sentence;
- Be classified as a medium or minimum security risk;
- Be disciplinary free for a year or more;
- Have at least a 9th grade reading level;
- Be able to work 7 days a week;
- Have no animal allergies;



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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

BOLIVAR. The city seeks applications for the position of City Administrator: Salary is market competitive and negotiable DOQ. Mayor and 8 member council with 110-115 full-time employees. Requires minimum of bachelor's degree in business/public administration/political science/closely related field. Strongly prefer degree in public administration and demonstrated success as chief administrative officer in full-service municipal government. Looking for accomplished, assertive, and forward thinking; strong emphasis on current knowledge of municipal finance, economic development, growth management, and transportation issues; strong interpersonal and communication skills. Prefer experience managing in city council/manager form of government; served as city manager of similar size organization, or as deputy director in larger organization. Reports directly to council and responsible for oversight of departments, administration, finance, planning and community development, utility, public works, police, fire, parks and recreation and library. Equivalent educational qualifications or experience will be considered. EOE. Tennessee Drug Free Workplace. For more information, call 731-658-2020. Cover letter, detailed resume and references to City of Bolivar, Attn: Mayor Bobby Sain, 211 N. Washington St., Bolivar, TN 38008.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SEVIERVILLE. The city is seeking applicants for the position of city administrator. The City Administrator answers to five-member council and is responsible for 275 full-time employees and \$50 million budget. Candidates must be proven managers with excellent communication and team-building skills. Requirements include a demonstrated success in Public Administration, bud-

geting and finance, intergovernmental relations, leadership and strategic planning; at least seven (7) years' experience as City Manager/Assistant City Manager or equivalent; a Bachelors degree required (Master's preferred). Salary: \$83,408 to \$136,792 + excellent benefits depending on qualifications. Applications are public record. To learn more about Sevierville, visit us on the web at www.seviervilletn.org. Resumes should be mailed to Mayor Bryan Atchley, P.O. Box 5500, Sevierville, TN 37864-5500; fax to 865.453.5518; or e-mailed to mayoratch@aol.com, by Friday, January 30, 2009. The City of Sevierville is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in its programs or activities pursuant to Public Law 93-112 or 101-336.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWPORT. The Newport Housing Authority is seeking a full-time, qualified, and experienced individual to administer 400 units of conventional public housing. Responsibili-

ties include managing a staff of over 20 employees, procurement, overseeing the maintenance department and a force account construction crew, preparing CFP and operating budgets, supervising the accounting department, public relations, and future (5-year) planning, and secretary to a five member board of commissioners. Qualifications include a minimum of a four (4) year degree (BA, BS) from an accredited college or university, a master's degree desirable, preferably in business or public administration or related field. Supervisory experience and through knowledge of HUD regulations are preferable. Candidate should have or be able to obtain a PHM certification within the first year of employment. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Excellent fringe benefits package includes health insurance, retirement plan, etc. EEOA. Submit resume and a written application for employment by or before Wednesday, December 31, 2008 to: Search Committee, Board of Commissioners, Newport Housing Authority, 375 Alex Street, Newport, TN 37821. Phone 423-623-1575 (ext. 11).

UT-MTAS project earns top Development Award

The University Economic Development Association (UEDA) recently recognized a project completed by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) for the city of Gallatin entitled, "MTAS Review Leads Way to Development Program," as one of three projects from across the nation demonstrating Excellence in Community Development. The project was also selected as UEDA's top award winner for Community Development.

The University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS) presented a total of three projects for consideration during the 2008 UEDA awards cycle. The remaining two were selected as national finalists.

Chuck Shoopman, IPS assistant vice president presented the award winning project in Tampa, FL receiving the certificate and award on behalf of the University of Tennessee.

During Gallatin's Comprehensive Management Review (CMR), Don Darden, MTAS municipal management consultant and Beth Phillips, IPS economic development director conducted field interviews, research, and prepared the report in

corporation with the Gallatin Economic Development Agency (EDA) leading to substantial changes and positive results for the city.

"I am proud of the cooperative "can do" attitude of the staff of the Gallatin Economic Development Agency that has made the Gallatin EDA a program that can be the envy of similar cities in Tennessee," Darden said.

"Mayor Jo Ann Graves demonstrated real leadership in requesting the CMR, which often subjects cities to a very critical review of agency operations," Darden continued.

"The staff, under the capable leadership of Executive Director, Clay Walker, did not take the study's recommendations as negative criticism, but looked at the recommendations as opportunities."

The city implemented all of the recommendations contained in the economic development review.

The UEDA has 124 member institutions from most states across the country and represents university-based economic development teachers and practitioners in a range of organizations.

Tips for a greener holiday: creating less waste in 2009

Americans throw away up to 25 percent more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than at any other time of the year, but with some simple tips, you can make your holidays green, and save some money.

"From giving environmentally friendly gifts to composting Christmas trees when the holiday celebration is over, there are a host of simple steps we can take to reduce waste without sacrificing tradition," said Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke.

"These tips reflect ways we can celebrate the holidays and still treat the earth with kindness."

10 Tips for a Greener Holiday and New Year

Travel Efficiently: Whether it's for holiday shopping or a trip to visit family, take public transportation, carpool or map your route for the greatest efficiency and least amount of fuel consumption.

Pass on Paper: From invitations to holiday meals, take a pass on paper products. There are numerous free Internet resources to send electronic invitations and greeting cards. Set the mood by setting the holiday table with reusable dinnerware, silverware and cloth napkins. Or for casual gatherings, try serving finger foods that don't require a plate or fork.



From giving environmentally friendly gifts to composting Christmas trees, there are a host of simple steps to reduce waste without sacrificing tradition.

Buy Local: Buying local for your special meals is good for the economy, reduces fuel usage and adds a special touch. In addition to seasonal vegetables at your local farmer's market, Tennessee is home to numerous specialty items like hams, baked goods and cheeses. Learn more at www.picktnproducts.org.

Decorate Smart: LED holiday lights can save you up to 80 percent over traditional incandescent. Put them on a timer to be sure they don't stay on longer than planned.

Energy Star: Look for the Energy Star rating for your electronic gifts, and your gift will keep giving throughout the year with greater energy efficiency. And don't forget to recycle the old electronics to keep them out of landfills.

Give the Great Outdoors: Watchable wildlife make great gift ideas. Consider bird feeders, bat houses and butterfly boxes paired with a book on the same subject.

Make Memories, Not Waste: Consider activities like cooking school, canoe trips or tennis lessons for gifts. Or give a Tennessee State Parks gift certificate by visiting www.tnstateparks.com and clicking on the "winter promotion" link.

Extend the Useful Life of Gifts: Before tossing the old to make room for the new, check to see if you can donate, reuse or recycle it.

Wrap it Up: Make your own wrapping paper out of newspaper, children's artwork or other reusable or recyclable items. Most store-bought wrapping paper is not recyclable and ends up in landfills.

Create Your Own Heirlooms: Frame family documents or children's artwork, or attach brass plaques to special items such as cribs.

Environment and Conservation encourages you to communicate these green holiday tips with family, friends and co-workers by sharing the following link: www.tn.gov/environment/ea/pdf/greentips.pdf.

Happy Holidays

And a Joyous New Year

From Your Risk Management Partner,
The TML Risk Management Pool.

May Your City Enjoy
The Blessing of the Season.

RISK · MANAGEMENT · POOL

Correction

In the Nov. 24 issue of *Tennessee Town & City* some information on the various liquor referendums across the state was omitted. Crossville, Rockwood and Baxter also passed liquor referendums. Crossville approved off-premise sales. Rockwood approved both off-premise sales and liquor by the drink. Baxter passed package stores sales.

In addition, Kimball was listed in the article as not approving liquor by the drink, but the town did approve the measure.

We regret the errors.

Tennessee Town & City

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The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIP), National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) and National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) endorse the use of Life Cycle Costing as a preferred procurement method.

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History-making Johnson City Mayor Phil Roe wins Congressional seat

Highly successful physician, businessman, and mayor tackles another career

BY GAEL STAHL

Dr. Phil Roe grew up in Stewart County, Tenn. It's the smallest county in the state with a population of 12,370 as of the 2000 Census. In 1964, 170,000-acres became the Land Between the Lakes National Recreational Area between Kentucky and Barkley lakes where the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers cross into Kentucky. For a lifelong outdoorsman like Roe, it was the perfect place to grow up.

Roe's family has been living in Stewart for 200 years. His mother, who grew up in the Indian Mounds community famous for its burial mounds, had no electricity at home until she was 20. Roe's father worked at B.F. Goodrich and raised his family on the farm of Roe's uncles.

Roe, born July 21, 1945, says that he loved growing up on the farm, even though they had no indoor plumbing or running water until he was six. His two-room elementary school had six grades in one room, two in the other. Roe facetiously compares it to a Montessori school experience in that it had a mixed-grades, homey atmosphere and also because of its academic success. A second cousin went on to become an anatomy professor at LSU Medical School; another student became a judge; Roe graduated from medical school, and a girl in his first grade class graduated from college and wrote children's books.

After the Roes moved to New Providence, he attended Clarksville High School and Austin Peay State University (APSU). He graduated with a BS in biology in 1967. He received an MD in Obstetrics/Gynecology at UT-Memphis Medical School in 1970.

An Eagle Scout, Roe spent every summer during high school and college working at brand new Boxwell Scout Reservation on Old Hickory Lake five miles south of Gallatin. Since 1960, Boxwell has provided camp experiences to more than 115,000 scouts and leaders on its 1,273 outdoor acres. As a camp counselor, Roe ran the dining hall, played guitar, and was camp bugler. He felt he had the greatest job in the world. He bugled everybody awake at 7 a.m., served them food three times a day, cleaned up, and bugled them back to sleep at 9 each night. No surprise that he and three buddies who spent those many summers together are still fast friends. Two of them went on to law school and two to medical school.

Of all his many happy memories over the years, he says that if he could choose just four years to do again, it would be to go to college. His alumni pride is reflected in his involvements as president of the APSU Foundation Board and National Alumni Board.

After medical school and two years of internship/residency training in Memphis, he was drafted by the Army January 1973. After basic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, he worked at Camp Casey near the de-militarized zone in Korea in an evacuation hospital attached to the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1974, he returned to Memphis to complete the remaining two years of his medical internship.

Trained in one of the more rigorous residencies in the country, he hoped to practice academic medicine in a university town where he could do some teaching. Johnson City already had a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital and East Tennessee State University. He knew a medical school would be starting up soon. He started with a practice with three others in Upper East Tennessee in 1977 and became a successful Obstetrics/Ob-Gyn physician, businessman, and politician. He retired his practice last year to run full-time for Congress.

He had worked in many political campaigns over the years and served six years on the Johnson City Planning Commission. In 2003, he won a seat on the city commission where he has served as commissioner, vice mayor, and currently, mayor. After a late start in a run for an open Congressional seat that he narrowly lost in a large field of candidates, he was overwhelmingly re-elected to the city commission in 2007. Voters gave him such a majority – 2,000 votes more than the two other incumbents combined – that he decided to try another run for the U.S. House seat in 2008. No Republican had unseated an incumbent Tennessee Republican since 1950. It was history making when

Roe did it in the 2008 August primary.

Phil and Pam Roe have three grown children. David, 36, stays busy with two kids, working full-time managing doctors' practices in Kingsport with the Mountain State Health Alliance, and getting his MBA at Vanderbilt. John, 32, is a partner with BT Trading Group, a division of MF Global in Chicago and operates a futures and options trading division of one of the largest futures clearing firms in the world. Whitney, 24, who graduated from ETSU in Marketing Communications in 2006, is a marketing and sales rep for Wilson Pharmacy, Inc. in Johnson City.

When his children were young, Roe coached Little League baseball, basketball, and soccer. The hardest job he ever had was serving as PTA president for an elementary school the children attended. He still loves out-of-doors activities. The last thing he did before going to Washington last month for Congressional Freshmen Orientation was to take a four-hour hike on the Appalachian Trail alone. It was the most relaxing afternoon he has had in a long time. Phil and Pam Roe like to spend their New Years Eves together backpacking the highest peak in the region, Roane Mountain. Despite frigid temperatures and frequent snow falls – two feet last year – they have the right equipment to enjoy their nearly annual tradition.

On Feb. 1, Roe retired from his medical practice to run full-time for Congress. As of Jan. 20, 2009, he will have another full-time job representing 10 Upper East Tennessee counties and parts of two others in Tennessee Congressional District 1.

TT&C: This is a busy time for you what with Freshman Orientation, being mayor, and keeping your alumni commitments. What is orientation like?

PR: Freshman orientation has been an informative week. We were able to select our offices and begin setting them up. We are not allowed to hire staff until January 3. We toured the Capitol and had dinner with the Democrat and Republican leadership. Our families met and interacted with other newly elected representatives' families. I got sticker shock from the housing prices and rental prices in DC.

TT&C: In 1977, you followed your dream to the other end of the state to practice medicine in an academic environment in the mountains. How did that work out?

PR: I've never been a big city type but a lover of smaller towns. That said, I look forward to a new experience – living in Washington, D.C. The Johnson City area promised everything I was looking for professionally and in lifestyle. It turned out as expected. As of the last census, nearly 30 percent of the population of Johnson City has a four-year college degree or higher. The medical school developed as planned. Johnson City may be the only city of 60,000 in America with a pharmacy school, a medical school, a university, a VA hospital, and even a branch of St. Jude's Children's Hospital. There are now more than 500 physicians in town.

I started with a four-man prac-



Phil Roe

lice that we built and fused with some groups, and The State of Franklin Health Care now has more than 70 practitioners and 350 employees. It is a major employer and a major primary care healthcare provider for the region. It offers primary care services such as family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, Ob-Gyn, a diagnostic center, and radiology.

TT&C: How did 30 years of service as a physician dovetail with your political career?

PR: I have delivered more than 5,000 babies during my career. But I've also delivered on promises, hard work, and community service. During my political activities, I have been involved with just about everybody in their living rooms. I've worked in many state House and Senate campaigns, Dr. Bill Frist's U.S. senatorial campaign and very heavily in Fred Thompson's campaign. I have been involved in the Republican Party even though I grew up as a Democrat. Everybody was a Democrat in Stewart County. Republicans could have held a meeting in a phone booth then, just the opposite of heavily Republican Upper Northeast Tennessee. I didn't know any Republicans growing up but that was when I began to change. I just figured it out on my own that Republican beliefs and principles paralleled my own beliefs and principles.

TT&C: When did you get interested in municipal politics?

PR: Ten years ago, I was asked to serve on the Planning Commission and served six years starting in 1998. It was a great introduction on how to use planning to shape the direction your community will develop. In 2003, I ran for a seat on the Johnson City Commission and led the ticket winning more than 60 percent of the vote. I was vice mayor when Congressman Bill Jenkins announced he was retiring. Though that was something I never thought about doing, I decided to give it a try. I didn't start until May 2 and had only 90 days to campaign. That was pretty naïve on my part. I was underfunded but not out worked. I did absolutely everything I could do for 90 days and finished up with 17-18 percent of the vote. The winner got 22 percent with just 3,000 votes between us.

TT&C: How did you react to your first ever defeat?

PR: Though I'm a Methodist and attend Munsey United Methodist Church, the following Sunday I was at Heritage Baptist Church in Johnson City. The pastor may have

long since forgotten his sermon, but I was struck by the theme that God is always right. It's something everybody knows intuitively, but it gave me the attitude that the time wasn't right yet and things were going to be fine, no matter how they turned out.

I went back to my office to do work I love, seeing my patients and taking care of them with a smile on my face. I was happy as I could be. People told me that Monday that I didn't seem to be down about the election. I told them I wasn't. I was where I was supposed to be, doing what I was supposed to be doing.

Nine months later I ran for the city commission again and led the ticket with a vote count somewhere in the mid-70s. That margin reassured me that people felt I was doing a decent job. Then I became mayor. Being mayor of the eighth largest city in the state, being able to help direct the changes and improvements that have happened during my six years on the commission has been a good experience. I mean that as a hats-off to everybody – to (Commissioners) Jane Myron and Steve Darden and to all the other great people I've had the privilege to work with and getting our city moving forward.

TT&C: What kinds of steps?

PR: We have taken steps forward with regards to energy. Open landfills exude methane and the burning of the methane makes puts them among the largest carbon polluters in America. We capped our landfill and went to a private company that without spending a single taxpayer dollar built a facility next to the landfill, drilled wells into the landfill to capture the methane and clean out the chemicals. We pipe that methane to our VA hospital, a federal facility that is heated and cooled by methane. It gives the VA a 15 percent discount off its fuel bill, and we local taxpayers make \$500,000 to \$700,000 per year for it. The environmental equivalent of that is not having to import 17 million gallons of gasoline a year or taking 34,000 cars off the road. We've also reduced our consumption of fuel from 1 million gallons a year six years ago to 880,000 gallons now – a huge impact.

TT&C: Any other money saving or environmental projects?

PR: We have reduced the size of our police fleet. We pay cash for every single piece of capital equipment we buy including \$5 million for new school buses, police cars and other capital equipment purchases. We've done an internal audit of all the school and city buildings that the city owns. Again, we went with a private company to find enough energy savings to bond \$11 million in energy improvements. The bond payments are paid for with the energy savings not tax payer dollars. The windows that are replaced are made in Johnson City providing jobs for local people. This costs the taxpayers a big fat goose egg. Think what that could mean if the country did what we've done. That's the kinds of things mayors and city commissions can do working on a small level.

TT&C: That was a good record to run for Congress again?

PR: Last year, when I was looking at running my thinking was that if I could get a one-on-one race, I'd try again. The philosophy I took to government was very simple. It wasn't calculus, it wasn't algebra, and it wasn't rocket science. It was simply to spend less than you take in. Period. We've done that and we've been able to grow our city. I felt that Washington, D.C. could use some of Johnson City's experience.

Our city has a \$200,000 million budget. That's not a huge budget as municipal budgets go, but with the high-performance of leadership in our city departments and our city managers growing and thriving. Last year, we had the fastest job growth in the state. We are consistently listed by entrepreneur magazines as being one of the top 10 best places to start a business in America among metros under 200,000 in population. *Black Enterprise* magazine listed us as the eighth best place in America to retire even though only 6 percent of our citizens are African Americans. Among the attractive features it listed was health care. We rated 99 on that.

In the last three years we authorized investments, not all of which have been spent yet, of \$100 million for water and sewer infrastructure. How many cities have been able to do that? That's a lot of money for a city like Nashville. It's a whole lot of

money for a city the size of Johnson City. We hadn't built a road since 1999. We have \$22 million in four or five major road construction improvements that are going on or already completed. The engineering firm of Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. rated the nation's infrastructure as D-. Even before we invested the last \$60 million, they rated ours as a B+. I think they'll rate us as an A when we finish this \$100 million investment.

TT&C: Why, with all that municipal success, do you want to represent District 1 in Congress?

PR: I want to take the skills I've learned as a physician, a small business person, a veteran, and as a mayor to Washington to tackle some of the huge issues facing the nation. I want to go not as a career politician but as a citizen servant. I believe very strongly in term limits and a balanced budget. Every budget I've helped pass as a city commissioner has been balanced with a surplus and no property tax increase. Washington needs a dose of common sense.

TT&C: How did you ever beat an incumbent congressman?

PR: Beating a House incumbent is very hard – and rare – happening just four times in the whole United States this year. After deciding to run, I got some really good people to help me. I retired my medical practice on Feb. 1 and started working about 18 hours a day, seven days a week. I didn't campaign on Sundays but after church we'd have a planning session. I never had a time off until election day except for one week when I took off for a three-day weekend to go to San Antonio, Texas, to watch the Final Four. It was a great weekend. I was sitting across from the foul line seven rows up in the championship game when Mario Chalmers hit that last-second three-point jump shot that sent the game into overtime. He shot the ball right in front of me, literally.

TT&C: What was your daily campaign routine?

PR: We organized to go out to meet people one on one. We went to every county from Mountain City to Dollywood more than a dozen times. I went to Cocke County, for instance, 19 times. I met people and told them why I wanted each one to support me. I said that as a practicing physician I looked after my patients' interests and by sending me to Washington I would be able to look after their interests, not the special interests. I did not accept any PAC or special interest money during the campaign.

We put together a good core group of people in every single county. Those volunteers stepped up and made it possible. You wouldn't believe the numbers I heard during freshman orientation in Washington, of two, three, four million dollars spent on congressional campaigns. We spent just over \$500,000 in the primary and about \$40,000 in the general election. We did it on a shoestring comparatively speaking and it could not have been done without phenomenal volunteers. Almost 100 people are coming to Washington to see me get sworn in. That's how loyal those terrific people are. We got more than 25,000 votes, starting with a great base in Johnson City. We won huge victories in Washington, Carter, and Sullivan counties and also won Cocke County. In the counties I lost, I didn't lose by much.

TT&C: It's a pretty large district, about a dozen counties?

PR: The district stretches from Mountain City/Johnson County all the way to Dollywood/Sevierville, Sevier County. It's a big district covering all of Upper East Tennessee. We absolutely burned the roads up, putting 70,000 miles on my car and truck meeting people one at a time. It is also a very historic district. No other congressional district in America has had two American presidents elected from the same congressional district except this one. Andrew Jackson and Andrew Johnson represented District 1 in Congress before becoming president.

The election was also historical in that the last time a Tennessee incumbent congressman lost was a Democrat in 1966. The last time for a Republican incumbent was 1950 when a former congressman Carroll Reese returned to beat Dayton Phillips in the primary. Not since 1930 had anyone who had never been in Congress previously, like me, beat an incumbent. It's pretty unusual.



At a recent press conference, Mayor Roe (center) and City Manager Pete Peterson (far right) are joined by Jim Adams, president of Engegy Systems Group (ESG) to announce that the city of Johnson City has entered into a contract with ESG to compete energy conservations measures for 12 schools and 32 city buildings.