

Pedigo new TML president

Sparta's Mayor Tommy Pedigo was elected president of the Tennessee Municipal League during the annual conference in Chattanooga.

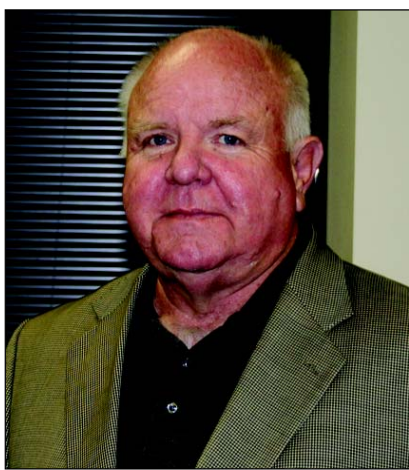
As president of the League, Pedigo will lead the organization as it determines and proposes legislation cities want passed into law. He also plays a major role in the National League of Cities, which represents municipalities with Congress and the federal administration.

"In our communities, all of us are asked to serve on numerous boards," said Pedigo. "But of all the boards you can get involved in, this is the one that can make the greatest difference."

Pedigo said one of his goals as president is to achieve 100 percent participation from TML's member cities.

Born and raised in Sparta, Pedigo was elected to the Sparta Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2000, and served two years as alderman.

Two years later, he was elected mayor. Since his election to the Sparta board, Pedigo has been involved in the Tennessee Municipal League, attended its functions, served on policy committees, and served two terms on the TML



Tommy Pedigo

Board. Most recently, he served as TML's District 4 Director and a member of the TML Executive Committee.

Other board elections include three vice presidents: Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, Morristown Vice Mayor Kay Senter, and Portland Mayor Ken Wilber. TML vice presidents are traditionally in line to serve as president.

The TML board also includes past TML presidents, mayors of Tennessee's largest cities, eight district directors, and six at-large directors. The chairmen of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund — offering low-interest loans for capital improvements — TML Risk Management Pool — providing affordable, dependable liability coverage to municipalities — and the Tennessee

See **BOARD** on Page 3

Farragut's Lou LaMarche receives spouse award



Lou LaMarche, husband of Dot LaMarche, vice mayor of Farragut, made history as the first male selected as the TML Spouse of the Year.

Lou LaMarche, husband of Farragut Vice Mayor Dot LaMarche, received the Tennessee Municipal League's "Stand by your Spouse" Award at TML's 70th annual conference in Chattanooga.

The award is given each year to the spouse of an elected official in recognition of the many sacrifices they give in the name of public service. This year marks the first year the award has been given to a husband of an elected official.

"The spouse of a city official is a sounding board and a constant supporter," said Tom Beehan, TML president and Oak Ridge mayor. "The spouse is called on to have a built-in sense of humor and source of patience, and to generously share the city official with the community, which often means taking time away from the family."

"I am very proud of him for his support and help to me," said Vice Mayor LaMarche.

In addition to the assistance that he provides to his wife, Lou serves on the Town of Farragut Board of Zoning Appeals — a five-member committee that primarily hears appeals to the zoning and sign ordinances with each member serving a five-year term. He previously had served six years on the Visual Resources Review Board that makes recommendations to the town staff after reviewing landscaping plans for commercial, office, and multi-

family developments and ground mounted sign applications.

Lou is a volunteer with the Farragut Folklife Museum as a docent and in the museum gift shop. He also serves as a volunteer with the Knox County Sheriff's office with the Senior Citizen Awareness Network Program.

He is a retired southeast regional sales manager and chemical engineer with 42 years experience in the paper industry. He retired as a colonel with the U.S. Army Reserves in 1988 with 31 years of service.

The LaMarches have lived in Farragut for 14 years. Dot LaMarche was elected as alderman of Ward II in April 2003. She was re-elected alderman for a second term in 2007 and was appointed vice mayor by the town board.

The two have been married for 48 years. They have three daughters: Michelle, who lives and works in Atlanta for The Conference Board as director, associate service for the southeastern United States; Therese, a benefits analyst for Cigna Insurance who resides in North Carolina with her husband, Lane, and two sons, Casey and Alex; and Denise, who is employed as the principal applications scientist for Roche Diagnostics and also lives in Atlanta with her husband, Brian, and three children Bennett, Katie and Matthew.

Locals can opt-out of new guns in municipal parks law

New law goes into effect Sept. 1, 2009

BY JOSH JONES
Legal Consultant

The recently passed Public Chapter No. 428 authorizes handgun carry permit holders to lawfully possess handguns in federal, state and local parks. Cities may exclude their parks by passing a resolution and other compliance procedures. This publication details the requirements of the new law and the process cities must undertake to prohibit handguns in parks they own or operate.

Residents who meet certain requirements can obtain a handgun carry permit under the provisions of T.C.A. § 39-17-1351. Tennessee law authorizes handgun carry permit holders to lawfully carry concealed fire arms in public, subject to statutory restrictions. One of those restrictions is found in T.C.A. § 39-17-1311(a), which makes it an of-

fense to: possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, with the intent to go armed, any weapon prohibited by § 39-17-1302(a), not used solely for instructional, display or sanctioned ceremonial purposes, in or on the grounds of any public park, playground, civic center or other building facility, area or property owned, used or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, for recreational purposes.

Public Chapter No. 428 exempts lawful carry permit holders from this prohibition under certain circumstances, allowing them to possess a handgun: while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof ...

The provisions allowing carry permit holders to possess handguns in municipal parks go into effect on Sept. 1, 2009.

Locally enacted prohibitions on possessing or carrying in non-recreational municipal property, such as city hall, still apply. Local governments have the ability to opt out of the new provisions and prohibit the possession of handguns while or within public parks owned or operated by the city. This can be accomplished through adoption of a resolution by the governing body. Adoption of the resolution requires a majority vote. In the case of parks jointly owned or operated by two or more municipalities or counties, every governing body must adopt a resolution to effect the prohibition.

In Section 2 of the new legislation, an adopting municipality may elect to prohibit carry permit holders from "possessing such handgun while or within or on a public park that is owned or operated by a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof."

This language mentions only public parks, leading a reader to believe that a local government may

See **GUNS** on Page 9

Crossville's Graham named top mayor

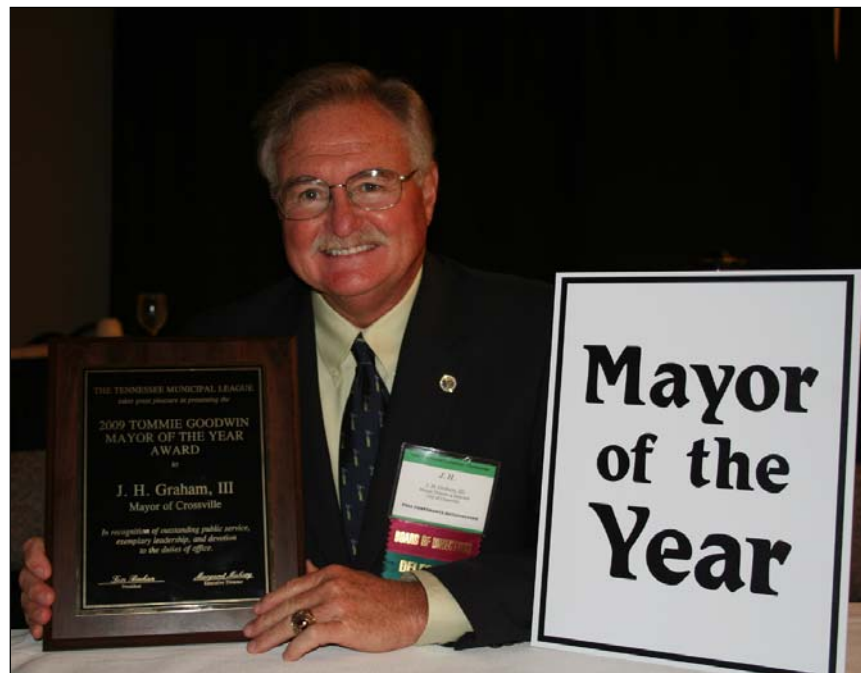
Crossville's Mayor J.H. Graham, III, was named the 2009 Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League at their annual conference recently held in Chattanooga.

Each year the League honors a city mayor that typifies the attributes of intelligence, effectiveness, hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. TML has honored a mayor annually since 1954.

Mayor Graham was recognized for the city's many significant accomplishments during this past year in the areas of recreation and leisure services; water and wastewater; energy conservation and the environment; and traffic mitigation and public safety.

During the past year, Crossville's Centennial Park was recognized as the Independent Softball Association's Complex of the Year, the first time that award has been given to a Tennessee ballpark. The award puts Crossville's ballpark in the company of some of the best parks in the country.

The city also announced that Carl T. Duer Soccer Complex, a \$4.5 million investment in the community is set to open this year. In addition to being a place for Crossville Recreational Youth Soccer Association to hold games and practices, the complex is expected to attract state and regional tournaments that will bring in families and players to stay in local hotels, eat in local restau-



Crossville Mayor J.H. Graham, III, was named the 2009 TML Mayor of the Year

rants, purchase fuel, and shop in local stores — all adding to the city's, as well as the state's, tax base.

Other recreational events that Mayor Graham tirelessly worked on include the Tennessee Senior Open Chess Tournament and the Tennessee Women's Open Golf Tournament.

Recent water and wastewater accomplishments include securing an \$800,000 grant to provide water to Cumberland Cove area residents; improvements to the Holiday Hills

dam, spillway and bridge; and increasing the capacity of the city's wastewater treatment plant. The Crossville Wastewater Treatment Plant has also been recognized for the fifth consecutive year with an Operational Excellence Award from the Kentucky Tennessee Water Environment Association and National Safety Council award for no lost time to accidents.

The city also plans to raise Meadow Park Lake dam in order to

See **GRAHAM** on Page 3

Haley named City Manager of the Year

In honor of his outstanding performance and 20 years of public service, Murfreesboro's City Manager Roger Haley was named Manager of the Year by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA).

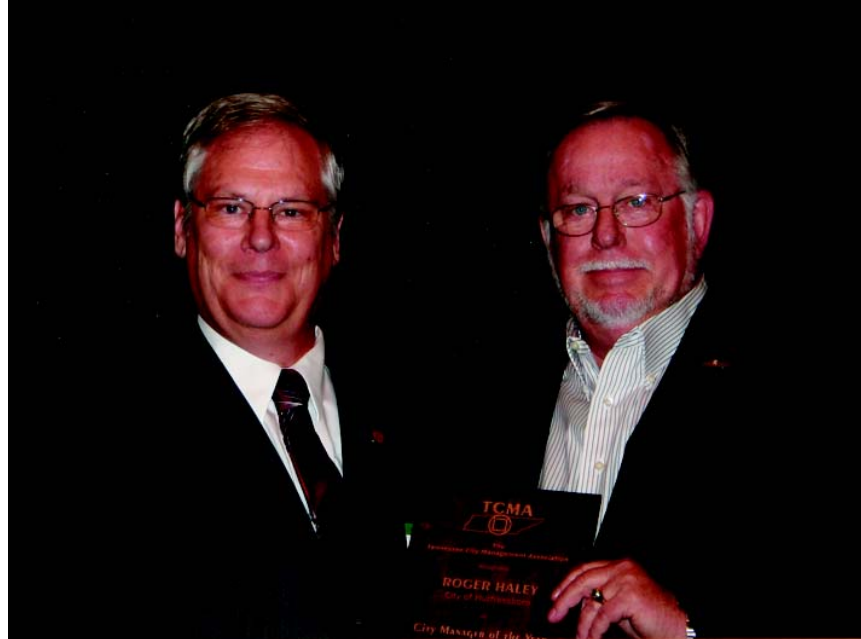
Haley was presented the award at the 70th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League held at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The award is presented by TCMA each year to acknowledge Tennessee managers, administrators, or assistants who have made exceptional contributions to their profession.

During Haley's tenure, the quality of life for Murfreesboro citizens has been greatly enhanced, services have been expanded and improved to meet the needs of a growing population, and all of this has been achieved with no increase in the city's property tax.

Since 1990, Murfreesboro has been one of the fastest growing communities in Tennessee, with a population increase from 44,000 to over 100,000. It is now the largest city in the State of Tennessee with the Council/Manager form of government.

Haley has been an instrumental part of the city's efforts to encour-



Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley (right) was named City Manager of the Year by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA). Incoming TCMA President Jody Baltz, Tullahoma city administrator, presented the award at TML's Annual Conference.

age, plan for and respond to this tremendous growth and development.

"Haley will be retiring in August 2009 and is leaving both his position and the Murfreesboro city government in top-notch shape," said Kevin Helms TCMA president. "He has served as an exemplary example of the best that our profession

has to offer."

With his ability to interact with and respond to the collective desires of the Murfreesboro City Council, coupled with his unique ability to motivate his workforce and to link their talents with the needs of the council, Roger Haley demonstrates what the Council/Manager government is all about.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

The Alcoa Electric Department won a third place nationwide award in its size category for working more than four years with only one lost time accident. Alcoa Electric Director Eddie Tramel presented the safety award from the American Public Power Association to Mike Taylor, lead line technician and a service crew leader, and Gene Branson, Alcoa associate engineer and chair of the City of Alcoa Safety Committee. APPA is the national service organization for more than 2,000 municipal electric systems which serve electricity to 45 million people.

CHATTANOOGA

The city’s urban forestry project, Take Root, recently won the prestigious 2009 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award in the Agriculture & Forestry category. This state-wide award recognizes voluntary actions taken by organizations and individuals to protect and improve Tennessee’s natural environment. Take Root is a community-driven tree planting project initiated in 2007 by members of Leadership Chattanooga. Working together with the City’s Urban Forestry Department, the Chattanooga Tree Commission, and several volunteers, the project continues to move toward its goal of doubling the tree canopy in downtown Chattanooga.

COLLIERVILLE

The town has deployed a new web based work management software to help improve customer service. The new system provides citizens with an easy 24 hour means for requesting service or reporting service related issues. Customers may report an issue or request service by phone or by visiting the town website. Both customers and staff can track the status of requests and the town administrator can monitor the status of the request, when it was fixed and how responsive the department was to the customer.

DYERSBURG

Firestone Industrial Products Company, LLC, announced the layoff of just over 10 percent of its employees at the organization’s Dyersburg facility. The Dyersburg and Williamsburg manufacturing plants each produce air springs and other products related to a variety of light-duty and heavy-duty vehicle suspension applications.

FRANKLIN

The city is providing citizens with a 24-hour online request system to make it easier for citizens to file a service request or a complaint. Citizens will be able to choose a department within the city, file a service request, and track the request as it moves through the system and the service is rendered. Citizens wanting to reach any city department or just wanting to get in touch with their local aldermen or mayor can use the new 24-hour online system. When using the system, a user is guided through a simple three-step process that identifies the problem, location of the problem, and the user’s contact information. If the

user chooses to be notified, e-mails will be automatically sent notifying them of the status of the problem or code enforcement violation as it moves toward resolution.

GERMANTOWN

The city has once again been awarded the highest possible bond rating, Triple A, by two major rating agencies. Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s awarded the ratings following a review and tour of Germantown in May. Moody’s has honored the city with the ranking since 1987. Germantown has received the ranking since 1994 from Standard & Poor’s. Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s Investor Services notes the city’s outstanding financial management, solid reserve levels and controlled-expenditure growth. Each also notes the significant steps the city took to balance this year’s budget in light of an ongoing recession. Other factors contributing to the high rating were: growth in the city’s wealthy tax base, a healthy financial position with diverse revenues and high levels of reserves, and manageable debt burden.

JACKSON

A new call center for Social Security beneficiaries will be based in Jackson and employ about 175 workers. The center will be the first new Social Security call center built in more than a decade. The facility is estimated to be opened in 18-24 months.

KINGSTON

TVA’s coal ash clean up in Kingston is sacrificing water quality for speed. It’s been six months since a failed holding pond released 5.4 million cubic yards of fly ash. Most slid into the Clinch and Emory rivers. TVA has already sped river dredging from removal of 1,000 to 4,000 cubic yards a day. Environmental officials are pushing for 15,000 yards. A TVA spokesperson says the faster tempo does increase the amount of ash that flows down stream, but major storms pose a bigger threat.

KNOXVILLE

The University of Tennessee will cut 500 positions statewide, including 200 vacant slots; raise tuition at the Knoxville campus by 9 percent; and eliminate more than a dozen positions in streamlining of the president’s top staff. At the annual meeting of UT’s board of trustees, Acting President Jan Simek said cuts are necessary to prepare for the end of federal stimulus funding in two years. The university had been preparing for a \$66 million, 13 percent reduction in state appropriations in 2010, but stimulus funding “moves the cliff a bit further away” and provides more time to plan cuts, Simek told trustees.

LAKEWOOD

The city has asked the Regional Transportation Authority to consider setting up a temporary train stop to gauge interest for commuter rail in the Lakewood and Old Hickory areas. Under the proposal, the Music City Star would stop in the Davidson County municipality for a two-week test. The owner of 4.5 acres next to Lakewood City Hall has agreed to allow the stop to be set up on that property. The tracks adjacent to the land connect in Hermitage with the line used by the Star between Lebanon and downtown Nashville. Both sets of tracks belong to the Nashville & Eastern Railroad

MEMPHIS

Memphis and Shelby County are receiving more than \$14.7 million in stimulus funding for the Tennessee Weatherization Assistance Program. The program was created in 1976 to help low-income families weatherize their homes. The state’s budget normally has been \$6 million-\$9 million, but ARRA funds have ballooned to \$99 million through next year. The \$14.7 million for Memphis and Shelby County is the highest total in the state, according to the Tennessee Department of Human Services, which is overseeing the program.

MEMPHIS

Memphis City Schools is offering the basics of computer repair this summer. The school district is paying students \$7.25 an hour to complete the 240-hour class, hoping to put them to work as PC troubleshooters in a district with 30,000 computers. The plan gives new meaning to the term “crash course.” For 115 students — mostly seniors — the deal was too sweet to pass up. They get an air-conditioned summer job that can continue when school starts and a chance to learn a skill they’re pretty sure they’ll use the rest of their lives.

NASHVILLE

Three health care centers that serve the area’s neediest patients regardless of income or insurance are expecting close to \$3 million in stimulus funds in early July to pay for new equipment and additional clinic space. The budgets at the federally qualified centers call for the renovation of at least four clinics, the acquisition of property for a new women’s health program, upgraded computer software and equipment for dentistry, ophthalmology and prenatal care.

PALMER

The city will get \$85,000 of stimulus money in the form of a loan/grant package for its emergency responder projects. The money — sliced from a total pie of \$4.4 million for the state — will help buy a new firetruck for the town’s volunteer fire department. In previous improvements, officials used grant money for a new fire hall and tanker truck, converting the old fire hall into a community building.

SMYRNA

Nissan Motor Co. plans to create 1,300 jobs in Smyrna when it begins manufacturing its new zero-emission car. The Japanese automaker, whose North American headquarters are in Franklin, says it will roll out the first electric car in Japan on Aug. 2 and begin selling the vehicles next year. Plans to mass produce the car will begin in 2012. The plant’s output will be around 100,000 cars per year but will rise to 150,000 when at full production. The all-electric car will be able to drive 100 miles solely off of a battery.

SPRING CITY

A final contract was signed this month to pave the way for a \$2.4 million road that will connect an industrial park in Spring City with State Highway 68. The new General Shale brick plant spurred the state to fund the road project, but officials said the new one-mile stretch will also offer access to other vacant industrial tracts. The road should prime Spring City for industrial growth, according to the Rhea Economic Development Authority. The new road will largely be funded by state grants with construction likely starting in 2011, but the signed contract should shield the project from economic setbacks. The brick plant will anchor the new industrial park on the northern edge of Spring City. It will be accessible by U.S. Highway 27 until the new industrial access road is complete.

Franklin uses electric car for parking enforcement



Franklin’s efforts to “go green” and save the green includes the purchase of an electric car to enforce parking within the historic downtown area and parking garages.

Many citizens and tourists have given the car a double take as it passes by and wonder what type of car is that? It is the Franklin Police Department’s new electric car. As part of the City of Franklin’s efforts to “go green” and save the green, the city purchased the vehicle to enforce parking within the historic downtown area and parking garages.

The city’s Municipal Services Action Plan on Alternative Fuel and Energy focuses on adding a variety of alternative fuel vehicles within the city’s fleet for both fuel efficiency and emissions reduction. Franklin’s Sustainability Task force that includes initiatives for the entire community has chosen to replace five percent of the vehicles registered in the city of Franklin with vehicles that use alternative energy sources by 2012.

“It’s our goal to be one of the top 25 sustainable cities in the country,” said Alderman Ken Moore. “The city’s Sustainability Task

Force, made up of citizens and city staff, has been working hard all year to create an action plan and begin this process. This car symbolizes one of the first of many steps in achieving our goal and leading by example to the rest of our community.”

“I’m proud to say our city staff is working to live green and work green,” said Franklin City Administrator Eric Stuckey. “In our budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 every department laid out sustainability goals and we are well on our way to being a leading city in sustainability in the Southeast. We’ll soon have a full time position focused on sustainability for both our city departments and Franklin as a whole.”

Parking enforcement officer Russell Morris says his new car definitely gets attention. “People point and look whenever I drive by; sometimes tourists stop taking a photo of the sites and take a picture of my car. It’s been a really good reaction, and it rides well too!”



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Chattanooga Mayor **Ron Littlefield** has been chosen to serve on the advisory board of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). The Advisory Board consists of mayors who are members of the Conference of Mayors who have been active in the organization in advocating policy on Capitol Hill and to the Administration. The Advisory Board also represents the nation in diversity.



Littlefield

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Amy V. Hollars of Livingston has been appointed to the Tennessee Circuit Court for the Thirteenth



Hollars

Judicial District. Hollars will fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John A. Turnbull. She previously served as a solo practitioner in Overton County as well as attorney for the city of Livingston. The Thir-

teenth Judicial District is composed of Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam and White Counties.

Chattanooga City Engineer **Bill Payne** has been selected by The Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) as the state’s 2009 Outstanding Engineer of the Year. Payne has been instrumental in coordinating and overseeing work at the Enterprise South site for the new Volkswagen facility.

Out of about 13,000 entries, four Tennessee residents, **Craig Gardner**, Parrottsville; **Charles Ray Flynn**, Rockford; **Ronald L. Woodard**, Oak Ridge; and **Jeffrey L. Moses**, Cleveland won the right to take part in the state’s first ever managed elk hunt in October. The names were chosen in a computer drawing and were announced by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The hunt, which will be at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, will be the first after years of working to re-introduce elk into the area.



NATIONAL BRIEFS

Health care costs for the nation’s employers are expected to grow by 9 percent next year, according to the first reported projections of medical cost trends for 2010. The 9 percent projected cost increase is slightly lower than the 9.2 percent increase in 2009 and 9.9 percent increase in 2008, according to

Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Despite the slowdown, medical cost increases continue to outpace inflation and wage increases. One of the reasons medical costs continue to climb is that American workers are accelerating use of health care services in anticipation of losing their jobs and, potentially, their health insurance.

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TML elects 2009 board members

BOARD *from Page 1*
Municipal Bond Fund — offering low-interest loans for capital improvements — also sit on the board.

The eight district directors, representing their section of the state, were nominated and elected during district caucuses. They are: District 1: Randy Trivette, Erwin city recorder; District 2: Cindy Cameron Ogle, Gatlinburg city manager; District 3: Chris Dorsey, Red Bank city manager; District 4: J.H. Graham, III, Crossville mayor; District 5: Angie Carrier, White House city administrator; District 6: Betsy Crossley, Brentwood mayor; District 7: Allen Barker, Humboldt mayor; and District 8: Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor.

The eight at-large directors were nominated by an eight-member nominating committee composed of municipal officials statewide. They were then elected for a one-year term by a majority vote of the entire membership. Those directors are: David Edwards, Murfreesboro council; David Gordon, Covington mayor; Curtis Hayes, Livingston mayor; Richard Hodges, Millington mayor; Dot LaMarche, Farragut vice mayor; David May, Cleveland council; Bo Perkinson, Athens vice mayor; and John Piper, Clarksville mayor.

Graham named mayor of the year

GRAHAM *from Page 1*
enlarge the reservoir lake to increase drinking water capacity. That project is in final planning stages to move forward soon. Construction of a new sewer line out Highway 127 S to Cumberland Mountain State Park is also ready to start.

To promote energy conservation, Mayor Graham spearheaded the Crossville Energy and Sustainability Initiative which resulted in a sustainable energy strategy for the city of Crossville. Key goals identified in the report include: greening the city's vehicle fleets with hybrid and other cleaner cars; modernizing city buildings with money-saving energy-efficiency technology; and investing in clean and safe renewable energy. Mayor Graham was also appointed secretary of the newly founded Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council. The goal of the council is to promote the development of renewable energy and connect new technology in energy with sustainable rural economic development opportunities in Tennessee. During the past year, Mayor Graham also took the lead on energy forums for the business community and a sustainability fair for 5th graders in Cumberland County.

In the area of public safety, the Crossville Police Department won the championship trophy on highway safety and the department came in second place in the division for police departments their size between 26 and 50 officers from the annual Governor's Highway Safety competition. In addition to the recognition and awards, the police department won \$10,000 in equipment including an in-car video camera and an in-car radar unit. The Mayor and the City Council also started seeking \$3.2 million funding for the construction of a new fire hall for the Crossville Fire Department.

Road improvements completed over the past year include widening of East First Street to Peavine Road and the improvements at Genesis Road and Cook Road at Stone Memorial High School and Roane State. New traffic signals have been installed at North Main Street and Interstate and Northside Drives, Miller Avenue and Livingston Road and Miller Avenue at Tenth Street. The City also started the work of installing new traffic signals for the I-40 exits at Genesis Road.

"This has been a great year for the city of Crossville due in large part to the tenacity exhibited by Mayor Graham," said TML President Tom Beehan. "In recognition of his strong leadership, he is being recognized by TML as the 2009 Mayor of the Year."

Germantown honored with TCMA Excellence Award

Germantown's "smart growth" principles in the redevelopment of their business district and "managed competition" strategy, encouraging cost effective delivery of services, has improved the quality of life in the community and is being recognized by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) with an award for Excellence in Municipal Government.

The award is presented by TCMA each year to a city that operates with professional management and has increased the effectiveness of local government through the development of unique and creative programs.

In Germantown's commercial area, a 20 year "smart growth" strategy was formulated using a public/private partnership model that will encourage redevelopment based on public input, balanced development that is sensitive to the environment, and a balanced mix of land uses.

The "managed competition" strategy, which has been used in a number of larger cities, has been adopted in Germantown, a community of 41,000, to identify potential efficiencies and cost savings in providing services. Alternative approaches to traditional service delivery include privatization, partnerships with other agencies, and reengineering of internal service delivery systems.

"The able leadership of Germantown's City Administrator, Patrick Lawton, and other professional staff, combined with a progressive City Council, has provided the teamwork necessary to implement these innovative and far-reaching programs," said Kevin Helms, TCMA president.



Germantown's City Administrator Patrick Lawton (left) receives the TCMA Award of Excellence in Municipal Government from TCMA President Kevin Helms, Oak Hill city manager.

Germantown's willingness to incorporate innovative plans for future growth and services serves as a model of progressiveness for cities across the state.

The Tennessee City Management

Association is an organization of administrators and managers dedicated to professionalism in the management of local government in Tennessee. Its membership is 120 members strong.

Columbia Public Works employee Clifford Jones receives 2009 Murphy Snoderly Award

Recognized for his dedication to his department, community and its citizens, Clifford Jones with the Columbia Public Works Department has been awarded the Murphy Snoderly Award by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association (TCAPWA). He was presented the award at TML's Annual Conference in Chattanooga.

Jones was praised for his outstanding performance during his five years of service in the sanitation division of the Public Works Department with the city of Columbia. He was described as a conscientious employee that is well organized, with a caring, positive attitude.

"Clifford works with our special needs program assisting individuals with walking impairments collect their trash and other refuse," said Ken Donaldson, Columbia Public Works director. "He has excelled with his route and has always drawn numerous favorable comments from citizens." "It is an honor to be Mr. Jones' supervisor," added Toyal Crawford, of the Columbia Public Works Sanitation Department.

During the years, Jones has become more than just the guy that pulls trash to the curb for many residents. And, for one elderly citizen, Jones is a hero. While making a routine stop at the home of Ms. Esther Sanford, Sanford came out to greet Jones as usual, but something wasn't right. Sanford told Jones that she didn't feel well. Jones encouraged her to get rest and medical attention before leaving to complete his route. While completing his rounds, Jones became increasingly concerned about Ms. Sanford. He returned to check on Sanford, whom he found unconscious on the floor of her home. Jones immediately called 911 and began CPR until medical help could arrive. At the hospital, it was determined that Sanford had slipped into a diabetic coma and could have died had Jones not found her.

"I'm so thankful he came back because I don't know how long I could have stayed there," Sanford said.

"What Mr. Jones did is tremendous," said Donaldson. "We are all very proud of him."



Clifford Jones, Columbia Public Works employee, left, is presented the 2009 Murphy Snoderly Award from Columbia Mayor Bill Gentner.

Columbia Mayor Bill Gentner proclaimed October 2, 2008 "Clifford James Jones Day." Jones was later recognized by the city council for his heroic act.

"I saved her life and I feel real good about it," he said. "It's like hitting the lottery."

The award is named for the late Murphy Snoderly, a longtime engineering and public works consultant for the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service. TCAPWA established the award in 1972 as a means of sharing his appreciation for the dedicated efforts given by the many long time public works employees. The recipient is selected from a slate of statewide candidates and is considered the state's most outstanding non-administrative public works employee.

Currently there are more than 200 public

works and related departments across the state that employee an estimated 5000+ workers.

TCAPWA has more than 400 members from cities and counties across the state. A major goal of TCAPWA is to promote the public works profession and aide in helping every public works department across the state by providing a network through which its members can contact other members to discuss and strategize how to manage various public works issues, concerns and projects.


Since its establishment in 1954, the state chapter has provided various educational opportunities as a means of allowing public works leaders and employees to stay aware of methods and technologies that can be used to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in public works operations.



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TML celebrates 70th Anniversary at Annual Conference



U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp discusses the success of the Tennessee Valley Corridor.



U.S. Congressman Jimmy Duncan and incoming TML President Tommy Pedigo, mayor of Sparta.



The Chattanooga Fire Department posts the colors during the opening session.



Kingston City Councilmember Teresa Ferguson and Livingston Mayor Curtis Hayes



Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland, Alamo Mayor Tommy Green, Murfreesboro Councilmen David Edwards and Doug Young, and Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk



Lesa Baltz and Jody Baltz, Tullahoma city manager

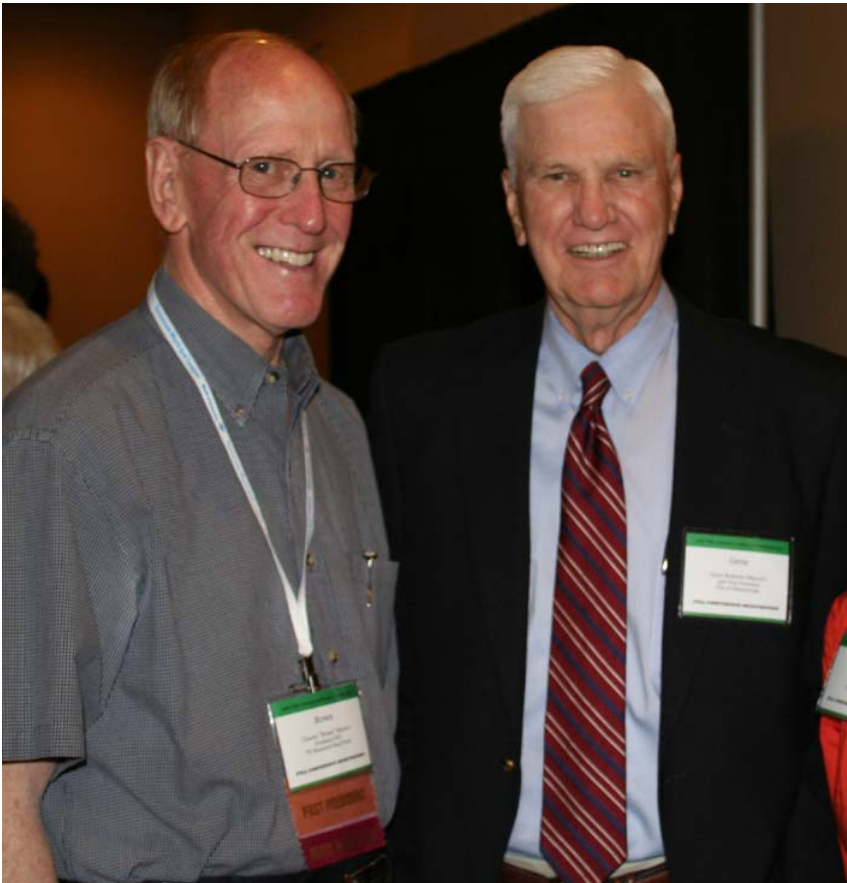


Past recipients of TML's Spouse of the Year Award joined the League's first male, Lou LaMarche (Dot), to receive the honor. Pictured are Carol Kirk (Bob), Bettye Seivers (Bones), Sandra Rowland (Tom), Carol Green (Tommy), Virginia Harvell (George), and Gale Tharpe (Sam).

At left, Oak Ridge City Manager Jim O'Connor and Kingston Mayor Troy Beets.



TML past presidents returned to celebrate TML's 70th Anniversary. Pictured are:Don Trotter, former Clarksville mayor (1994); Charles Farmer, former Jackson mayor (1995); and George Harvell, former Millington mayor (1998).



Charles "Bones" Seivers, TMBF CEO, and Gene Roberts, former Chattanooga mayor and TML past president (1987)



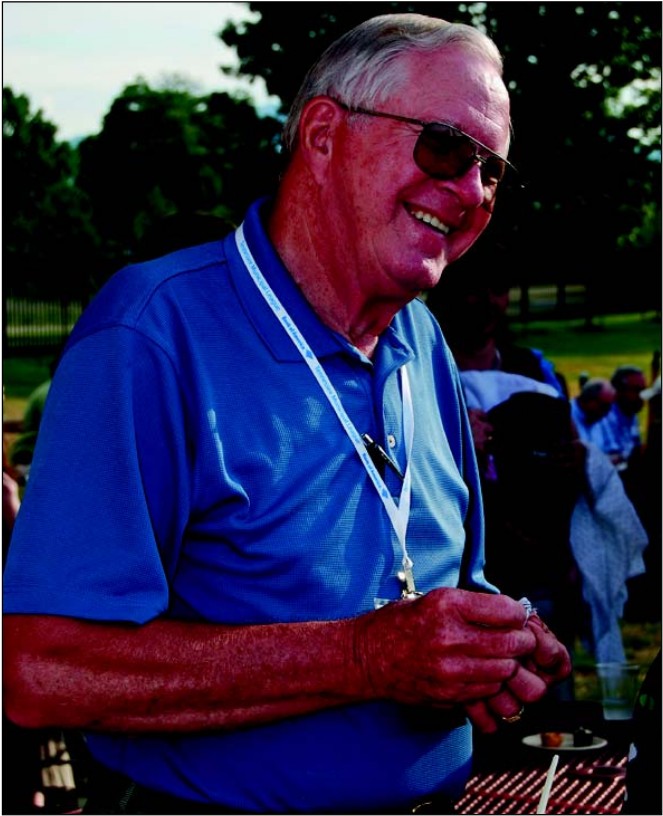
Board members were on hand to cut TML's 70th anniversary cake.



The Capitol Steps entertained with nonpartisan satire.



The "USA Green Lady" provided timely information on going green and saving green.



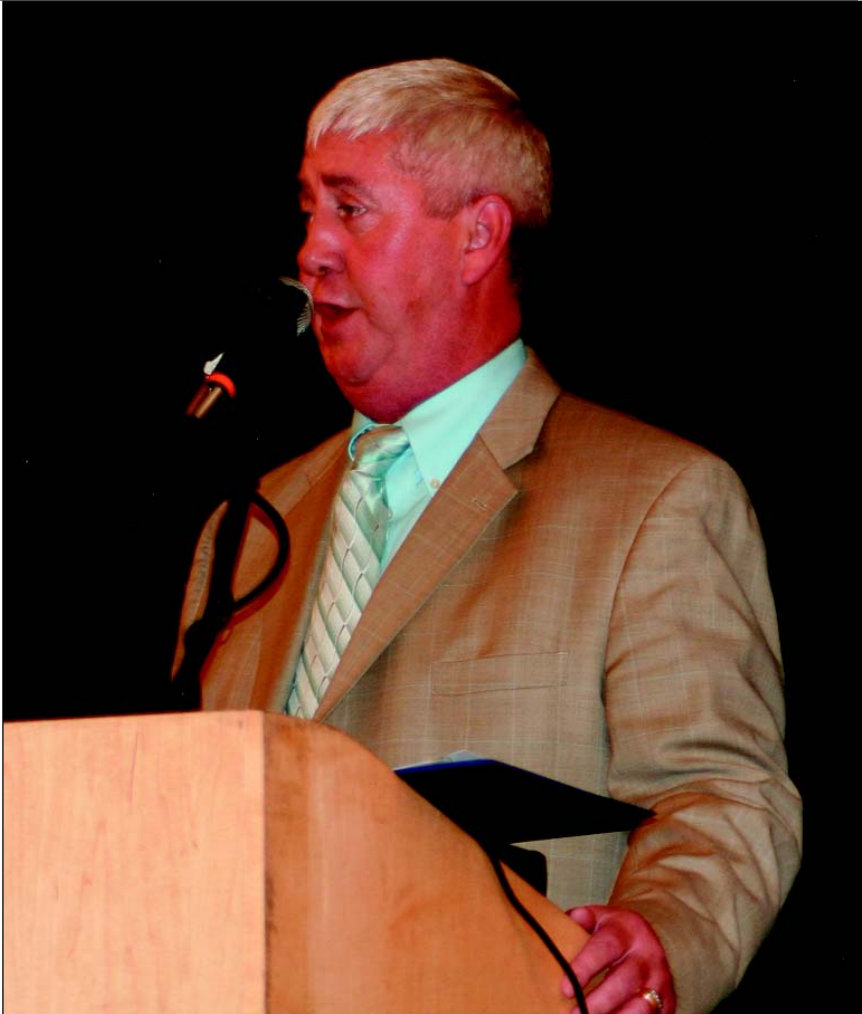
Shelbyville Mayor Wallace Cartwright enjoys a fun evening at the Chattanooga Zoo.



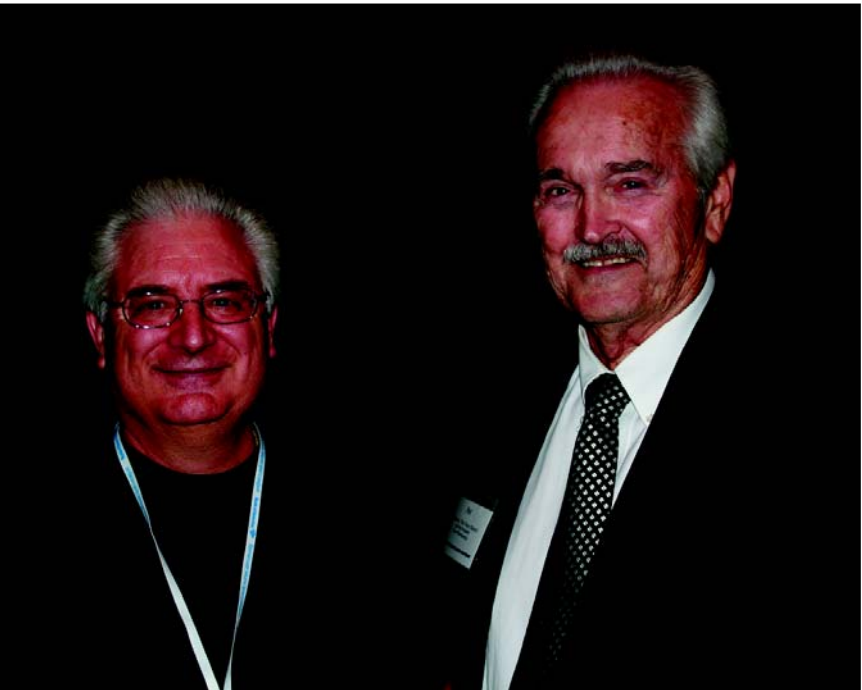
Andrea McCary, Chattanooga council member, visits with guests at the zoo.



Anita Ebersole and Richard Beeland with the Chattanooga Mayor's Office help greet guests at the host city reception.



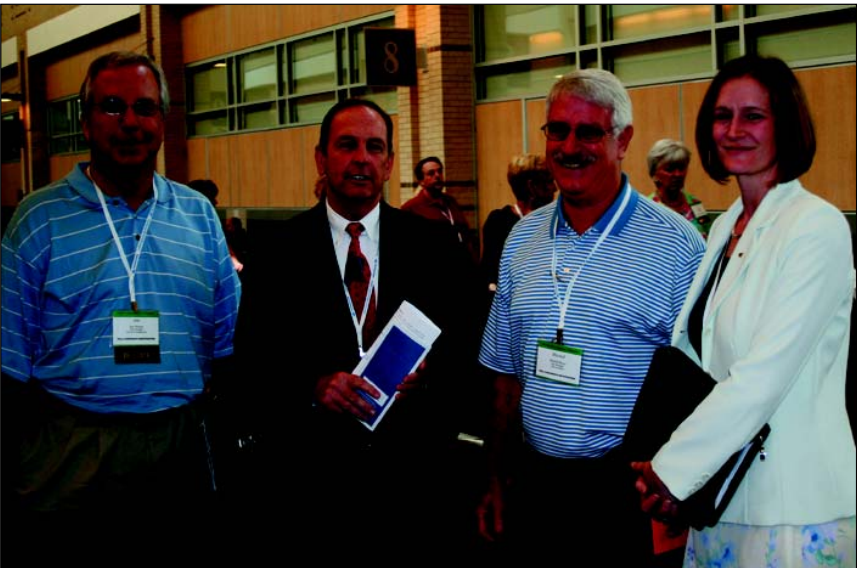
State Rep. Vince Dean performs the National Anthem.



Lee Holland, TML Risk Management Pool president, visits with Pat Rose, former Chattanooga mayor and TML past president (1978.)



Covington delegates enjoy time at the Pool party. Pictured are Marie and Ed Timberland and Mayor David Gordon and his wife Ruth.



Networking with fellow city managers are Goodlettsville City Manager Jim Thomas, Bristol City Manager Jeff Broughton, Athens City Manager Mitchell Moore, and MTAS Consultant Margaret Norris.



Millington Fire Chief Charles Carter and Linda Carter

At left , Jeff Sikes, with Thompson Engineering, and Sevierville Alderman Barry Gibbs visit during the reception at the Chattanooga Zoo.

TML salutes 2009 Achievement Award recipients



Alexandria: Small City Progress



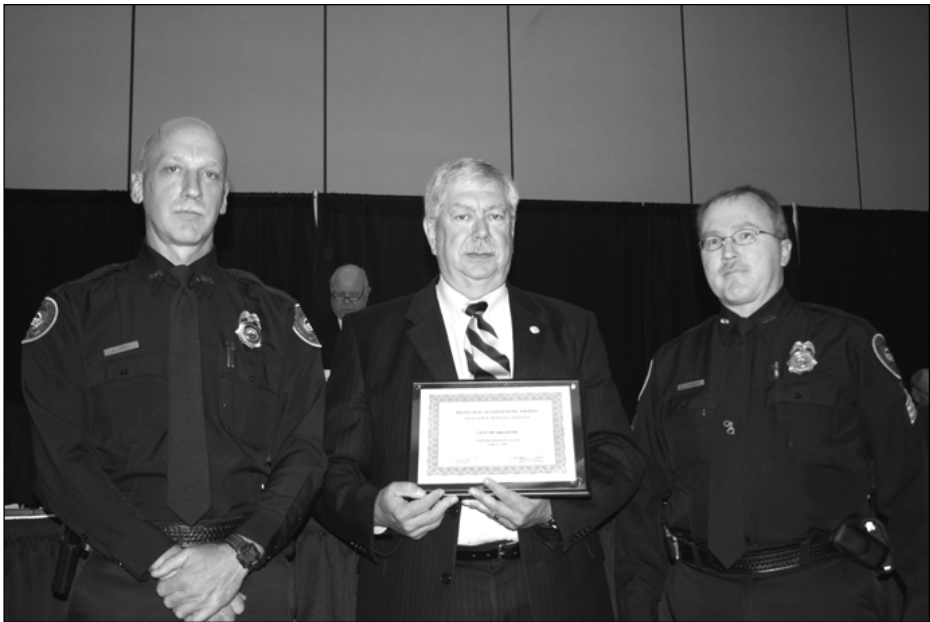
Chattanooga: Excellence in Human Resource Programs



Dyersburg: Excellence in Quality of Life Initiatives



Erwin: Excellence in Governance



Gallatin: Excellence in Police Services



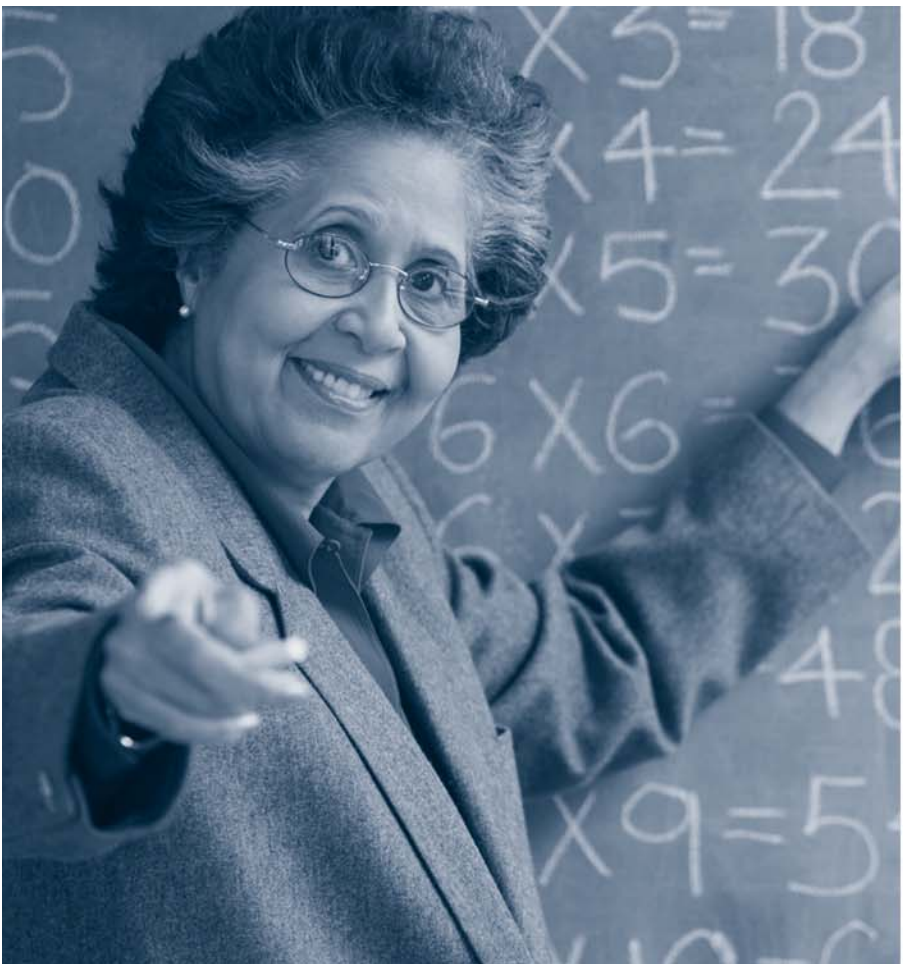
Kingsport: Excellence in Community Progress



Knoxville: Excellence in Green Leadership



Sparta: Excellence in Public Works



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The value of volunteer firefighters

BY RAY CROUCH
MTAS Fire Consultant

With the slow economy and falling revenues in most cities and towns in Tennessee, every department head has been asked to save money.

Even public safety agencies like fire and police departments are being asked to cut back.

When you look at the budgets of most fire and police departments, salaries make up 85 percent to 95 percent of the total budget. It is during just such times that we must fully appreciate the value of our volunteer and reserve firefighters.

As elected officials and decision makers, we need to both value our volunteers and know their value to us. Independent Sector*1 says the dollar value of volunteer time for 2008 is estimated to be \$20.25 per hour. The annual value of volunteer time has increased dramatically over time as the chart illustrates.

For the purpose of illustration, if your fire department responds to 500 calls a year, averages 10 responders per call, and each call averages one hour in length, there is a direct value of over \$100,000 per year. This does not take into account the training and readiness time that each volunteer gives to the successful operation of the fire

department. While \$100,000 may sound like a lot, it in no way reflects the true cost of staffing 10 members 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, which would be millions, but is not justifiable for a department only answering 500 calls a year.

Another benefit of knowing the value of a volunteer hour is in billing for services. While this may seem to be against some of the principles of being a volunteer organization, billing for services is a reality. For example, any large gathering usually has police, fire and EMS coverage. The event host always has to pay for police coverage, usually has to pay for EMS but rarely pays for the volunteer fire coverage. This is a shame as the event could not occur without proper coverage, yet fire departments are getting the short end. Charging for volunteer hours is only one part of the cost, but if you provided five firefighters for a 10 hour event, it is reasonable to charge the event host \$1,000 which I am sure your department could use.

People value what they pay for and ignore what they get for free. Volunteer departments need to know what their value is, and communicate it to the communities they serve. Some communities do not have an idea of what your value is, but now you have a place to start. So

Dollar Value of a Volunteer Hour

1980: \$7.46	1995: \$13.05
1981: \$8.12	1996: \$13.47
1982: \$8.60	1997: \$13.99
1983: \$8.98	1998: \$14.56
1984: \$9.32	1999: \$15.09
1985: \$9.60	2000: \$15.68
1986: \$9.81	2001: \$16.27
1987: \$10.06	2002: \$16.74
1988: \$10.39	2003: \$17.19
1989: \$10.82	2004: \$17.55
1990: \$11.41	2005: \$18.04
1991: \$11.76	2006: \$18.77
1992: \$12.05	2007: \$19.51
1993: \$12.35	2008: \$20.25
1994: \$12.68	

the next time they try to cut what little they are giving you now, ask for your \$20.25 per hour, per person, per call.

**1Independent Sector is the leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America and around the world. Our nonpartisan coalition of approximately 600 organizations leads, strengthens, and mobilizes the charitable community in order to fulfill our vision of a just and inclusive society and a healthy democracy of active citizens, effective institutions, and vibrant communities.*

TDOT grants awarded to 21 airports

Aeronautics Grants totaling \$15.7 million have been approved for 21 Tennessee airports and the Civil Air Patrol.

“Our local airports are vital to the economy and travel system of Tennessee,” said Bredesen. “Investing in our airports helps keep them competitive and efficient at meeting the needs of businesses and travelers. I’m pleased to support their continued improvement.”

Airports receiving grants:

- Centerville Municipal Airport,
- Cleveland Municipal Airport,
- Covington Municipal Airport
- Crossville Memorial Airport,
- Dickson County Municipal Airport,
- Downtown Island Airport in Knoxville,
- Fayetteville Municipal Airport in Lincoln County,
- Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport,
- Greeneville/Greene County Municipal Airport
- Houston County Airport,
- Lawrenceburg/Lawrence County Airport
- McMinn County Airport,
- Memphis International Airport,
- Millington Jetport,

- Moore-Murrell Field,
- Outlaw Field in Montgomery County,
- Smyrna Airport,
- Sumner County Regional Airport,
- Tri-Cities Regional Airport,
- Winchester Airport, and
- William L. Whitehurst Field in Hardeman County.

For more information on each of these grant awards: www.tn.gov/tdot or <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/taxonomy/term/39>

The grants are made available through the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Aeronautics Division.

“This division administers federal and state funding to assist in the location, design, construction and maintenance of Tennessee’s diverse public aviation system,” reported TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. “We are pleased to continue to support Tennessee’s general aviation and commercial airports.”

Except for routine expenditures, grant applications are reviewed by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission (TAC), which is a five member board charged with policy planning and with regulating



changes in the state airport system plan.

TAC Chair Larry Mullins explained, “Our board examines the applications carefully to ensure that the proper state and local matching funds are in place and that the grants will be put to good use.”

The TDOT Aeronautics Division has the responsibility of inspecting and licensing the state’s 126 heliports and 75 public/general aviation airports. The Division also provides aircraft and related services for state government and staffing for the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.

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July 4: Kingston’s 4th of July Celebration

A Kingston family tradition with a parade, drag boat & raft races, children’s activities, classic car shows, vendors, Miss Firecracker Pageant and culminates with “Smokin on the Water” fireworks show by the waterfront. For more information, contact Debbie Russell at 885-376-1357 or visit the Kingston city website at www.kingstontn.org.

July 4: Franklin on the Fourth

Held for the 13th year in Historic Downtown Franklin. Two stages, kid’s area, food court, crafters and more. For more information call, 615-429-3118.

July 4-5: Old fashioned 4th of July Etowah.

Food and craft vendors with games and rides for the kids, music and entertainment all day long! For more information, call 423-263-0019.

July 10 -July 12: Uncle Dave Macon Days

Murfreesboro. Experience old time music and dance competitions, national championships buck dance, clogging, and old time banjo pickin’. For more information, call 615-893-4953.

July 10-18: Fun Fest

Kingsport. Multiple family activities including sports, kids’ events, major artist concerts and hot air balloon rally. For more information, call 423-392-8806.

July 12: Half Moon Festival

Ten Mile, Tenn. Experience a sun-filled day on the shores of Watts Bar Lake. Pull up a lawn chair or pull in a party barge for a toe-tapping afternoon. The festival is a yearly showcase of the area’s best talent featuring the East Tennessee Concert Band, chosen to perform in New York’s Carnegie Hall, bluegrass, jazz, gospel, and classical formats. If arriving by boat, we are located in Blue Springs Cove (across from Mile Marker 545.3 and close to Blue Springs Marina). If by car, the site is 118 Christley Lane off of River Road in Roane County. For more information contact Dr. Wayne Tipps at 865-717-0584 or visit the web site www.halfmoonfest.com.

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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee will receive \$53 million in new stimulus money designed to ensure that thousands of affordable rental housing units are built across the state. The Tennessee Housing Development Agency will use the money from the U.S. Treasury to help developers that have been awarded tax credits to develop and complete projects.

Tennessee could create some 39,000 jobs and bring in \$3 billion in investment revenue as the result of a \$150 billion investment in a clean energy economy, according to two recently released reports. Many of the new jobs would also help lift low-income, low-education families out of poverty. The reports were prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; the Center for American Progress; Green For All; and the Natural Resources Defense Council. They are being presented to urge legislators to support clean energy investment. UMass researchers say the impact of an \$815 million investment in Middle Tennessee would include more than 10,000 new jobs, half of them employing workers with a high school degree or less, and a 1.3 percent reduction in unemployment.

A new education study reinforces the notion that Tennessee’s standardized tests aren’t tough enough. The Center for Education Policy analyzed test scores from all fifty states. It found that Tennessee students improved at a similar rate to their peers across the nation. But the number of Tennessee students categorized as performing at a high level has grown at a disproportionate rate. The state is putting new, more stringent standards into effect starting this fall. The Tennessee Diploma Project includes redesigned tests and changes graduation requirements to include more math and science.

A new federal government report shows Tennessee had the country’s highest rate of people with a major depressive episode in the past year. The report listed 9.8 percent of Tennesseans age 18 and older had such an occurrence. Hawaii had the lowest, 5.0 percent. The report was developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration based on 2006 and 2007 surveys on drug use and health. The agency is within the Department of Health and Human Services. Tennessee also ranked high in some other categories, including tobacco use and use of illicit drugs other than marijuana.

Tennessee was named the second most-improved state for the adoption of e-prescribing at the fourth annual Surescripts Safe-Rx Awards in Washington D.C. Gov. Phil Bredesen, co-chairman of the State Alliance for e-Health, hosted the ceremony. E-prescribing is the use of secure health care information technology when filling and re-filling prescriptions to improve accuracy, increase patient safety and reduce costs.

Tennessee remains one of the deadliest states for teen drivers despite an eight-year-old law that limits when they can drive and with how many passengers. A study of teen fatality rates by the insurance company Allstate showed that Tennessee ranked sixth in the nation for driving deaths and the Nashville region fourth among 50 metropolitan areas in the study. The study didn’t provide rankings over time. State figures on teen driving fatalities show broad fluctuations since 2000 with no trends up or down. The deadliest year this decade was 2002 — 106 deaths one year after the legislature passed the graduated driver’s license law.

With more than 7,000 foster children in state custody, the state has recognized the difficulties facing the foster care youths who reach adulthood. On June 11, Gov. Bredesen signed a bill that established a post-custody services advisory council to make recommendations for continued support. It also requires that information on resource centers be given to foster children before their 18th birthday. People entering adulthood from foster care can access state transitional

services as long as they are in school, according to the Department of Children’s Services. The state already has requirements for youths participating in an independent living program. However, an audit report found that from a random sample of 25 files of youths transitioning out, 20 of them had not met requirements. “The issue of aging out of custody is that a majority of 18-year-olds have not graduated from high school,” said Linda O’Neal, executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. “The Department of Children’s Services can’t help them alone. The community needs to step in. They need caring adult, mentors.”

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency’s new report shows significant change would be in store for the state and its residents — the people, plants and wildlife — with global warming. The report was issued as Congress debates climate change legislation that could provide funds for wildlife agencies to address potential impacts. Among drastic changes the report states the mean temperature could increase 5 degrees over most of the state in the next 50 years, the average rainfall could drop by 2 inches in West Tennessee, and about an inch in the Nashville area. The Cumberland Plateau’s towering Eastern hemlocks species could collapse under an ongoing pest infestation siege and insect-eating Indiana bats could abandon the state’s caves.

The state’s \$21.4 million indigent defense fund ran dry in May, leaving court-appointed attorneys who represent criminal defendants waiting for reimbursement until the new budget year starts next month. An Administrative Office of the Courts spokesperson said that attorneys will be paid for claims they have filed, but not until July when a new fiscal year begins.

For the first time, spending on scholarships and the state’s pre-K program outpaced profits raised through the Tennessee Education Lottery, the first time in the lottery’s five years of existence that it is not projecting growth. According to lottery spokespersons, officials plan to dip into lottery re-

serve funds — using about \$10 million — to pay for the HOPE scholarships already promised for this year. The lottery has traditionally been a cash cow for education and it still generated more than \$200 million over the first three quarters of the fiscal year. But last year the legislature made it easier to continue to receive a HOPE scholarship by lowering the grades required to keep the scholarship once in college.

State legislators have passed a \$120 million economic development incentive to provide capital to small businesses, including one that could lead to 2,000 jobs in Rutherford County. The law, sponsored by Sen. Bill Ketron, and Sen. Doug Overbey creates the TNINVESTCO Program to provide benefits to small, medium-sized and start-up businesses that do not enjoy the same economic development incentives that have been provided to the larger companies that invest capital in Tennessee.

Tennessee’s unemployment rate for May was 10.7 percent, up 0.8 percentage points from a revised April rate of 9.9 percent, and the highest it’s been since November 1983. Nationally, unemployment was 9.4 percent in May, up from 8.9 percent in April. The state’s unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in April 2008. Labor Commissioner James Neeley attributes the state’s outpacing national unemployment to heavy job losses in the manufacturing and construction sectors, which make up only 16 percent of Tennessee’s economy, but have sustained more than half the total job losses in the past year.

Alcohol abuse is a growing problem on Tennessee’s rivers and lakes, according to The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency as arrests for boating under the influence continue to climb. In 2007, 126 people were arrested in Tennessee for the offense. A year later, that number climbed to 152. Wildlife agents say Tennessee’s boating laws don’t have enough bite, despite a stronger focus on enforcement. Unlike a first-time DUI conviction which means an automatic 48-hour jail stay for the offender, a BUI conviction minimum sentence is left to the judge’s discretion. Also, re-



With more than 7,000 foster children in state custody, the state has recognized the difficulties facing youths aging out of foster care. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth extolls the need for caring adult mentors. In a 2008 photo, Metro Nashville Police Officer Ryan Matson serves as a mentor to 13-year-old James, a foster child.

peated DUI convictions can lead to a felony charge, but with a BUI, the charge always results in a misdemeanor. In cases where BUI leads to a fatality, it is up to the district attorney to determine charges, which can range from reckless endangerment to manslaughter and even second-degree murder. According to state law, a boater cannot be charged with vehicular homicide by intoxication, like someone in a DUI case would, because the law states that a vehicular homicide has to occur on a public roadway.

Welfare rolls have increased about 12 percent over last year in Tennessee, but the number of people using food stamps has jumped 22 percent from May of 2008. The increasing unemploy-

ment figures are to blame for the rise in individuals seeking welfare and the now half-a-million families using food stamps. Eligibility requirements are also lower for food stamps, which is why so many more families may be using them. Nearly 60,000 families are on the welfare program, Families First. While the number is rising, families continually drop off the program because of its five-year lifetime cap.

Tennessee is serving as a model for a national organization seeking to redesign the way new teachers are educated. The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education cites a Tennessee Board of Regents pilot program that takes the emphasis off classroom learning in favor of on-the-job training.



Johnson City closed a \$25 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used for various city improvements including roads, schools, and public safety. Pictured are: Janet Jennings, city recorder, Mayor Jane Myron, Joe Muscatello, TMBF representative and Bob Wilson, assistant city manager.

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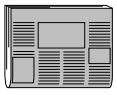
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The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.

The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.



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

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER MURFREESBORO. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Assistant City Manager. Bachelor’s degree required, degree in public or business administration preferred. Master’s degree preferred. Five years of experience in local government, municipal preferred. As part of a management team, this individual will provide support to the city manager in all aspects of day-to-day operations, assist in policy development and preparation of budget and CIP, handle citizen complaints, staff boards and commissions, and have responsibilities in economic development. Monthly salary is \$6,805.16 - \$8,455.33, DOQ&E, with excellent benefits. The required application form and job description is available at: www.murfreesborotn.gov or the Personnel Department, 111 West Vine Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. Phone 615-848-2553, TDD 615-849-2689, Fax 615-904-6506. Must submit resume, cover letter, professional references, and complete city’s full-time job application by Fri., August 7, 2009. EOE.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
BRISTOL. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Human Resources Director. Bristol employs 331 and provides fire, police, parks and recreation, and public works services. The Human Resources Director will provide professional leadership that will positively affect city staff. The director will perform complex administrative and supervisory work involving benefits, compensation, employee relations,

risk management, and selection and placement. Masters degree in Human Resource Management, Business, or Public Administration, or related field is preferred. Bachelor’s degree required. Five to seven 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 for the position. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send confidential resume and application immediately to City of Bristol, Attn: City Manager, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189. No electronic submittals. Position open until filled. See our website to download an application and review summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. EOE.

STAFF ATTORNEY
BRISTOL. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Staff Attorney with emphasis in Human Resources. The Staff Attorney will provide professional leadership that will positively affect city staff. The Staff Attorney will perform complex administrative and supervisory work involving legal services, benefits, compensation, employee relations, risk management, and selection and placement. Graduation from an accredited law school required. Licensed to practice law in Tennessee or eligible to become licensed. Five to seven years of progressive public management experience with an emphasis in human resource management, preferably within a municipal government, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for the position. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Send confidential resume and application immediately to City of Bristol, Attn: City Manager, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189. Position open until filled. See our website to download an application and review summary of benefits: www.bristoltn.org. EOE

COMING UP

Aug. 19: Is Your Community Prepared for Severe Weather? Free half-day seminar held at Lannom Center, 2000 Commerce Ave, Dyersburg from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Geared toward local government officials who desire to make their community storm ready. To register, RSVP with Cathy Cavness at 731.288.3596 or e-mail ccavness@dyersburgtn.gov.

Sept.14-15: 56th Annual Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development. Held in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, this year’s conference takes the theme, “Powering New Growth.” Session topics will range from attracting venture capital and exploring international opportunities to harnessing the energy revolution and fully utilizing technology. For more information, contact: Laura Elkins, at 615-532-1910 or Email: laura.elkins@tn.gov

Interest rate set at 7.25 percent on delinquent taxes collected by state

BY RICHARD PHEBUS
MTAS Finance Consultant

The payment of taxes to local municipalities or to the state of Tennessee generally has a due date associated with it. If a taxpayer fails to pay the tax, or a portion thereof, on or before the date the taxes are required to be paid, interest is added to the amount of tax due. The commissioner of revenue determines the interest rate for delinquent taxes collected or administered by the state of Tennessee. Sales tax and local business tax are examples of taxes falling into this category.

Formula Rate of Interest
T.C.A. § 67-1-801 provides for the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent tax payments. This rate is called the “formula rate of interest” and is determined and set annually by the Tennessee commissioner of revenue. The rate effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, has been set at 7.25 percent. Municipalities should be aware that the rate is a decrease from the current year (FY 2009).

Delinquent Business Taxes
Municipalities that levy and collect a local business tax should use the 7.25 percent rate of interest to calculate any interest due from taxpayers who file their business tax returns after the delinquent date. Taxes due accrue interest from the delinquent date until paid. For periods prior to the date of tax assessment, interest will accrue at the prevailing rate (7.25 percent) regardless of the taxable period involved (T.C.A. § 67-1-801(a)(2)).

Important Note: The Tennessee General Assembly currently is considering a proposal by the Department of Revenue for all local option business taxes levied in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 67-4-701 et. seq. to be collected by the Department of Revenue. The language of the enabling legislation would implement this proposal upon becoming law, with the commissioner of revenue having broad discretion to transition the administration of the program from July 1, 2009, through Oct. 1, 2010. MTAS recommends that municipalities continue to administer

Interest Rate History: Delinquent Taxes of All Types

Period Covered	Rate	Period Covered	Rate
Through 9/30/74	6%	7/1/94 - 6/30/95	11.25%
10/1/74 - 7/31/80	8%	7/1/95 - 6/30/96	13%
8/1/80 - 6/30/83	10%	7/1/96 - 6/30/97	12.25%
7/1/83 - 6/30/84	14.50%	7/1/97 - 6/30/98	12.5%
7/1/84 - 6/30/85	16%	7/1/98 - 6/30/99	12.5%
7/1/85 - 6/30/86	14.50%	7/1/99 - 6/30/00	11.75%
7/1/86 - 6/30/87	14.50%	7/100 - 6/30/01	13.50%
7/1/87 - 6/30/88	12.25%	7/1/01 - 6/30/02	11%
7/1/88 - 6/30/89	13%	7/1/02 - 6/30/03	8.75%
7/1/89 - 6/30/90	15.50%	7/1/03 - 6/30/04	8.25%
7/1/90 - 6/30/91	14 %	7/1/04 - 6/30/05	8%
7/1/91 - 6/30/92	12.50%	7/1/05 - 6/30/06	10%
7/1/92 - 6/30/93	10.50%	7/1/06 - 6/30/07	12%
7/1/93 - 6/30/94	10%	7/1/07 - 6/30/08	12.25%
7/1/08 - 6/30/09	9 %	7/1/09 - 6/30/10	7.25%

the local business tax program, including notifying Class 3 businesses with a due date of June 30, 2009, until notified otherwise by the Department of Revenue.

Action Required by Municipal Finance Staff
Finance directors, city recorders, and other finance office personnel responsible for collecting local business tax should review the interest rate currently used for delinquent accounts and make the necessary adjustments to comply with the 7.25 percent rate effective July 1, 2009.

Historical Interest Rates
The following table, from the Tennessee Department of Revenue, is a historical presentation of the

“formula rate of interest” as determined by the commissioner of revenue. This information is provided as supplemental data to give finance officials a perspective of interest rates for prior years.

Other Assistance
Contact your MTAS municipal or finance consultant for further assistance in this matter. You may also call the Tennessee Department of Revenue toll free at (800) 342-1003 or (615) 253-0600.
Visit the MTAS Web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or the Department of Revenue Web site at www.state.tn.us/revenue/ for further information.

Locals can opt-out of guns in parks law

GUNS from Page 1
exempt only parks.

However, the new legislation also amends T.C.A. § 39-17-1314, which covers the construction of these statutes. The new language explicitly states that an opt-out resolution allows municipalities to: prohibit the possession of handguns while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by a county, a municipality or instrumentality thereof

This language suggests that the legislative intent of the bill is to authorize cities not only to prohibit handguns in public parks, but also to prohibit them in the aforementioned similar places if owned or operated by a municipality. Seemingly, a municipality could amend the model resolution language and elect to pro-

hibit handguns in specific parks, while allowing them in others. A city electing to prohibit handguns in specific parks should describe clearly and accurately the properties to be covered. According to the new legislation, when a legislative body elects to prohibit handguns in a park, the prohibition applies to the entire park. Hence, no park may be partitioned into handguns-allowed and handguns-prohibited sections.

Well, before the passage of this new legislation, the provisions of T.C.A. § 39-17-1311(b)(1)(A)-(H) allowed for the possession of weapons by certain people under certain circumstances in recreational areas. They include law enforcement, reserve officers in training, private police, lands designated as open to hunting, persons conducting or attending gun or knife shows, persons delivering or picking up passengers who do not use the weapon in any

manner. These exceptions will be unaffected by the new legislation, thus the activities will be allowed in municipal parks regardless of a resolution.

Upon the prohibition of handguns in a park, a municipality is charged with displaying prominent signage, in accordance with T.C.A. § 39-17-1311(c)(1), giving notice of the prohibition. The signage provision states: Each chief administrator of public recreational property shall display in prominent locations about the public recreational property a sign, at least six inches high and 14 inches wide, stating:

MISDEMEANOR. STATE LAW PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF ELEVEN (11) MONTHS AND TWENTYNINE (29) DAYS AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500) FOR CARRYING

WEAPONS ON OR IN PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PROPERTY.

To ensure compliance, cities should post signs with this language in prominent locations.

According to the statute, prominent locations include but are not limited to all entrances to the property and any building or structure on the property.

Cities that want to enact a resolution prohibiting the possession of handguns in their parks would be wise to act quickly.

The Sept. 1, 2009, effective date is approaching rapidly, and on that date carry permit holders may possess handguns in a city’s parks until that city passes a resolution and complies with the signage requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact your UT MTAS municipal management consultant.

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- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million.



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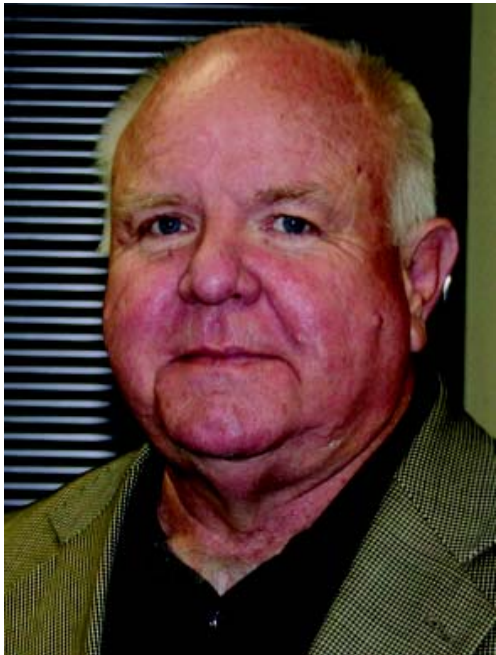
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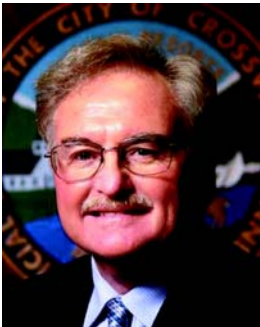
District 1
Randy Trivette
City Recorder
Erwin



District 2
Cindy Ogle
City Manager
Gatlinburg



District 3
Chris Dorsey
City Manager
Red Bank



District 4
J.H. Graham, III
Mayor
Crossville



District 5
Angie Carrier
City Administrator
White House



District 6
Betsy Crossley
Mayor
Brentwood



District 7
Allen Barker
Mayor
Humboldt



District 8
Keith McDonald
Mayor
Bartlett

At-Large Directors



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Councilmember
Murfreesboro



Curtis Hayes
Mayor
Livingston



Richard Hodges
Mayor
Millington



David Gordon
Mayor
Covington



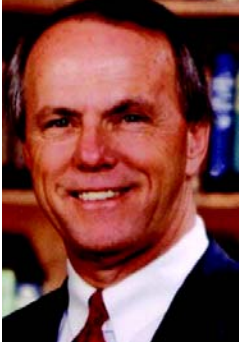
Dot LaMarche
Vice Mayor
Farragut



David May
City Council
Cleveland



Bo Perkinson
Vice Mayor
Athens



Johnny Piper
Mayor
Clarksville

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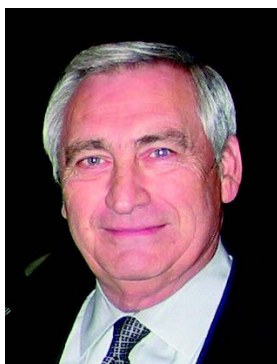
Dan Speer
Mayor
Pulaski (1997)



Sam Tharpe
Mayor
Paris (2001)



Tom Rowland
Mayor
Cleveland (2002)



Bob Kirk
Alderman
Dyersburg (2004)



Tommy Bragg
Mayor
Murfreesboro (2006)



Tommy Green
Mayor
Alamo (2007)



Tom Beehan
Mayor
Oak Ridge (2008)

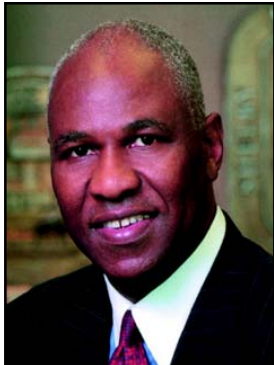
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Chattanooga



Bill Haslam
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Knoxville



Willie Herenton
Mayor
Memphis



Karl Dean
Mayor
Metro Nashville

TCMA



Jody Baltz
Tullahoma
City Administrator

TML/RMP – TMBF



Tommy Green
Mayor
Alamo



Charles "Bones"
Seivers
President-CEO
TMBF