

Make plans to attend TML's 2009 Legislative Conference

Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 23-24 in Nashville at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues currently being addressed by the Tennessee General Assembly.

At the forefront of everyone's mind is the state's financial situation and budgeting for a tight year. Other topics of interest include the federal stimulus package, TDOT projects, and TML's 2009 legislative priorities.

While in Nashville, city officials are encouraged to schedule time to visit with their legislators, attend Monday evening floor ses-

sions and Tuesday afternoon committee meetings.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message.

To register on line, go to www.TML1.org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Monday, March 23	
11 am	Registration
Noon	Lunch Buffet
1 pm	Legislative Briefings
4 pm	Adjourn
5 pm	Attend Floor sessions
Tuesday, March 24	
7:30 am	Breakfast
8:15 am	Legislative Briefings
9:30 am	Attend Committee Meetings

Beauty for ashes: city officials hopeful following devastating spill

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Amidst a toxic nightmare, officials of Kingston and Harriman have added reconstructive measures and damage control to their list of municipal duties, as the two cities move forward following a massive ash spill at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Kingston Fossil Plant. A Dec. 22 dike failure allowed a 40-acre retaining pond to release 1.1 billion gallons of fly ash and sludge across a 300-mile stretch of neighborhood and farmland, then down the Emory River toward Harriman, about 40 miles west of Knoxville.

"We are just out of the emergency phase and entering the clean up and recovery phase," said Kingston Mayor Troy Beets. The city's newly assembled "Long Term Recovery Committee," has met three times taking stock of the incident and are developing plans for future recovery efforts, according to Beets who attended a helicopter fly over and briefing about the incident with U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and U.S. Congressman Lincoln Davis.



Photo by David Leaverton

Kingston Mayor Troy Beets (L) and U.S. Sen. Bob Corker fly over the site of a huge ash spill from TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant where a dike failure allowed a retaining pond to release 1.1 billion gallons of sludge.

"TVA understands its responsibility," Beets said. "They've been very professional and receptive. I am confident the city will be whole again, even better."

Kingston's city council recently attended a day-long recovery work-

shop conducted by Warren Nevad, University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) consultant. MTAS's role, according to Nevad, has been to facilitate positive constructive feed-
See **ASHES** on Page 9

Economic downturn could impact property reappraisals

18 counties undergoing reappraisals this year

BY KEVIN KRUSHENSKI
TML Research Analyst

The downturn in the economy, and particularly the housing crisis, has many cities and counties concerned about the impact on the values of the properties.

Eighteen counties will undergo a relatively normal occurrence called reappraisal this year, but the rash of foreclosures and freezing of the credit market may cause city officials and property owners some concern about the value of their properties.

In addition to the counties listed above that are undergoing reappraisal, Clay, Moore and Smith counties will undergo a similar process called a current value update to determine whether property values in those counties need to be updated. These 21 counties currently represent in excess of 54 percent of the total assessed property value in the entire state.

There is a fear that the current state of the housing market will drive

COUNTIES UNDERGOING REAPPRAISAL IN 2009

Bradley	Montgomery
Davidson	Perry
Fayette	Rhea
Gibson	Shelby
Hamilton	Stewart
Hickman	Sullivan
Knox	Sumner
Lake	Van Buren
Loudon	Washington

home values down as the local assessors conduct the reappraisals. This would in turn impact the tax rate required to collect the same amount of property tax revenue as collected last year.

Tom Fleming, assistant to the Comptroller for Assessments, believes this to be an unlikely occurrence this year. "Given that all counties undergoing reappraisals this year are on a four, five, or six year cycle the property values will be updated from 2003 to 2005 so there will be a few years of growth that occurred during the residential housing boom," Fleming says. "It is unlikely," he continues, "that the
See **REAPPRAISALS** on Page 5

Morgan, Sims start new jobs

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

In a matter of days from when a new slate of Constitutional Officers were voted in by the Tennessee General Assembly, former state Comptroller John Morgan and former state Treasurer Dale Sims were already embarking on new careers.

Morgan was hired as Gov. Phil Bredesen's Deputy to the Governor, effective Jan. 16. Sims was picked to serve as interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance at the Tennessee Board of Regents, effective Jan. 20.

Morgan replaces outgoing Deputy Stuart Brunson, who announced plans to leave the administration in early January. Sims takes over a position left vacant by Bob Adams, who accepted a new position in Arkansas.

In making the announcement about his new deputy, Bredesen said, "John Morgan understands the organization and issues of state government as well as anyone I know. He's intelligent, well regarded and an outstanding leader. He will be a valuable addition to my team, and I'm very pleased he has agreed to continue his service to the state in this new role."

Bredesen made the announcement about Morgan's new position only one day after the elections of the State Constitutional Officers took place Jan. 15. As stipulated in the Tennessee Constitution, the General Assembly elects all three positions during a joint session of the legislature. Republicans, who now hold the majority in both chambers, elected three of their own party nominees - Tre' Hargett as secretary of state, Justin Wilson as comptroller of the treasury, and David Lillard as treasurer.



John Morgan



Dale Sims

Sims' new job announcement came five days later from TBR Chancellor Charles Manning. "We are delighted to have someone with Dale's extensive knowledge of state budgeting and finance join our staff at this critical fiscal juncture. He also brings strong leadership and management skills to the position, and I know he will be a source of solid guidance and assistance to our campuses as well as to me. As state Treasurer, Dale was a member of
See **OFFICERS** on Page 5

GPS technology holds promise of improved service, lower fuel costs for city of Kingsport

BY TIM WHALEY
Kingsport Community & Government Relations Director

Global positioning technology could help the Kingsport Public Works Department realize dramatic improvements in customer service and reductions in fuel consumption thanks to the simple application of technology provided by PinPoint GeoTech.

Eight PinPoint systems have been installed in each of the city's garbage collection trucks. Inside, the driver uses the GPS-enabled portable data assistant to log various problems garbage collection drivers might see as they run each and every street in the city once a week.

"City Manager John Campbell saw the technology demonstrated earlier this year at an International City Manager Association meeting," Public Works Director Ryan McReynolds said. "It's the result of an idea a city manager in South Carolina had, who passed the concept to a development consultant that took the idea and ran with it."

The Kingsport Public Works Department is tasked with picking up garbage, trash, household recyclables, cast-off furniture and appliances, and brush. Garbage collection drivers run each city street ev-



Dramatic improvements in customer service and fuel consumption are on the way in Kingsport's thanks to global positioning technology.

ery single week of the year and can easily log problem areas or service needs with the push of a single button on the PinPoint system.

This effort can reduce fuel consumption by removing the need for trash and brush collection drivers to run city streets every two weeks and instead simply drive directly to a home in need of service as logged by the garbage collection drivers.

"This is very simple, rugged technology," McReynolds said.

"It's a GPS enabled PDA, with pre-programmed buttons that allow you to precisely locate various issues throughout the city with the push of a button - whether it's a need to pick up a brush pile, furniture, or used appliances. Drivers can also note a street light or pothole that needs to be fixed."

At the end of each work day, the GPS data is downloaded into a computer to generate work orders for the
See **GPS** on Page 9

Downtown Clarksville shines with Legion Street improvement project

BY MISSY GRAHAM
Tennessee Public Works Magazine

In an effort to solidify an inviting and thriving downtown environment while continuing to preserve their rich history and heritage, Clarksville embarked on an improvement project of a two-block section of Legion Street in historic downtown.

The goals of the project were to encourage and accommodate an increase in pedestrian traffic, drive an increase in business for existing business operations, promote business opportunities and create a greater sense of place in Clarksville's downtown.

Located in the central business and river district, Legion Street includes various retail operations as well as service industry offices. The street runs perpendicular to and ends at the entrance to city hall. Prior to the improvement project, the street left much to be desired in the form of creating a welcoming feel to the city.

A majority of businesses located on Main Street and Franklin Street - the two streets running parallel on either side of Legion - had back entrances on Legion Street. Prior to construction, these back entrances were used as locations for



Photo courtesy of TN Public Works Magazine

Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper was joined by members of the city council and the public during a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand re-opening of Legion Street. A portion of the street was renamed "Strawberry Alley" as a way to commemorate the street's original name dating from 1859 until 1930, when it was officially named Legion Street.

dumpsters, and not much care was taken toward the appearance. Sidewalks were non-ADA compliant, power and utility lines were above ground, and utility poles caused

added clutter to the street. Clarksville contracted Gresham, Smith and Partners (GS&P) to provide planning, engineering and
See **CLARKSVILLE** on Page 5

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The official 2009 Tennessee Transportation Map is now available to assist travelers in their planning efforts. This year's state map has been totally redesigned to feature larger, easier to read information and interstate mile and exit markers listed right on the map. The map includes information about TDOT's SmartFIX40 accelerated construction project in Knoxville, a listing of Tennessee's Biofuel Green Island Corridors, information about emergency reference markers, and Tennessee 511. The state map is available on the TDOT web site at www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm. Pre-printed maps can be ordered from TDOT online at www.tn.gov/tdot/MapOrder/maporder.htm or by mailing a request to: Tennessee Department of Transportation, Map Sales Office, 505 Deaderick Street, James K. Polk Building, Suite 300, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0345.

A new report shows Tennessee could reduce the unemployment rate, reduce manufacturing job losses and increase income growth by investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The report "Growing Green: The Potential for Green Job Growth in Tennessee" was prepared by the Research and Statistics Unit of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Employment Security Division and released to the Governor's Task Force on Energy Policy. An analysis of five Tennessee energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors - green building, biofuels, wind, solar, and geothermal energy - identified 162 occupations with significant employment potential in Tennessee.

Overwhelmed by increasing demand, the state's labor department will begin processing dozens of unemployment benefits applications at once in group sessions offered in 22 cities. The group sessions at the department's Career Centers across the state, will accept only the simplest claims, which come from people who have been laid off and have a separation notice from their employers.

Recent studies by The Tennessee Department of Correction show re-entry initiatives for prisoners have reduced recidivism by about 10 percent. Studies show 67 percent of Tennessee's criminal offenders re-offend within three years of their release from prison but initiatives that help released prisoners find work and a place to live are working. Rehabilitation initiatives are getting increased attention nationally. The Tennessee Department of Correction started its rehabilitation services division in 2004.

Tennessee's unemployment rate jumped nearly 1 percentage point in December. The state's December unemployment rate was 7.9 percent, up 0.9 percentage point from the November rate of 7 percent. The December rate a year ago was 5 percent. The national unemployment rate for December 2008 was 7.2 percent, up from 6.8 percent in November. Instead of the holiday employment gains normally seen in

the last month of the year, the state lost 15,400 jobs from November to December, according to Tennessee's commissioner of labor and workforce development.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study that revealed that Tennessee ranks sixth among all states for the highest death rates from smoking. Kentucky and West Virginia, where people traditionally smoke the most, have the highest rates. Tennessee's ranking is due partly to a lack of education according to Jennifer Price, tobacco health educator for the Jackson-Madison County Health Department. Another factor is that tobacco, the main ingredient in cigarettes, is a major crop for the state, said Price. The smoking death rates were calculated using death certificate data from the years 2000 through 2004, focusing on lung cancer and 18 other diseases caused by cigarette smoking.

An estimated 6,900 Tennessee homeowners in danger of foreclosure could get their Countrywide mortgages modified under terms of an agreement announced by the Tennessee attorney general's office. Tennessee has joined about 30 other states signing onto a deal with Bank of America, which bought Countrywide last year. The deal is meant to address accusations that Countrywide misled borrowers around the country by getting many of them into high-priced loans they couldn't afford. The settlement comes amid lingering fallout and billions of dollars in banking losses tied to a sagging real estate market nationally.

Tennessee is the No. 1 state for motorcoach travel in 2009. The



Photo by Victoria South

About 250 students from Tennessee Board of Regents colleges and universities gathered at the doors of the state Capitol to protest tuition policy changes and higher education budget cuts. Students primarily took issue with the Regents' decision to uncap tuition for full-time students taking more than 12 hours, or typically four classes. Students currently can take up to 18 hours at the same rate as 12 hours; under the new rules, starting in the fall, students will be charged per credit hour after 12 hours.

designation comes from Byways Magazine, a bimonthly publication aimed at motorcoach charter and tour planners. It means the state is projected to have more motorcoach travel in 2009 than any other state. Helping attract motorcoach travel are the Smoky Mountains, Bristol Motor Speedway, the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, music attractions in Nashville and Memphis, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Following Tennessee in the 2009 projections are Virginia, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

More than a thousand truckers in Tennessee will have to be tested again to keep their commercial licenses. The state Department of Safety says for almost three years a private company it contracted with failed to fully test drivers, 90 percent

of whom are truckers. Officials won't name the tester, citing an ongoing investigation, but say its certification has been revoked. That calls into question the validity of some 5,000 licenses. Now the state wants those drivers to take the test again, this time directly, not through a third party. But, 3,000 of the drivers have moved away and obtained qualifications in other states, possibly based on those shaky licenses.

A Tennessee coalition unveiled an ambitious cancer control plan that calls for easing disparities in cancer diagnosis and treatment, as well as promoting diet and exercise for cancer prevention. Organizers noted that the 76-page document is designed as a blueprint for state efforts during the next three years to reduce cancer deaths and disability. It includes a foreword by Gov. Phil Bredesen calling for the plan's implementation. Coalition

members were in Memphis to unveil the document during a meeting at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The group was drawn from health providers, government officials, cancer patients and advocates.

University of Tennessee President John Petersen has decided not to remove the cap on tuition that allows students to take up to 18 credit hours while only paying for 12, but UT plans to study the issue further, along with the question of whether students who drop courses should be charged a fee. The idea of requiring students to pay for every credit hour they take met with opposition from interested parties ranging from students to Gov. Phil Bredesen, the chairman of UT's board of trustees. "I'm very concerned ... about the 12-hour limitation, once I understood you cannot get a degree in eight semesters of 12 hours," Bredesen said.



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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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Economic downturn could impact reappraisals

COUNTIES BY REAPPRAISAL YEAR

2010		2011	
Anderson	Lewis	Bedford	Jackson
Benton	Madison	Bledsoe	Johnson
Blount	Marion	Carroll	Lauderdale
Campbell	Maury	Carter	Meigs
Chester	McNairy	Dekalb	Morgan
Cocke	Overton	Giles	Putnam
Coffee	Roane	Grainger	Sequatchie
Crockett	Rutherford	Hawkins	Sevier
Hamblen	Trousdale	Henderson	Williamson
Henry	Warren	Humphreys	Wilson
Jefferson	Wayne		
Lawrence	White		

REAPPRAISALS from Page 1
values in this year's reappraisals will be below the value determined by the previous reappraisal."

However, he warns that counties conducting reappraisals in 2010 or 2011 may not be so lucky and thus cities in those counties should be cautious. (See the table at the right for a list of counties conducting reappraisals in 2010 or 2011.)

Immediately following reappraisals, the property tax rate is automatically changed to a rate that produces the same amount of revenue as was produced in the last fiscal year before the reappraisal. This process is called certifying the property tax rate. In the event property values increase in the county since the last appraisal then the tax rate will be adjusted downward. If property values decrease then the certified rate will adjust upward.

Foreclosures can also impact city and county budgets in a variety of ways. Although foreclosures do not directly impact reappraisals, they act in a way to depress property values of surrounding properties. If property values diminish, a tax rate that previously produced adequate resources to finance services suddenly does not produce the same resources. Further, as families fight

to not lose their house to foreclosure and face other tough economic decisions, when and if to pay their property taxes becomes a realistic choice they must make. This choice could potentially drive up delinquencies and impact the ability of local governments to finance services.

The future also does not appear to bode well for property values. Recent employment reports do not provide much hope for a quick recovery in the housing market. As more people become unemployed and thus curtail spending, city governments face added pressures. These reports could prove a strain to city budgets in multiple ways, including home prices and property

tax payments. As people lose jobs, the market for potential home buyers diminishes and thus prices potentially could be forced downward. Also, as people lose jobs and must provide for their families on a lower income base and make decisions about how and if to make other routine payments, property tax delinquencies may increase.

While it appears the housing market is in a prolonged slump, there's no cause for panic yet. Cities will be forced to make some hard decisions, but understanding the current and ongoing economic conditions and managing appropriately should help soften the impact on their budgets.

Morgan, Sims embark on new jobs

OFFICERS from Page 1

the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the State Building Commission, so he is conversant with higher education issues and his learning curve in a new job will be a short one."

Morgan is a 31-year veteran employee of the state of Tennessee. In 1999, he was elected Comptroller of the Treasury to replace retiring comptroller William R. Snodgrass

and served five consecutive two-year terms as one of the state's three constitutional officers.

Sims began his career in state government in 1980 as a legislative program evaluator in the Comptroller of the Treasury's office. In 1982, he became staff assistant to the Tennessee State Treasurer, and in 1987 moved up to Executive Assistant, a position he held until he was elected Tennessee State Treasurer in 2003.

As treasurer, Sims was responsible for an agency employing over 215 people, with a budget exceeding \$20 million, and managed over \$33 billion in liquid assets.

Riley Darnell, 68, who lost his position as secretary of state, has opted to retire after more than 40 years of service to state and federal government - 22 years as a legislator, 16 years as secretary of state, and three years in the Air Force.

Clarksville shines with street improvements

CLARKSVILLE from Page 1

construction administration services for the project. GS&P's work included context sensitive solutions to create a streetscape that would match the historic look and feel of Clarksville.

Public participation was incorporated from business owners along the route, and considerations were made in the design to complement recent work that had been completed on adjacent Franklin Street as well as the city's public square located behind city hall. Sidewalks were expanded and designed to adhere to ADA regulations as well as to incorporate brick when constructed.

Utilities were relocated underground. Decorative lamp posts were added to provide necessary lighting as well as added safety benefits for pedestrians. Matching planter boxes were located throughout and include October glory maple, Natchez crapemyrtle and bosque elm trees, dwarf burford holly and dwarf sweetspire.

Because of the close coordination between the city and GS&P, valuable time and money were saved by having the ability to pre-order construction materials called for in the plans. In April 2008, Roy T. Goodwin Contractors, Inc. was contracted to provide construction services with the goal of having the project completed in advance of the 2008 Labor Day holiday. The

Clarksville Street Department provided all of the trenching for the electric phone and cable lines, and the individual utilities installed the conduit.

Coordination and cooperation led by GS&P between the city, the Clarksville Department of Electricity, Clarksville Gas & Water, AT&T, Charter Communications, and Roy T. Goodwin resulted in an almost seamless construction timeline.

Following the five-month construction process and an 11-month project cycle, a ribbon cutting to celebrate the grand re-opening of Legion Street was held on Aug. 29, 2008. Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper was joined by members of the City Council and the public as they celebrated the opening of the improved street and honored its part in

Clarksville's history.

A portion of the street was re-named "Strawberry Alley" as a way to commemorate the street's original name dating from 1859 until 1930 when it was officially named Legion Street.

Clarksville is the ninth-fastest growing city in the nation. The population in Clarksville-Montgomery County grew 11.4 percent between 2000 and 2008 and is expected to grow by an additional 6.5 percent over the next five years.

The city is committed to planning and implementing infrastructure improvement projects to support the recent growth as well as drive civic and business interests in the future that will help the community to thrive and continue to be a preferred destination.

Halie Shell joins TML Risk Management Pool

The TML Risk Management Pool is pleased to welcome a new staff member, Halie Shell, to their Client Services Department. Assisting the client services director, Randy Williams, Shell's duties will be directed toward the education and advisement of clients on municipal insurance matters. She will be working closely with all departments of the TML Pool to identify and address problems in the field both collectively and individually by assisting with seminars, educational information and on site visits.



Halie Shell

"We are very fortunate to have Halie joining our team," said Williams. "She will be a wonderful addition to the Client Services Department."

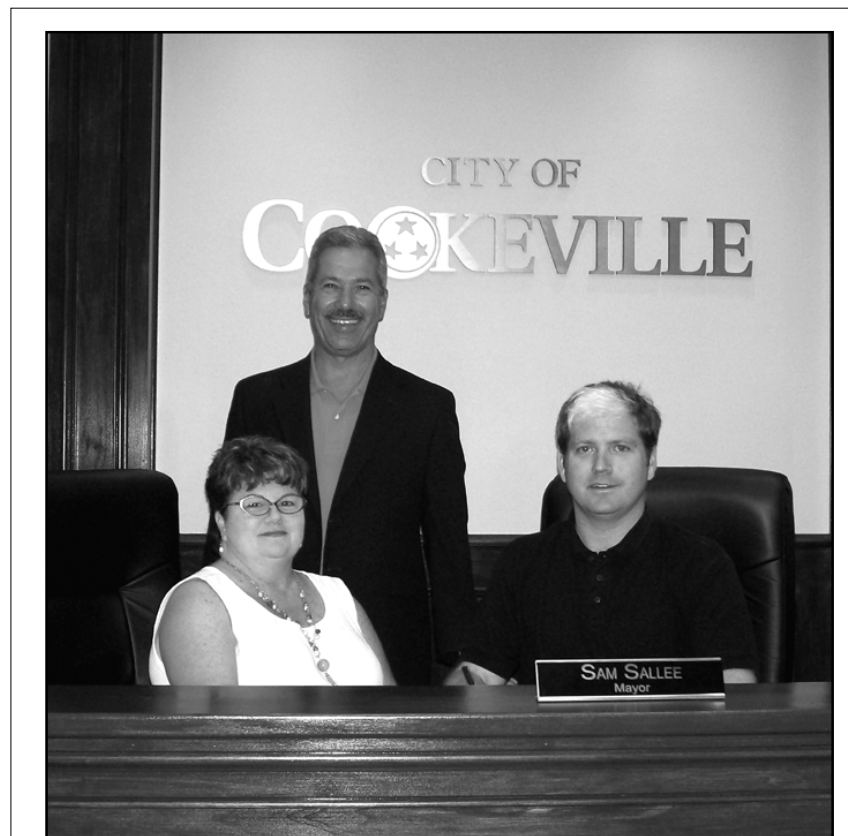
A Knoxville native and a graduate of Farragut High School, Shell graduated with a 4.0 G.P.A. from the University of Tennessee, with a master's in public administration. She completed her bachelor's of arts in philosophy with a minor in political science, also from the UT-Knoxville and graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Since August of 2007, she has worked as a graduate assistant at UT's Institute of Public Service with the Leadership and Executive Development Team including the Tennessee Government Management Institute, Tennessee Government Executive Institute, Tennes-

see Department of Transportation Executive Leadership Academy, and the Local Government Leadership Program, where her responsibilities included compiling evaluation statistics, maintaining electronic records, compiling and researching program materials, and assisting with multiple events hosted by the Leadership and Executive Development Team.

Shell is current vice president of the American Society for Public Administration, East Tennessee Chapter and a member of the Tennessee City Managers Association (TCMA).

"I'm excited to be joining the Client Services Department," said Shell. "And, I look forward to assisting our member cities with risk management."



The city of Cookeville closed a \$6 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used on the city's electric system. Pictured are Cathy McClain, city recorder; Sam Sallee, mayor; and Joe Muscatello, TMBF representative.

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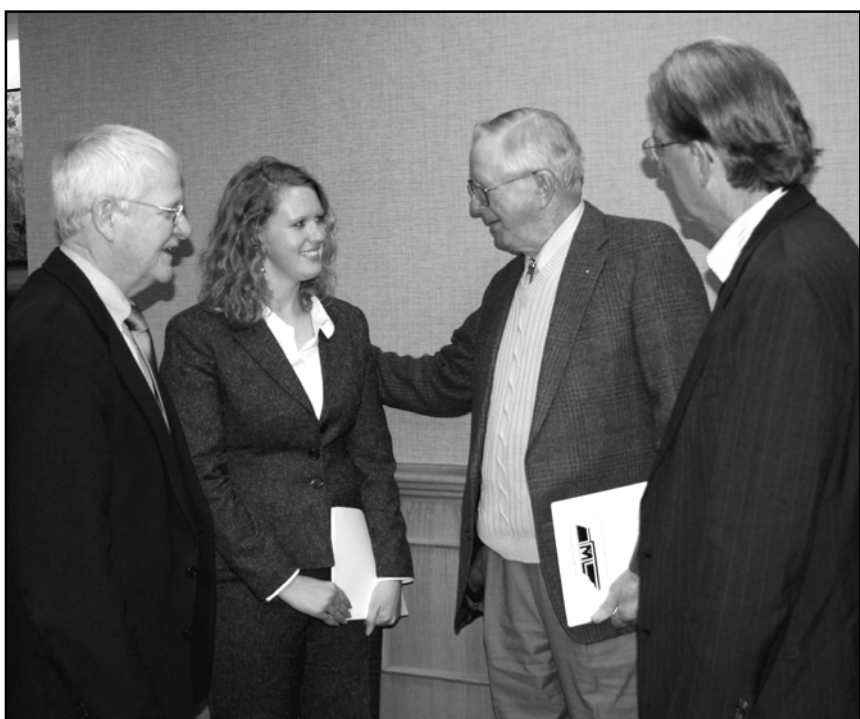
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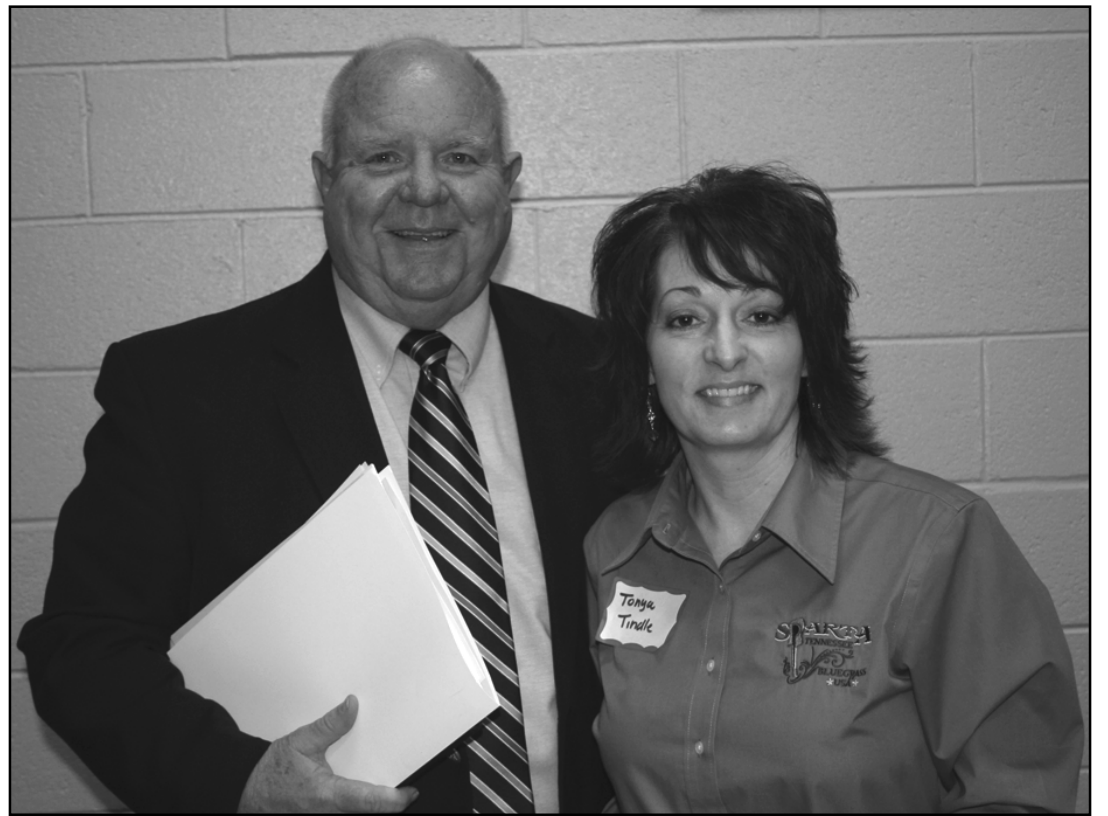
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Municipal officials attend TML 2009 district meetings



Cookeville City Manager Jim Shipley and Vice Mayor Jean Davis



Tommy Pedigo, Sparta mayor and TML District 4 director, and Tonya Tindle, Sparta city recorder



J.H. Graham, III, mayor of Crossville; Curtis Hayes, mayor of Livingston; and Margaret Mahery, TML Executive Director



Sally Olgesby, Crossville city clerk, and Ted Meadows, Crossville city manager



Ken Wilbur, Portland mayor and TML District 5 director; Wade Josh, Dover city administrator; and Harold Spray, Berry Hill mayor

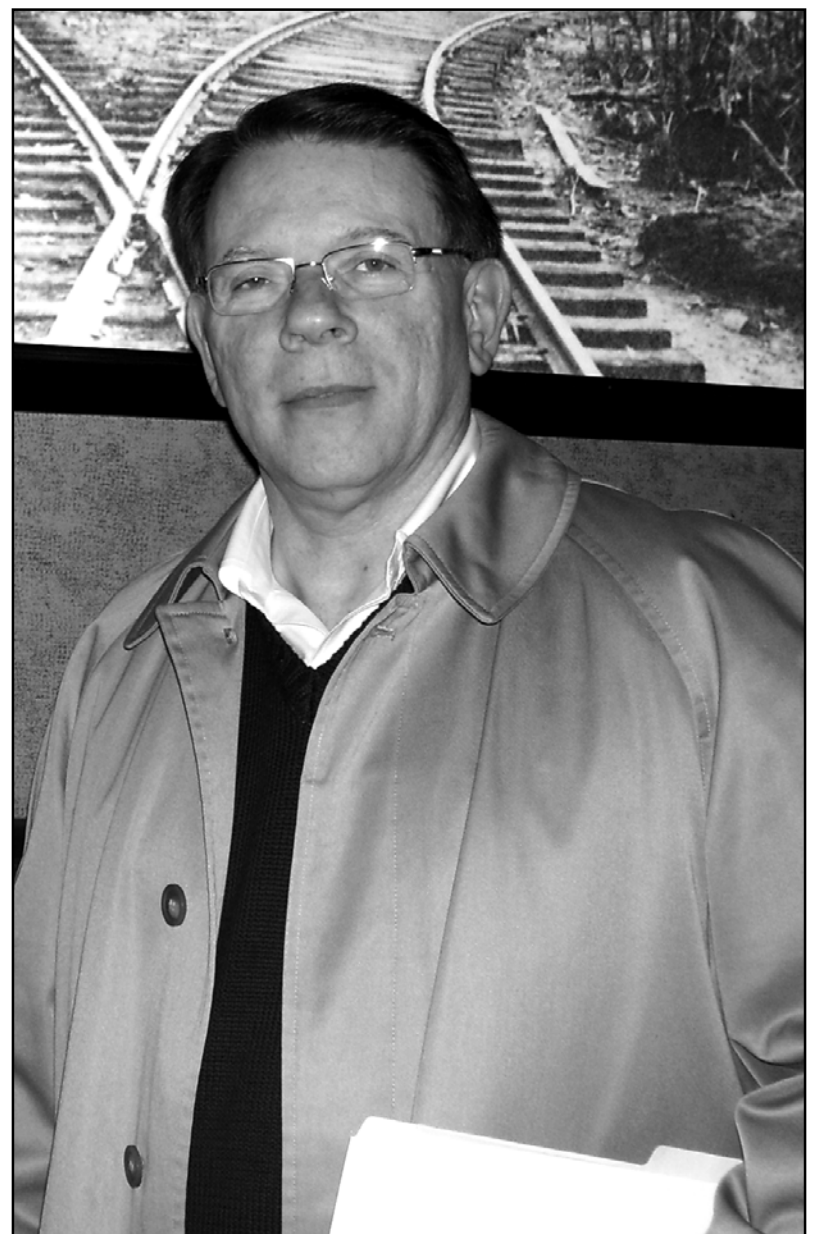


Jay Carter, Lafayette mayor, and Phillip Craighead, Lebanon mayor



Above: Doug Young, Murfreesboro councilmember; Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro mayor; and Charles "Bones" Seivers, CEO and president of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund

At right: Terry Sweat, LaFollette finance director



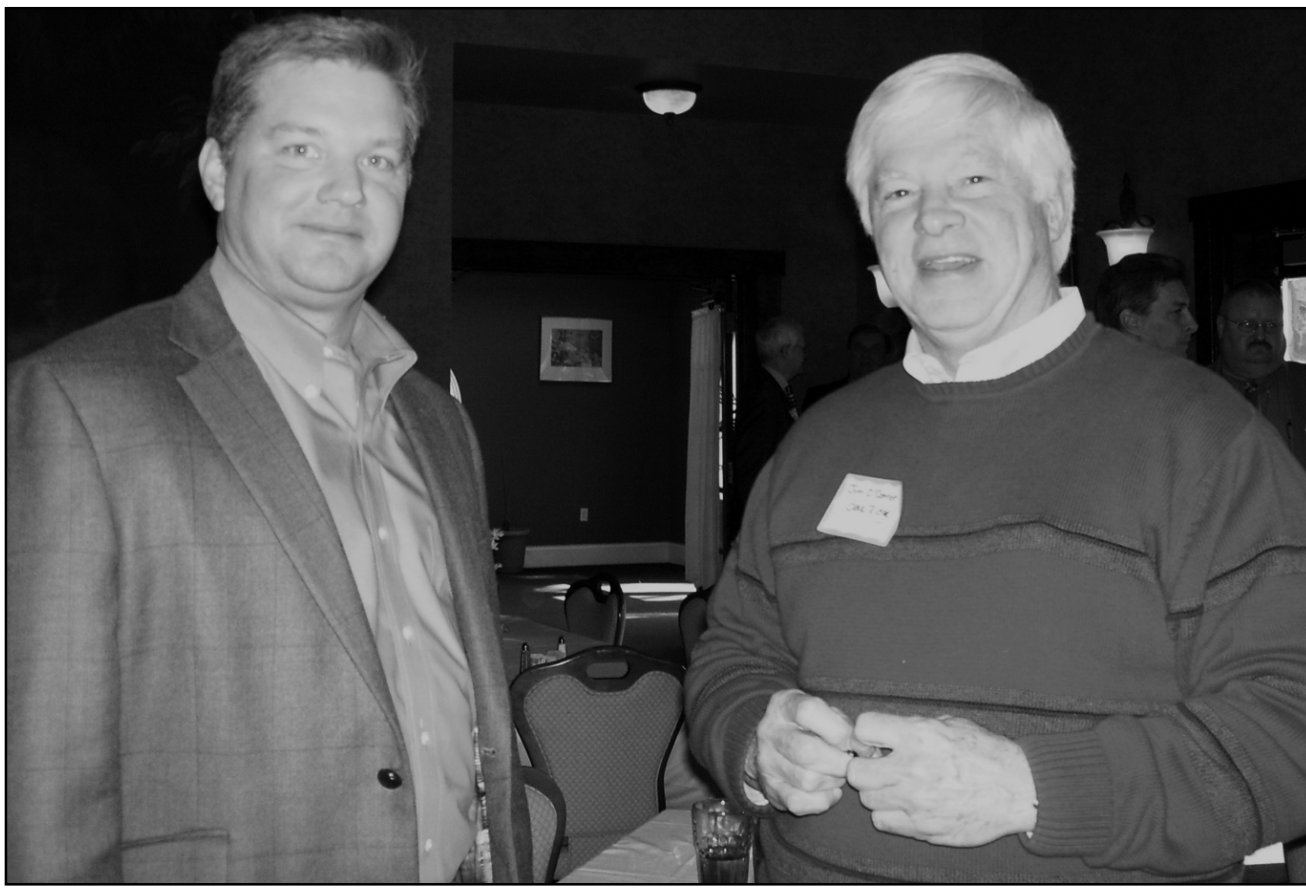
Cities' legislative priorities, state budget discussed



Glen Chrisam, Murfreesboro police chief; Rob Lyons, Murfreesboro assistant city manager; and Mike Walker, Brentwood city manager



Tommy Green, Alamo mayor, and Jerry Gist, Jackson mayor



Steve Jones, Clinton city manager, and Jim O'Connor, Oak Ridge city manager



Paul Webb, Brentwood vice mayor, and John Schroer, Franklin mayor



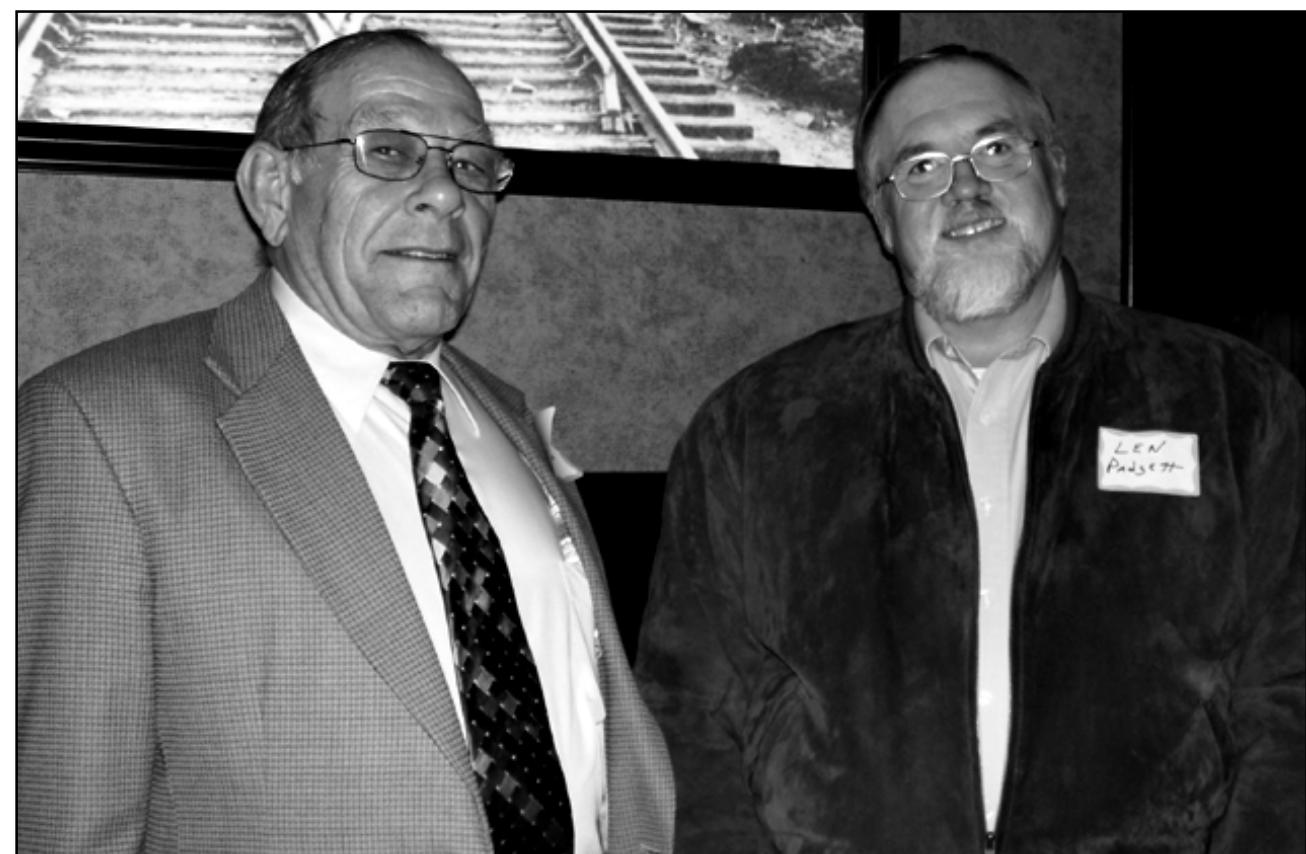
Dorothy LaMarche, Farragut alderman, and Allison Myers, Farragut town recorder



Clint Abbott, Alcoa vice mayor; Mike Starfield, Lafollette mayor; and Vaughn Belcher, Alcoa commissioner



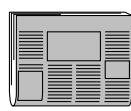
Eric Brackins, Pigeon Forge assistant city manager, and Earlene Teaster, Pigeon Forge city manager



Maynardville Commissioners H.E. Richardson and Len Padgett



Rachel Nichols, Gallatin finance director, and Denise Geminden, Portland economic development director



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ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

ARDMORE. The city and town of Ardmore TN/AL, are accepting applications for the position of Assistant Police Chief, with the anticipation of advancement to Chief. Certification in either Tennessee or Alabama and the capability of being certified in the other state is required. The successful candidate should have a minimum of five years in law enforcement. Salary is negotiable. Applications and/or resumes should be submitted to the Ardmore, TN or Ardmore, AL city halls by 4 P.M., March 15. For more info, call 931-427-2124.

BUILDING OFFICIAL

GALLATIN. The city is accepting applications for the position of Building Official. Reports to the Mayor, and responsible to the City Council, the Building Official manages the Codes Department; performs field inspections; supervises staff, interprets various codes and ordinances; acts as the appeal step when there are issues between customers and inspectors; works closely with local contractors and builders in enforcing building ordinances; interfaces daily with Planning and Engineering Departments. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university in a relevant area coupled with significant supervisory experience. Considerable related leadership experience (10 years or more) and preferably at least 5 of these years in the public sector. Certification as a Building Official through a recognized certification program required, or the ability to become certified within 18 months. At a minimum, must be a Certified Building Inspector. Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee. Current salary range is \$48,313 to \$77,236 with excellent benefits. To apply, submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Mail resumes to City of Gallatin, 132 West Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066. Attn.: Dave Crawford, Personnel Official. Position open until filled. EOE

CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

SWEETWATER. The city is seeking applications for the position of Codes Enforcement officer. Salary Range is \$38,000-\$43,000 for fully qualified candidate. Bachelor of Science degree in planning or related field is preferred. The Codes Enforcement Officer serves as enforcing personnel for municipal code provisions not under general police jurisdiction, including all building, health, and safety chapters; serves on certain city boards, advisor and staff support to Sweetwater Regional Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals and administers flood regulations and assure city compliance with flood program requirements. Grant Writer for the city; city safety officer; and must administer budget for department. Must have knowledge of personal computers and a valid TN driver's license and be certified as building inspector within one year of hire. Any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and ability

for this position can be considered. Job description is available at the Recorder's Office, 203 Monroe Street, Sweetwater, TN 37874 (423) 337-6979.

CITY MANAGER

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO. The city is seeking to replace the retiring City Manager. A Council/Manager government with the Mayor elected at large and six Council members elected from wards. The ideal candidate will lead our full-service organization including public works, parks & recreation, fire, police, administrative services, airport, and development services, and will have demonstrated skills in leadership, strategic planning, problem solving, finance, decision making, public relations/communications, fostering active community involvement, and downtown revitalization. An MPA/MBA and 5-10 years City Manager or Assistant City Manager or President/CEO experiences with a city/company of similar size, complexity and financial strength preferred. We offer a competitive compensation package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Submit resume, cover letter with current compensation package, and five professional references to Human Resources Manager, 401 Independence, Cape Girardeau MO 63703 by March 20, 2009. For more info, visit www.cityofcapegirardeau.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF SEWERSURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The town of Arlington is seeking sealed bid offers for the sale of the following listed sewer surplus equipment: ABS Submersible 90 Horsepower Pump - Model Number: AFD 1501 - 1; Pumpex Submersible Pumps - Model Number: K-154-CD-332; Pressure Systems Transducer - Model Number: 700-140-4030; Phoenix Vector AC Drives - Model Number: 0400-0100-N1-S; Smith & Loveless Standard 2-Pump Lift Stations; Smith & Loveless 10 Horsepower, 200 GPM, 4" Check Value Pump - Model Number: 4B2D; Smith & Loveless 15 Horsepower, 500 GPM, 6" Check Value Pump - Model Number: 4B2B; Smith & Loveless 15 Horsepower, 550 GPM, 6" Check Value Pump Model Number: 4B2B; Smith & Loveless Standard Triple Pump Lift Station; Smith & Loveless 30 Horsepower, 600 GPM Pump - Model Number: 8D4D; Allen Bradley 1336 Plus II Adjustable Frequency AC Drives w/Enclosure; Gast Manufacturing Corporation 5 Horsepower Blowers - Model Number: R-6350A-2; ASI Diffusion Stationary Aeration Grids; House Manufacturing Paddlewheel Aerator - Model Number: MPW144TA3223100; House Manufacturing Paddlewheel Aerator - Model Number: MDD144TA3223100; House Manufacturing Paddlewheel Aerator - Model Number: MPW144A103. Bids must be placed in an envelope, sealed and delivered to the town of Arlington on or before the bid closing date and time. The envelope containing the Bid must be plainly marked with the following information: (Failure to do so will be cause for rejection of bid) The Bidder's name and address, due date of bid package, and equipment name. The deadline for submitting bids will be Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 2 P.M. Bids should be mailed or delivered to Arlington Town Hall, P.O. Box 507, 5854 Airline Road, Arlington, Tennessee 38002. For questions or to view and inspect, you may contact Mr. Dickie Wiseman, Public Works Superintendent at (901) 867-4980. The Town of Arlington reserves the right to reject any or all bids. High bidder must be financially stable and will be notified of award.

City officials hopeful following spill

ASHES from Page 1

back from Kingston's board regarding the impact of the ash spill to the community.

"The city is to be commended for its diligence to methodically discuss the current situation, how to make the Kingston community whole again and identifying objectives to allow Kingston to reach its goals," Nevad said.

During the workshop, the Kingston board discussed possible long term implications from the ash spill such as property value fluctuations, economic conditions and impacts on tourism. Officials are currently working to analyze the facts surrounding the event so that the city might develop a constructive plan of action to return Kingston to what it was before Dec. 22, 2008.

Kingston has also hired a public relations firm to help "rebuild their image," according to Beets. Although the spill occurred in an unincorporated section of Roan County, the city's name has been predominantly in the spotlight.

"The biggest problem is people who had houses for sale who are not going to be able to sell them due to the negative publicity," Beets said. "Our image has been tarnished a little, but what made us great is still here today," he added.

The incident has raised national



Gov. Phil Bredesen addresses city officials and citizens of Harriman. The governor implemented an enforcement order requiring TVA's full cooperation in assessing the ash spill and developing a corrective action plan within 45 days.

"What I am saying is that TVA has people to talk to. Talk to them. Talk to your own lawyer and ask if it is a good proposal. Outside lawsuits could take 5-10 years to get settled and there could be catches. If there is a "Hold Harmless" clause and somewhere down the road you have health problems related to this, you will have no recourse."

An enforcement order announced by Gov. Phil Bredesen and

parts of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. However, opinions voiced by Congressman Davis, whose fourth district is in part of the spill site, and Rep. Zach Wamp are that \$25 million in the federal economic stimulus bill would ease the burden on Tennessee Valley Authority ratepayers.

"I think on the federal level, we need to look at this as any disaster we've had, natural or man-made," Davis told News 2.

"The downside is that it's costing TVA \$1 million a day," said Tidwell. "The upside is that's \$1 million a day invested in our local economy. TVA has been hiring all local contractors for the clean up process, every possible contractor."

"My advice to cities is to immediately go to the experts in the face of an emergency, get them on board," Beets said. "Don't be lulled into thinking this couldn't happen in your town. Nobody ever thought this would happen."

Kingston has been conducting water testing independently while coordinating water monitoring activities with Roane County, the State, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and TVA every two hours on a daily basis, according to the city's website. Water customers located along Swan Pond Road, the impacted area, have been tied into service lines from Roane Central Utility District and are no longer attached to the Kingston System.

According to the website, "the quality of water in the Tennessee River is good and water is treated by a filtration plant before being pumped into the water system.

The Kingston Water intake is located on the Tennessee River upstream of its confluence with the Clinch River, so any contaminants in the Emory or Clinch Rivers would have to flow upstream in the Tennessee River in order to reach the Kingston water intake."

Further cleanup updates, public information and testing results are available at www.tva.gov.

City GPS improves service

GPS, from Page 1

next day. If the technology meets expectations, this could eliminate the need to have some route drivers run each city street every two weeks.

"You theoretically could just drive directly to wherever the need is. Our goal is to increase the level of service and exceed our citizens' expectations on trash and brush collection, while also reducing fuel con-

sumption."

At roll-out, the first step is to ensure the ability to get thorough and consistent reporting of data from garbage truck drivers before evaluating possible future usages of the system.

The system was installed at a total cost of \$35,000, and could quickly repay itself through lowered fuel consumption.



Photo by David Leaverton

Pictured left to right: Sen. Corker, Mayor Beets and State Sen. Ken Yager attend a briefing conducted by TVA concerning the Kingston Fossil Plant ash spill. Jars on the table contain cenospheres, part of the residue floating on top of the water following the spill.

attention along with concern from various environmental groups including famed environmental activist/attorney Erin Brockovich, who arrived in town to address citizens affected by the mishap.

"What we have done is made ourselves available to the community," said Harriman City Coordinator Bobby Tidwell. "The impacted area is in our urban growth plan, but not in the city."

According to Tidwell, Harriman restored electricity and water to the affected area and has been providing fire protection with a city fire truck because the road which leads to the volunteer fire department has been blocked. The city also provided space for a town hall meeting between TVA, the public, and health officials.

"We are seeing a very positive side of TVA," Tidwell added. "They have been perfectly willing to do whatever they need to do to make it right for people and have been available and accessible. They have offered to buy the affected properties, no questions asked."

"I'm not advising or recommending what to do," he continued.

Environmental and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke required TVA's full cooperation in assessing the mishap and developing a corrective action plan within 45 days to "ensure safe operations in the future." While TVA crews have been working around the clock at a projected cost of \$1 million a day to stabilize the spill until a final disposal plan is complete, definitive answers concerning cleanup costs, length of time and final ash disposal are currently unavailable.

TVA CEO Tom Kilgore has indicated the massive costs may carry over to the electric rates of 9 million TVA customers across Tennessee,



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John Tanner and the Blue Dogs promote fiscal responsibility

Congressman named major player as Social Security Subcommittee chair, president of NATO Parliamentary Assembly

BY GAEL STAHL

John Tanner grew up in north-west Tennessee at Union City under the guiding influence of his parents and grandfather. The latter founded First Federal Savings and Loan; his father carried on the family business, Union City Insurance Agency, where Tanner later served as legal counsel.

In the early 1930s, so many housing mortgages were turned back to his grandfather's savings and loan that he couldn't remember which houses the S&L owned and which ones it didn't. So, he had a fellow paint all the ones turned back in green. Tanner says you can still see one or two of those green houses in Union City.

Tanner's father was serving in the military during World War II when Tanner was born in 1944 at nearby Dyersburg Army Air Base. For his first 18 months, he and his mother, Edith Summers Tanner, lived with her parents in Ridgely while E.B. Tanner served in Europe.

After attending Union City public schools, Tanner entered UT Knoxville on a basketball scholarship in 1962, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1966, and a law degree from UT School of Law in 1968. A fraternity brother introduced his sister Betty Ann to Tanner. They married in 1967. With a 1-A draft status during the Vietnam War, Tanner opted to finish his last year of law school and serve four years in the Navy rather than a two-year stint in the Army. He was not popular at the Charleston, S.C., Naval Base during working hours. He did court martials with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. By the time he finished his service, he was the father of two children, Elizabeth born in 1968 and Portis in 1971.

When Tanner returned with his family to Union City in 1972, he joined a private law practice, was active in the American Legion, joined the Tennessee National Guard, became well-known in the community, and was elected to the Tennessee House in 1976. House Speaker Ned McWherter, later governor, was married to Tanner's cousin, making Ned's children Tanner's cousins. So, it was something of a family affair when state Rep. Larry Bates, who held the House seat representing Union City, left it open to run against Congressman Ed Jones. Tanner thought it over and went to talk to Cousin Ned who said, "You might want to think about coming on up here." Tanner registered to run on the last day to qualify, won, and served until January 1989. In 1988, when Jones retired from Congress, Tanner ran to represent the Eighth Congressional District where he has been an influential fiscally conservative voice.

Tanner has had good reason to enjoy his work in Congress. He has served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee where he became engaged in NATO starting in 1994. He also found that his experience with the Tennessee National Guard (he retired from it in 1999) proved fruitful for his NATO work.

Last November, legislators from all 26 NATO-member nations elected Tanner to serve as president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the alliance's legislative branch.

Congressman Tanner is best known for being a founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition that was formed in 1995 after Republicans gained control of Congress. He's been one of its leading voices ever since. The coalition, comprised of moderate-to-conservative House Democrats, now has 50 members. It has built a reputation as being a serious player in the policy arena promoting fiscally conservative positions that bridge the gap between ideological and partisan extremes. The core beliefs and guiding principles include pay-as-you-go (paygo) spending, financial stability, and the national security of the United States.

The Blue Dogs' colorful moniker is a play on the so-called "Yellow Dog Democrats who would vote for a yellow dog before they'd vote for a Republican." The Blue Dogs group is so named because its members felt "squeezed from the left and right until they turned blue in the face. They happily work with like-minded Republicans to return fiscal equilibrium to the budget process. Tanner is the only member of the

original Blue Dogs still in the House. Each election sees their number increase, and they have President Obama's ear. Obama called Tanner before the election to say he wanted to work with them. Blue Dogs keep up the heat by saying there will not be Blue Dog votes for the stimulus package if they're not assured that "somewhere in the near future that statutory 'paygo' is going to be a part of the Obama administration." Obama, in turn, has repeatedly made statements that assure the coalition they would be seated at the head table during economic recovery bill sessions.

On Jan. 13, Tanner was named chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was proclaimed a timely and excellent choice by fellow colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike. And the Jackson Sun applauded the choice saying that "fiscal conservative Tanner has earned respect on both sides of the political aisle, and with other Blue Dogs will play a key role in getting these programs back on sound financial footing."

On Jan. 14, the House adopted a rule change supported by Tanner and the non-partisan Project on Government Oversight. It requires, among other things, committee hearings to weed out waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in federal government. Each House committee is required to conduct three to five hearings a year on waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in the agencies under the committee jurisdiction.

TT&C: Tennessee mayors, councils, and other officials congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in November. What's your interest in NATO?

JT: Our alliance with Western Europe and NATO is critical, especially now with the worldwide terrorism threat we face. More than just hard military help, we also need various kinds of intelligence assets that we don't have. Those have become even more important than military power because about the only defense you have to stop terrorist attacks is accurate, timely intelligence as to who, what, when, and where a terrorist strike is coming from so you can forestall it. Terrorists don't care how many aircraft carriers or nuclear submarines we've got. They are no deterrent against someone wanting to kill themselves to kill a few Americans. The more allies we have to help us connect the dots on what they are trying to do beforehand, the better we stand a chance to stop them. That's one of the reasons why I spend so much time with NATO.

TT&C: What prompted you to develop international interests back in 1994, long before 9/11?

JT: I have always liked the military. NATO was a way, as a member of Congress, I could stay in touch with what was going on in military matters. I was appointed to the Congressional delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NATO's legislative arm, and stayed with it. Being elected president last November to preside over the whole assembly will require a lot of my time but it's critically important. NATO is the lead military organization in Afghanistan. We need the help of all European allies and have 41 nations providing security under five regional commands: France in Kabul, Netherlands-United Kingdom-Canada rotate in South Afghanistan, Germany in North, Italy in West, and the USA in East Afghanistan. We need their manpower because we don't have enough standing army to fulfill rotation needs. I worry about the troops at Fort Campbell and in the Tennessee National Guard where some have had third and fourth deployments to Iraq since 2002. That has a great effect on family life. We also need help with the expenses of the operation.

TT&C: In Congress, you first worked to protect state and local governments from unfunded federal mandates and helped lead efforts to reduce or eliminate federal deficits. What legislative initiatives are you working on now?

JT: I have a couple of things I am trying to see get passed. I'm not sure we can. One is the way Congressional districts are drawn. I introduced The Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act bill in the 109th Congress (2005) and then again in the 110th Congress (2007). I plan to reintroduce the bill in the 111th Congress. It would mandate each state to have an independent commission to draw congressional district lines.



U. S. Congressman John Tanner, 8th District

What happened is that in 1962 the Supreme Court held in *Baker vs. Carr* that legislative redistricting was a justiciable issue. That led to the "one man one vote rule" giving every person a right to an equal vote. To create legislative districts with roughly equal numbers of voters, the state legislators then in office revamped their state and Congressional districts. Ever since, it has behooved Republicans to give the Democratic guys next door the Democrats in their district and keep the Republican voters for themselves. The Democrats do the same thing, so that 46 years later using computers and other technologies available, you have a situation in the United States House of Representatives where well over 300 of the 435 seats are not really competitive. They are overwhelmingly Republican or Democratic districts.

TT&C: That harms our representative form of government how?

JT: Practically, it means that while officeholders are good people, their primary interest is pleasing the constituency that hires them. That happens to be the most partisan elements of our society – those Democrats or Republicans who vote in their primary and think that their party is always right and the other party is always wrong. That does not give any impetus to folks to work across the aisle with good people in the other party to solve some of our common problems. In fact, those who get too chummy with the other side are punished by the hard-core partisans of their party. They will try to take them out at the next party primary on the claim those who cooperate with others are not pure enough. That happened to a Maryland Republican friend of mine interested in the environment and to Democrats, too. We in Congress are American first, political and partisan second. We need to represent all in our districts consistent with the national interest, not just represent a political party.

TT&C: Did winning a Democratic majority in the House in 2006 bring about any new initiatives for you?

JT: During the two years the Democrats have had the House, I've wanted to do three things. With a new administration in place, it seems to me to be the proper time to do the first one – to audit the programs that have been inactive and see if programs are spending money wisely or wasting it. Congress needs to exer-

cise a lot more oversight over money Congress authorizes and appropriates that the executive's administration spends. [A House resolution passed unanimously after this interview.]

A second thing we need is a commission along the line of the base closure commissions we've had in the past to look at all federal spending including entitlement spending.

Third, given the economic meltdown, we need to reinstate the statutory 'paygo' rule. That means that if you want to start new programs you've got to cut the government somewhere else to fund it or raise the money to do it. You pay as you go rather than borrow from China or somebody and pay all that interest on it. That adds to the federal deficit and national debt.

TT&C: Isn't paygo a core goal of the Blue Dog coalition?

JT: That's the heart of the message. I don't know what labels mean when you claim to be conservative sometimes. I don't think it's particularly conservative to borrow money like we've borrowed this decade. That is fairly radical. We were breaking even in 2000 when Clinton left office with balanced budgets. When we got hit with 9/11, government had three choices as to how to pay for our reaction. One was to cut spending somewhere else; that didn't happen.

Second, you could raise taxes to pay for the wars. Third, you could borrow the money. They got all three – didn't cut spending. They raised taxes – but called it interest. And borrowed money creating a debt you didn't have before.

I don't mean this in a partisan way, but the Republican Congresses in the House and Senate in the first six years of this decade basically abdicated the constitutional responsibility of Congress to oversee the government. It became more or less an extension of the White House, did the White House bidding by borrowing and spending past all limits. That's one of the reasons we got into so much trouble so quickly. We didn't cut spending somewhere else.

This economic downturn shows the consequences and fruits of the unprecedented borrowing during those years. I don't know what it's going to take to get out. You've got the country burdened with an additional \$130 billion a year of interest since 2002, which is why I say we've raised taxes that much, because that \$130 billion can't be repealed, and each year it's got to be paid off the top.

TT&C: What's the Blue Dogs approach?

JT: The Blue Dogs philosophy is the same as your family's. You live within your means, you pay your debts, and you invest in the future. The government is doing none of these things. I argue that the Blue Dogs are the most conservative bunch in the Congress. We don't take positions on social issues. Those are up to you and your constituents or your church or whatever. We don't go there.

Blue Dogs look at government primarily as an economic model to stimulate private enterprise to maximize business opportunities to make some money and provide people good jobs in a stable fiscal environment.

We believe that we ought to work for the people who hire us. We are a representative democracy, not a parliamentary system. It is illogical and irrational to me that as a rural Southern Democrat I would vote 100 percent of the time with city Democrats from urban New York, San Francisco, or Chicago. We don't always have the same legislative interests. The same is true with Republicans. When you see somebody voting 99 percent with the party leadership, whichever party they belong to, it reminds me of George Patton's saying: When two people agree on everything,

one of them is not thinking.

We Blue Dogs insist on Congress exercising its constitutional authority to oversee the spending that takes place of the executive no matter what party the executive belongs to.

TT&C: Shortly after you helped found the Blue Dogs you said Washington is basically an "either/or world" but it is not an either/or world that we live in. You said that you've got to figure out – particularly after elections are over – what is it that unites us. That sounds a lot like what President Barack Obama proclaimed leading up to his election. Now he proposes expensive economic recovery programs that won't be paygo. Can the Blue Dogs work with him?

JT: I could not be more pleased with President Obama's economic team, most of whose team members I know. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and Peter Orszag, the new director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, are seasoned, competent, and appreciate the debt problem that the country has that I've been talking about for five or six years.

As for the Obama national security team, Gen. Jim Jones is a four-star Marine retired general. I got to know him when he was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He was the commanding general of all NATO. The president could not find anybody with more appreciation of the risks we face and how to deal with them. I am just pleased beyond words on the economic and national security front.

President Obama knows the Blue Dog coalition's stance is fiscally conservative, but I think we can get along fine as long as we are at the table. We realize what a mess he's stepping into. There is no way to balance the budget right now. Not possible. We have got to do some public spending on infrastructure and on a stimulus package. It would be counterproductive if you tried to pay for it as you go. What we've got to try to do is try to expand the economy in the short term.

TT&C: And for the long term?

JT: What we'd like to see as an exchange for our forbearance, shall we say, on some of the fiscal principles that we think government ought to live by, is that the short-term assurances we send to markets will be made in the context of our intention to demand a more sane fiscal policy in the long term. We want that commitment.

The emphatic truth remains that we still have to straighten out our fiscal house. If we don't, our creditors are going to do it for us. If you think it is bad straightening out our economy with us in charge, just think what it would be like having China determine what we're going to do to get our house in order. See how you like that. This is no longer a pipe dream. We've got to figure out how to start living more within our means. President Obama assured me he is aware of this in a phone call about two weeks before the election. I'll never forget. He said he wanted to work with us if he got elected. "I believe in paying our bills. If I'm elected I don't want to be the president of Argentina." Argentina had to repudiate its debt.



Congressman Tanner addressing the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Valencia, Spain, on the day he was elected President, Nov. 18, 2008.