

NLC projects city budget shortfalls for 2010-2012

BY CHRISTOPHER HOENE
NLC Research Director

While the nation's economy may be approaching the late stages of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, local government budget tightening and spending cuts over the next several years could well impose a significant drag on the nation's economic recovery. Cities faced layoffs, canceled contracts with small businesses and vendors, reduced services and sizable budget shortfalls for 2009 that are expected to grow much more severe and widespread from 2010 to 2012.

With the pace of recovery still sluggish, the consequences of the recession will be playing out in America's cities and towns, on Main Street and in the lives of families for years to come.

The Municipal Sector Shortfall

The municipal sector – as if all city budgets were totaled together –

likely faces a combined, estimated shortfall of anywhere from \$56 billion to \$83 billion from 2010-2012. The range of the projected shortfall is wide because of the number of factors that can potentially affect municipal bottom lines. Chief among these is the impact of the economic recession on municipal revenue collections.

In 2009, city finance officers surveyed by NLC reported that sales tax and income tax collections were declining, but property tax collections were relatively flat.

Nationwide, housing values are down 9.5 percent since 2007, which eventually will translate into residential property tax revenue declines for cities – the brunt of which will hit in 2010, 2011 and 2012. More recently, the commercial property market also has been affected by economic conditions, which will result in declines in commercial property tax collections.

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New legislators join 106th

Just in time for the start of the 2010 legislative session, two legislators were named to the 106th Tennessee General Assembly to fill vacant seats in State House Districts 83 and 85.

Johnnie Turner was selected by the Shelby County Commission to represent District 85 of the Tennessee House of Representatives.

Turner's husband, Larry Turner, died of cancer in November. She will serve out the rest of his term.

She was assigned to the House Consumer & Employee Affairs Committee, House Education Committee, House K-12 Subcommittee, and the House Consumer Subcommittee.

She is the longtime executive director of the Memphis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mark White won the special election for the State House District 83 seat representing parts of East Memphis and Eastern Shelby County. He fills the seat formerly held by Brian Kelsey, who now serves in the State Senate.

White had previously run against Kelsey in 2004 for the same House seat. In 2006, he ran against Steve Cohen for U.S. Congress.

His committee assignments for the 106th General Assembly are: House Health & Human Resources Committee, House Consumer Employee Affairs Committee, House Employee Subcommittee, and House Public Health Subcommittee.

White is a business partner in Wyrestorm, which sells home theater cable and audio visual products.

Pat Marsh is also new to the Legislature this year. He was elected to the House District 62 seat in a special election held in October. Marsh fills the seat vacated by Curt Cobb, who resigned to become the Bedford County Clerk and Master.

Marsh has been assigned to the House Commerce Committee, House Transportation Committee, House Public Safety Subcommittee,

and House Small Business Subcommittee. A resident of Shelbyville, Marsh owns and runs the Four M Game preserve.



Johnnie Turner



Mark White



Pat Marsh

Bredesen proposes “painful” cuts

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Departmental cuts, employee layoffs, added fees, and tapping the state's reserves are all part of Gov. Phil Bredesen's plan for balancing next year's budget amid an unprecedented time of negative revenue growth and historic-level deficits.

Bredesen unveiled his budget proposal for the FY 2010 -11 last week before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly in his eighth and final State of the State address.

“This is the most difficult budget I've faced, but it's a common sense approach to ensure we live within our means and leave Tennessee with a responsible, balanced budget,” said Bredesen.

The budget, totaling \$28.4 billion, represents a 5.1 percent decrease from last year, mostly due to a 13 percent decline in federal revenues that for the past two years have been available to the state through the American Recovery Act.

Bredesen's FY 10-11 budget does not include any additional stimulus funds.

He is proposing reductions of about nine percent in most state departments, with TennCare taking the lion's share of the cuts. TennCare's annual budget would be reduced by \$200.7 million, more than half of the \$394.2 mil-



Gov. Bredesen, in his final State of the State address, presented a budget representing a 5.1 percent decrease from last year.

lion in departmental cuts Bredesen is recommending.

The budgets of Higher Education, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Division of Intellectual Disabilities have reductions of six percent; Children's Services is at five percent; and the Department of Correction is just one percent.

“These are difficult cuts, primarily in some of the most vulnerable areas such as mental health and the

intellectual disabled,” the Governor said.

Among the revenue enhancement measures proposed is charging local governments forensic service fees for DNA testing. Under the proposed plan, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations would charge local police departments \$20 per exhibit. If DNA testing is involved, another \$100 would be added to the cost. The Bureau estimates

See **BUDGET** on Page 3

Stand up and be counted in 2010 Census

The 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour made a stop in Oak Ridge last month as part of the largest civic outreach and awareness campaign in U.S. history — stopping and exhibiting at more than 800 events nationwide.

From local parades and festivals to major sporting events like the Super Bowl and NCAA Final Four, the Road Tour will attempt to motivate America's growing and increasingly diverse population to complete and mail back the 10-question census form when it arrives in mailboxes March 15-17.

Traveling for a total of 1,547 days and more than 150,000 miles across the country, 13 road tour vehicles are providing the public with an educational, engaging and interactive experience that brings the 2010 Census to life.

At each event across the country, attendees have the opportunity to learn about the 2010 Census and understand the benefits a complete



Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, left, was on hand to greet the Census Road Tour when it made a stop in Oak Ridge last month.

count can bring to communities everywhere; view a sample 2010 Census form and learn how the collected information is used; and contribute

stories and photos to the Portrait of America project to explain why “I count!” and view messages from other road tour participants.

Lebanon youth sidewalk program set in concrete

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Students looking for certification in the concrete industry need look no further than Lebanon where a new program provides both the practical instruction they need plus hands-on experience.

Lebanon Mayor Phillip Craighead initiated the Concrete Certification for Youth program following a consent settlement with the Department of Justice that Lebanon brings sidewalk accessibility into accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The city will set aside funding each year for the next 15 years to improve sidewalk accessibility, with this year's \$175,000 helping facilitate the concrete program, which started in January. The city is providing the necessary equipment and tools, classroom and storage space, and allowing the students and instructor, Steve Mahaney, to work with the city's planning department to bring sidewalks to ADA compliance. When the students complete the program, they will be given a cash incentive and the American Concrete Institute's certification.

For Mayor Phillip Craighead, who developed the concept, as word spread, support for the project began to roll like a nickel on concrete. “I had the concept and the council liked the idea,” said Craighead, who has a



The first class of Lebanon's Concrete Certification for Youth program

strong background in the construction industry. “I told Bill Moss with the Wilson County Vocational School and he got excited. Then I talked with Paul Haynes, Nashville Career Advancement Center and with Wilson County Youth Links.”

Other partners include: The Tennessee Technology Center in Hartsville; The Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Tennessee Board of Regents Central Office and the Joint Economic & Community Development Board of Wilson County.

“The program is very practical in a time when young people should be given every opportunity to gain skills,” said Commissioner James Neeley, of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The department approved a \$113,197 grant to pay for the instructional part of the program. “Mathematics has

been one of the subjects most young people are not enthusiastic to study because they may not see the connection of mathematical concepts and practical applications,” said Neeley. “This program will do that.”

The Tennessee Technological Center in Hartsville plans to include the training as part of their regular curriculum. Students will be able to access scholarships through Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant funds in the coming years, according to James King, vice chancellor of Tennessee Technological Center.

According to Mayor Craighead, students should be ready to hit the job site for the hands-on segment of instruction within the next 30 days. “This type of training and on-the-job work experience will provide a “win/win” for the city and the young people who take part in the program,” he said.

TML Legislative Conference scheduled for March 8 - 9



Make plans now to attend the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference, slated for March 8 – 9 at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Nashville.

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 106th Tennessee General Assembly.

City officials are also encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor

Hotel deadline for group rate Feb. 10

sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators. The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message.

To register on line, go to TML's web site at www.TML1.org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information. **Deadline for hotel registration is Feb. 10.** To reserve a room and to receive the group rate, contact the DoubleTree at 615-244-8200.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau recently received two prestigious awards, *ConventionSouth* magazine’s 2009 Reader’s Choice Award and *Successful Meetings* magazine’s 2009 Pinnacle Award. Both awards were given based on meeting planners’ identifying the Chattanooga CVB as a leader in the meetings and convention industry for hospitality excellence. *ConventionSouth* editors asked meeting professionals to name the convention & visitors bureaus, convention centers, conference centers, hotels, resorts and other meeting sites that they believe display exemplary creativity and professionalism to groups. Only those that received the top number of votes out of approximately 2,000 meeting sites and CVBs received this recognition.

CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Tree Commission received the Tree Board award from The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC) at the eighteenth annual statewide conference, *Greening Your Community*. The Commission was noted for their implementation of the Take Root tree planting program which planted 600 new trees in the downtown area of Chattanooga using donations and matching grants.

DYERSBURG

Pennington Seed & Supply has won a statewide entrepreneurship video competition sponsored by the Department of Economic and Community Development called “What Makes You an Entrepreneur?” The company won \$500 in cash and a professional marketing package valued at \$2,000. The competition was designed to draw attention to Tennessee’s entrepreneurial spirit.

EAST RIDGE

The winner of a citywide contest to design a flag for East Ridge is also the city’s Vice Mayor. Tom Card received 66 percent of the online votes among 18 contestants. The online vote was supervised by Chat-

tanooga accounting firm Johnson, Hickey and Murchison. Voters and artists had to prove residence in East Ridge to become eligible. Card’s orange-and-white banner features the city’s emblematic pioneer mixed with elements of Tennessee’s state flag. It is the first city flag in East Ridge’s 89-year history.

FRANKLIN

Franklin’s TV channel is changing its name from Cable Channel 10 to Franklin TV. The city added AT&T at the end of 2009 and went live in early 2010. In the last year, the channel has added original programming and a new program titled “The City Insider” which features interviews on location about departments or events. Visit channel 99 on AT&T throughout middle Tennessee, and on Comcast. Franklin TV remains on channel 10.

GATLINBURG

The number of visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during its 75th anniversary year was up 5 percent over 2008, the most in nearly a decade. Almost 9.5 million people came into the 500,000-acre park in 2009 through its three main entrances and outlying areas. Spokespersons attributed much of the increase to the anniversary celebration, but said the Smokies also benefited from a massive rock slide on Interstate 40 at the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. Many drivers used U.S. 441 through the park as an alternative route. The increase came despite record rainfall of 104.3 inches atop Mount LeConte and 20.43 inches more than normal onto Elkmont. April saw the largest increase of the year at 23 percent over the fourth month of 2008.

GOODLETTSVILLE

The city’s new “Notify Me” system sends emails to inform citizens of community happenings and meetings and to update them on city news, crime awareness, and city projects. Citizens voluntarily register for “Notify Me” through the city’s official website www.cityofgoodlettsville.org. More than 1,000 people are already participating in the “Notify Me” program.

JACKSON

This summer, Jackson area students will take part in the first statewide Teen Institute Program teaching youth leadership and promoting a healthy, safe and drug-free lifestyle. From June 14 to June 18, campers from ages 12 to 18 will attend the camp at Austin Peay State University featuring workshops, speakers and games addressing topics such as drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention and other issues that affect behavior. Each night of the program wraps up with events such as a game show, Olympics, concert, dance and cookout. The plan is to take two teams comprised of one adult and six students from the Jackson area. More than 400 teen leaders, adult advisors, and staff are expected for this year’s camp. The program is being organized by the Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency and will be helped out by the Tennessee National Guard and state Department of Highway and Public Safety.

JOHNSON CITY

The city is collecting working computers, monitors and related equipment for a new program that will give area youth technological tools to help them succeed. PC 4 ME is a collaborative effort between Johnson City’s Public Works Solid Waste Services Division, the Green Team, Cartridge World and Networking and Computer Connection. As computers are turned in to Solid Waste Services, NACC will refurbish selected ones, clearing out hard drives and installing new software. Cartridge World will supply ink for printers. An application and selection process for elementary school children to receive the refurbished computers is currently in the works. The PC 4 ME steering committee hopes to give two computers per month to deserving students.

KNOXVILLE

Tennessee may not be a mecca for wind power generation, but one local engineering firm will have a hand in how future turbines across the country are built. Inventure Laboratories has developed a piece of equipment aimed at simplifying and reducing the cost of manufacturing the giant bearings that help guide windmills. The Knoxville company was hired by a South Carolina business focused on design, consulting and sales in the gear-making indus-



Photo by Tim Barber/Chattanooga Times Free Press

East Ridge Mayor Mike Steele, right, holds the new East Ridge city flag as city manager William Whitson prepares to raise it in front of the East Ridge City Hall.

try to build the machine. In a wind turbine, bearings help control the pitch of the blades and direction of the turbine itself as it turns into the wind. They look just like gears that are commonplace in any number of industrial uses except that they are huge. Inventure’s machine is much smaller and sits atop the bearing-to-be and machines it automatically.

MEMPHIS

Sitel is laying off 426 workers, just over half its workforce. Most of the affected employees — 264 — are temporary workers hired for seasonal projects. The reduction is due to changing business needs of clients according to a company spokesperson. The global company, headquartered in Nashville, provides out-sourced customer contact service.

NASHVILLE

The city has been awarded a \$200,000 two-year grant to hire a chief service officer who will work to increase volunteerism among residents. Nashville was one of 10 cities out of 50 selected to receive the award from the Rockefeller Foundation. Mayor Karl Dean said he believed Nashville was chosen because of its strong history of volunteer work and wants to hire a chief service officer by the end of March. As part of the grant requirement, winning cities must implement a plan by June 30. A progress report, tracking the success of the plan, is due on Dec. 1.

NASHVILLE

A study released by the Brookings Institution, a non-profit research organization that works on poverty

and urban-suburban demographics, estimates that nearly 20 percent of Nashville lives below the federal poverty line. The city added about 32,110 people living below the poverty line between 2000 and 2008, a gain of 4.2 percentage points, reaching 17.5 percent of the city’s population. The suburbs as a group, which comprises 12 surrounding counties, saw an increase of 22,129 people living in poverty, a rise of less than one percentage point. Poverty workers cite a variety of reasons: a flight of the middle class to the suburbs for what they perceive as better schools, lackluster job growth and low educational levels.

TULLAHOMA

Two hundred workers will be losing their jobs at the end of March when the Fuji Film processing plant will close. Work that had been done in Coffee County since 1996 will now be shifted to a plant in Greenwood, S.C. Fuji is consolidating processing plants because so many people are switching to digital cameras. There are already more than 2,500 people in Coffee County out of work in a county of less than 25,000.

VONORE

MasterCraft Boat Company has announced it has purchased Hydra-Sports boats. Hydra-Sports is a well regarded manufacturer of 19 high performance saltwater boats. Under its new ownership, Hydra-Sports will move to the MasterCraft headquarters and production facility in Vonore. The company plans to keep some of the key staff, but will largely fill the openings with local employees. The company plans to begin production in late spring.



PEOPLE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Gayle Ray,

who has been serving as the deputy commissioner for several years, was sworn in as the new commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction. Ray, the former Davidson County sheriff, said she plans to push for drastically improved education for Tennesseans in order to cut back on prison costs.



Ray

David Mills,

warden of the Morgan County Correctional Complex in Wartburg, has been tapped to serve as deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction. Mills led the recent multimillion dollar expansion of the Morgan County Correctional Complex and the subsequent decommissioning of the Brushy Mountain prison. He has



Mills

worked in several leadership roles, including warden at several institutions and regional administrator.

Soddy-Daisy native **Hardie Stulce** has been reappointed as city manager following the resignation of former city manager Janice Cagle last February. Stulce formerly served as interim city manager 10 years ago. He has served the Soddy-Daisy Fire Department since 1972 as captain and chief. Stulce is the son of Arnold Stulce Sr., former state representative.

House Speaker Kent Williams has appointed **Kyle Spurgeon** as a member of the board of directors of the West Tennessee Regional Megasite Authority. Spurgeon is president and chief executive officer of the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been appointed twice by Gov. Bredesen to serve on the Tennessee Board for Economic Growth and serves as chairman of the Tennessee Building and Finance Committee.



Spurgeon

City Manager **Jim O’Connor**, has resigned his position from Oak Ridge to assume the job as the city manager of Winchester, Va. Oak Ridge Public Works Director Gary Cinder has replaced O’Connor as interim city manager.

David Smoak, former assistant administrator in Collierville, has been appointed town administrator of Farragut. Smoak will begin on Feb. 8.



Smoak

Tim Ellis has been named assistant city manager of Goodlettsville. Ellis will continue to serve as director of the Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation Department, a position he has held since 2003.



Ellis

Terry Fischer, of the Germantown Fire Department, has been named “Reserve Firefighter of the Year.” Fischer has been a reserve for more than 22 years, and currently serves as assistant chief for the city’s reserve firefighter program.

Baxter takes the helm of state’s Bomb & Arson Division

New director was previously Murfreesboro’s fire chief

David Baxter has joined the Division of Bomb & Arson as its director, bringing to the fire investigations team more than 30 years in the fire industry.

“We are extremely happy to have David join our team,” says Commerce and Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Leslie A. Newman. “His leadership and expertise will help the division continue to be a crucial force in fire investigations throughout the state.”

“Bomb & Arson’s staffers are routinely called to help local jurisdictions investigate fire-related crimes across Tennessee,” says Assistant Fire Commissioner Jim Pillow. “Having someone like David – who served Murfreesboro for decades as everything from a firefighter to a fire safety inspector, arson investigator and fire chief – lead that team of top-notch investigators is really great.”

In addition to his previous work experience, Baxter has served as president of the Tennessee Fire



Baxter

Chiefs, the Tennessee Fire Inspectors Association and as a member of many other organizations.

His first day was Tuesday, Jan. 19.

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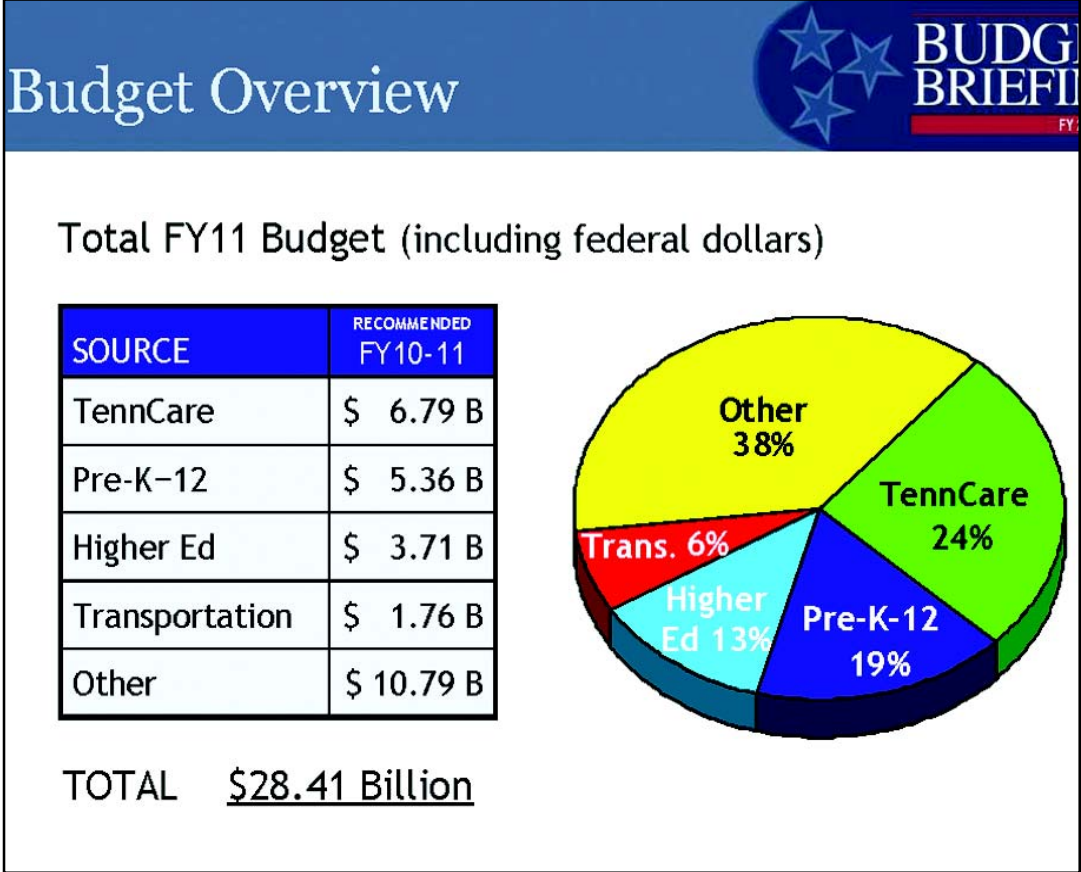
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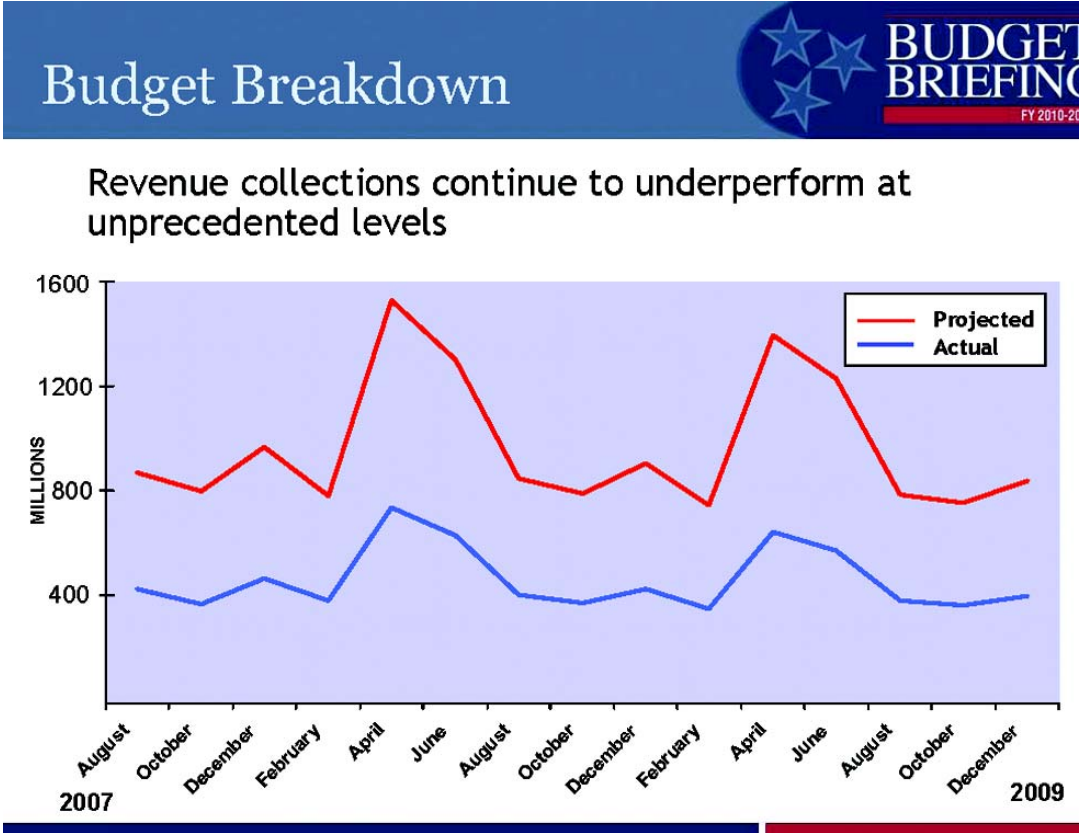
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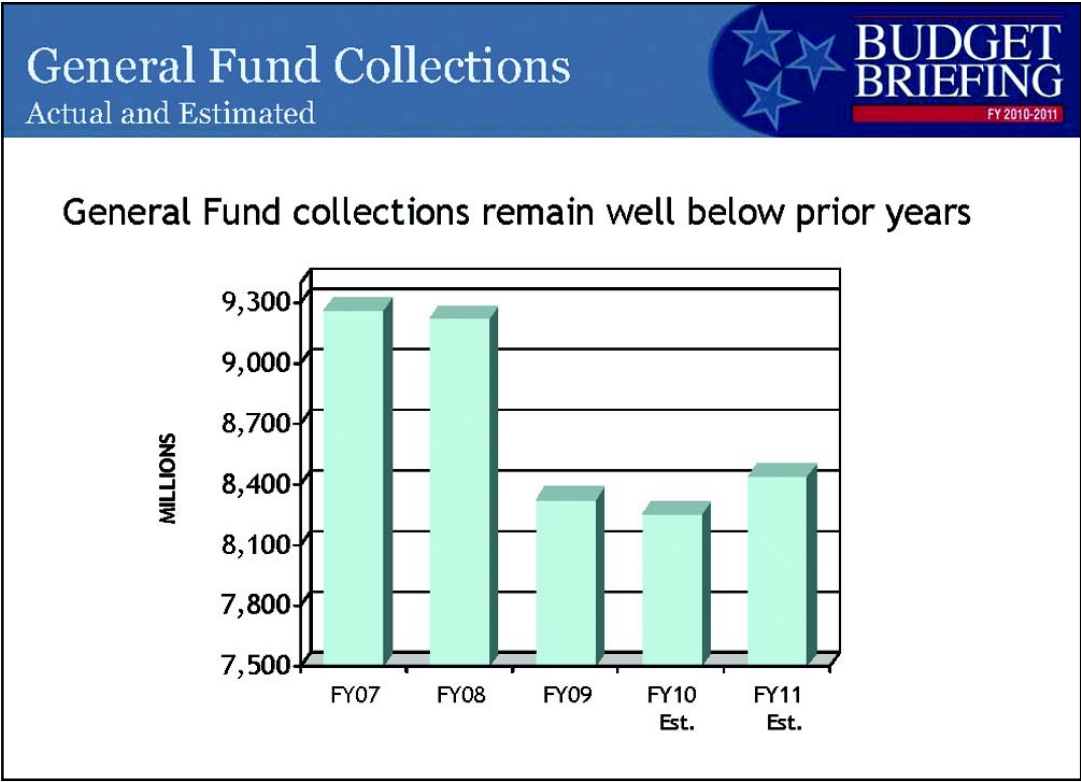
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Bredesen is proposing a \$28.4 billion budget, a 5.1 % decrease from last year.



December 2009 represented the 19th consecutive month of negative sales tax growth in Tennessee. The state is projecting to end this fiscal year (2009 - 10) \$217.3 million short.



The State Funding Board predicts a modest revenue growth rate that will range between 1.7 percent and 2.2 percent in fiscal year 2011. However it is still well below revenue collections of prior years. Some economists are predicting that it will be 2012 or perhaps longer before the state can build back to 2007 levels.

Recurring Budget Reductions

State dollars

BUDGET BRIEFING

✓ TennCare	\$ 200.7 M
✓ Correction	\$ 6.3 M
✓ Children’s Services	\$ 15.9 M
✓ Non-BEP Education	\$ 20.0 M
✓ Mental Health	\$ 9.4 M
✓ Environment & Conservation	\$ 4.9 M
✓ Revenue	\$ 1.5 M
✓ Health	\$ 11.0 M
✓ Higher Education	\$ 64.3 M
✓ Miscellaneous	\$ 60.2 M
Total Recurring Reductions	\$ 394.2 M

TennCare took the lion’s share of the reductions, with cuts totaling some \$200.7 million. Proposed TennCare cuts include capping inpatient and outpatient services, office visits and length of hospital stays.

Bredesen unveils budget proposal

BUDGET from Page 1

mates the fees would generate \$2.2 million annually and would preserve the positions of 30 forensic scientists who work in three crime labs across the state.

The Governor is also proposing a new tax on cable services, cable boxes and business telecommunications services, which is estimated to generate some \$50 million in new revenue. Of that, \$32.1 million will be earmarked for higher education and the rest will be used to avoid about 200 layoffs of district attorneys, public defenders, and probation and parole officers.

The budget also includes a \$2 increase on driver’s licenses, raising the fee from \$19.50 for five years to \$46 for eight years. The increase — the first since 1988 – is estimated to generate \$9.5 million annually and would prevent the state from eliminating 85 filled trooper positions and 56 filled positions in the driver’s license stations. It will also help fund upgrades to the Tennessee Highway Patrol’s radio/communication system.

Employee layoffs are also being proposed, but by how many could be determined by whether or not the General Assembly approves Bredesen’s plan to use some of the state’s rainy day fund to minimize these job cuts.

In addition to not filling 456 vacant positions, a total of 1,363 state positions are targeted for elimination. The Governor said about 1,000 positions should be eliminated “for good business reasons,” such as bringing staff ratios in line or closing an unneeded facility. However, the Governor said the remaining 314 positions are jobs “we would strongly prefer not to lose.”

He is proposing drawing down \$202 million from the Rainy Day Fund to preserve these positions for two years, along with 80 others that are scheduled to be laid off this spring. “At the end of the two years, the economy may have made the layoffs unnecessary, and further it has been our experience that people in those positions are likely to have found other jobs making any involuntary action unnecessary,” said Bredesen.

And despite the tough economic times, Bredesen’s budget does call for some additional spending. In the area of K-12, his budget fully funds the Basic Education Program, as well as provides for \$43 million for some BEP growth.

His budget also includes an \$81.7 million contribution to the state’s pension system; a one-time three percent bonus for state employ-

TBI to charge locals fees

Among the revenue enhancement measures proposed is charging local governments forensic service fees for DNA testing. Under the proposed plan, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations would charge local police departments \$20 per exhibit. If DNA testing is involved, another \$100 would be added to the cost. The Bureau estimates the fees would generate \$2.2 million annually and would preserve the positions of 30 forensic scientists who work in three crime labs across the state.

ees; \$23.5 million jobs-incentive package offered through the Department of Economic and Community Development; and \$10.9 million to restore land and soil conservation funds that are paid for through the real estate transfer tax.

Current Financial Situation

State revenues for the current fiscal year are down by \$169 million from budgeted estimates. December tax collections came in \$54.2 million less than the state budgeted. It is the 19th consecutive month of negative sales tax growth. The state is projecting to end this fiscal year \$217.3 million short.

“At the end of the fiscal year, on June 30, we’ll have to adjust for any under collection in the current fiscal year, and make sure our budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 reflects the revenue base available moving forward,” said Dave Goetz, Finance and Administration commissioner.

The State Funding Board predicts revenue growth rates to range between 1.7 percent and 2.2 percent in fiscal year 2011. However, the modest growth that state economists are predicting will be offset by the fact that the federal stimulus money is disappearing and will no longer help subsidize some of the state’s budget.

NLC projects city budget shortfalls, recession impacts revenues

ECONOMY from Page 1

At the same time, ongoing and increased demands from residents for municipal services and increasing municipal costs will make it difficult for city leaders to offset revenue shortfalls through spending cuts alone.

Revenue declines and spending pressures will conspire to produce municipal budget shortfalls that will have to be filled through increases in fees for services, laying off workers or cutting back their hours, delaying and canceling capital infrastructure projects and drawing down municipal reserves.

For 2009, based on NLC’s survey of city finance officers, cities faced an estimated budget shortfall of nearly three percent of total general fund budgets. Applying a similar shortfall estimate to each year of the next three years results in a combined, projected shortfall of \$35 billion for 2010-2012. However, based on previous recessions, it is highly likely that cities will face larger shortfalls in 2010, 2011 and 2012 than they experienced in 2009. A 4 percent shortfall over the 2010-2012 period would total \$46 billion, while a 5 percent shortfall over the period would total \$53 billion (see Table 1).

The Need for Federal Intervention

City governments are important components of the U.S. economy. The local and state sector comprises about one-eighth of GDP and cities make up a significant portion of that

sector. Consequently, the fiscal actions taken by cities affect the health of the local and regional economies that drive national economic performance.

In the absence of additional federal intervention, a deepening local fiscal crisis could hobble the nation’s incipient recovery with more layoffs, furloughs, cancelled infrastructure projects, and reduced services.

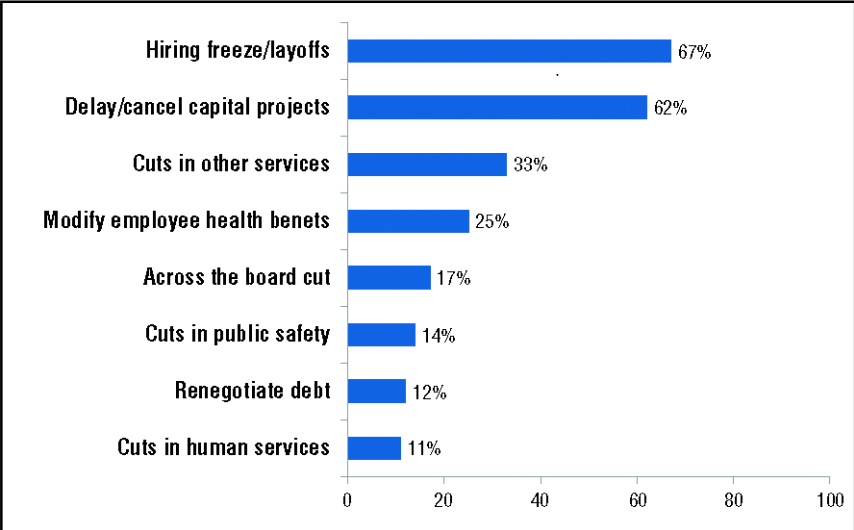
Estimates from Goldman-Sachs for 2010 and the Center and Budget and Policy Priorities for 2011 suggest that cuts in the state and local sector could reduce U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 0.6 percent to 0.7 percent for 2010 and 0.9 percent for 2011. The President’s Council of Economic Advisors estimates that each percentage point of GDP translates into approximately one million jobs, meaning that state and local sector cuts could cost the economy 600,000-700,000 jobs in 2010 and 900,000 jobs in 2011.6 In short, federal investment in a jobs package that helps stabilize city budgets will help cities save and create jobs locally, both city government jobs and private jobs via small businesses and other enterprises that are dependent on public sector investment.

At an event sponsored by NLC and the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program in November 2009, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said “Cities are too important to fail.” Federal investment in local jobs and fiscal stabilization will help ensure that actions by cities are helping national economic recovery.

Table 1: Projected Municipal Sector Budget Shortfall, 2010-2012 (All \$ in 1,000s)

Total Municipal General Revenues in 2009: \$397,780,262

YEAR	3% SHORTFALL	4% SHORTFALL	5% SHORTFALL
2010	\$ 11,933,408	\$ 15,911,210	\$ 19,889,013
2011	\$ 11,575,406	\$ 15,274,762	\$ 18,894,562
2012	\$ 11,228,143	\$ 14,663,772	\$ 14,359,867
Total	\$ 34,736,957	\$ 45,849,744	\$ 53,143,443



STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The Tennessee Department of Transportation will receive \$3.8 million in federal assistance to pay for the clean-up of the massive U.S. 64 rockslide. The Federal Highway Administration notified TDOT that the rockslide cleanup effort does qualify for 100 percent federal reimbursement as long as work is completed within 180 days of the incident. On Nov. 10, a portion of Little Frog Mountain slid onto U.S. 64 completely blocking the major east/west corridor in southeastern Tennessee. TDOT will have the roadway reopened to traffic by March 31, well ahead of the 180-day provision.

A period of belt-tightening and budget-cutting means the state will do away with the residential program of the Tennessee Governor's Academy in Knoxville. The Academy is changing to a nonresidential program and is not currently accepting applications for future students. The academy will allow the current crop of juniors to graduate in 2011, then change to a program mostly serving students from the Knoxville area. The program, which opened in the fall of 2007, recruited top students from around the state and put a strong focus on math and science, giving them access to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other resources. The revamped program will focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Tennessee's Duck River, about 45 minutes south of Nashville, is featured in the new issue of *National Geographic* magazine, chosen as one of the most biologically rich places in the world. Photographer David Liittschwager picked the Duck, along with a coral reef in the Pacific Ocean, Table Mountain in South Africa, and a cloud forest in Costa Rica to answer the question: How much life could you find in one cubic foot? He used a 12-inch metal frame to determine the bounty to photograph at each locale. The article, titled "Within One Cubic Foot" and featuring an essay from naturalist Edward O. Wilson, appears in the February 2010 issue. Leslie Colley, manager of The Nature Conservancy's Duck River Program, said the river was a natural choice. "The Duck River is absolutely a biological treasure trove," Colley said.

Tennessee's unemployment rate rose to 10.9 percent in December, up 0.7 percent from November. The rate had declined or held steady each month since August, when it was 10.7 percent. The December rate a year ago was 7.6 percent. Nationally, unemployment was 10 percent, which was unchanged from November. "These figures are consistent with a weak holiday period that outweighed seasonal adjustments to the unemployment rate this time of year, said Labor Commissioner James Neeley. The department says jobless figures were impacted by unusually low levels of hiring during the holiday shopping season. Seasonal adjustments usually account for a holiday hiring spree; this time, the five-year smoothing trend may have overcompensated. A survey of businesses

showed that just 1,700 jobs were gained in retail in December, while 4,300 manufacturing jobs were lost.

State tax collections fell below budgeted estimates for the fifth consecutive month of the fiscal year and continued a trend of negative tax revenue growth. Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz said that state revenue collections for December were \$766.7 million or \$54.2 million less than estimated. The general fund was under-collected by \$50.8 million. Collections were \$169 million less than estimated since the beginning of the fiscal year.

A small-scale experimental biofuel plant has begun producing ethanol in eastern Tennessee about a year and a half after it was first announced. The plant in Vonore is one of the first in the world capable of producing ethanol from non-edible plant materials. The 74,000-square-foot, \$50 million plant is currently using corn cobs and switchgrass to produce fuel. It is only expected to produce 250,000 gallons of ethanol a year. Its primary purpose is to serve as a laboratory for new technologies that could be used in large scale production. DuPont and the University of Tennessee are partnering on the plant, which was supported by a \$40 million appropriation in the 2008 budget.

Tennessee's baby boom went bust last year. The 2009 birthrate is the lowest the state has seen in more than 60 years of record-keeping. According to preliminary data from the Tennessee Department of Health, there were 76,739 live births in Tennessee - 10,000 fewer than the year before. The birthrate dropped from 13.9 live births per 1,000 population to a historic low of 12.4. State and national birthrates tend to rise and fall along with the economy.

TVA says a research partnership is developing solar-powered charging stations for electric vehicles. Tennessee Valley Authority Chief Executive Tom Kilgore said a prototype charging station that uses solar-generated electricity will be tested this spring at the Electric Power Research Institute laboratories in Knoxville. A second prototype will be built by Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge. During peak demand periods, the solar charging stations will use the sun to generate power instead of using electricity generated at power plants. Kilgore said the regional initiative will test the prototypes up to six months before additional stations are developed during the next few years in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville. James Ellis, TVA's electric transportation program manager, said the solar stations will be accessible to the public by the time electric cars go on sale.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Inc. has identified 220,000 members whose personal information may be at risk after hard drives were stolen from the insurer last year. Thieves took 57 hard drives from one of BCBST's former call centers in Chattanooga in October. The drives contained an estimated 1.3 million audio files of recorded phone conversations between customer service representa-

tives and customers or potential customers. The drives also contained an estimated 300,000 video files from images of the representatives' computer screens. A BlueCross Blue Shield spokeswoman said there is no evidence that any of the data has been accessed.

The Tennessee Valley Authority could spend up to \$741.1 million or more on the second phase of the Kingston ash spill cleanup engineering and cost analysis shows. TVA is looking at three alternatives for Phase II, which involves cleaning 2.4 million cubic yards of ash from Swan Pond Creek embankment and an adjacent 300 acres. Each of the three basic alternatives contains two options for implementation. The December 22, 2008, spill at the federal utility's Kingston Fossil Plant dumped 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash sludge into the Emory River, Swan Pond Creek and surrounding land. The first phase of the cleanup, which involves removing 3 million cubic yards of sludge from the Emory River and shipping it to an Alabama landfill, should be complete this spring. TVA has committed to spend at least \$428.5 million during the first phase, but some of those contracts will extend into the second phase, officials say. TVA is accepting public comments on the proposals through Feb. 18.

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services has received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit, child and family service and behavioral health care accrediting organization. Tennessee's Department of Children's Services is the seventh state-administered agency to receive COA accreditation. COA reviewed the Tennessee Department of Children's Services under nationally-recognized standards of best practice. Using performance and quality improvement measures, DCS completed an extensive self-assessment of its operational policies, practices and processes that was utilized by peer reviewers to assess their sufficiency.

The Tennessee Valley Authority will receive \$2 million in federal stimulus funding to repair an 11-mile levee along the Tennessee River near New Johnsonville. The repair will benefit the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge and the funds were granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said that rebuilding the levee will ensure continued winter sanctuary for migratory waterfowl. Refuge manager John Taylor said the dike was built around 1945 and its initial purpose was mosquito control. The levee, situated where the Duck River flows into the Tennessee, encloses about 5,000 acres and supports thousands of wintering waterfowl.

A state route in West Tennessee is closed to all but local traffic for more than two years while seven bridges are replaced. The Tennessee Department of Transportation closed Rt. 436 in Carroll County so work could begin. Officials said closing the highway will allow the work to be done faster and more safely. The 9.8-mile stretch is between McKenzie and U.S. 70-A. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2012. TDOT says people who live along Rt. 436 or have land there will have access to their property during construction. Detours have been marked.



Photo by State Photography Services

Gov. Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Matt Kisber are joined by senior leaders of Missouri-based Confluence Solar to announce that the company has selected Clinton as the home of their new manufacturing, warehousing and distribution facility on a 25-acre site in the I-75 Industrial Park on Frank Diggs Drive.

Confluence Solar to develop \$200 million facility in Clinton

Missouri-based Confluence Solar announced that the company has selected Clinton as the home of their new manufacturing, warehousing and distribution facility.

The facility will produce premium quality mono-crystal silicon ingots for photovoltaic solar power generation. The company's HiCz™ brand products increase the efficiency of solar cells by 15 percent or more, helping manufacturers of solar panels generate electricity more efficiently at a cost equivalent to or better than can be done using multi-crystal silicon ingot.

"Two years ago, we set upon a strategy to make Tennessee a significant player in the solar industry," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "Since then, we've seen more than two billion dollars in capital investment, more than a thousand jobs created, and, with the development of the Solar Farm and existing solar companies located in West Tennessee, we have truly created a statewide solar footprint. The announcement by Confluence Solar is further proof that Tennessee is recognized as a leader in renewable energy and that a new economic engine is emerging in our state."

"Tennessee's nationally recognized business climate and their focused solar strategy along with

Clinton's close proximity to Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the new Solar Institute made Tennessee the perfect location for our facility," said Tom Cadwell, CEO and co-founder, Confluence Solar. "The number of solar industry leaders establishing operations here and the intellectual energy surrounding solar technology provides our company, current investors, and future investors with the confidence that Tennessee is the place Confluence Solar needs to be."

The company will develop its facility on a 25-acre site in the Clinton I-75 Industrial Park on Frank Diggs Drive. Initial plans call for a 200,000 square foot building. With its investment, Confluence Solar will qualify for statutory incentive programs including FastTrack Job Training Assistance, FastTrack Infrastructure Development, the Tennessee Jobs Tax Credit and the Super Jobs Tax Credit among others.

"Confluence Solar could not have chosen a better community in which to locate," said Clinton Mayor Scott Burton. "Confluence Solar will make Clinton an important center for new solar technologies and will provide good paying jobs in the process."

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Beleaguered automakers are starting to hire again — almost 5,000 workers in the coming year. The added jobs amount to just a fraction of the 40,000 that carmakers shed during their tailspin last year. But it is a sign that the big manufacturers expect business to improve this year. Significantly, several automakers are making big investments in their lines of trucks as they anticipate that an improved outlook for housing and construction will encourage contractors and tradesmen to buy new vehicles.

The Census Bureau is finding itself with the most highly skilled, highly educated workforce in its 220-year history — thanks in part to a struggling economy that has produced millions of people eager to work. The bureau already has

recruited engineers, former corporate vice presidents, college professors and radio disc jockeys to help manage the 2010 Census, which will attempt to count everyone in the United States beginning in March.

Lottery players in dozens of states hit the jackpot as two national games — Powerball and Mega Millions — began selling tickets in the same states. The move is likely to increase jackpots and promises greater revenue for cash-strapped state and local governments. Lottery critics, however, call it the latest affront to problem gamblers, pushing an addictive product to those who can least afford it. Until an agreement by state lottery chiefs last October, Powerball and Mega Millions were sold in different states. Many lottery players were prompted to drive across state lines to bet on a favored game or a big jackpot.



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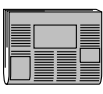
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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LAFOLLETTE. The city is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of City Administrator. This person will serve as the administrative head of the city government and oversee day to day operations. The city administrator is responsible for supervising all department heads, including the police, fire, parks & recreation, animal control, streets and sanitation, codes enforcement, as well as all administrative employees. Minimum qualifications include an undergraduate degree and training in business or municipal management or public administration. A masters degree is preferred. The mayor and council desire a person with skills in budgeting and financial management. The applicant should also have good people skills as well as good oral and writing communication skills. The applicant should have experience and knowledge in the application for and administration of state and federal grants and have the ability to deal with personnel, public safety and long range planning. The city of LaFollette offers an excellent benefit package. Salary for this position is negotiable. Resumes will be accepted no later than 2:00 pm on Monday, March 1, 2010, and should be marked: City Administrator, City of LaFollette, 207 South Tennessee Avenue, LaFollette, Tennessee 37766.

FIRE CHIEF

COLUMBIA. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Fire Chief. Salary range: \$57,242-\$87,963. Requirements include Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Master's degree preferred. Extensive experience in Fire Service command level positions required. Completion of the National Fire Academy Executive Development program or a similar state academy program preferred. Experience in a collective bargaining environment a plus. Physical examination and drug screening will be required prior to employment. Submit resume with salary requirements and list of references to: Personnel Director, City of Columbia, 707 N. Main St., Columbia, Tennessee 38401; kcollier@columbiatn.com. Resumes accepted until March 1, 2010. Visit our website at www.columbiatn.com. Additional information may be obtained by telephone at 931-560-1570. EOE

STAFF ACCOUNTANT

SAVANNAH. The city is seeking applicants for the exempt position of Staff Accountant. The position duties will involve all aspects of city financial management and will require comprehensive understanding of city government and public utility finance. The position will work closely with the Board of Commissioners and City Manager to formulate and oversee implementation of budgets and all aspects of financial operations for the city. A bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Public Administration, or a related field with comparable work experience is required. Certified Public Accountant or Certified Municipal Finance Officer credentials will be required within 18 months, as outlined in the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007. Salary based on comparative regional governmental positions and candidates qualifications. TCRS retirement along with excellent benefits. Resume review will begin Feb. 16, 2010, and resumes will be accepted until position is filled. Please submit a letter of interest, resume, salary history and professional references to: City Manager, City of Savannah, 140 Main Street, Savannah, TN 38372.

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Personnel records should be managed by a trained employee

BY DON DARDEN
MTAS Management Consultant

It is common practice in some Tennessee cities for personnel records to be maintained in separate locations and by untrained personnel. Records often are maintained in each department of city government where employees may be free to look at all of the files, including Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, library cards, personally identifying information of police officers, health related matters, and other such information that is protected by federal and/or state laws.

Employees often review records of other employees and remove from the files information about reprimands, suspensions, demotions, and the like.

MTAS recommends that every city in Tennessee maintain its personnel records in a central location and that such records be under the custodianship of a trained employee, or employees, depending on the size of the city.

The custodian should know what records are public and what records are private under state and federal laws. The custodian should know that personnel records are owned by the city and not the employee.

It should never be permissible for an employee, or anyone else, to

take a personnel file out of the records office, or to remove any document from the personnel records. MTAS also recommends that the custodian of the records maintain a duplicate file, for public and employee access, that does not include private, protected information.

Legislation in Tennessee requires that the chief of police make the decision to release, or not release, information in a police officer's personnel file. If the personnel records are not disclosed, the chief must explain in writing the reason for refusing to release the information and then release the redacted file. If the personnel records are to be disclosed, the chief must first notify the officer whose files have been requested and give that officer an opportunity to oppose the release.

The recorder or other records custodian should notify the chief that a request for an officer's personnel records has been made and then ask the chief to make the determination as to what should or should not be released.

Section 1172 (a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-191) makes the city responsible for maintaining and transmitting health information in accordance with reasonable and appropriate administrative, technical, and



Every city in Tennessee should maintain its personnel records in a central location and under the custodianship of a trained employee.

physical safeguards —

- To ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the information;
 - To protect against any reasonably anticipated:
 - 1.Threats or hazards to the security or integrity of the information;
 - 2.Unauthorized uses or disclosure of the information; and
 - 3.Otherwise to ensure compliance with this part (Section 1172 (a) by the officers and employees of the city.
- The act provides that a person

who knowingly obtains or discloses individually identifiable health information in violation of HIPAA faces a fine of \$50,000 and up to one year of imprisonment. Penalties may increase up to \$100,000 and up to five years imprisonment, depending on the circumstances.

Maintaining personnel records in a central location under the custodianship of a trained records keeper is the best insurance for the city and its employees to comply with HIPAA and to significantly reduce or avoid liability.

Second round of ARRA funds available for Broadband

The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced availability of \$4.8 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants and loans to expand broadband access and adoption in America. This is the second funding round for the agencies' broadband programs. The investment will help bridge the technological divide, boost economic growth, and create jobs.

NTIA and RUS also announced the rules for applying in this funding round, which have been modified to make the application process easier for applicants and better target program resources.

The agencies plan to accept applications from Feb. 16, 2010, to March 15, 2010, and announce all awards by Sept. 30, 2010.

NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

NTIA's NOFA allocates approximately \$2.6 billion in this funding round of which approximately \$2.35 billion will be made available for infrastructure projects. In this round, NTIA is adopting a "comprehensive communities" approach as its top priority in awarding infrastructure grants, focusing on middle mile broadband projects that connect key community anchor institutions — such as libraries, hospitals, community colleges, universities, and public safety institutions. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure projects maximize the benefits of BTOP by leveraging resources, promoting sustainable community growth, and ultimately laying the foundation for reasonably priced broadband service to consumers and businesses.

In addition, NTIA plans to award at least \$150 million of the funding for Public Computer Center projects, which will expand access to broadband service and enhance broadband capacity at public libraries, community colleges, and other institutions that service the general public. NTIA also plans to award at least \$100 million for Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects, which include projects to provide broadband education, training, and equipment, particularly to vulnerable population groups where broadband technology has tradition-



At least \$150 million will go to fund Public Computer Center projects, which will expand access to broadband service and enhance broadband capacity at public libraries, community colleges, and other institutions that service the general public.

ally been underutilized.

RUS's Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)

RUS's NOFA allocates approximately \$2.2 billion in this funding round for broadband infrastructure projects. A second funding window will open later which will provide grants for satellite service for premises that remain unserved after all other Recovery Act broadband funding is awarded, make Technical Assistance grants for developing plans using broadband for regional economic development, and grants to provide broadband service to rural libraries funded by USDA under the Recovery Act.

RUS will focus this round on last mile projects, which are anticipated to receive the vast majority of funding. RUS will also fund middle mile projects involving current RUS program participants. The first NOFA had two funding options — grants up to 100 percent in remote rural areas, and 50/50 loan/grant combinations in non-remote rural areas. In the second NOFA, RUS has eliminated this distinction and adopted a base 75/25 grant/loan

combination for all projects. The new approach provides RUS with flexibility to seek a waiver if additional grant resources are needed for areas that are difficult to serve, and priority for those who seek lower grant levels. RUS believes this simplified and flexible funding strategy will promote rural economic development.

Separate NOFAs will allow applicants to apply directly to either program. RUS also eliminates the two-step process for BIP applicants to improve program efficiency. These changes will also add valuable time for applicants to focus on one specific program in preparing a more solid application.

Incorporated into the RUS NOFA is an opportunity for the reconsideration of BIP requests to provide viable applications with every chance for funding. There is also a second application review process during which RUS would allow an applicant to adjust its application to better meet program objectives and for the Administrator to provide discretionary points or to increase a grant component to meet rural economic objectives.

Public Workshops

Also, NTIA and RUS announced a series of public workshops to review the application process and answer questions from prospective applicants. The workshops will be held in Portland, Ore.; Reno, Nev.; Denver, Colo.; San Antonio, Tex.; Eureka, Mo.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Detroit, Mich.; Blacksburg, Va.; Fayetteville, N.C.; and Atlanta, Ga. Interested parties can register for the workshops at www.broadbandusa.gov.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided a total of \$7.2 billion to NTIA and RUS to fund projects that will expand access to and adoption of broadband services. Of that funding, NTIA will utilize \$4.7 billion for grants to deploy broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in the United States, expand public computer center capacity, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. RUS will use \$2.5 billion in budget authority to support grants and loans to facilitate broadband deployment in primarily rural communities.

<http://www.broadbandusa.gov/workshop.htm>

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The city of Harriman closed a loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for \$1.25 million to be used for street and road improvements. Seated are: City Recorder Angela Skidmore and Mayor Chris Mason. Standing are: City Treasurer Charles Kerley, and TMBF Representative Joe Muscatello.

Municipal Administration Program February Schedule

Critical Safety Priorities

Municipal employees face safety and liability exposures daily. Unfortunately, some of these exposures do lead to accidents and injuries. Furthermore, city leaders may not know the cause of these losses and how they affect the financial “bottom line.”

This class will address employee safety and liability issues in the municipal workplace that negatively impact the health and safety of employees and the city’s budget. Included in this course will be how to recognize routine work hazards; how to address hazardous behaviors; identifying elements of an effective safety program, and identifying and controlling critical municipal liability exposures.

Who Should Attend?

This course should interest city managers, elected officials, risk managers, safety coordinators, HR directors, finance directors, department heads, and any other municipal official who is responsible for the safe operation of city services.

Instructors

Brett Ward, MTAS Utility Op-

erations Consultant; Steve Wyatt, MTAS Utility Operations Consultant; and George Dalton, TML Risk Pool, Risk Services Consultant

Time

Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Dates and locations

Feb. 10 Collegedale
Feb. 11 Franklin
Feb. 16 Jackson
Feb. 17 Lakeland
Feb. 24 Johnson City
Feb. 25 Knoxville

Training Facilities

Collegedale *Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive*

Franklin *Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane*
Jackson *West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension & Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd.*

Lakeland, *International Harvester Club House, 4523 Canada Road*

Johnson City *Johnson City Municipal Building, 601 East Main Street*

Knoxville *University of Tennessee*

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To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrissey at Elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu or 865.974.0411. Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

Submit payment with your registration. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. We can no longer accept payments/registration at the door.

Directions to the facility will be included in an e-mail message within two days of the event. Directions are also available at www.mtas.tennessee.edu.

Metro Nashville Council approves \$585 million convention center

Music City Center projected to open in 2013

Nashville’s Metro Council approved a new \$585 million convention center with 29-9 vote last month.

The 1.2 million square-foot facility is slated to open in 2013. Construction is scheduled to begin the first of this month.

The new Music City Center will sit in the heart of downtown Nashville behind the Sommet Center.

Mayor Karl Dean presented the findings of an economic impact analysis to the Metro Council that projects Music City Center will generate \$134.9 million in new annual spending in Nashville by 2017.

The report was completed by HVS Consulting, which conducted an independent feasibility analysis of Music City Center that confirmed demand for the facility and the revenues that will support it. The economic impact analysis specifically examines the increase in local spending that will be caused by Music City Center over what is currently generated by the Nashville Convention Center.

“This report is important because the reason to build a new downtown convention center – and the only reason I’ve supported this project from day one – is to make an investment in our city,” Dean said. “We have an opportunity to take visitor taxes and fees, and invest them in a way that creates jobs and grows our local economy.”

The \$134.9 million total economic impact of the project includes both direct spending from individuals and organizations that will use Music City Center and secondary spending that will result



Mayor Karl Dean presented the findings of an economic impact analysis before the Metro Council that projects Music City Center will generate \$134.9 million in new annual spending in Nashville.

from their activities, such as a restaurant owner purchasing food.

In direct spending alone, the report estimates convention attendees, event planners and exhibitors will spend \$86.6 million in Nashville during a stabilized year of the center’s operations.

“If you consider the debt service at \$40 million a year, for every dollar spent on building Music City Center, the people that use the facility will spend two new dollars on goods

and services in Nashville. When we refer to this project as our own economic stimulus, that’s what we’re talking about. Those new dollars go directly into our local economy,” Dean said.

It estimated that more than 1,500 jobs will be supported by the total new spending generated by the new convention center. The spending will also produce \$11.97 million in new local tax revenue that is not dedicated to paying off the debt.

UT’s IPS awarded Economic Development Education Grant

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced a grant to the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS) which will allow the organization to award \$30,000 in Three-Star scholarships for city and county elected officials. The scholarships, overseen by the UT IPS and ECD, will be used for continued economic development education and 28 rural Tennessee counties and cities will be eligible to apply.

“This partnership between the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and ECD allows us to reach out to a group that is traditionally underserved,” ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber said. “It is imperative to further the education of our economic development professionals across the state. They will help create the higher-skilled, better-paying jobs of tomorrow.”

Grant recipients will receive the opportunity to participate in one or more of three training options provided by the UT IPS:

- The Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course, which focuses on fundamental concepts, tools and best practices needed to be successful in today’s economic development environment;
- The County Officials Certificate

Training Program and Municipal Elected Officials Academy, nationally recognized training programs that provide specialized technical, administrative and managerial training to county government and municipal elected officials; and

- The Pioneer Academy, a joint city/county training program that educates attendees on economic development, planning and zoning, and retail economic development.

The Three-Star Scholarship Grants will accept applications from 28 rural Tennessee counties who have been determined to be underserved in elected official training by the UT IPS Fiscal Year 2009 Training Data Report and by Economic Status of Tennessee as of July 1, 2009.

The 28 rural counties are: Bedford, Benton, Bledsoe, Clay, Decatur, DeKalb, Fentress, Grainger, Grundy, Hancock, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Johnson, Lake, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, McNairy, Meigs, Moore, Morgan, Perry, Pickett, Polk, Smith, Trousdale and Van Buren.

For more information on applying for a Three-Star Scholarship Grant, please contact Beth Phillips, (865) 974-0268 or beth.phillips@tennessee.edu. Scholarships will be awarded no later than June 30, 2010.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail or fax. Please send any changes in your contact information to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to mlawrence@TML1.org, or call 615-255-6416.

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Transportation Quandary: ‘Anyone Listening Out There?’

BY NEAL PEIRCE

Most everyone agrees that efficient roads, rails and air service are vital for our economy and our quality of life. Most of us see that without them, America will have a hard time competing against rising powers worldwide.

So why is Congress stalling? Representatives and senators know the federal transportation program expired last September. They keep passing temporary extensions without facing up to core issues — for example, the federal gas tax stuck at 18.4 cents a gallon, unchanged for 17 years despite escalating asphalt and concrete prices.

And why do we keep on paving over more and more of our landscape instead of embracing a “fix it first” strategy? Can’t we make our roads and transit investments match our housing choices in a “post-sprawl” era? Why aren’t regions being told that they had better link roads, rail and available air service for a smarter “intermodal” future?

The easy answer is always that Congress is too busy with the health care reform bill and other crowded agendas. Bridges aren’t collapsing very often. Road congestion is bothersome, but we have little faith in expanded roadways either. Plus, people are more excited by the Obama Administration’s idea of a national “high-speed” rail system than more miles of asphalt.

So there was scarcely a ripple when Felix Rohatyn, respected financier and veteran civic leader, warned that “America’s roads and bridges ... the country’s entire infrastructure — is rapidly and dangerously deteriorating.”

Steve Heminger, executive director of the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, is quoted as bemoaning: “Is anyone listening out there?” Transportation expert Kenneth Orski even warns that the second jobs stimulus measure the Administration is likely to

recommend could be a “death warrant” for full-scale transportation reform because it will likely include some quick road repair funds.

Most transportation experts think the gas tax is not only on its last legs but should be replaced by some kind of electronically monitored system measuring how many miles a car is actually driven. But the idea likely needs lots of testing, and the White House, in a recession economy, is opposed.

So what do we get? A series of short-term program extensions, forcing Congress to make up for declining gas tax proceeds with general revenue funds — i.e., deficit spending. In the process, most dollars are left flowing through traditional transportation “stovepipes” that are tilted heavily to roads over transit, traffic “throughput” over community livability.

Where we *ought* to be heading, says John Robert Smith, president and CEO of Reconnecting America, is an “intermodal” future in which road, rail and air service are all tightly connected rather than disjointed and competing.

And Smith, a Republican who built a high-quality multipurpose transportation facility as mayor of Meridian, Miss., then served as chairman of the Amtrak board of directors, has high hopes that transportation reauthorization can avoid the bitter partisanship that now infests Congress:

“For Republicans, this is a national security issue, freedom from foreign oil and more Chinese debt. It’s brick and mortar and steel that will bring a return on investment, promoting business opportunities. On the Democratic side, it’s about equity, connecting people, broadening transportation choices.”

Transportation hasn’t typically been a partisan issue, notes Emil Frankel, former Transportation Department official and currently transportation policy director of the Washington-based Bipartisan

Policy Center. But Frankel cautions that this time, party differences might surface if climate and energy issues start to play a significant role.

“An even bigger obstacle to reform,” he says, “could be opposition of existing stakeholders — from construction firms and unions to transit operators — all trying to protect and expand funding they receive under current programs.”

Add up the potential pitfalls and it’s indeed hard to see Congress acting early, despite a comprehensive reauthorization bill introduced last year by Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn. What’s more, members may flinch at daring to pass a multibillion-dollar authorization measure just before the midterm elections.

Alas, Rohatyn and others are right — our infrastructure *is* crumbling. We *do* need a system that values performance over special interest protection. We need state transportation departments to place a priority on maintenance and cater to fewer politically motivated bridges — or roads — to nowhere.

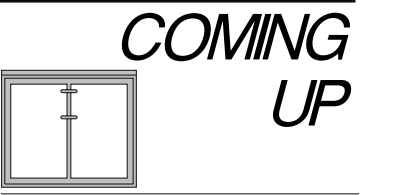
And for the future, in this overwhelmingly metropolitan nation, we need explicit, clear transportation choices made in and for our city regions. The existing MPO (metropolitan planning organization) model for transportation choices needs a serious shakeup — starting with fair apportionment and demanding only one MPO in each metro region, not the splintered structures some regions now exhibit.

It’s only at the metro level, notes Smart Growth Leadership Institute President Parris Glendening, that there can be effective links of transportation with housing, economic competitiveness, carbon reduction, lowering vehicle miles traveled and promoting national security by reducing energy consumption.

It’s a massive challenge. The consequences if we miss it: a less livable, less prosperous America.



Feb.19-21: Knoxville
Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show
Knoxville Convention Center.
Show hours: Friday, Feb. 19- Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The largest house and garden show in Tennessee for the do-it-yourselfer and the gardening enthusiast. For more information, call 865-637-4561.



March 16-17: NLC Congressional City Conference. Workshops and general sessions held during the 2010 Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., will explore subject matter important to cities, towns and villages including sustainability, economic recovery, city administration, advocating for cities, going green, infrastructure, public safety, neighborhoods and youth and families. For program updates, visit the website www.nlccongressionalcityconference.org.

March 17-19: The 2010 TCMA Spring Conference. A joint session with our colleagues in Kentucky held in Frankfort, Kentucky. TCMA and KCCMA have arranged for a 3-hour session entitled *Break Through Conflict* facilitated by Paul and Susan Glaser of Glaser & Associates.

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Associate Profile: A to Z Muni-DOT Company

A to Z Muni-DOT Company is a company that lives up to its name by focusing solely on the Municipal and DOT markets. With offices in Athens, Alabama; Birmingham, Alabama; and Atlanta, Georgia, along with local sales people in six states, the focus is to be a proactive distributor working with end users, engineers, and architects to aid in product knowledge and specification design in the Southeast.

The **D.O.T. Roadway** division has 200 years of combined sales and support experience in the Department of Transportation arena. Add this to our list of vendor partners and it equals unprecedented expertise in lighting, overhead sign structures, poles, datacom, security, traffic, and hardware.

Our **municipal division** considers park and recreation, boards of education, and university systems (including junior colleges) to be our customer base. We have extensive product offerings available consisting of: decorative and roadway lighting, decorative and road-

way poles, sports lighting, signage (street and parks) and park amenities. A to Z supplies a complete line of specialty equipment for sporting arenas, parks and recreation sites. If our customer is building a playground or a multi-million dollar sports complex, we have everything needed from start to finish.

In the area of **security and audio**, A to Z can provide all needs. We offer a wide range of CCTV camera (pole and building mount) DVR equipment and monitors for almost any security challenge. Our audio capabilities include PA systems, speakers (indoor and outdoor) completely weatherproof realistic rock design blends, commercial amplifiers, wireless microphones and sirens, intercom systems, and speaker selector distribution centers.

A to Z is committed to customer service that will exceed that of any competitor in our market. We have employed specification engineers, knowledgeable sales personnel, and quotations specialist to insure that we follow through with our promise

of banner customer satisfaction. In addition, A to Z has formed strong vendor partnerships to provide the customer with superior product in an effort to further our customer service excellence. Through these vendor partnerships we are enabled to control costs on quality equipment, resulting in savings we pass on to our valued customers.

Our lighting solutions cover both indoor and outdoor applications including; high bay fluorescents, HID lamps, floodlights, streetlights, and security lighting. Additionally, we supply a complete line of specialty equipment for sporting arenas, parks, and recreation sites. Whether tackling a new park, sports complex, skate park, scoreboard, streetscape or refurbishing an existing sports field, A to Z can help! As the name states, we have everything from A to Z!

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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.

TML reviews 2010 legislative priorities during district meetings



District 5: Angie Carrier, White House city administrator; Ken Wilber, Portland mayor; and Denise Geminden, Portland ECD director.



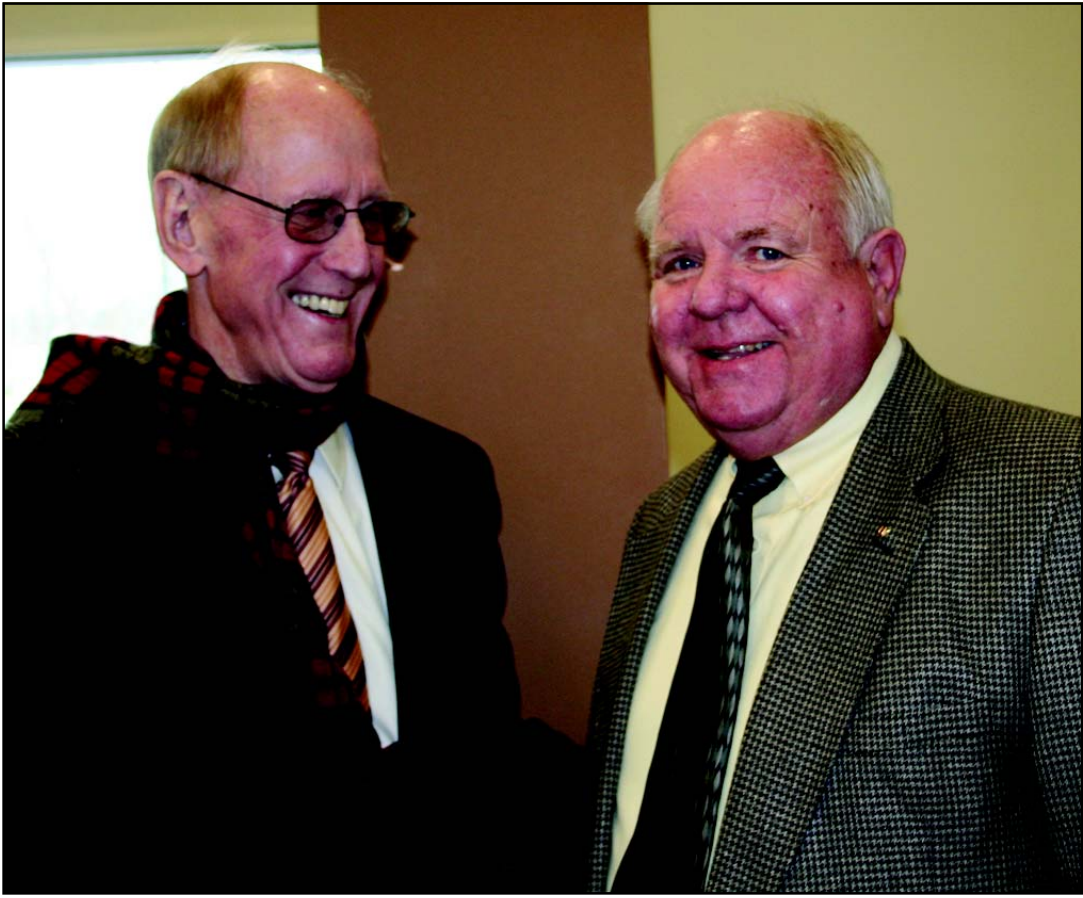
District 5: Tim Ellis Goodlettsville assistant city manager; Jim Thomas, Goodlettsville city manager; and Robert Mobley, Millersville city manager.



District 5: Phillip Craighead, Lebanon mayor; and Jo Ann Graves, Gallatin mayor.



District 5: Margaret Mahery, TML executive director; and Scott Foster, Hendersonville mayor.



District 5: Charles "Bones" Seivers, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund president and CEO; and Tommy Pedigo, Sparta mayor and TML president.



District 6: Sam Tune, Eaglesville mayor; and Ronald McRadly, Lewisburg councilman.



District 6: Betsy Crossley, Brentwood mayor.



District 6: Jennifer Ward, MTAS intern; Kirk Bednar, Brentwood assistant city manager; and Karen Harper, Brentwood Finance Department treasurer.



District 6: Darin Rowell, Eaglesville councilmember; and Jim Lee, Fayetteville city administrator.



District 6: George Dalton, TML Risk Management Pool; and Terry Harrison, Pulaski city administrator.



District 6: Paul Webb, Brentwood commissioner; and Jody Baltz, Tullahoma city manager.



District 6: Kevin Krushenski, TML research analyst; and Mike Walker, Brentwood city manager.



District 6: Dean Dickey, Columbia mayor; and Sue Stephenson, Columbia councilmember.



District 4: Curtis Hayes, Livingston mayor; Sally Oglesby, Crossville city clerk; and J.H. Graham III, Crossville mayor.



District 4: Ricky Shelton, Cookeville councilmember; and Gail Fowler, Cookeville adminstrative assistant.



District 4: Greg Etheredge, Livingston police chief; and Ronnie Kelly, Cookeville public works director.

Clarksville:Tennessee’s ‘Top Spot’ tops for kids

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

On the road to becoming “Tennessee’s Top Spot,” Clarksville, just 40 minutes north/west of Nashville in Montgomery County, has developed the right stuff to be considered the best place in Tennessee to raise your kids by *BusinessWeek* magazine. It’s becoming par for the course for the state’s fifth largest and ninth fastest growing city in the U.S. which was recognized by CNNMoney.com as the fourth best city in the country to start a small business.

Until recently, news about Clarksville primarily centered on Fort Campbell, one of the largest military installations in the world.



On Strawberry Alley, a newly revitalized section of downtown Clarksville, a fountain built by \$110,000 of privately donated funds, commemorates children.

However, in 2008, the city burst forth on the industrial scene when Michigan-based Hemlock Semiconductor, (a subsidiary of Dow Corning) announced it would be locating a polycrystalline silicon manufacturing operation at the Commerce Park megasite. Hemlock plans to produce a primary component used in the manufacture of solar panels and other energy equipment. Hemlock’s \$2.5 billion investment has the potential of employing up to 900 people in Clarksville within five to seven years.

Today, even Clarksville’s existing industrial bases are expanding, which is all part of the community’s vision, according to Mayor Johnny Piper. “I really feel good about our community buying into the vision, said Piper. “I don’t see any reason for that to change. Industry is the life’s blood of the community. It brings the jobs that allow us to continue to expand. By not changing, we will continue to have the interest of the Hemlock Semiconductors and other industries.”

Job growth is among the primary criteria considered by *BusinessWeek’s* annual survey, which calculated information among several categories that should impact or attract families to cities. Clarksville’s future job growth during the next 10 years is predicted to be 14.60 percent. Other factors include affordability, safety, and number of schools along with school test scores, family income, museums, parks, theaters and other amenities.

“We’re proud that Clarksville is being recognized as the great city that it is and that we’re not only receiving regional recognition, but national recognition,” Piper said. The magazine’s designation reflects the visible progress Clarksville has made following the city’s tragic brush with a tornado Jan. 22, 1999.

Piper had no idea just how fast the clock was ticking that first week of January 1999 following his swearing in ceremony. “We came in with a 100-day plan to get things accomplished as a way to kick off the new administration,” Piper recalls. “As you can imagine, that plan went out the window quickly.”

In the storm’s wake, the Montgomery County Courthouse was leveled along with many downtown offices and shops. Two historic churches were wiped out and the storm generated about \$70 million in damages at Austin Peay State University as well as outlying subdivisions.

The mayor’s efforts immediately became focused on rebuilding an already struggling downtown area, which was marred by years of

neglect and vacated businesses. “My part was easy,” said Piper. “The hard part was the commitment of investment by the downtown property owners to rebuild. Gathering a group of 160 local professionals, the architects, engineers and building codes inspectors evaluated the damaged structures and the city began a long-range plan for the future, how it wanted to rebuild and what it would need to do to make Clarksville’s downtown better.

The plan included widening sidewalks, requiring certain building setbacks and updating building codes requirements. Ironically, the tornado turned out to be the catalyst for future success, according to Piper.

Today, the city’s revitalized

180, Virtual High School, strong credit recovery programs, and after school tutoring programs in all our schools insures that students get what they need to be successful.” Visitors can view a variety of webcasts describing the district at www.cmcss.net.

The growing hospitality industry and attractions have made Clarksville a favorite destination for tourists. “We often have people visit from Fort Campbell as well as Nashville and we give special rates to military families,” said Sue Lewis, museum educational curator at the Customs House Museum located in the heart of historic downtown.

Every week, “Miss Sue’s” young students have fun exploring the exhibits from a child’s perspective. According to Lewis, learning while playing is the ideal educational model developing imagination, and creativity, important tools toward higher levels of math and science as well as social skills and emotional development, problem solving, creative thinking, self-awareness and self confidence. The state’s second largest general museum, the facility covers an entire city block of gallery spaces filled with fine art, science and history. The majority of the museum’s visitation and membership is based around children and young families.

The city also offers 25 parks and five community centers for recreational opportunities along with seven community pools and several recreational sports leagues. A Clarksville tradition, the city’s Parks & Recreation department has offered a free six-week summer recreation program for children ages 6-16 for the past 50 years.

Free lunch is provided and the program serves pocket neighborhoods in every part of the city. “We have grandparents that attended when they were children that now work in our volunteer grandparent program,” said Tonya Vaden, Clarksville Parks & Recreation Deputy Director of Administration/Special Services. From swimming to basketball to Hula classes, this program has it all, according to Vaden.



Clarksville youth have plenty of artistic outlets at Austin Peay State University and The Roxy Theater, a historic theatrical venue.

“The thing that sets Clarksville apart from other cities is that it is a large city with a hometown feel,” said Piper. “You have the southern hospitality and the neighbors who still want to socialize and walk and talk together. What we are doing is providing parks and meeting places to build that atmosphere of family environment.” The city’s greenway and extension project is an important part of Clarksville’s hometown vision.

greenway, while a local rock quarry donated the gravel. Another local business donated all the materials to raise a deep ravine at the site, which took 4-6 weeks of hauling dirt and rock.

“The citizens are always there to answer the call,” said Piper. “I’m just so appreciative of their commitment to the city.”

Clarksville’s greenway has been so successful, that the city has added another ½ acre of parking and



Many describe Clarksville as a large city with a small town feel.

“I started conceptually thinking about the greenway during my first term in office, but we were so busy recovering from the tornado, that I couldn’t get focused on it,” said Piper. “The vision of having it was key because it would be such an asset to our city. But due to monetary constraints, we just couldn’t make it happen.”

According to Piper, once again, Clarksville’s good neighbors bought into the community’s vision.

is in the process of having another two miles donated to the city. The greenway expansion should be complete by summer or early fall, according to Piper.

While today’s Clarksville is realizing new concepts, it is also reconnecting with its history along the Cumberland River. Thirty years after its inception, the construction of the city’s most ambitious family-oriented development is underway, the revitalization of the fairgrounds



At the Customs House Museum, children enjoy hands on crafts related to the museum’s exhibits. Customs House is the state’s second largest general museum, covering a city block of gallery spaces.

as Liberty Park and the new Clarksville Marina. The city’s reconnection with its riverfront will help turn downtown into a place where people not only work, but also a destination to play, shop, eat, and live. The ground breaking ceremony was held July 2009.

The development will include walking trails, playgrounds, ball fields, hiking, a dog park, amphitheater and an expanded pond for fishing and paddle boats. Long-term plans also include restaurants, shops and condominiums through a public-private partnership.

“We’re putting the infrastructure in and then the private partner is going to build the marina and condos and all the other things that go with that,” Piper said. “The condos will back up to the marina.”

According to Piper, the marina should be complete by Memorial Day, while phase II, the project’s infrastructure, including sewer, roads, ball fields and walking trail should be complete by October 15, the projected date.

The project will make a welcome addition to the city’s master plan to tie in all walking trails for about 20 miles south to north. Trail users can begin at the marina and walk all the way to Fort Campbell.

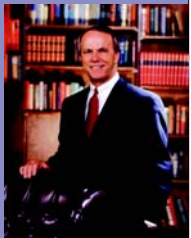
So, what really makes a great place to raise kids? It could all be related to vision. “People talk about how nice Clarksville is and how beautiful we’ve become,” said Piper. “It’s important that you articulate a vision...” which might be one of the most important amenities of all.

Mayor Johnny Piper named among Tennessee’s Power 100

Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper has been named to Business TN magazine’s Power 100 list of Tennesseans who actively exercise their power to promote economic and community development and quality of life in the state.

One reason cited for Piper’s selection is his success in attracting Dow Corning’s \$1.2 billion Hemlock Semiconductor facility to Clarksville’s Commerce Park megasite. The facility will

bring close to 900 green technology jobs to the city and will form a partnership with Austin Peay State University to train a high-tech work force. Piper was 98th on the list. According to the magazine’s editors, the Power 100 is a list of people who bear uncommon responsibility for Tennessee’s present fortunes.



Piper

Clarksville’s Statistics

Future job growth over the next ten years is predicted to be 14.60 percent.

The sales tax rate is 9.50 percent. Income tax is 0.00 percent.

The median home cost in Clarksville is \$114,370. Home appreciation the last year has been -3.00 percent.

As of 2009, Clarksville’s population is 119,284 people. Since 2000, it has had a population growth of 9.40 percent.

Future job growth over the next ten years is predicted to be 14.60 percent.

The median household income is \$42,461.

Clarksville’s property crime levels tend to be about the same as Tennessee’s average level. The same data shows violent crime levels in Clarksville tend to be about the same as Tennessee’s average level.

Data provided by Sperling’s Best Places