

Economy showing signs of slow improvement

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Reporting that the “worst is over” and the economy is showing some signs of improvement, one of UT’s top economists is predicting that it will take well over two years before the state of Tennessee fully rebounds from the recession.

“After an 18-month recession that officially ended in June 2009, the recovery has begun, but it is moving forward slowly,” wrote Matt Murray, associate director of the UT Center for Business and Economic Research, in a new report titled “The Tennessee Business and Economic Outlook: Fall 2010.”

The report is produced annually for the governor and is updated on a quarterly basis.

“The state economy should begin seeing improvement in the economic conditions as 2010 unfolds,” said Murray. “However, a strong and vigorous rebound is not expected. Even if rapid growth does emerge – it would be at least two years before economic conditions return to their pre-recession levels.”

Murray said that revenues are not expected to surpass their pre-recession peak until the 2012 / 2013 fiscal year.

“The recession that has run amok on the economy has had a similarly devastating impact on sales tax collections, as well as overall revenue collections,” ex-

plained Murray. “State revenue collections reached their pre-recession peak in the 2007 / 2008 fiscal year. Since that time, sales tax collections have eroded sharply, though the rate of decline is showing signs of easing.”

For the year as a whole, he predicted that taxable sales should advance 2.1 percent in 2010, substantial improvement over the 7.6 percent loss last year. On a fiscal year basis, taxable sales are expected to fall 2.5 percent in the current fiscal year before recording a 3.3 percent gain in the 2010 / 2011 fiscal year.

On the job front, Murray said that short-term, the labor market is expected to see a slow recovery. State unemployment rate will likely average 10.4 percent for 2010 and remain stuck above 10 percent through 2011.

“This will translate into more than 300,000 unemployed people in Tennessee in 2010 and 2011 and put sustained pressure on the state’s unemployment insurance trust fund,” said Murray.

Prior to the recession, the state unemployment rate stood at 5.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007.

“The number of unemployed people has nearly doubled since the start of the recession,” said Murray.

Murray explained that most recessions are relatively short in duration and have modest effects on long-term patterns of economic

See **ECONOMY** on Page 5

Haslam wins in landslide victory

Republicans make major gains in state, national elections

BY CAROLE GRAVES

In a landslide victory, Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam was elected the 49th governor of Tennessee, winning more than 65 percent of the votes over Democratic challenger Mike McWherter.

In his victory speech, Haslam said he will focus on job creation and improving education as some of his top priorities. Short-term, he acknowledged he will face a \$1.5 billion budget deficit that will require some tough decisions.

“This is an incredible honor and an incredible responsibility,” said Haslam. “I’ve never been more optimistic and positive about what we can do in Tennessee.”

With Haslam’s election to the governor’s office, it is the first time in modern history Tennessee will have a Republican governor and majorities in both state houses.

And just as Republicans swept across the nation to victory in the 2010 mid-term elections, the GOP made significant gains in the Tennessee state House, state Senate, and with Tennessee’s congressional delegation.

U.S. Congress

One of the most heated congressional races was in the 4th Dis-



Photo by Mark Humphrey/AP

Governor-elect Bill Haslam celebrates his sweeping victory, winning 65 percent of the votes over Democratic challenger Mike McWherter.

trict between Democratic incumbent Rep. Lincoln Davis and Republican challenger Scott DesJarlais. Lincoln lost the battle by a significant margin, 38 percent to DesJarlais’ 57 percent.

In the 6th District, the GOP picked up another seat from Democrats with the election of Republican Diane Black. Black was elected with 67 percent of the vote over

Democratic challenger Brett Carter. The seat has been held since 1985 by Democrat Bart Gordon, who chose not to run.

In the 8th District, another long-term Democrat Rep. John Tanner elected not to run. Republican Steve Fincher took the seat with a victory over Democrat Roy Herron, winning with 59 to 39 percent of the See **ELECTION** on Page 8

Update on city recorder certification process

BY MARGARET NORRIS
MTAS Management Consultant

In 1994, Public Chapter No. 648 added a law that required municipal clerks and recorders to become certified by completing 100 hours of education.

The legislation also required that the certification be maintained by obtaining 18 hours of continuing education every three years. This law can be found in Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.) §6-54-120, and the accompanying regulations can be found in the Secretary of State’s Rules and Regulations 1360-6-1.

Who Must Comply?

Any municipality with a population of 1,500 or greater (according to the 1990 or any subsequent federal census) that employs an officer or employee responsible for the duties of a municipal clerk or recorder — taking and preserving minutes, serving as custodian of records, providing and certifying copies, etc. — must have at least one certified person. Of course, a municipality may have more than one certified clerk or recorder. All such employees who were serving when the law went into effect had until July 1, 1998, to become certified. Any clerk or recorder hired after the law

went into effect must become certified within four years.

Are there any exceptions?

The exceptions are:

- Any clerk or recorder in a municipality of less than 1,500 population;
- Any municipal clerk or recorder who is licensed (and required to maintain the license) to practice law in the state of Tennessee;
- Any clerk or recorder who is a certified public accountant with a current certificate issued by the state board of accountancy in Tennessee; and
- Any appointed city manager or administrator who possesses a Master of Arts degree in public administration.

Also exempt from the initial requirement is any person who has served as both a city judge and city recorder for at least 25 years. Notwithstanding these exceptions, any city or town may, by ordinance, require the clerk or recorder to obtain certification, even if it is exempted under the population requirements (fewer than 1,500 residents).

What does it take to become certified?

To be certified, a person must See **CERTIFICATION** on Page 7

Joe DiPietro named 24th president of UT

Joe DiPietro has been elected the 24th president of the University of Tennessee.

The Board of Trustees elected DiPietro (dee-pee-AY’-troh) during their fall meeting Oct. 22. He will replace Jan Simek, who has served as interim president since 2009.

The president of the University of Tennessee leads a system consisting of campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Martin; the Health Science Center based in Memphis; the statewide Institutes of Agriculture and Public Service, and the Space Institute in Tullahoma, which is managed by UT Knoxville.

DiPietro currently is chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture, a position he has held since 2006. His title was changed from vice president to chancellor in July.

With the help of the search firm Witt/Keiffer, the University developed several key qualifications and expectations of the next president. The president advocates for the University and is a spokesperson for all higher education in the state; works with state and federal legislators and promotes the university to secure appropriations and in decision-making that affects the University; is the chief fundraiser for the University; and has a connection to or prior knowledge of the University

and the state.

As chancellor of the UT Institute of Agriculture, DiPietro oversees UT Extension, AgResearch, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the College of Veterinary Medicine. DiPietro also served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida from 1997 to 2006.

He rose to tenured professor of veterinary clinical medicine and veterinary pathobiology at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and held administrative positions there including assistant director of the Agriculture Experiment Station and associate dean for research of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

DiPietro earned his bachelor’s, doctor of veterinary medicine and master’s degrees at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

DiPietro and his wife, Deb, have three children and six grandchildren. Deb DiPietro is a member of the Tennessee Museum Commission and is a volunteer for a variety of organizations in Tennessee.

DiPietro is the first candidate from within the university to be elected president since Joe Johnson, who was president from 1991 to 1999. Johnson was vice president for development and executive vice



Joe DiPietro

president and then acting president for a brief stint after Lamar Alexander left to be U.S. Secretary of Education. Eli Fly, who served as acting president from 2001 to 2002, also previously served as executive vice president. His title was retroactively changed to permanent president after he left office.

The Presidential Search Committee nominated Brian Noland and DiPietro to the board for consideration. The candidates were narrowed from a list of 71 applicants.

It has not yet been determined when the new president will likely take office.

The Pool’s “New Breed” is here to serve

BY MICHAEL FANN
and HALIE GALLIK
TML Risk Management Pool

The TML Risk Management Pool has long prided itself on providing the best risk management products and services. That mission is certainly no different now, even as we work through some of the most challenging times in our nation’s history. Through our current economic climate, the Pool continues to foster new talent by focusing on a new generation of risk management professionals. This article aims to introduce some of our newer faces to you. These employees have a mixture of insurance, risk management, and local government operations experience and are committed to taking the TML Pool to a higher level of service and assistance to Tennessee municipal entities.

On the front line of delivering these services, Halie S. Gallik travels the state as the newest member of the Client Services team. As a client services representative, Halie routinely assists Pool members with renewal processes, and serves an ombudsman role between the Pool and its members. Halie is a graduate of

the University of Tennessee with a bachelor’s of arts in philosophy and a master’s of public administration. It’s Halie’s goal to be an extension of each Pool member’s staff and assist in any way she can.

Jon Calvin began serving Pool members in June of 2010. Jon’s background in the private insurance market brings new perspective to the Pool’s coverage and continues to help ensure the financial stability of pricing. Jon is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the underwriting department. He takes his role as director of underwriting very seriously, understands the needs of the insurance consumer, and desires to effectively communicate with our members.

Anthony Roman is currently serving as the underwriter for Middle Tennessee. He has experience not only in the insurance industry, but also within local government as a career firefighter. His hands-on experience in municipal operations help him to fully understand the unique nature of what our members do every day. Anthony is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, majoring in insurance and risk management. He hopes to bring his past

experience as a firefighter and the technical skills learned through underwriting to better serve Pool members.

Janine Helton works as an underwriting assistant speaking each day with our members. Janine’s role within the department is to support our members by gathering preliminary underwriting information and rating the general liability and workers compensation coverages. Janine is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University with a bachelor of arts degree in management and human relations. She prides herself in doing what’s right for our members in the spirit of service.

Amanda Shrum serves as the controller for the Pool. Amanda has experience in private sector accounting and as an auditor for the Tennessee Department of Labor. Amanda understands first hand the fiscal struggles that many of our members face today. She is a certified public accountant and a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University. She desires to provide effective support for the services the Pool delivers to its members everyday.

Allen Dean serves as the Pool’s systems administrator. Allen is com- See **POOL** on Page 7



Save the Dates!

TML District Meetings

Dec. 7	District 6	Brentwood Municipal Building Light brunch served	10 to 12 noon
Dec. 8	District 4	McMinnville City Hall Lunch served following the meeting	10 to 12 noon
Dec. 9	District 5	Springfield, Tricia’s Restaurant Lunch served following the meeting	10 to 12 noon

The remaining district meetings will be held in January. Schedule to be announced.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BRENTWOOD

Global supply chain management company OHL recently signed a new, multi-year lease and will expand its existing Brentwood headquarters. The company's expansion plan will add approximately 200 jobs over the next two to three years and will occupy nearly 100,000 square feet of office space at its Synergy Business Park headquarters. The Tennessee-based company has experienced significant growth leading up to this expansion, starting as a local service provider and now offering logistics solutions throughout the world.

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood has turned to social media to improve communication between the city and its residents and area businesses. As the community relies more and more on portable electronic devices to keep up-to-date on current events, the city has launched a Facebook page, Twitter account and Nixle. The goal is to provide the public, who voluntarily sign up, with immediate information on accidents and temporary road closures, links to governmental meetings and agendas, hazardous material spills, weather-related events and emergencies, athletic field closings, concert cancellations, and more.

CHATTANOOGA

In the next few months, state and local officials expect to know more about the feasibility of building a toll bridge in the Chattanooga area. A draft report of a Tennessee Department of Transportation feasibility study is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, offering the first look at everything from costs to impact of the bridge. But even if the feasibility study is positive, it could take a decade or more for a toll bridge to be approved and built, transportation officials said. County and state officials have discussed a Hamilton County road project that would include a toll bridge from Soddy-Daisy to Harrison across the Tennessee River. TDOT also is considering four alternative locations between Interstate 75 and U.S. 27 in the same general area.

COLUMBIA

Columbia will receive \$250,000 to revitalize James Campbell Boulevard under a federal grant awarded to only one other Tennessee city, Memphis. That strategy to "re-design and redevelop" the city's main business corridor could include every-

thing from roadway improvements to ideas on how to reuse vacant properties and revamp other parcels that are in decline. U.S. Housing and Urban Development officials announced the Sustainable Communities Challenge Grants. According to HUD, the grants "support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that incorporate housing, land use, economic development, transportation and infrastructure." The money would be used to craft a plan for revitalizing the city's main economic engine. "The city had to do the feasibility study first to get other partners involved," said Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey, adding that he hopes this study will lead to other grants that will help complete the project.

FRANKLIN

Citizens now have the ability to get reliable, timely information about crime in their neighborhood by visiting www.crimereports.com. A map is updated every 24-hours, that details reported crimes in and around their neighborhoods. The Franklin Police Department joins other North American law enforcement agencies who are sharing their crime information with the public through the map.

JACKSON

Automotive parts manufacturer UGN Inc. will spend nearly \$11 million in Jackson and add 40 new local jobs as part of a two-state expansion that continues the company's impressive growth. Construction of a \$9 million, 40,000-square-foot addition of UGN's Jackson facility will start in November and increase the plant size by more than 20 percent. Production is expected to start in May 2011. A second \$1.5 million phase will create an additional 10 jobs in March 2012. UGN is a manufacturer of interior, trunk and engine bay components including carpets, headliners, trunk liners and other acoustic related parts.

JACKSON

Because of the city's proximity to Interstate 40, its climate and its location in the Central Time Zone, The Social Security Administration is locating a new call center in Jackson which is expected to employ 150 to 200 people. The administration broke ground recently on the building.

MURFREESBORO

The Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department (MPRD) received 10 awards at the 2010 Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Conference held recently in

Murfreesboro. One recognized the popular Sports.com waterpark. MPRD was included in the 100,000-plus population along with Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

NASHVILLE

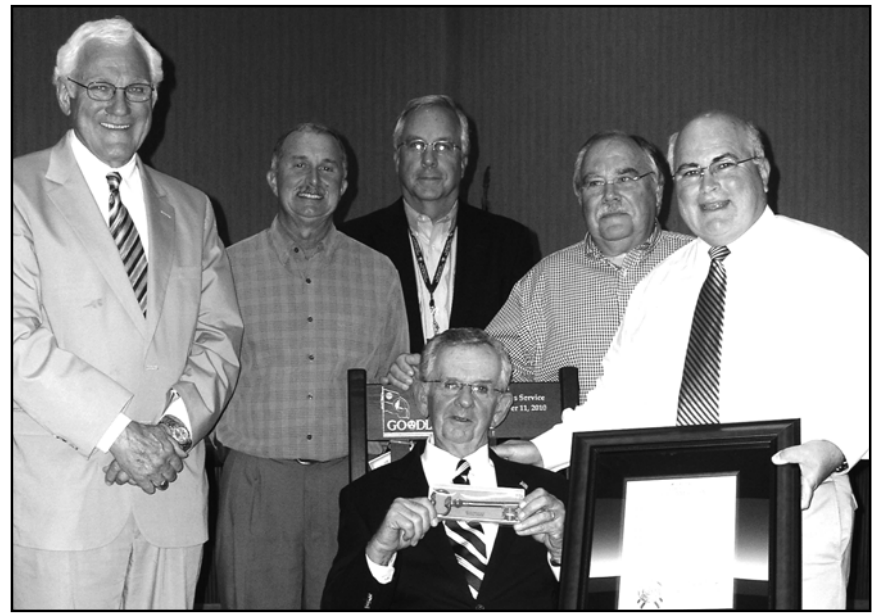
The Nashville Public Library is hoping to document Nashville's devastating May flood by spearheading a citywide digital history project. The public library will be partnering with various community-based organizations and Metro departments to collect and organize individual accounts, photographs, videos and other material to create a historical record of the Great Flood of 2010. "It's important that we begin work now to preserve information about the flood, which will no doubt be viewed for decades to come as a historic event that forever changed our city," said Mayor Karl Dean. Donna Nicely, director of the Nashville Public Library, said the library's mission is to preserve the history of a community.

NASHVILLE

NASCAR has canceled an annual festival that drew thousands to Nashville, saying devastation from May's flood played a big part in its decision. The Sound and Speed Festival has been held each January for five years. NASCAR blamed economic conditions and May's flood for its decision to cancel. The event had raised more than \$1 million for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and for Victory Junction Gang Camp.

SELMER

General Electric plans to spend \$432 million to establish four U.S.-based refrigeration design and manufacturing centers that will be the focus for its new energy efficient line of refrigerators and other appliances. GE said that the move will create 500 new jobs by 2014 and help preserve an additional 1,166 existing positions. The company said its investment is an effort to revitalize its appliance business and take advantage of increasing global competitiveness of U.S. factories. The centers will be at existing locations in Selmer, TN; Louisville, Ky.; Bloomington, Ind.; and Decatur, Ala. GE's Monogram Refrigeration unit in Selmer will receive \$32 million to redesign the built-in refrigeration line made there which will help retain 166 jobs. The new refrigeration centers plan to drive down costs by streamlining design and production while using lean manufacturing processes.



Officials honor retiring Goodlettsville City Commissioner Jerry Garrett (seated) for his 28 years of service. He is the longest serving commissioner in the history of the city. Pictured (left to right) are Sen. Joe Haynes; Goodlettsville Vice Mayor Gary Manning, Goodlettsville City Manager Jim Thomas, Goodlettsville Commissioner John Coombs and Goodlettsville Mayor John Finch. The commissioners presented Jerry Garrett with a Proclamation of Appreciation and a Key to the City. Garrett served three 2-year terms as vice mayor and two 2-year terms as mayor.

Cobb receives Fowler Award



The Fowler Award, which honors the memory of the first chairman of the Code Council Board of Directors, was presented to Terrence L. Cobb, director of Department of Codes and Building Safety for Metro Nashville.

Terrence L. Cobb, director of Department of Codes and Building Safety for Metro Nashville, was presented the prestigious Bobby J. Fowler Award during the Annual Banquet of the 2010 ICC Annual Conference in Charlotte.

The Fowler Award, which honors the memory of the first chairman of the Code Council Board of Directors, is given to an individual whose contributions to the building safety and fire prevention industry advance the council's goals in achieving a safer and sustainable built environment. Particular emphasis is placed on the recipient's focus beyond local or regional concerns to issues and activities that span the globe.

"Bob Fowler was really the driving force that brought us together," Cobb said of the 2003 Code Council consolidation. "I'd like to thank each of you in this industry -- this very

special, underappreciated industry. (Former ICC CEO) Bill Tangye once said, 'Protecting the safety of the public in the built environment is the highest form of public service.' I believe that and I know that you believe it, as well."

Cobb, the recipient of several prestigious honors including being named Code Official of the Year by the Tennessee Building Officials Association (TBOA), is a member of the Building Industry of Tennessee Hall of Fame. He is a past president of TBOA and served on the Code Council and Southern Building Code Congress International Boards of Directors.

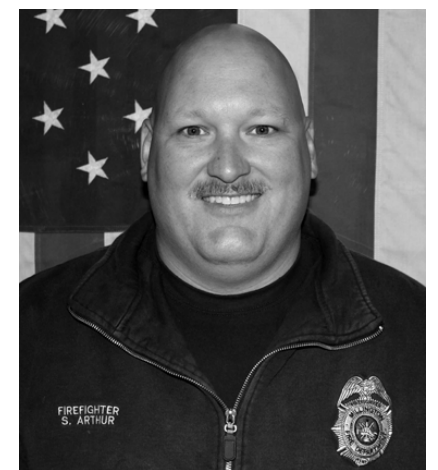
Cobb, a certified building official, was the first chairman of the International Residential Code Drafting Committee and has served as a code development hearing moderator.

Arthur named Millington's 2010 Firefighter of the Year

After four years of distinguished service in the Millington Fire Department, Firefighter Shawn Arthur has been named the city's 2010 Firefighter of the Year.

"Arthur was chosen because he exemplifies the core values of this department and is consistent in his duty and service to the community," said Gary Graves, Millington fire chief.

The Millington Exchange Club recently surprised Arthur with a luncheon in his honor where he was presented a plaque to commemorate his achievement. In attendance were his wife, Christina, and 12 year old daughter, Morgan as well as their eight year old son, Dallas. "I just do my job every day and keep a good attitude. I love my job! The best part is working with such a good group of guys and having the opportunity to help the citizens of Millington,"



Shawn Arthur

said Arthur. "It is always difficult to name one person because we are fortunate to have many outstanding people in the department, but Shawn Arthur is someone who sets the standard for this department," said Chief Graves.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Elkins replaced by Odubeko

Steve Elkins, legal counsel to the governor and a member of Bredeben's Cabinet, has left the administration to join the private sector. Elkins has served as the governor's legal counsel since 2006. Elkins was a member of Bredeben's campaign staff and transition team before joining the administration as Deputy Legal Counsel in January 2003. He will be replaced by Junaid Odubeko. Odubeko has served as deputy legal



Elkins



Odubeko

counsel to the governor since 2007. Before joining the administration, Odubeko was an associate at Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC, in Memphis where his practice focused on the areas of civil litigation and municipal law.

Famed Nashville attorney Jim Neal passes away

Jim Neal, 81, famed Nashville defense attorney and special prosecutor in the Watergate case, has passed away. Neal was lauded by Gov. Bredeben both as a friend and 'a classic American success story, who rose from a Tennes-



Neal

see farm to the top of his profession nationally.' Neal was the husband of Tennessee Ethics Commission member Dianne Neal.

Knoxville's vice mayor resigns

Knoxville Vice-Mayor Bob Becker announced he will resign after an interim mayor is appointed to replace Gov. Elect Bill Haslam. Becker will join his wife and 10-year-old son in Richmond, Va., where he has a job offer in the health care field. Becker's 5th district council seat must also be filled by city council. He was first elected in 2003 and will end his second term in December 2011

Phil Corker dies

Retired engineer, Phil Corker, 85, has passed away. He was the father of U.S. Sen. Bob Corker.

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Seasoned leaders call for civility, democracy

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

The winds of change have grown coarse, as more than half of all Americans note a growing lack of civility in both political and public life as a threat to the future of healthy democracy. From name-calling to outright disdain for diverse ideas or longstanding institutions, the prevailing question is what can be done to help bridge the current divisions and discord of 21st Century America?

Three decorated public service veterans, award winning journalist John Seigenthaler; Jim Leach, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities; and Carl Pierce, director of the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy; shared their thoughts and observations on the subject at the 2010 Southern Festival of Books held in Nashville last month. The panel discussion entitled "Conversation on Civility and Democracy" is part of a series of workshops titled *Building Community in the 21st Century: Perspectives on Civility and Democracy* hosted by Humanities Tennessee, the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, and the Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership in the Professions at Vanderbilt University.

John Seigenthaler

After serving more than 45 years as a journalist and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Seigenthaler's passion for First Amendment Rights is demonstrated daily by the First Amendment Center he founded in 1991. For Seigenthaler, a large part of civil discourse lies not only with protecting freedom of speech and expression, but keeping it at the forefront of our hearts and minds, as he warns, "It doesn't matter what you say about free speech or right to assembly or peaceable government. If public opinion is against free press and the spirit of the government of the people are against free expression, what we give we can take away."

The John Seigenthaler Center at Vanderbilt University and the First Amendment Washington offices are in keeping with his mission to create national discussion, dialogue and debate about First Amendment rights and values. It was the work of the former U.S. Senator and White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker that first caught Seigenthaler's eye. "I became interested and involved in the issue of civility and public discourse as a direct result of an initiative by Howard Baker and the Baker Center," he said. The two centers now work together on programs to elevate civility in public discourse. "It struck me as an appropriate subject because I have noticed a coarseness in political and public discourse that has become

more troubling over the past decade," Seigenthaler confided.

By the time he retired from journalism in 1991, civil waters were indeed murky and Seigenthaler became concerned about public opinion polls and readership surveys that, in his opinion, "demonstrated a lack of interest and involvement and support on the part of public institutions where public discourse occurs."

"Support for all government agencies over the course of time had disappeared," he said. "More deceptively, confidence and support and trust of the news media diminished gradually and then more rapidly through the years." When Seigenthaler approached Vanderbilt for help in creating a freedom center on their campus, he was seeking a catalyst for study ... of the values of free expression and religious liberty protected by the First Amendment, and a place to try to raise the level of discussion and dialogue and debate about the rights of free expression and religious liberty.

More disconcerting to Seigenthaler is what he described as "the growing coarseness, lack of civility, and at times outspoken hostility of some programming on cable television and the 'new' media."

"How many times do you sit before your TV and listen to argumentation—not debate or discussion—but arguments that are characterized by loud voices even screaming, often by two or three or four experts whose only knowledge of the subject comes from being phoned by a person from the network inviting them to come on to talk about the issue of abortion or gay marriage?" he inquired. "When Howard Baker, Carl Pierce, or Jim Leach speak about civil discourse, they're not talking about ending political debate they're talking about enriching the political debate by eliminating the coarseness, rudeness, mindless insults, that somehow seem to pop up more often than not in the media these days."

Seigenthaler expressed a diverse viewpoint from 'many of his media friends' who blame the tea party movement for the mayhem. "I simply don't buy that," he said, proposing that the idea of the tea party is "a reflection of the sentiment of discourse, even disgust with politics and government and civility that he finds vagrant or absent these days."

"Rights of free expression are never safe, never secure. They haven't been since the revolution to establish them," he said. "They're always in the process of being made safe and secure. And when civil discussion, dialogue and debate are missing, public understanding and knowledge suffers. That suffering can inevitably lead beyond a lack of confidence and trust to an outcry."

Jim Leach

According to Jim Leach, civility

isn't principally or exclusively about manners; it relates to the willingness of people to listen to somebody else's viewpoint. "Almost by definition it means someone is interested in somebody else and somebody else matters and just maybe everybody can learn something from somebody else," he said.

Before becoming the ninth Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Leach spent 30 years listening to other people's views. He represented southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, the Congressional Executive Commission on China and founded and co-chaired the Congressional Humanities Caucus.

"There's a certain incivility that has nothing to do with bad manners," said Leach providing an account of how legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives could strike financial contracts to 'not listen' to someone else. "They approach another legislator and say something like, 'We hope and plan to help you financially in the future, but right now, we really could use your help. By the way, how's your wife, Sally?'" "It's a very civil conversation, said Leach, "but the implication is very uncivil."

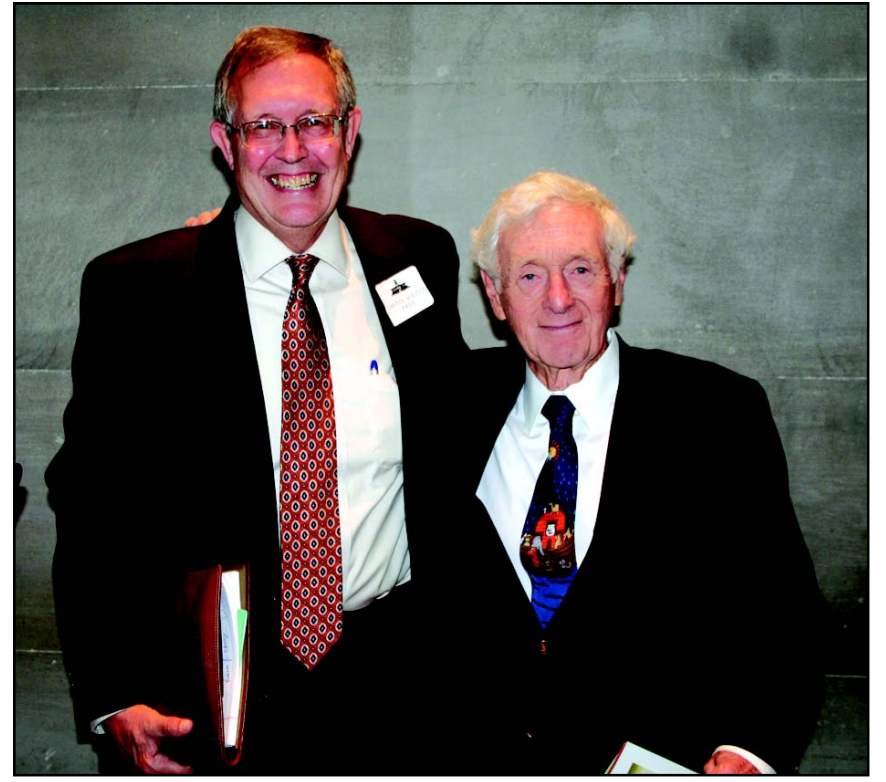
As for democracy, Leach stressed it all boils down to process. "In democracy, process matters—it's our most important product," he said. "There's this great line: The only thing the public shouldn't watch too closely are laws and sausages being made. The public doesn't always have to watch too closely, but it has to assume they're being made cleanly."

Addressing the political candidates, Leach provided food for thought. "We are getting almost at a break down in the national office, much less local office. If you have an election where two candidates are shouting at each other, and being intensely divisive, how does the public come to respect the political processes? And, how do the prevailing candidates after the election come to work together?"

"What's really at stake for America is can we pull together?" he challenged. In a passage borrowed from scripture, Leach surmised, "A house divided cannot stand."

Carl Pierce

With the frankness of an educator, Carl Pierce summed it up sweetly, "If it isn't nice; if your mom wouldn't think well of you for doing it, don't do it." As director of the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Pierce represented Baker himself, who was unable to attend the event. "It is the citizens' responsibility for protecting our system of self government," he contin-



Photos by Victoria South

Carl Pierce (left), director of the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at UT Knoxville and John Seigenthaler, former award winning journalist and founder of the Freedom Center, were part of a three-person panel on the subject of civility and democracy at the 2010 Festival of Books in Nashville.

ued. "Sen. Baker values that system and civility is a subject for which he deeply cares. It's a subject for which we can learn much simply by observing how he conducted himself throughout his career."

With a law degree from Yale University, Pierce has taught at UT's College of law since 1972. He also served as assistant dean and as director of the Clayton Center for Entrepreneurial Law.

"I assume you are here because you value people who think, research, write and read," he told the audience. "I just have to wonder what the nature of the political discourse would be if more folks that valued reading, writing, thinking and talking about subjects were involved in the political process as elected officials, appointed officials or maybe as political activists."

According to Pierce, incivility is like obscenity, you know it when you see it; unless it's concealed behind a cloak of anonymity. "I'm concerned about anonymity and brevity as a breeding ground for incivility and disrespect for ideas," he said. "There are a lot of things going on in our culture that allows people to speak to larger numbers shielded from view by modern technology." By the same account, he observed how that same technology has shortened public discourse dramatically. "Think back to the Lincoln/Douglas debate," he queried. "Now we listen to CNN with the opportunity to hear the tweets! One hundred forty bites



Jim Leach, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, previously served 30 years representing southeastern Iowa in the U.S. House of Representatives.

or less within which political discourse is going on. What more can you say in that kind of brief communication spiced up with a few epithets and insults?"

His final concern, a disengagement of voices for civility, open mindedness and cooperation, is what Pierce terms political and philosophical segregation. "Tell me you disagree with me," he stressed. "Don't tell me I'm stupid or any other elevated adjective. It shows disrespect for me as a person and more importantly, complete disdain and disrespect for ideas." While he doesn't have a blanket solution for incivility, Pierce offers suggestions:

"Attack the idea, not the person; read and research before you speak; a book or an article, something more than tweets; become informed, because the ultimate underlying principal for civil discourse is the preeminence of facts, knowledge and information, a more informed citizenry."



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Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council holds forum in East Tennessee

BY WARREN NEVAD
MTAS Management Consultant

Nov. 15-21: Tri-Cities Global Entrepreneurship Week. Several events will be celebrated when the week kicks off locally:

Nov. 16-17: The Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce will host a free, Small Business Night School from 5-9 p.m. For more information, visit www.kosbe.org.

Nov. 17: A **Business Solutions Seminar** sponsored by the Business Development task force of Johnson City's Economic Summit. This free event will begin at 2 p.m. at Millennium Centre. The seminar will showcase representatives from some of the area's largest employers, who will discuss their biggest challenges. For more information, visit www.economicsummit.org.

Nov. 18: The national award-winning "Will This Float" competition will cap off the week in Bristol. Submissions are still being accepted for the third annual event, which will take place at 6 p.m. at the Bristol Train Station. For more information or to submit an idea, visit www.willthisfloat.com.

Nov. 23: The **Tennessee Department of Revenue Tax Workshop** Entrepreneurs can find help with tax issues at a business workshop held at 8:30 a.m. at 1321 Murfreesboro Road in Nashville. This free workshop is designed to assist those encountering business-related taxes for the first time. Tax specialists from various local and state agencies will provide information needed to comply with tax requirements. Register online at www.TN.gov/revenue or call 615- 532-4975.

Report says economy slowly improving

ECONOMY from Page 1

performance. The Great Recession is an exception, however.

"The recession that began in December 2007 has been the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression and will have a lasting impact on budgets at all levels of government in the U.S.," said Murray.

Nationally, the gross domestic product is expected to increase 2.7 percent in 2010 after falling 2.6 percent in 2009. The GDP will see quarterly growth in 2011, but will grow only 2.2 percent for the year.

He reported that federal government spending revitalized the economy some in 2009 thanks to stimulus funds and increased defense spending. State and local governments on the other hand, struggled with budget issues during 2009 forcing them to restrict spending.

Murray said that inflation has not yet emerged as a short-term threat but remains a long-term concern given the scope of liquidity in the financial system.

The Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC) held its first membership symposium in East Tennessee on Oct. 22 at Roane State Community College.

More than 80 attendees from 29 cities, 16 counties and 7 states met to discuss current programs and future statewide developments in renewable energy. Participants took advantage of educational and networking opportunities that focused on growing the renewable energy industry in Tennessee. The three panel-type presentations consisted of local government best practices, alternative transportation fuels and renewable electric generation. Topics ranged from cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel, propane, compressed natural gas, electric cars, municipal and county best practices to gasification, wood torrefaction and solar energy.

Kingston Mayor Troy Beets outlined the city's strategic partnership with TREEDC to help the community grapple with the long term impacts from the Kingston TVA spill. Memphis Councilman Edmund Ford, Jr. described the City of Memphis and Shelby County's sustainability partnership with the University of Memphis. Johnson City Public Works Director Phil Pindzola discussed Johnson City's waste to energy project and highlighted future plans to use micro turbines to generate clean energy. David Lindon Fleet Management Director with the city of Hoover, Ala urged the audience to follow Hoover's lead in becoming a trendsetter in using alternative fuels for municipal fleets. Randy Johnson, project manager with The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) presented an overview of their 20 year Integrated Resource Plan.

The Roane Alliance President Leslie Henderson, Vice President Wanda Pinkerton, and the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) Management Consultant/TREEDC



More than 80 attendees met to discuss current programs and future statewide developments in renewable energy at the first Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council membership symposium held at Roane State Community College in East Tennessee.

Director Warren Nevad organized the symposium. Roane County Mayor Ron Woody welcomed the attendees and offered Roane County's continued support of TREEDC. In addition, David Leaverton and Beth Hickman representing Senator Bob Corker and Congressman Lincoln Davis respectively complemented the TREEDC County and city mayors' grassroots approach of bringing renewable energy to the forefront of local governments in Tennessee. The University of Tennessee President Emeritus Dr. Joe Johnson urged the attendees to become a part of TREEDC's growing network of green businesses and communities. He added that TREEDC has become a national model since it was created through a partnership between a major university, mayors and a small innovative

firm. Stephanie Cox of ECotality advised the audience that TREEDC was assisting the state advisory board with zoning and permitting issues relating to the implementation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga areas. Dr. Sam Jackson, Genera Energy

Vice President and faculty member of the UT Institute of Agriculture discussed the cellulosic ethanol opportunities associated with the joint venture with Dupont Danisco. Henning Bollerslev discussed converting municipal to green diesel by using a proprietary process developed by a Danish firm called 49 Green. Emily DeVillers of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition and Greg Martin with Clean Energy presented the benefits of propane and compressed natural gas

as a way to save on fleet dollars and emissions. Tamra Fakhorian summarized recent innovations using algae as a feedstock for alternative transportation fuels.

The Renewable Energy Transportation panel consisted of presentations from Steve Johnson with Lightwave Solar Electric, bio-coal production by Verdant Energy Solutions, Maupin Technologies' waste to syngas technology and biomass logistics by Elliott Barnett of Strata-G. Attendees also heard from Lauren Rogers and Amy Howard regarding the UT College of Architecture's involvement with the Department of Energy Solar Decathlon for universities across the country. Stephen Levy, Executive Director of the Tennessee Solar Energy Association revealed opportunities in solar as a significant way to generate additional farm income.

The attendees were treated to a tour of a Net -Zero Energy home owned by Sustainable Future founder David Bolt. Special thanks to Parks Wells with the Tennessee Soybean Promotion Council for sponsoring the refreshments and lunch. TREEDC President Pikeville Mayor Greg Johnson advised the membership that plans are underway to have similar forums in the Johnson City and Chattanooga areas in 2011.

To date, TREEDC has hosted forums in Memphis, Jackson, Franklin and Fall Creek Falls. Please contact warren.nevad@tennessee.edu if you are interested in become a member of TREEDC. Membership benefits include access to TREEDC green business networks, newsletters, sponsorship and presentation opportunities at future forums, green jobs listing, and notification of grant opportunities. TREEDC also offers legislative policy development and tracking services.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Diabetes outlook bleak for U.S.

The future of diabetes in America looks bleak, according to a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report with cases projected to double, even triple, by 2050. According to the report, one in 10 U.S. adults have diabetes now. The prevalence is expected to rise sharply over the next 40 years with as many as one in three having the disease, primarily type 2 diabetes, according to the report, published in the journal Population Health Metrics. "There are some positive reasons why we see prevalence going up. People are living longer with diabetes due to good control of blood sugar and diabetes medications, and we're also diagnosing people earlier now," says Ann

Albright, director of the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. A more diverse America — including growing populations of minority groups such as African Americans and Hispanics, who are more at risk for the disease — factors into the increase as well, Albright says. But an increasing number of overweight Americans also is fueling the stark predictions for diabetes, which should be taken seriously.

Public housing needs rehabbing

Public housing is falling apart around the country, as federal money has been unable to keep up with the repair needs of buildings more than half a century old. Over the last 15 years, 150,000 of the nation's public housing units have



been lost as agencies have sold or torn down decrepit properties. Based on a 1998 study, the country's housing authorities need \$22 billion to \$32 billion to rehabilitate their buildings, according to the — an average of \$25,000 for each of the 1.175 million public housing units. HUD has drafted legislation that would allow housing agencies to borrow public and private money, using their land and buildings as equity, to finance repairs. Money received annually from Congress would be used to repay the debt over time. The bill, yet to be formally introduced in Congress, stirred mixed reactions among housing authorities and advocates, many of whom feared the prospect of public housing falling into private hands.

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Cities and municipal agencies have joined together to create in the TML Pool what has grown to be the largest municipal insurer in Tennessee. The extent of the coverage provided for municipal exposures is staggering.

The Pool insures:

- 40,575 municipal employees for workers' compensation representing more than \$951.7 million in annual payroll exposures;
- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million for liability coverage; and provides
- general liability coverage for 16,407 miles of streets.



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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

ADAMSVILLE. The city is now accepting resumes for the position of city administrator. The position is responsible for the daily operations of the municipal government and support services under the supervision of the Mayor and City Commission. The Administrator will be responsible for the coordination and direction of the activities of the operating departments within the city. Qualifications include a Bachelors Degree from accredited college or university (work experience may substitute). Must be resident of Adamsville within one year of employment. Knowledge of budget preparation, administrative skills, and ability to maintain an effective working relationship with the public and municipal employees. Adamsville is a small city in West Tennessee with a population of 2,000+ and annual operating budget of approximately \$7 million including the natural gas and water distribution systems. Deadline for acceptance is Nov. 15, 2010, at 5 pm. Resumes may be emailed to: t.thrasher@cityofadamsville.com or faxed to 731- 632-1779. Or mail resume to: Adamsville City Hall Attn: Terry Thrasher; P.O. Box 301; Adamsville, TN. 38310. You may call 731- 632-1401 for a copy of job description or pick-up a copy at Adamsville City Hall; 231 East Main St.; Adamsville, TN. Mon-Fri between 8 am to 5pm.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

PORTLAND. The city is now accepting applications for Public Works Superintendent. The full time position includes oversight of the Natural Gas, Water and Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater and Wastewater Treatment Plant, Streets, and Sanitation departments. A Bachelor's degree in engineering, management or other appropriate field is required along with substantial experience in financial management for public works and utility departments. Salary will be based on education and experience. Application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM, or by email ferrett@cityofportlandtn.gov. Completed application and resume must be returned no later than 4:30 PM on Nov. 30, 2010, to: Office of the Mayor, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, Tennessee 37148. The City of Portland is an equal opportunity employer.

WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT

WHITE HOUSE. The city is currently accepting applications for the position of wastewater superintendent. Five or more years of increasingly responsible administrative or managerial experience in wastewater utilities. HS diploma required. Grade II Collection Operator certification and Cross-Connection certification within one year of employment. Pay DOE/Full Benefits. Interested applicants should send cover letter, resume, and references via email to cshelton@cityofwhitehouse.com or mail to 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Additional information may be found at www.cityofwhitehouse.com. Applications must be received by Nov. 11, 2010. The city of White House is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TML employees recognized with NLC award

Each year since 1981, the National League of Cities (NLC) has presented the John G. Stutz award to individuals who have served a total of 25 years or more on the staff of a state municipal league, state league risk pool, and/or the National League of Cities (NLC).

Sylvia Trice, director of conference planning for the Tennessee Municipal League, and Michael Fann, director of loss control for the TML Risk Management Pool, each received the award for 25 years of "contributions made to the advancement of municipal government through outstanding and faithful service rendered to cities and state municipal leagues."

Designed to recognize the contributions of long-time league and pool staff members, the award is presented either at the Congress of Cities, during the annual conference of the state league where the recipient is employed, at one of the two NLC-RISC conferences, or at another state league function.

The award is named in honor of John G. Stutz, who convened representatives of 10 state municipal leagues in 1924 in Lawrence, Kansas, for the first meeting of what was to become the American Municipal Association and, subsequently, the National League of Cities. At that time, Mr. Stutz was the Executive Secretary (League Director) of the League of Kansas Municipalities.

This year, NLC is giving the Stutz Award to 23 individuals who have completed 25 years or more of service to their respective state leagues, league risk pools, or NLC. All 23 names will be added to a large plaque at NLC headquarters containing the names of more than 150 recipients since the award was first bestowed in 1981.

Sylvia Trice joined the TML staff in 1985 as an administrative assistant to the executive director. She joined the conference planning team in 1989, later becoming director of conference planning in 1997. For the past 13 years, Sylvia has been the organizing force behind all meetings and conferences. She effectively manages the many logistical details involved in even the smallest of meetings. The TML Annual Conference held each year in June and rotating locations among five cities across the state, attracts more than 1,200 attendees. The task of managing this conference is huge. In 2008, Sylvia was presented the Planner of the Year Award by the Society of



Sylvia Trice



Michael Fann

Government Meeting Professionals. "She is a dedicated and loyal employee and her contribution to the League's overall success over the years is immeasurable," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director.

Michael Fann began his service to the Tennessee's municipalities upon graduating from MTSU in December 1983. He served as the full-time, paid legislative intern for the Tennessee Municipal League from

January through June of 1984. Upon completing his graduate degree, he then began his risk management career in January 1986. Currently as director of Loss Control for the TML Risk Management Pool, Michael is responsible for a department that provides loss control assistance and services to roughly 500 participants in the risk management pool. He also coordinates a state-wide program for liability loss control and safety training.

TML Risk Pool's "New Breed" is here to serve

POOL from Page 1

mitted to updating the Pool's technology to better serve our members. He has project management experience and is part of the team that is developing a new Pool website that will be interactive and functional for member needs. Allen has proven experience with implementing and training for new technology in the workplace.

Chester Darden joined the Pool in 2006, and provides risk control consulting and training to Pool members in middle Tennessee. He came to the Pool with a vast amount of knowledge to share from his experiences with the city of Hohenwald, where he administered the city's services as city recorder. Chester is a

graduate of Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn. Chester desires to augment the Pool members' risk management programs through innovative strategies designed to reduce injuries and accidents to employees and the general public.

Andy Laceywell also joined the Loss Control staff in 2006, and provides property conservation advice to Pool members in the western half of the state. Andy's background with the state of Tennessee and in the private insurance industry make him a real asset for our property pool members. Andy is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, and serves out of the Pool's Jackson office.

Leading this new breed of Pool

staff is **Dawn R. Crawford** as the newly-appointed President of the Pool. With more than 20 years of experience with the Pool, Dawn is able to guide the organization and meet the challenges of providing the services that Pool members desire and need in the coming years. Dawn has a management style focused on open communication and transparency to our membership. She is a C.P.A. and truly understands the value of our fiduciary responsibility.

Further, Dawn takes pride in our financial stability and 21 years of no audit adjustments or management recommendations in the Pool's yearly financial and governmental audits. She is an accounting graduate of Middle Tennessee State Uni-

versity, and has her heart and soul in the mission of the Pool.

This new breed of employees is bringing fresh perspective and excellent expertise to your risk management partnership. It is by cultivating new leadership that the Pool hopes to better serve your needs in the future.

Crawford summarized by stating, "As always, we strive to serve as an extension to your staff. If there is anything we can do to better serve your needs, don't hesitate to let us know. Together, we can meet the challenges of providing safe public services, reducing the cost of risk, and making the municipal work environment safer and healthier for our city workers."

Updated information on city recorder certification process

CERTIFICATION from Page 1

either obtain a certificate from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) or complete a minimum of 100 credit hours of applicable education.

What does it take to retain certification?

Those who are already certified must attend a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education courses every three years.

How do I earn the credit hours?

- Receive 25 credit hours toward initial certification if you have an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree.
- Receive 50 hours toward initial certification if you have a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. (You can receive the 50 hours credit only one time, even if you hold more than one degree.)
- Attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Institute that is coordinated by the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders (TAMCAR). The institute lasts two and one-half days and will give you 17.5 credit hours. Institutes are offered each spring and fall, and institute scholarships are available when local funding limitations or policies might otherwise prevent

participation.

- Attend the Academy for Advanced Education that is coordinated by TAMCAR. The academy is offered each fall in conjunction with the Institute, and academy scholarships are available when local funding limitations or policies might otherwise prevent participation.
- Attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks annual conference that is held every year in May.
- Attend Municipal Administration Program training classes offered by the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) and receive four hours credit per half-day class. A different course is offered each month except June and December in locations across the state.
- Attend seminars conducted by the TML and Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool.
- Attend the Local Government Leadership Program offered by the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service (IPS) and receive 12 hours credit for the three-day program.
- Attend job-related seminars offered by private organizations.

(Credit hours may vary.)

- Complete online self-teaching computer programs as approved by the secretary of state. (Credit hours may vary.)

How do I apply for credit hours?

Whether you are applying for the initial certificate or continuing education credits, you should contact the Division of Business Services for an application. Request form number SS-4507, appropriately titled "Application for Certification of Municipal Clerks and Recorders and Continuing Education Credit." The application is also available at www.tennessee.gov/sos/forms/ss-4507.pdf.

You can reach the division at: 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, 6th Floor, Snodgrass Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-1102, Phone: 615- 741-3699 Fax: (615) 741-7310, E-mail: business.services@state.tn.us

For more information contact your MTAS municipal management consultant or the below agencies:

International Institute of Municipal Clerks
8331 Utica Avenue, Suite 200
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Phone: (909) 944-4162 or (800) 251-1639; Fax: (909) 944-8545
Message Center: (800) 251-1639
E-mail: hq@iimc.com
Website: <http://www.iimc.com>

UT-MTAS


Kurt Frederick,
TAMCAR Institute Director
226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 606
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Phone: (615) 253-6385
Fax: (615) 532-4963
E-mail: kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu, or website: www.mtas.tennessee.edu

TML Risk Management Pool

Michael Fann
Director of Loss Control
5100 Maryland Way
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In disaster/triumph, Piper marched Clarksville forward

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

Johnny Piper peered outside his window as the rain pummeled the city like a giant sprinkler system on steroids. It was Sunday afternoon, May 2, 2010, day three of the deluge, and the Cumberland and Red rivers had crested far beyond the flood mark. "Another disaster," Piper grimaced, putting the finishing touches on the department head emergency chart. As mayor, he already knew what he was going to do, both from instinct and experience—gear up, get organized and get busy.

Texas-born and raised, Johnny Piper was part of a large family that was short on cash, but not on children. There were 10 to be exact, of which Piper was number five. Part-time jobs throughout his high school years taught him the value of hard work and how to stretch a dollar, which certainly came in handy after graduation. Rejected from entering the Navy, due to perforated eardrums, Piper decided to move to a military town instead, Clarksville,

the window pretty quick."

Ten years later, Piper still marvels at how the city came together during the recovery effort. "We were able to go out to other cities that had tragedies and learn from their plans and also hire professionals that worked with them through their circumstances in order to help us recover more quickly," he said. In addition, Piper established a committee comprised of about 160 volunteers, business people, engineers, architects, contractors, codes people, and private individuals who helped create a new vision for downtown Clarksville.

"My background was in development and construction and rebuilding and immediately upon taking office, redevelopment, construction and rebuilding was needed, but they're the ones who really set the agenda for rebuilding downtown and they should be recognized for their hard work," he said.

Through new building codes, lighting, sidewalks and landscaping, Clarksville's once aged and seriously stagnant downtown area was transformed into a friendly shopping

agency. "For up to a week, there was only one road open for traveling both in or out of the city," notes Piper. "It was a very interesting time for our emergency personnel. If you had someone that needed an ambulance or there was a fire, coming or going was an hour to two hour delay," he said.

Fortunately, this time the city's downtown area, on the bluff overlooking the Cumberland, was safe, but commercial properties along Riverside Drive were flooded with up to 7 feet of water.

"The difference between the flood and tornado is in a tornado, the damage is immediate and then it leaves behind the carnage," Piper said. "A flood; you watch it rise for several days, and then it stays around. You can't begin recovery immediately, but have to wait until it recedes."

"I've always operated from a management standpoint on government resources," he continues. "The Fire Department, Street Department, Parks & Recreation, Police—it did not matter to us whether it was public or private property—we went there and helped them haul

things out. The city employees and volunteers worked long and hard and the people should be congratulated."

Hemlock Semiconductor

Then there were Clarksville's victories that had nothing to do with pushing past disaster. In 2008, officials with Hemlock Semiconductor Corp. and Dow Corning announced that Clarksville was in the running for a semiconductor plant at their 1,100-acre megasite. The plant turns raw materials into polycrystalline silicon, the material needed to produce solar panels and electronics.

"There were lots of people involved," said Piper. "The state, county, city, Matt Kisber, Regan Farr—Gov. Bredesen was very critical to the selection. When I got involved, they were still considering about 70 sites worldwide."

When the sites were narrowed to at least the top 10, Piper and his wife hosted one of the first site visits at their home, a well furnished, antebellum gem built in 1836. "We wanted to show that we were willing to build relationships and make new friends," Piper said. "The idea was to have them come to Clarksville, remember the site, but also something about us that was different, like the house and the southern hospitality, to tie it all in together, so they wouldn't forget."

It was there at the first meeting that the discussion branched off into karst topography. Karst topography is characterized by subterranean limestone caverns, carved by groundwater. Many karst regions display distinctive surface features, with sinkholes or dolines being the most common.

"They had determined significant karst topography in that area of our country," said Piper. "We determined that if we were going to be a player in the selection of Clarksville, we needed to take karst topography off the table. It needed to be mitigated so that Hemlock would not be concerned about it. In our discussions with the Industrial Development Board and the state, it was determined that the governor would put approximately \$10 million on the table to take karst topography out of the concern. The state would have a \$3 million pad ready site should Hemlock select Clarksville."

By the time the city was number five on the list, Piper consulted with other officials about making an additional 1,000-1,200 acres around the site property available. "We auctioned that property, which meant we then had about 2,300 acres for future expansion," said Piper. When Hemlock chose Clarksville as the site for a new \$1.2 billion plant, they bought



Photo by Andrew Dodson, The Bay City Times

The Hemlock Semiconductor building at Austin Peay State University hosts a two-year training program for future employees of the \$1.2 billion plant.

the entire 2,300 acres, according to Piper.

Today, with the plant currently under construction, Hemlock plans to hire at least 500 employees when it opens in 2012. Many will be graduates of Austin Peay's two-year training program held at the Hemlock Semiconductor building on campus. The community impact upon Clarksville will be historic, ranging from \$3.6 billion to \$6 billion.

"I feel good about our accomplishments that allow Tennessee to continue to be recognized as a leader in areas that others are looking for and I feel good about the financial situation I'm leaving Clarksville in,"

project of Piper's, is set to be completed Dec. 1 as well. "The city is currently adding another 1.2 miles on the walking trail, which will take it all the way to the Kenwood High School complex," said Piper.

His plans for the greenway had to be shelved during his first term when the tornado recovery effort took precedence, but today, the project is so successful that the city recently added another acre of parking. "There will be a little part that the next mayor will have to commit to, but the parking lot will add a little more than five miles to a pristine part of downtown," said Piper. "It will be tied into Liberty Park and



During the May 2010 flood, commercial properties along Riverside Drive in Clarksville were flooded with up to 7 feet of water.

home of Fort Campbell military base and where his older brother Tommy and his wife lived.

Working his way through business classes at Austin Peay State University as a part-time janitor, Piper scraped together enough seed money to remodel and resell mobile homes. As a hard working entrepreneur, he experienced early success in the real estate field, but even then, he was fascinated with the workings of local government. Piper followed

and business mecca with a cool, urban vibe. "We transitioned from that old 30s and 40s mentality and that transition has been very nice," said Piper. Underground power replaced the unsightly overhead wiring, benches and brick sidewalks were installed and a pewter fountain dedicated to the city's children gleams along revitalized Strawberry Alley.

"Business owners are proud to return to Clarksville's downtown," Piper said. "As you drive around,



The Clarksville Marina at Liberty Park will offer 400 boat slips and other amenities such as shops and restaurants provided by a private investor.

Piper said.

The Marina at Liberty Park

Delayed by rain and flood, the city should see the opening of the Clarksville marina and phase II of Liberty Park by Dec. 1, said Piper. "It's a major investment, (\$32 million by the city) and we should have a groundbreaking ceremony by then," he said. Located at the former fairgrounds site along the banks of the Cumberland, the marina at Liberty Park will offer 400 boat slips and other choice amenities. The city is preparing the base infrastructure for the project, while a private investor/operator will bring shops, restaurants and condominiums to the area. "The marina developer will be ready as soon as we let go of the property," said Piper.

Completion of Freedom Point, an all glass building that the public can use for public/private events and the pavilion will stretch into next year, but will be phenomenal, according to Piper. "The Marina is only one fifth of the total investment," Piper said. "Liberty Park will include Wilma Rudolph Pavilion, three multi-purpose fields, a dog park, 10 miles of walking trails, and a pond expansion from an acre and a half to 10 acres."

A private donation of \$250,000 toward a panoramic bridge to continue the Clarksville Greenway, a pet

continue on to Fort Campbell."

Piper decided not to seek a third term. As the mayor that came in with a tornado and out with a flood, he was asked if there was anything he would have liked to have seen before he left office. "Not another tornado," he quips. "I believe in term limits," he adds. And, I've already served two terms. But, I would have liked for Liberty Park to be completed. The flood delayed it for several months, so we're not going to be able to finish the park and marina on time. I really regret that."

"There's been a lot of conjecture about what I'm going to do. I've been approached by a couple of cities about consulting, but right now, I'm just going to enjoy a little downtime." Piper plans to take a vacation Jan. 2 after his last day in office Dec. 31. Hopefully, this time, nature will cooperate.

"I've been blessed with having the support of the majority of the public," he continues. "I didn't see myself as overseeing, but as a part of a team. First and foremost, my wife, Donita, has had an important impact on the things I've gotten accomplished. It's been an honor to serve Clarksville. To help transition the city from a sleepy community—one that no one knew where we were—to a city that has been recognized for leadership throughout the state and as a city on the move."



Mayor Johnny Piper and his staff cut the ribbon on the Clarksville Greenway, a concept Piper began to develop in his first term in office.

Clarksville's city council meetings avidly, first on the radio in the 70s, and then by attending nearly every meeting throughout the 80s.

At Austin Peay, Piper met his wife, Donita, a school psychologist, and they were blessed with two daughters, Heather, now 30, and Sarah, 26. By 1986, his dreams turned to becoming mayor of Clarksville. When Piper entered the construction/development business, he was unaware he was on a collision course with fate. The experience would be needed more than he would know.

The Tornado of 1999

In his first term, just 22 days after his January 1999 swearing in ceremony, nature paid a call on Clarksville. At 4 am, the city was slammed by a devastating tornado that leveled the Montgomery County Courthouse, two historic churches, many downtown businesses and offices and causing \$75 million in damages at Austin Peay. Suddenly, Piper was managing a crisis.

"It kind of threw me," he recalls with a grin. "I came in with a 100-day plan to get things accomplished and my new administration set up. As you can imagine, that plan went out

particularly weekend nights, you'll see lots of vibrant activity, which is important in rebuilding the area."

The cost of the downtown recovery effort was about \$200 million, according to Piper. The city has also funded and completed a 20-year master plan for the future, which includes the tornado stricken area. "More than 200 people were involved, and we spent about eight months and lots of hours working together," he notes. "We have a footprint and blueprint for future leaders to follow and I think it is a very good one."

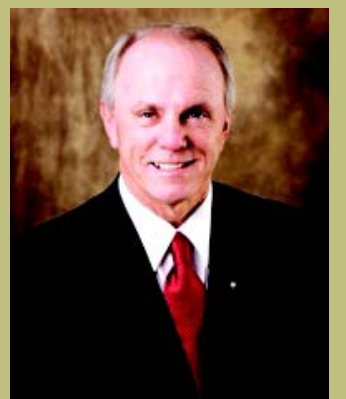
The 2010 Flood

Unfortunately, the mayor and the city had not seen their share of disaster. "On Friday, April 30, 2010, it started to rain. By May 2, some 17 inches had fallen in some areas of Tennessee and the Cumberland River crested at 62.5 feet in Clarksville. Entire subdivisions, businesses and cars were submerged along with roads and bridges.

The city's wastewater treatment plant had gone under, a \$100 million investment, and pumps had to be brought in to keep it going. Clarksville along with Montgomery County was in a severe state of emer-

Accomplishments during Johnny Piper's Administrations:

- Clarksville Marina and Liberty Park;
- Expansion of Riverwalk;
- Clarksville Greenway;
- Ted Crozier Boulevard Construction and Development;
- Rebuilt Historic downtown Clarksville following F-4 Tornado;
- University Boulevard Development;
- Hemlock Semiconductor Deal;
- Riverside Drive Reconstruction;
- Christmas on the Cumberland;
- Strawberry Alley Transformation; and



Mayor Johnny Piper

- The July 3rd Independence Day Celebration