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## Congressional leaders push for long-term federal transportation program

**BY LESLIE WOLLACK**  
*Nations Cities Weekly*

Seeking to avoid another short-term extension of federal transportation programs when the current (and eighth short-term extension) expires next March, House and Senate transportation leaders are working hard to gain sufficient support to move their respective transportation proposals.

Key to the discussion is the need for increased federal revenue to fund federal transportation programs at a time when fuel taxes are falling short of current transportation spending levels and far below the projected infrastructure needs of the nation.

In recent days, the Government Accountability Office removed one of the key irritants in the discussion over revenue, finding that no state paid more in federal fuel taxes than was returned in federal transportation dollars. This concern of the so-called "donee" states can only be resolved when there is more money flowing into the highway trust fund. (*See story below*).

This year, Congress faces multiple threats to transportation dollars — a decrease in driving and more fuel-efficient vehicles reducing dollars — and a budget-cutting environment.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.) and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) are both talking to their col-

leagues to find additional revenues to fund a long-term transportation program. This summer, Mica and Boxer offered outlines of long-term legislation to extend federal transportation programs, but have not been able to move further with their legislative proposals.

In the Senate, a two-year bill offered by Boxer and Ranking Minority Member Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) needs an additional \$12 billion per year to fully fund current transportation programs. The House Transportation Committee majority has pushed for a six-year program that would cut transportation programs by 34 percent to stay within current spending levels, although in recent days, there have been indications that the House leadership will look for additional funding to maintain current spending.

In the meantime, members of the President's jobs council are pushing for larger federal investments in transportation and creation of a national infrastructure bank to expand the amount of capital available for infrastructure investment.

A new report from the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness called for Congress to act on reauthorization of federal transportation programs, noting that the lack of investment is causing the U.S. to fall behind economic competitors such as China.

Both House and Senate transportation leaders hope to move their bills in the next few weeks.

## Audit finds states receive extra highway money

**BY DANIEL C. VOCK**  
*Stateline Staff Writer*

Every state in the country received more highway money from the federal government than its drivers paid in federal fuel taxes, but the amount the states collected varied widely.

For every dollar Alaskans paid in federal gas taxes, the feds chipped in another \$3.99, more than for any other state. However it was much different in Tennessee. For every dollar its drivers paid, the federal government added just 12 cents.

The data, released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), highlights one of the most vexing transportation problems on Capitol Hill: The federal gas tax is not taking in enough money to meet its current commitments. The reason

every state received more than it contributed is because, since 2008, Congress has added other money to the highway trust fund three times.

The state-by-state breakdown was requested by Congress as it tries, yet again, to fashion a longer-term plan to support surface transportation. Progress is anything but guaranteed, especially considering Congress has relied on stopgap measures since the last major highway bill expired in 2009. But tallies for individual states are important to lawmakers, who want to know how their states fared under the current formula.

The GAO auditors, however, cautioned against relying solely on that metric. "Using rate of return as a major factor in determining federal highway funding levels," agency analysts wrote, "is at odds with re-examining and restructuring federal surface transportation programs so that performance and accountability for results is factored into transportation investment decisions."

That holds true even when Congress sets up rules to distribute highway money on data and other performance factors. Those formulas, the GAO reported, "are ultimately not meaningful, because they are overridden by other provisions designed to yield a largely predetermined outcome — that of returning revenues to their attributed state of origin."

And once states get their hands

*See GAS TAX on Page 6*

## Amazon, state strike deal to start collecting TN sales tax in 2014

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**  
*TML Communications Director*

Described as a win-win solution, the state of Tennessee has struck a deal with Amazon.com to begin collecting sales taxes in 2014. And in return, the online retailer will create thousands of Tennessee-based jobs and invest millions of dollars in capital projects.

"This agreement balances the needs of the company and the needs of the state," said Gov. Bill Haslam.

Under the agreement, Amazon is committed to creating 3,500 full-time jobs with benefits, hiring thousands of seasonal workers, and making \$350 million in capital investments by maintaining the previously announced projects in Chattanooga, Cleveland, and Lebanon, along with developing two new distribution centers in Lebanon and Murfreesboro.

"We are proud that this worldwide brand has chosen to make a significant investment in Tennessee and is committed to expanding its presence here," the governor said.

Haslam made the announcement earlier this month flanked by a bipartisan group of state legislators and key state officials who helped craft the agreement.

Amazon will have until Jan. 1, 2014, before it will be required to collect and remit sales tax on Internet purchases, unless required to do so



Under an agreement with the state, Amazon will create 3,500 full-time jobs and invest millions in capital projects and have until Jan. 1, 2014, before it will be required to collect and remit sales taxes on Internet purchases.

sooner by an act of Congress.

"This is not a new tax," Haslam explained. "This is about how we collect sales tax in Tennessee."

Under current law, the responsibility for submitting sales tax on Internet purchases falls on the consumer and not the online retailer. Due to a Supreme Court ruling, known as *Quill*, retailers are only required to collect sales tax in states where they have brick-and-mortar stores.

This requirement should have

changed for Amazon, however, when in 2010 the company announced plans to build distribution centers in Chattanooga and Cleveland.

But in order to lure the online retail giant to Tennessee, along with the thousands of jobs it promised to create, the Bredesen Administration waived the requirement that Amazon must collect and remit sales tax on online purchases made in Tennessee.

*See AMAZON on Page 8*

## Study shows how local policies support small business growth

**BY CHRISTIANA MCFARLAND**  
*Nations Cities Weekly*

The recent recessionary period has focused new attention on the role of small businesses in generating economic growth. Many local leaders are turning attention to supporting and growing their small business community in order to realize tangible economic impacts including job creation and exporting local goods and services. But what are the most effective roles for cities in small business development?

The National League of Cities (NLC) conducted research, reported in Small Business Growth: U.S. Local Policy Implications, on the impacts of local policies on the growth

of small businesses, including: access to capital programs (revolving loan funds), management development (small business development centers), regulatory and permitting assistance and marketing assistance. Also included in the analysis is whether the local government partners with the small business community for policy development. The analysis is based on the 2009 National League of Cities/International City/County Management Association Economic Development survey.

The most effective way local governments create opportunities for small businesses, according to the new research, is by providing an efficient regulatory environment

and avenues for local businesses to engage with policy makers. Surprisingly, other local tools to support small businesses, including management development assistance, revolving loan funds and marketing assistance do not have the expected impact on small business growth.

### Regulatory Assistance

Ideally, a local government's regulatory processes — permitting and zoning — exist to guard against detrimental development, preserve local assets and safeguard citizens.

However, regulatory processes can also present barriers to small businesses, imposing time-consuming bureaucratic requirements, *See BUSINESS on Page 3*

*"Music Makes Us" program kicks off in 2012*

## World class initiative set to make music a second language for Nashville students

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**  
*TML Communications Coordinator*

Looks like Nashville will be playing a new tune when it comes to music education. A revolutionary new program *Music Makes Us* is geared to revolutionize the music program at Metro Nashville Schools, eventually making it the worldwide leader, according to Mayor Karl Dean.

The program will preserve the tradition of marching bands and school choirs, but will place a greater emphasis on music technology and contemporary trends in music. Students will be offered subjects like songwriting, composition, rock, hip-hop, recording and DJ/remixing.

The initiative, funded through public-private partnerships, has already attracted the attention of major benefactors such as Mike Curb, founder of Curb Records, the Gibson Foundation, and Nashville Philanthropist Martha Ingram.

"Through *Music Makes Us* Music City will become the standard bearer of what music education can be and should be in public education," said Dean at the program's recent unveiling. "Beginning at a young age, Metro students will be exposed to a wide array of musical styles and influences. Our innovative curriculum will draw in students that may have felt left out in the



In addition to keeping the tradition of school choirs and bands alive, the *Music Makes Us* initiative will place a greater emphasis on music technology and offering a variety of contemporary music classes.

past."

For the first time in history, Metro Nashville Public Schools will have an Office of Music Education with a full-time director and staff. The current school year will serve as an organizational period, where a new director will be hired along with a program coordinator, while audits are conducted of the school district's music facilities, equipment and instruments.

*Music Makes Us* was developed over the last two years through the music education committee of the Music City Music Council, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office

and Metro Schools.

"Every person Pre-K through 12th grade loves music," said Nancy Shapiro, vice president Member Services for The Recording Academy. Shapiro chaired the music education committee and helped lead development of the initiative. "We think if music can tap into student's passion in school, it will help with all their core curriculum subjects, helping them to stay in school and to be excited about going, while also preparing them with skills for 21st century college or careers," Shapiro said.

*See MUSIC on Page 3*



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UT-LEIC celebrates 10 years



NEWS  
ACROSS  
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BEANSTATION

H.T. Hackney Co., a furniture company based out of Knoxville, announced it will add jobs early next year with an arm of the company, H. Home, adding a facility in Bean Station. H. Home represents a new launch for H.T. Hackney. H. Home will manufacture home theater and family entertainment products, from recliners to reclining sofas and loveseats in the facility.

BRENTWOOD

Because residents in Williamson County generate more trash than a great majority of residents elsewhere in the state, municipal governments are again eligible to receive state grants to help promote recycling. Brentwood, which does not have a citywide recycling program, typically lets the county capture the city's share of available funding as it will do this year. The state's annual program targets the 11 counties in Tennessee with the largest waste streams and offers a total of \$300,000. Williamson County is eligible for \$3,917 and Brentwood stands to collect \$2,836. Local governments must match the figure in order to receive the grant.

CHATTANOOGA

The Tennessee Valley Authority says a solar power system at the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport will add more clean renewable power to the agency's growing energy portfolio. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority has signed an agreement with TVA and EPB, the Chattanooga electric utility, to provide up to one megawatt of solar power under TVA's Renewable Standard Offer initiative. The system has more than 4,000 panels. Construction on the project should be finished in December. TVA said the array will be the largest solar installation at any airport in the region.

CLEVELAND

Three years after starting an energy savings program, Cleveland City Schools has crossed the \$1 million mark in cost savings, energy director Paul Ramsey said. The city system was recognized for taking part in TVA's Green Schools Project. Ramsey said the energy and dollar savings is a result of efforts by teachers, staff, custodial and maintenance crews. "Schools using a geothermal system are the biggest savers," said Ramsey.

FRANKLIN

A new poll is ranking America's Top 10 Downtown Districts. Number 10 on the list from *Livability.com* is Downtown Franklin, a 15 block district, with more than 70 boutiques, award-winning restaurants and year round street festivals. Downtown Chattanooga came in at Number 8 on the list, which cites the Tennessee Aquarium, along with the city's restaurants, museums and the historic Chattanooga Choo Choo hotel. For more on the two Tennessee places or to see other places that made the list, visit [Livability.com](http://Livability.com).

FRANKLIN

Franklin will pursue creation of its first public/private solar energy program — making it only the second in the state — even as private companies explore adding solar panels for their own energy in Franklin. Franklin Mayor Ken Moore and city aldermen are backing pursuit of an agreement to lease some of the 100 acres adjacent to the city's waste-

water treatment plant to Nashville-based renewable energy company Energy Source Partners. If given final approval by TVA, Energy Source Partners would then install an estimated 900 solar panels on part of the property, which could then generate about 200 kilowatts of solar power, that would be sold to the electric grid through a Tennessee Valley Authority incentive program. Only the city of Knoxville has a similar arrangement to lease publicly owned land for installation of solar panels. TVA still must sign off on approving the project.

GATLINBURG

Visits to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park remain behind the numbers from last year. The National Park Service said visitation for 2011 through September was off 6.2 percent from 2010. For September, the number of visitors coming into the Smokies at the three main entrances was off by 10.4 percent at Gatlinburg, 11.1 percent at Townsend and 7.3 percent at Cherokee. Statistically, visits for September were up 4.4 percent overall, but officials say the apparent 88 percent increase at the Foot-hill Parkway entrance in Cock County was because a counter that didn't function in September 2010 is now working. From January through September of this year, nearly 7 million people have visited the Smokies. October is one of the busiest months because of fall foliage.

JACKSON

The city is looking to amend an ordinance that would crack down even more on underage drinking. A proposed amendment to an ordinance would keep underage kids out of liquor stores unless they are with a parent, legal guardian or spouse. Mayor Jerry Gist said keeping kids younger than 21 out of the stores will not solve the underage drinking problem altogether, but it is "one step in a mile-long walk to curb it." Liquor store employees say that an ordinance would put less pressure on them when turning away large groups of teens looking to buy alcohol.

JACKSON

UT Martin Jackson Center celebrated the opening of its new north Jackson building with a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour. UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said the school began its presence in Jackson on the former Lambuth University campus, where it stayed for 20 years. It moved to the Tennessee Technology Center and later to Jackson State Community College. The UT Martin Jackson Center is 6,000 square feet with five classrooms — one equipped with video conferencing equipment. It also has a lab and a library. Students will be able to complete degrees in university studies, which is an online program; social work; and master's of education. Non-degree programs will focus on healthcare.

KIMBALL

Marion County is reinvigorating its previous plans for a new college campus on 30 acres of farmland. Work by county and Chattanooga State Community College officials could end with a groundbreaking as early as spring. County Mayor John Graham said recent county commission education committee meetings with Chattanooga State officials have resulted in shifting plans to a new launch point in hopes of driving the project forward as a

regional campus. Graham said officials believe they have enough money in hand to get the project started with about \$3 million in grant funding and utility work by the town of Kimball dedicated to the project.

KNOXVILLE

C-SPAN steeped itself in Knoxville's history, planning to share what it learned with the rest of the viewing nation. Knoxville is the sixth of eight Southeastern cities on what the non-profit public affairs programmer has dubbed the 2011 LCV Cities Tour. Producers wanted to focus on literary and historic sites and also speak to local historians, authors and elected officials. They also worked with some local schools to show them how C-SPAN can be used in the classroom. The plan is to gather about 20 video segments through the week, eight to 10 on literature and eight to 10 on Knoxville history. The kickoff and other productions from the week will air Oct. 29 and 30 on BookTV (Comcast channel 104) and American History TV (Comcast channel 105). Footage will also be archived in the C-SPAN Video Library, available at [www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/).

LEWISBURG

CalsonicKansei North America, the largest single employer in Lewisburg, plans to buy new equipment and renovate its building to manufacture key components of Nissan's Leaf, an all electric car. CKNA will be making the battery inverter and controller for the Leaf vehicle's battery. The company now employs 563 people.

MCKENZIE

McKenzie leaders are planning on opening a haunted theater this Halloween, in hopes of restoring their historic theater. The 70-year-old run down theater already looks a little spooky, and with a little help from the Parks and Recreation department and Bethel University students, they plan on making it down right scary. The city will use the money raised by ticket sales for the haunted theater to go toward restoring the building. They also hope to receive state grants for the project. "It's really a landmark. The theater anchors this side of our town and we think that if we can restore the theater, it can be used for movies and community theater performances and as a meeting place," said Mayor Jill Holland. City leaders plan to have the Haunted Theater open Halloween weekend.

MEMPHIS

Memphis Bioworks Foundation has received \$3.7 million of \$159.2 million in grants the U.S. Department of Labor has awarded to 36 public-private organizations around the country. The grants are funded under the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Competition, and will provide education, training and job placement assistance related to high-growth fields such as advanced manufacturing, energy, health care and information technology. The grants are funded through fees paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the U.S. under the H-1B program, and are intended to raise the technical skill level of American workers. More than \$85 million of the funds awarded will be used to provide training to individuals who have been unemployed for longer than six months, while more than \$70 million will be used to provide on-the-job training. All of the grantees are required to partner with at least one area employer that will provide assistance in defining program goals and activities, identify necessary skills and competencies, provide resources to support education and training, or help design the program.



A remake of '80s movie mainstay "Footloose" brought film and music stars to the Franklin Theatre's red carpet. It's the first red-carpet movie premiere at the theater since its reopening this summer. The film's stars, including Julianne Hough, Kenny Wormald, Miles Teller, Blake Shelton and the movie's writer and director, Craig Brewer, were on hand, along with other celebrities. Pictured: Miles Teller, Kenny Wormald, Julianne Hough and Blake Shelton.

MURFREESBORO

The city kicked off its bicentennial recently at the Civic Plaza in front of City Hall with Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg announcing the opening of the year-long celebration. The establishment of Murfreesboro as county seat took place 200 years ago when the city's grounds were part of the country's frontier.

NASHVILLE

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean plans to start a summer academy focused on raising ACT scores and helping students fill out financial aid forms. It's the first element of his plan to double college graduation rates in five years. The Scholar's Academy would be six to eight weeks long but also include year-round help. "I think there will be a significant number of kids who understand their future depends on going to college," Dean said. "And I think these kids will do the exact same thing." The program would be housed in the downtown library and start next year. Dean said he hopes private funding will be a part of the program.

OAK RIDGE

CANBERRA Industries, Inc., a developer and manufacturer of radiation detection solutions, will transition its safeguards and military product development and manufacturing to its Oak Ridge facility. The announcement represents a capital investment of \$1.2 million and the creation of 45 additional jobs at the facility over the next three years, doubling the plant's current workforce. CANBERRA chose to expand the Oak Ridge facility because of its close proximity to Department of Energy sites, including Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a safeguards and nuclear research hub, as well as other key customers such as TVA. The 34,000 square-foot facility is located at 107 Union Valley Road.

OAK RIDGE

Research perfecting new ways to make superstrong carbon fiber cheaply will be demonstrated in a pilot plant, and a local college has received grants to train future workers. The new \$35 million Carbon Fiber Technology Facility is taking shape in Horizon Center Business Park in west Oak Ridge. The facility will parlay cutting-edge research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory into making the material, now so expensive its use is limited. Roane State Community College has received two grants totaling more than \$2.8 million to train workers in using carbon fiber composites and to operate high-tech automated machines like those used in making the material. Mixed with a glue-like resin, carbon fiber could replace steel in

cars, boosting gas mileage and reducing the nation's dependence on foreign oil, according to Lee McGetrick, director of the center. It also could be used to make bigger, more efficient blades for wind turbines as well as numerous other applications, she said.

PARKERS CROSSROADS

The city's visitors center is hosting a traveling Civil War exhibit. The display focused on 1861, highlights the impact of slavery on the country, the fallout from the divisive election of 1860, the start of the Southern succession movement and Tennessee's gradual shift toward becoming a Confederate state. The exhibit, along Interstate 40 in the town midway between Nashville and Memphis, is on loan until April from the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

SMYRNA

Motlow State Community College's Smyrna site plans to break ground on next year on a 35,000-square-foot, two-story building. The new building, twice as big as the school's current one, will be made possible through \$7.6 million from the Tennessee Board of Regents as well as several grants and fundraisers. A second building will feature seven classrooms, three science labs, three computer labs, a nursing lab, a nursing classroom and a student area.

SPRINGFIELD

Swedish appliance maker Electrolux Major Appliances North America is expanding its Robertson County manufacturing facility, a \$5 million investment. The expansion comes on the heels of Electrolux Home Products Inc. starting construction on a \$200 million facility in Memphis which will create 1,200 jobs. The Springfield factory has produced Electrolux and Frigidaire gas and electric freestanding ranges since 1974. The expansion will provide additions and upgrades to the existing facility, including a three-story, 21,000 square-foot addition with laboratories and developmental facilities. Electrolux will add 75 full-time research and development, product development and purchasing jobs to its current 2,800 employees.

SPRINGHILL

To accommodate walkers, the city is seeking two grants, one of which would help pay to build a paved multi-use trail connection to the campuses of Summit High School and Spring Station Middle School. The Tennessee Department of Transportation enhancement grant will be used to link the Tanyard Springs subdivision to sidewalks built in neighboring Thompson's Station through the federally funded Safe Routes to School program.



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Multi-talented musician, writer, producer and performer Hunter Hayes joins Nancy Shapiro, vice president Member Services for The Recording Academy and chair of Nashville's Music Education Committee, at the announcement of the *Music Makes Us* initiative held at the historic Ryman Auditorium. The initiative aims to make music education in Nashville a world-class program. Hunter spoke on his personal experience with music education and how the initiative would have benefited him when he was in school. *Music Makes Us: The Nashville Music Education Project*, will overhaul Nashville Public School systems' current music program with an updated contemporary curriculum.

## Initiative set to make Nashville world class in music education

MUSIC from Page 1

Studies have shown higher test scores in math, reading and other subjects for students participating in music education programs. "We know that music education helps children to be more disciplined and creative," said Shapiro. "That's why we're going to try to infuse it into the core curriculum as well. Not everything's going to be taught through music, but the advantages to a strong music education are well documented and well studied."

According to Shapiro, Metro Nashville will be conducting an independent study of the program over

the long term, tracking student's test scores and establishing a base line in which to gauge the success of the program. "We want someone from the outside to turn a sharp eye when measuring the effect music education has upon Metro students," said Shapiro.

The program will host a number of music industry insiders from recording artists to studio technicians, who are more than happy to donate their time and expertise.

"It's been like preaching to the choir to talk to the music industry about this," Shapiro chuckles.

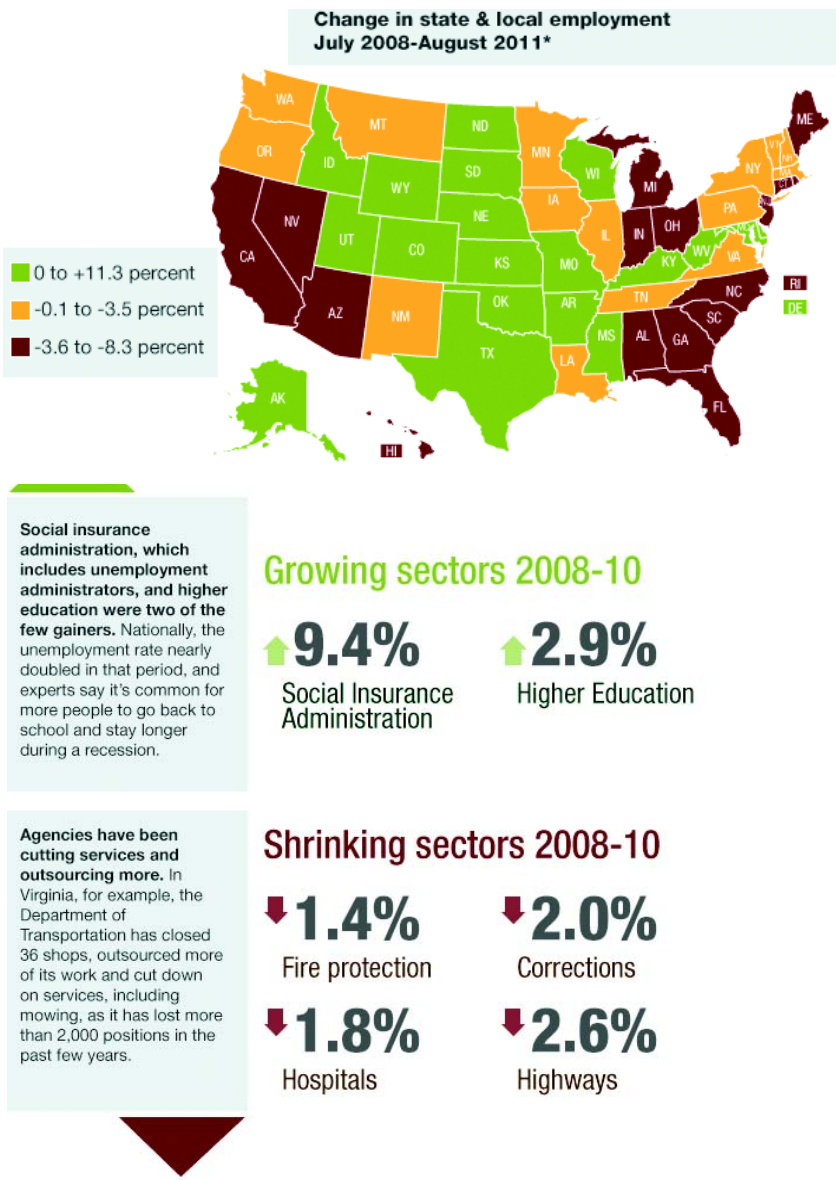
# State and local employment down

BY CARLA URIONA,  
MARY MAHLING  
and BEN WIEDER  
*Stateline.org*

There are nearly half a million fewer state and local employees now than there were four years ago, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

An annual employment survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau gives an indication of where some of those cuts were made. There were nearly 9,000 fewer firefighters and police officers in March 2010 than three years earlier, according to the Census survey, and more than 16,000 fewer state and local hospital employees. Those reductions are fairly unusual. This marks only the second recession since 1973 that has seen a reduction in state and local employees, according to the Rockefeller Institute of Government. "What we are seeing is a diminution of some very important services," says Robert Ward, the institute's deputy director. "And I suspect that we will see a lot more of that."

In Tennessee, 379,400 employees worked for state and local government agencies in July 2008. By Aug. 2011, that number had dropped by 2.0 percent.



## Efficient regulatory environment impacts small business growth

BUSINESS from Page 1

complex rules and regulation and inefficient processes.

The speed and efficiency of regulatory processes is an indicator of local government responsiveness to small businesses that often do not have the time or resources to navigate bureaucratic steps.

### Partnering with Small Business

Partnerships and open communication with the small business community and service providers help local governments understanding what businesses exist in the community, uncover their challenges, realize gaps in support and help drive policies that are most responsive to needs.

Entrepreneurs and growth companies, in particular, likely fly under the radar of traditional economic development programs meant to attract and retain larger employers. In order to begin to forge connections with small businesses and to get a handle on what services are available in the community, local leaders can seek out partners that commonly interact with the local business community, such as chambers of commerce, technology councils, universities, small business development centers and economic development organizations.

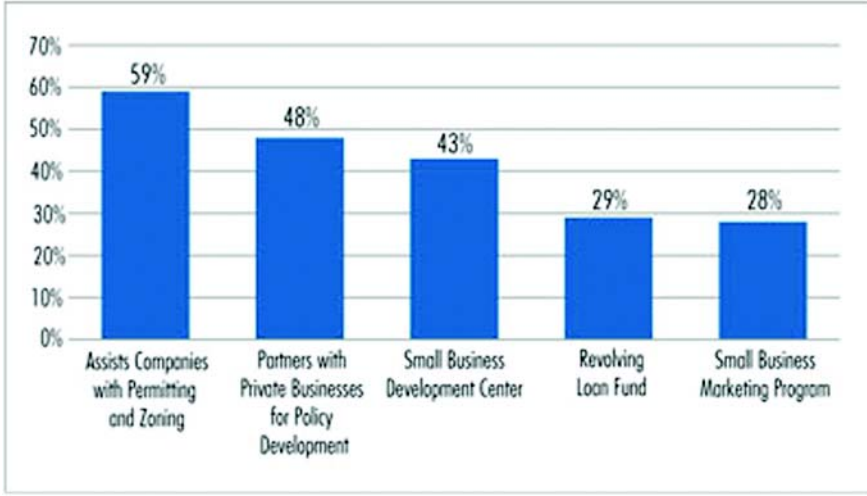
### Management and Skills Development

Lack of management and business skills is a common culprit in small business failure. Local programs for small business management and skills development typically include general management training, financial advising, assistance with formulating a business plan and other technical assistance associated with business ownership.

These programs are often offered by a local government through a partnership with a small business development center (SBDC). According to preliminary research results, management and skills development assistance does not appear to contribute to the growth of small businesses. However, this may simply reflect the constant "churning" of those small businesses most likely to benefit from SBDC services.

### Market Expansion Assistance

Market expansion can be the



The most effective way local governments create opportunities for small businesses, according to the new research, is by providing an efficient regulatory environment and avenues for local businesses to engage with policy makers. Surprisingly, other local tools to support small businesses, including management development assistance, revolving loan funds and marketing assistance do not have the expected impact on small business growth.

most daunting challenge for entrepreneurs and small business owners because of their lack of resources and specialized marketing knowledge. Local programs to assist small businesses in expanding the market for their goods and services typically include such things as buy-local campaigns or group marketing systems.

These programs are often focused on the local and regional consumer base. Small business marketing programs do not appear to substantially contribute to small business growth. These programs are more likely recirculate wealth, or attract new customers from the jurisdiction and region, but do not necessarily increase the penetration of small businesses into new, external markets.

### Access to Capital

Even in good economic times, the relatively high failure rate of new small businesses tends to limit their financing options.

Most state and local government financing programs, such as a revolving loan fund, traditionally have better loan terms and are geared toward businesses that are above average risk and may not be able to participate in traditional lending markets.

The research finds that using a revolving loan fund does not appear to contribute to small business growth on a broad scale. Although

these programs may be helpful to a handful of businesses, the limited amount of capital made available may curb their impact.

Additionally, local governments may not have the financial capacity or detailed marketing tools needed to adequately provide financing services on their own.

Although these preliminary results help shed light on traditional or most often used small business development policies, further exploration into more innovative tools and the experience of entrepreneurs and small businesses with them is critical if local governments are to remove barriers and provide support, particularly for small businesses with higher growth potential. NLC will continue to conduct research and provide resources and outreach to local leaders on these issues through its Economic Development program.

To download a copy of the new report *Small Business Growth: U.S. Local Policy Implications* go to [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org) > Find Solutions > Economic Development. For more information, contact Christiana McFarland, program director, Finance and Economic Development, at [cmcfarland@nlc.org](mailto:cmcfarland@nlc.org).

For cities looking to better understand their business landscape, the Edward Lowe Foundation has created a free tool that allows users to access data about businesses and jobs at the state, metropolitan statis-

### TML Board to meet Nov. 2

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, at 1 p.m. in the TML Board Room on first floor of the 226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Oct. 31, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.

### Risk Pool Board meets Nov. 3

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011, at 10 a.m. local time in the Board Room at the The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before said board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling the office of the TML Risk Management Pool, telephone number (615) 371-0049.

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STATE BRIEFS



BYTMLSTAFFREPORTS

Homeland Security initiates enhanced security campaign

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced an “enhanced security campaign” across seven sites in the state. The initiative is an effort to ensure the safety of drivers and residents of Tennessee. Homeland Security and federal authorities said they are urging truckers to be vigilante in helping them spot potential terrorism on the roads. Various federal and state authorities attended the event, including the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. They are distributing a counter-terrorism guide at all the state’s commercial truck scale complexes. The goal of the operation is to provide a proactive approach in deterring any terrorist threats or attacks across the state. This is the first such effort of its kind in the United States.

Judges teach the legal system

Tennessee judges and attorneys have joined forces to create a program geared to educate the public about the legal system. The Tennessee Judicial Conference and Tennessee Bar Association developed the GAVELS program, which stands for Gaining Access to Valuable Education about the Legal System. Judges and attorneys across the state have agreed to make presentations about a variety of legal topics to groups wishing to learn more about the Tennessee judicial system. The program is aimed at students, community groups and business organizations.

Solar farm still negotiating

A proposal to build a five-acre solar farm at Agricenter International is still alive thanks to the 11th-hour intervention of a company formed by former Gov. Phil Bredesen and two of his cabinet members. “The company, Silicon Ranch, agreed to provide the financing for the Agricenter project should that project be finally approved by Agricenter officials,” William Gillon, chairman of Agricenter International’s board, said. The project would cost \$3.5 million-\$4 million. Lightwave Solar designed and would build the solar array for the Agricenter. The proposal still needs the approval of the Agricenter International board and Shelby County’s Agricenter Commission. The array of 4,000 solar panels — manufactured by Memphis’s Sharp Manufacturing Co. — would be placed on about five acres just west of Ducks Unlimited headquarters. Agricenter would use the solar farm both for educational purposes and, in the long term, as a revenue generator. The system would produce about \$360,000 worth of electricity a year that would be sold to Memphis Light Gas & Water Division.

Women-owned businesses soar

There is good news in Tennessee: More than 140,000 women in the state own a business. The number of women-owned businesses grew by almost 20 percent and the receipts from these firms grew by over 20 percent between 2002 and 2007. Yet, even in that good news

there is a call to action. While the number of female-owned businesses in Tennessee is approximately 50 percent of the number of male-owned businesses, revenue and employment hasn’t kept up. This holds true nationally and in Tennessee. Women-owned firms generated just 13.3 percent of the revenues of male-owned firms and employed only 15.1 percent of the number of people employed by their male counterparts.

Tourism up in Tennessee

Tourists spent more money in Tennessee in 2010 compared with the year before, a sign that the state’s history, culture and attractions can consistently generate precious dollars in the face of budget difficulties, officials said. The Tennessee Department of Tourism and Development said the state saw tourists spend \$14.1 billion last year, up 6.3 percent from 2009. All 95 counties in the state saw increases in tourism dollars from 2009 to last year. The state also received \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue for the fifth straight year in 2010. Gov. Bill Haslam cited Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Bristol Motor Speedway, Graceland in Memphis, and the state’s historic driving trails as some of the state’s key tourist attractions. Haslam said he made a point of keeping the state’s \$6.4 million tourism marketing budget at the same level — despite having to cut \$1 billion from the overall state budget — because of tourism’s role as Tennessee’s second largest industry.

State issues \$584 M in bonds

The state is issuing a record \$584 million in bonds to help fund a variety of state-supported projects, including Electrolux Home Products Inc. in Memphis. The \$200 million Electrolux project broke ground at Frank C. Pidgeon Industrial Park. Funding for the project is coming from a variety sources, including \$150 million in incentives from the state and Memphis and Shelby County. In addition to Electrolux, some of the bond proceeds will pay for new capital projects and infrastructure for Volkswagen in Chattanooga, Wacker Chemie in Bradley County and Hemlock Semiconductor in Clarksville, according to a release from state comptroller Justin P. Wilson. Improvements for several state-owned buildings, including a new driver’s license center in Memphis, are also being financed with the bond proceeds. The state will also refinance some outstanding debt to take advantage of lower rates, saving the state about \$10 million in interest costs.

TN lottery rakes in record sales

Despite the recession, the Tennessee Education Lottery is raking in record profits — selling nearly \$1.2 billion in scratch-off tickets, nightly drawings and multistate mega-jackpot games in its latest fiscal year. While 17 other states’ lotteries also hit all-time highs, the seven-year-old Tennessee lottery is growing faster than most, outpacing national lottery growth rates by 63 percent. Gambling industry observers suggest that the soft economy may be pushing consumers to buy more tickets. Tennesseans are likely to see an even

bigger lottery presence, with more games offered in more places for even larger prizes. Some state lawmakers, concerned about shortfalls in the state budget, are calling for the lottery to increase sales by at least eight percent to fund educational scholarships, which could usher in big changes. For the first time, big box stores like Walmart and Target could add lottery sales.

More opt out of worker’s comp

A new state law allows more people to become eligible for exemptions from workers’ compensation. According to the Secretary of State’s office, business owners in construction services can opt out of the requirement to cover themselves with workers’ compensation insurance if they meet certain ownership requirements. The new law increases from three to five the number of business owners of a corporation, limited liability company or partnership that can qualify for the exemption. The new law also allows a person to qualify for an exemption that is associated with another business as long as business ownership requirements are met. An exemption registry is administered by the Secretary of State’s office.

TN tourism opens 9th Trail

State officials announced the ninth of 16 self-guided driving trails in the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways program. The trail spans 514 miles throughout Middle Tennessee, traveling through Cumberland, Davidson, DeKalb, Jackson, Putnam, Smith, White and Wilson counties. Dubbed the Promised Land Trail, it retraces some of the routes forged by the state’s earliest pioneers. According to the Department of Tourist Development, the route is lined with communities that have special events, restaurants, shops and natural areas. The area has the sights, sounds and wildlife that settlers encountered more than 200 years ago.

Assistance could require drug testing in the future

It’s a tough new stance that could cost some people their money or their homes. Florida is one of two states to begin random drug tests for folks who receive government aid, and the Tennessee legislature may consider it as well. If a recipient tests positive, they could lose their assistance. Drug testing could be up for debate in the 2012 legislative session. The proposal would allow random drug tests for recipients of any government assistance program. That includes Welfare, TennCare, Families First, and SNAP benefits.

Lawmakers extend Trade Adjustment Program

A program that has paid for job training and other aid for more than 35,000 unemployed Tennesseans since 2002 will stay alive for at least two more years. The Trade Adjustment Assistance program will get \$575 million over two years for training, relocation aid, health insurance tax credits, job-search allowances and other benefits to workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The program provided \$20.5 million in benefits to newly unemployed Tennesseans in fiscal 2010. More than 8,400 Tennessee workers from 67 companies received trade adjustment aid for the first time in 2010.



Despite the recession, the Tennessee Education Lottery is raking in record profits — selling nearly \$1.2 billion in scratch-off tickets, nightly drawings and multistate mega-jackpot games in its latest fiscal year.

September sales tax revenues mark largest monthly growth in Tennessee since 2006

Economic recovery continues a slow pattern upward in Tennessee. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes reports that overall September revenues were \$1.013 billion — a 3.66 percent above September 2010 collections. It’s the 14th consecutive month in which total collections exceeded the budgeted estimates.

“We are very pleased with the positive growth rates in September tax collections, particularly in the sales tax category, where we see the best indication of renewed consumer optimism in Tennessee,” Emkes said. “That’s the largest monthly growth we’ve seen in the last 69 months, dating back to January 2006.

“While this is good news, the uncertainty surrounding resolution of the federal budget and national economic indicators require us to continue with close scrutiny over state expenditures so that we keep the state’s budget in balance.”

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

September collections were \$4.4 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$4.5 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$0.1 million.

Sales tax collections were \$12.8 million more than the estimate for

September. The September growth rate was 8.33 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$16.1 million below the September budgeted estimate of \$268.9 million. The September growth rate was negative 6.21 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for September decreased by 6.30 percent and were \$3.0 million below the budgeted estimate of \$73.0 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were under collected by \$0.7 million, but the growth rate was positive 4.28 percent.

Privilege tax collections were \$1.9 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$17.3 million.

Inheritance and Estate tax collections were \$12.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$0.9 million.

Year-to-date collections for two months were \$23.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$22.8 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$0.8 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2010-2011 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of April 7, 2010 and adopted by the second session of the 106th General Assembly in June.

TDOT completes annual statewide projects tours

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner John Schroer has completed a statewide tour of projects in each of TDOT’s four regions. The week-long tours began in late June in Chattanooga and concluded earlier this month in Roane County. The tours were designed to give local, state, and transportation officials an opportunity to view projects under construction in their areas and to learn more about future projects announced this year in TDOT’s Three Year Program.

“Not only was it important to me as TDOT’s new commissioner to see the work we’re doing all over the state, but I wanted to provide the same opportunity to our state and local partners,” said Schroer. “This was also an excellent opportunity to hear concerns within communities and have productive discussions

about improving Tennessee’s transportation system.”

Over the course of 16 days, the TDOT Projects Tour logged more than 3,900 miles, making stops in 55 Tennessee counties and viewing 134 projects either under construction or under development.

Fifty-four city and county mayors joined the tour, as well as Gov. Bill Haslam and 40 members of the Tennessee General Assembly, along with representatives from Tennessee’s Congressional Delegation.

“These tours were ambitious and required a tremendous amount of planning and coordination by TDOT staff,” added Schroer. “The excellent participation we had all across the state proves it was well worth the effort, and this is something I plan to continue during my tenure as TDOT commissioner.”

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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Adetokunbo “Toks” Omishakin has been appointed as TDOT’s new Chief of Environment and Planning. He will also assume the role of Assistant Commissioner for TDOT. In his new post, Omishakin will direct the Environment and Planning Bureau which oversees the Project Planning, Long-Range Planning, Multimodal Transportation Resources and Environmental Divisions. Before joining TDOT, Omishakin served as the Director of Healthy Living Initiatives in Mayor Karl Dean’s Office in Nashville. Omishakin also held positions as the Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator, Senior Planner and the Director of “Music City Moves” for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.



where he served as deputy director for six and a half years, Blakeley holds a bachelor’s degree in park and recreation management. His 25 years of government experience also include tenures with the city of Yuma, Arizona and the State of Oregon.

Several key positions have been filled in the city of La Vergne. **Greg Skinner** was named Public Works Director. Skinner holds a Grade IV Wastewater Operator license with the State, a B.S. in environmental science and technology and a Master’s degree in business administration. City Planner **Kristin Costanzo** has a Master’s degree in urban & environmental planning. She spent a year with AmeriCorps VISTA working in the Southern Appalachian coalfields doing water-quality restoration and community development. Most recently Costanzo worked as a community planner with the Tennessee Local Planning Assistance Office. **Tonya Williams** has been named assistant treasurer in the Finance Department. Williams worked in accounting for 13 years in the Memphis area and most recently for Stewart’s Special Events. Parks and Recreation Director **Jeff Marler** returns to the city following five years as athletic coordinator for Smyrna. He spent five years in the same position for LaVergne. Marler is a Certified Youth Sports Adminis-



Skinner



Costanzo



Williams



Marler

**Scott C. Black** is the recently appointed Director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s (TDOT) Project Management Division. In his new post, Black will oversee Project Management offices at TDOT Headquarters and in each of TDOT’s four regional offices. The Project Management Division is also responsible for implementing the State Industrial Access (SIA) Program that provides funding and technical assistance for highway access for new and expanding industries across the state. Before joining TDOT, Black served as the Manager of Budget, Finance, and Administration for the Nashville Convention Center Authority.

**Roger Blakeley** has been named director of Johnson City’s Parks and Recreation Department. Blakeley will begin on Oct. 31. Formerly with the city of Alexandria, Virginia’s Recreation and Parks Department,

trator and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. **Darrell Layne** is the city’s new athletic coordinator and **Jerry Zemlo** is the newly-hired sewer supervisor.

Cleveland Mayor **Tom Rowland** was recently feted for being the longest-serving mayor in the city’s history. Rowland achieved the distinction in 2008 when he surpassed the late Harry Dethero, who served 17 years from 1966 to 1983. During his tenure, Rowland has been president of the Tennessee Municipal League and the East Tennessee Mayors Association, served on two committees of the United States Conference of Mayors, and as vice chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Additionally, he is the only mayor in Tennessee serving on the Homeland Security Council.



Rowland

**Ann Talbott Brown** has been appointed director of the Tennessee Arts Commission’s Arts Education Program. She previously served as special projects coordinator, and will now assume leadership of the program, including managing the arts education grant categories, Arts 360°, Teaching Artist Roster, and the Creativity in Education Institute. She will also coordinate the agency’s ongoing work in arts integration, which has received national recognition. A native of Illinois, Brown received her master’s degree in arts administration with a certificate in nonprofit management. Before joining the Commission staff in 2009, Brown was the music director at Jonesboro Elementary School in Jonesboro, Illinois.



Brown

## TN public works professionals named as APWA fellows

The American Public Works Association (APWA) announced that 96 public works professionals from across North America were recently inducted as Leadership Fellows into APWA’s Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence in Public Works.

In a special ceremony at the APWA 2011 International Public Works Congress held in Denver, each of the Public Works Leadership Fellows received the PWLF service designation which recognizes commitment to the public works profession.

Those inducted from Tennessee are: **Bob Freudenthal**, executive director, Tennessee Association of Utility Districts, Murfreesboro, TN; **William (Bo) Mills, Jr.**, director of Public Services, Germantown, TN; **Philip Pindzola**, Public Works director, Johnson City, TN; and **Elizabeth Treadway**, principal AMEC E&I, Johnson City, TN.

The Leadership Fellows were awarded the PWLF designation because of their accomplishments in public works and contributions they have made to the profession throughout their careers. “Each member of this inaugural group will be linked as a mentor for a full year to people entering the careers program,” said APWA Executive Direc-

tor Peter B. King. “All of the Fellows have 20-plus years experience in public works, and they will give at least a half-hour a week to advise public works professionals who want to enhance their careers,” said King.

He noted that the new program builds on APWA chapter leadership institutes to offer a flexible, integrated approach to learning leadership skills, and presents career options for technical and financial specialists who want to move into a management track. “We have an aging population in the public works profession and industry, and we are

pleased to offer a new initiative to address workforce challenges throughout North America,” he said.

Named for Donald C. Stone, a pioneer of public administration who founded APWA in 1937, the DCS Center offers “something for everyone” through a progressive system of career paths and academic options: Leadership and Management, Technical Specialty, Public Works Professional, and degree programs. The Leadership Fellows will provide one-on-one mentoring for aspiring public works leaders enrolled in the Leadership and Management career path.

## A.C. Wharton captures Memphis’ vote for mayor



Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton elected to second term.

Voters overwhelmingly re-elected Memphis mayor A C Wharton over nine rivals. With 100 percent of the precincts reporting, Wharton won with a commanding 65 percent of the votes cast to 28 percent for his nearest rival, Edmund Ford Sr., the brother of former U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Sr. All others split the rest with James Harvey Sr., a commissioner from Shelby County surrounding Memphis, who lagged in third with nearly 3 percent in a race marked by light voter turnout, the count showed. Wharton, a lawyer and former college professor, had won a special election in 2009 to replace the city’s first elected black mayor, Willie Herenton, after Herenton resigned in his fifth term and 18 years in the job.

The typically low-key Wharton was exuberant in victory, waving his hands and yelling his campaign slogan in his speech: “we are a city

in motion.”

In other Memphis elections 12 of the 13 city council members won re-election by overwhelming margins that ranged from 57 to 80 percent in the nine contested races. Reid Hedgepeth, chairman Myron Lowery, Jim Strickland and Harold Collins —had no opposition.

A Nov. 10 runoff was assured in the District 7 City Council race, where candidates Kemba Ford and Lee Harris each got 24 percent of the vote. Edmund Ford Jr. received 63 percent of the vote in his re-election to the District 6 seat, previously held by his father, Edmund Ford Sr. In another closely watched contest, the Super District 9, Position 1 race, incumbent Kemp Conrad won with 63 percent of the vote, while Janis Fullilove had 57 percent of the vote for the Super District 8, Position 2 race.

## Jim Thomas to join MTAS

In November, Jim Thomas, Goodlettsville city manager, will join the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) as the agency’s new assistant director.

He has served as both assistant city manager and city manager in Goodlettsville since 1999.

He has served on the MTAS Advisory Board for several years. He has been active with the Tennessee Municipal League, and member of the Tennessee City Management Association since 1998 and the International City/County Management Association since 1999.

The Chattanooga native received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He served as president of the UT National Alumni



Thomas

Association in 1991 and has filled other roles in the association since 1988.

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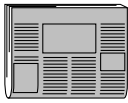


States receive highway money

GAS TAX from Page 1

on the money, they can use much of it for purposes other than what it was originally intended for. “This flexibility, coupled with a rate-of-return orientation,” the GAO concluded, “essentially means that the Federal-Aid Highway Program functions, to some extent, as a cash transfer, general purpose grant program.”

RANK	STATE	RETURN
1.	Alaska	\$4.99
2.	Rhode Island	\$2.96
3.	Vermont	\$2.95
4.	Montana	\$2.71
5.	Nortk Dakota	\$2.58
6.	South Dakota	\$2.41
7.	Hawaii	\$2.20
8.	West Virginia	\$2.18
9.	Delaware	\$2.04
10.	Idaho	\$1.70
11.	Wyoming	\$1.67
12.	Connecticut	\$1.66
13.	New York	\$1.40
14.	Pennsylvania	\$1.38
15.	Arkansas	\$1.31
(tie)	Oklahoma	\$1.31
17.	Oregon	\$1.30
18.	New Hampshire	\$1.29
(tie)	New Mexico	\$1.29
20.	Louisiana	\$1.27
(tie)	Wisconsin	\$1.27
22.	Washington	\$1.25
23.	Alabama	\$1.24
24.	Kansas	\$1.23
(tie)	Maine	\$1.23
26.	Minnesota	\$1.22
(tie)	Mississippi	\$1.22
28.	Missouri	\$1.21
(tie)	Nebraska	\$1.21
30.	California	\$1.19
31.	Massachusetts	\$1.17
32.	Illinois	\$1.16
(tie)	Kentucky	\$1.16
	Nevada	\$1.16
35.	Florida	\$1.15
36.	Iowa	\$1.13
(tie)	Michigan	\$1.13
	Ohio	\$1.13
39.	Tennessee	\$1.12
40.	Virginia	\$1.11
41.	Georgia	\$1.10
(tie)	Utah	\$1.10
43.	Colorado	\$1.09
(tie)	Maryland	\$1.09
	North Carolina	\$1.09
46.	New Jersey	\$1.08
(tie)	South Carolina	\$1.08
48.	Arizona	\$1.07
(tie)	Indiana	\$1.07
50.	Texas	\$1.03



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**CITYMANAGER**  
MOUNT PLEASANT. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. The position is responsible to a five member board of mayor and commissioners for the administration of all city services and departments, including, but not limited to, finance and administration, public works, budgeting, code enforcement, sanitation, streets, industrial development, recreation, planning and zoning, personnel, water and wastewater, and general management of the Mount Pleasant Gas system. The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor’s Degree in public administration, business, or related field and will have some experience as city manager/assistant city manager or equivalent. Experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, economic development, wastewater operations and planning are high priorities. The city has an annual budget in excess of \$9,000,000 and 63 employees. Resumes are public record. Salary range from \$65,000-\$85,000 (dependent upon qualifications) plus excellent benefits. Resumes may be emailed to: tgoetz@mtpleasant-tn.com, mailed to: City Manager, City of Mt. Pleasant, PO Box 426, Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474, faxed to: 931-379-5418. Inquiries may be made at 931-379-7717. Resumes will be accepted until November 15, 2011.

**CITYADMINISTRATOR/RECORDER**  
ROCKWOOD. The city is accepting applications for the position of Municipal Administrator/ City Recorder. Minimum Qualifications include: a college degree and experience in municipal management, public administration, business administration, planning, or comparable experience. Must possess good written and verbal communications skills, computer proficiency, management skills, and grant administrator experience. Responsibilities include: budgets, personnel,

oversight of daily city operations, liaison officer, Council agendas and minutes, public records, collection of taxes and revenues, city court, audits and managerial reports, compliance with state and local regulations duties of the Administrator and Recorder as listed in the Rockwood Municipal Code and Charter, and other duties as assigned. Salary dependent upon qualifications. Open until filled. Send letter of interest, salary requirements, and resume to: Tennessee Career Center, Job Order #: TN 5697800, 1802 N. Gateway Avenue, Rockwood, TN 37854.

**CITYMANAGER**  
RED BANK. The city is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree and experience in municipal management, public administration, business administration or comparable experience. Must possess written and verbal communication skills, computer proficiency, management skills and grant administration experience. Responsibilities include: budgets, personnel, oversight of day to day operations, managerial reports, compliance with federal, state and local regulations and other various duties as described in the Red Bank Municipal Code and Charter. Salary is dependant upon qualifications. Send resume and salary requirements to: Red Bank City Hall, c/o Ruth Rohen, 3117 Dayton Blvd., Chattanooga, Tennessee 37415 or e-mail to r.rohen@redbanktn.gov. EOE.

**ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN**  
COLLIERVILLE. The town is accepting applications for the position of Engineering Technician in the department of Development Services. This position is to perform technical functions ensuring that various construction activities meet town regulations and to assist in providing general engineering and technical support. Requires an Associates Degree with major course work in Civil Engineering or Drafting or a related field; supplemented by 5 years experience and/or training with knowledge in construction, storm water drainage, roadway construction, erosion control, and estimating; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experi-

ence which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Experience with AutoCAD, GIS and Excel desired. Salary is \$32,799.00 annually with excellent benefits package. This work may be physically demanding characterized by walking or standing. Incumbent must understand and accept that they may be working around active construction sites any part of the day. Candidate must be able to pass a work related physical and drug test. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator’s License at the time of hire. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Applications will be accepted until Oct. 28, 2011. Please apply at Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN. 38017. Please submit a new application each time you apply for a town job. Pursuant to Tennessee Open Records Law, applications and résumé’s are subject to disclosure. Only candidates selected for testing and interviews will be contacted. EOE. The town of Collierville does not discriminate in hiring. Minorities, women and disabled are encouraged to apply. If you have a disability and require special accommodations during the selection process, please notify the Human Resources Office at 901-457-2290. The town of Collierville is a drug free workplace.

**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**  
JOHNSON CITY. The city is taking applications for an innovative and experienced Director of Parks and Recreation. The position is responsible for leading a staff of 63 employees and managing a \$3.42 million department budget. Candidates should possess strong interpersonal and communication skills; demonstrated leadership experience; extensive experience of a progressively responsible nature in organized parks and recreational activities. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university required. Send a confidential resume and application to City of Johnson City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605. Visit our website at [www.johnsoncitytn.org](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org) to access an application, and view the full ad and job description. EOE

**POLICE OFFICER, PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER, PARK MAINTENANCE**  
PORTLAND. The city is seeking job applicants for the following positions: Certified Police Officer, Certified Public Safety Dispatcher, Park Department Maintenance. Police Officer applicants must meet minimum standard law (TCA 38-8-106) requirements; be a US citizen, at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver’s license and meet the physical, psychological and criminal records and other standards established by the Portland Police Department. Police certification must be obtained within six months of employment. Public Safety Dispatcher must graduate from an accredited high school or hold a valid GED, some experience in police records and dispatching; NCIC and TIES certification or the ability to become certified, and have a good work and attendance record. Applications and job descriptions are online at [www.cityofportlandtn.gov](http://www.cityofportlandtn.gov) or from the receptionist at Portland City Hall Mon.-Fri., 8 am to 4:30 pm. Applications must be returned no later than 4:30 pm Oct. 28, 2011 to Office of the Mayor, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russel Street, Portland TN 37148. EOE.

**WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR/SUPERVISOR**  
SPRING CITY. The town is accepting applications for a full-time, operator/supervisory position available at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Qualified applicants must have a Grade 3 Wastewater Treatment and Grade 2 Collection Certifications. Five (5) or more years supervisory experience highly desirable. This is a salaried position and reports to the City Manager. The city offers a comprehensive benefit package, including TCRS pension. Proof of high school diploma or equivalent must be provided with application. An application and job description may be obtained at [www.townofspringcitytn.org](http://www.townofspringcitytn.org) or from City Hall, 229 Front Street, Spring City, TN 37381, Mon. thru Fri., 8am-4:30pm. Applicants will be considered on the basis of qualification and suitability regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, with interviews beginning in early Dec. 2011.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

In a grim sign of the enduring nature of the economic slump, household income declined more in the two years after the recession ended than it did during the recession itself, new research has found. Between June 2009, when the recession officially ended, and June 2011, inflation-adjusted median household income fell 6.7 percent to \$49,909, according to a study by two former Census Bureau officials. During the recession — from December 2007 to June 2009 — household income fell 3.2 percent. The finding helps explain why Americans’ attitudes toward the economy, the country’s direction and its political leaders have continued to sour even as the economy has been growing. Unhappiness and anger have come to dominate the political scene, including the early stages of the 2012 presidential campaign. The full 9.8 percent drop in income from the start of the recession to this June — the most recent month in the study — appears to be the largest in

several decades, according to other Census Bureau data. Two main forces appear to have held down pay: the number of people outside the labor force — neither working nor looking for work — has risen, and the pay of employed people has failed to keep pace with inflation as the prices of oil products and many foods have jumped.

Chances are you’ll pay higher fees for some government services than you would have just a few years ago. Raising fees — instead of taxes — is one budget tactic many states have used to weather the weak economy. A backlash against fee increases is underway. But despite the backlash, many states are still raising fees on everything from hunting license to marriage certificates to vanity license plates. The Council of State Governments, says many states are raising fees because they are largely out of options. Fees represent a small but not insignificant portion of state revenues. Fee reductions took effect in September and are projected to cost

the state \$5.7 million for fiscal year 2012. That’s roughly 0.1 percent of state’s budgets. The moves came at a time when the overall budgets were reduced by 11 percent, resulting in significant cuts to social services and highway repairs, as well as layoffs for government employees.

Researchers in five eastern U.S. states are getting federal support to study the decline in native bee populations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s \$3.3 million grant is intended to help researchers find ways to maintain a diverse community of wild bees. They’re needed to keep pollinating apples, low-bush blueberries, pumpkins and other important crops. The USDA awarded the grant to a University of Massachusetts-Amherst researcher last week, who will work with more than a dozen scientists including the University of Tennessee. Researchers plan to study how the bees’ diversity is affected by factors such as landscapes, farm size and pesticide use. They will also study whether the bees are vulnerable to certain pathogens and parasites.

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Municipal parks and playgrounds can contribute to a community’s overall quality of life. But they can also pose some safety hazards. Each year, emergency rooms treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and under for playground-related injuries.

Through a comprehensive training program offered by the TML Risk Management Pool, city leaders are taught hazard identification and risk management methods.



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Volkert & Associates
Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.

# Summary of 2011 TN Public Acts

BY JOSH JONES  
MTAS Legal Consultant

**Crimes and Criminal Procedure Chapter No. 274** (HB1889/SB1726). Additional synthetic cannabinoids criminalized. Amends T.C.A. § 39-17-438(a) by criminalizing the production, sale, distribution or possession of additional synthetic cannabinoids . An *attempt to restrict the sale of designer drugs commonly sold at convenience stores.* *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 287** (HB1340/SB0170). Libraries may restrict access of sexual offenders. Adds a new T.C.A. § 40-39-216 authorizing public library directors to reasonably restrict the access of registered sex offenders. Certain criteria must be considered and notice via mail must be sent. If criteria is met, restriction can include an absolute ban. *Effective May 27, 2011*

**Chapter No. 292** (HB1051/SB1265). I Hate Meth Act enacted. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Titles 39 and 40 by enacting the comprehensive I Hate Meth Act. Requires, as of Jan. 1, 2012, pharmacies to submit methamphetamine-precursor purchase information to National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx). Information must also be submitted to Tennessee Methamphetamine Information System (TMIS). Creates new offenses for unlawful sale or purchase of precursors. Lowers, from 20 grams to 15 grams the amount of methamphetamine precursor required to constitute prima facie evidence of intent to sale. Expands offense of aggravated child neglect or endangerment to include exposing a child to the initiation of a process intended to result in the production of methamphetamine. *Effective May 27, 2011*

**Chapter No. 298** (HB0140/SB0480). DUI ignition interlock provisions amended. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 55, Chapter 10, Part 4 by making various amendments to the provisions governing DUI ignition interlock requirements, including a requirement that indigent offenders required to use an interlock device complete an affidavit of indigency. Also amends provisions related to geographically-restricted licenses for DUI offenders. *Effective July 1, 2010*

**Chapter No. 302** (HB0583/SB0754). Offense of criminal trespass broadened. Amends T.C.A. § 39-14-406 by broadening the offense of criminal trespass to include a situation where a person destroys, cuts, alters or removes a gate, signage, fencing, lock, chain or other barrier in order to enter upon the property. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 307** (HB0715/SB1270). Consent not required for blood tested in certain situations. Amends T.C.A. § 55-10-406(f) by expanding the scope of situations where an officer is required to have a person’s blood tested, regardless of consent, to include where prob-

able cause to believe exists that the driver has committed the offense of DUI, vehicular homicide due to intoxication, or aggravated vehicular homicide and the driver has a previous conviction for such an offense or a passenger in the motor vehicle is under 16 years old. *Effective Jan. 12, 2012*

**Chapter No. 308** (HB0808/SB1958). Three or more sex offenders can share residence. Amends T.C.A. § 40-39-211(h) to allow three or more registered sex offenders to share a residence where property has been zoned for a use other than residential or mixed-use. *Effective May 27, 2011*

**Chapter No. 309** (HB0860/SB0403). Venue established for prosecution of promoting methamphetamine production. Amends T.C.A. § 39-17-433 establishing the county where the immediate methamphetamine precursor was purchased as the proper venue for prosecuting the offense of promotion of methamphetamine manufacture. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 310** (HB0954/SB1003). Law enforcement access to controlled substance database increased. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 53, Chapter 10, Part 3 by granting law enforcement access to the controlled substances database for investigatory purposes under certain conditions. Police chief must pre-approve each officer prior to application for access. Fees for access authorized. Information can only be shared with other law enforcement agencies when working on a joint investigation related to the information. Information received remains confidential and is not open to public inspection. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 322** (HB1946/SB1095). Penalties enhanced for post-disaster theft. Amends T.C.A. § 39-14-103 by authorizing a court to require a person convicted of theft within 30 days of a natural disaster to perform debris removal, cleanup and other physical labor related to disaster mitigation. *Effective May 27, 2011*

**Chapter No. 348** (HB1783/SB1659). Offense of theft of entertainment subscription services created. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 39, Chapters 11 and 14 by making theft of entertainment subscription services a misdemeanor. Theft over \$500 or a second offense constitutes a felony. Effectively makes it a crime for someone to let another person log into and listen to music on his or her iTunes account. Authorizes anyone harmed by the offense to report such to law enforcement and subsequently testify in court. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 354** (HB0171/SB0604). Property used in the commission of human trafficking subject to forfeiture. Amends Title 39 by subjecting real and personal property used in the commission of human trafficking to judicial forfeiture.

Twenty percent of proceeds from forfeiture are allotted to law enforcement agency conducting investigation. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 362** (HB0300/SB0487). Harassment broadened to include transmission of images that may cause emotional distress. Amends T.C.A. § 39-17-308 by broadening the offense of harassment to include the transmission of images in a manner defendant knows or reasonably should know would frighten, intimidate or cause emotional distress; and the person was frightened, intimidated or emotionally distressed. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 373** (HB1869/SB1380). Penalties increased for disorderly conduct at funeral. Amends T.C.A. § 39-17-317 by enhancing penalties for disorderly conduct within 500 feet of a funeral, procession or memorial service. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 377** (HB0035/SB0064). Prostitution provisions amended. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 5 by granting any person under the age of 18 years old immunity from prosecution for prostitution. Such a minor taken into custody shall, after a reasonable period for investigation, be released into the care of a parent or guardian. Enhances penalties for patronizing or promoting the prostitution of a minor or a person with an intellectual disability. *Effective June 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 393** (HB0154/SB0069). Out-of-state solicitation of a minor can be prosecuted in this state. Amends T.C.A. 39-13-529 by authorizing the offense of a person located out of the state who solicits a minor or a law enforcement officer posing as a minor for prostitution to be prosecuted in this state. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 399** (HB0948/SB0389). Offense of drawing deed without ownership created. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Titles 39 and 66 by making it an offense to prepare, sign or file records of a property transfer document where no reasonable basis for assuming the grantor has interest exists. Exemption for any licensed attorney acting in good faith representation of a client. *Effective June 6, 2011*

**Chapter No. 401** (HB0375/SB0476). Aggravated assault broadened to include strangulation. Amends T.C.A. § 39-13-102 by broadening the offense of aggravated assault to include strangulation or attempted strangulation. *Effective July 1, 2011*

**Chapter No. 406** (HB0685/SB0567). GPS monitoring of domestic violence respondents authorized. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated Title 40, Chapter 11, Part 1 by authorizing a court to require, as part of a domestic violence order, a defendant to wear or carry a global positioning monitoring system. Monitoring to be provided by local law enforcement. *Effective July 1, 2011*



**Oct. 26-27 Symposium on Recycling and the Economy,** Memphis. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Southeast Recycling Development Council and the Tennessee Recycling Coalition will host a *Symposium on Recycling and the Economy*. The event will be held at the Memphis Downtown Marriott and will feature discussions on how recycling impacts local, state and regional economies, jobs and tax revenues. Keynote speaker: Jerry Powell, executive editor of *Resource Recycling, E-Scrap News and Plastics Recycling Update*. For more details and to register, please visit [www.serd.org/symposium](http://www.serd.org/symposium).

**Oct 27-30 Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association Annual Conference,** Gatlinburg. To register, go to <http://tennessee.apwa.net>. For more information, email John Calvert at [tcapwa@comcast.net](mailto:tcapwa@comcast.net)

**Nov.1 Ninth Annual Economic Summit,** Johnson City. Held at Millennium Centre, the event is being offered by the Washington County Economic Development Council. Keynote speaker: ECD Commissioner Bill Hagarty. The summit is free but registration is required. Participants are asked to visit [www.economicssummit.org](http://www.economicssummit.org) and follow the online registration process. For more information, call Todd Smith at the Washington County Economic Development Council at (423)202-3510, Ext. 106.

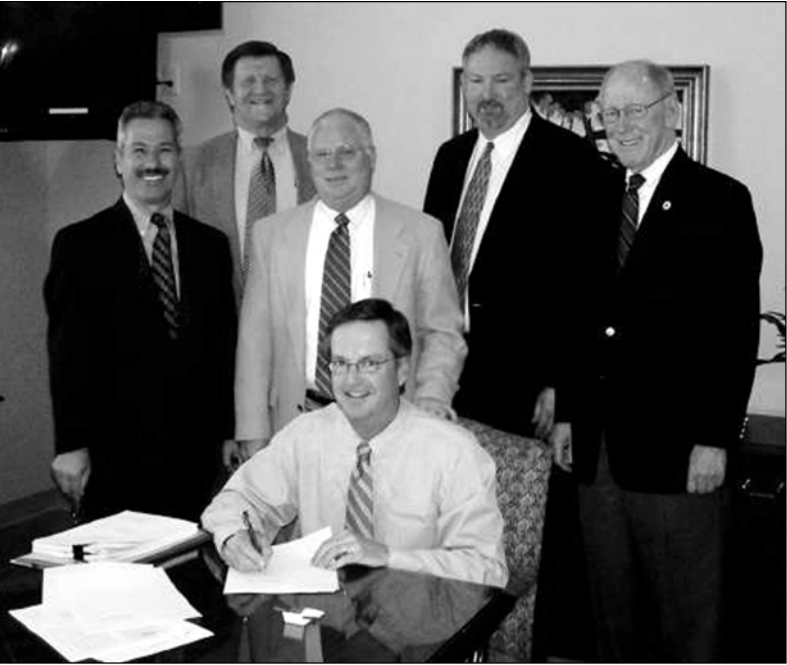
**Nov. 11-12: East Tennessee Preservation Conference,** Jonesborough. The East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, Knox Heritage, and the Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia are hosting the 2011 East Tennessee Preservation Conference. Keynote speaker: Dr. Carroll Van West, director of MTSU Center for Historic Preservation. For more information about the conference, go to [www.etpaonline.org](http://www.etpaonline.org)

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**TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY**  
(ISSN. No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420  
— Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery ([mmahery@TML1.org](mailto:mmahery@TML1.org)); **Editor:** Carole Graves ([cgraves@TML1.org](mailto:cgraves@TML1.org)); **Phone:** 615-255-6416.  
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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.





# Amazon, state strike deal to collect taxes

AMAZON from Page 1

Under this new agreement hammered out by the Haslam Administration, Amazon will now be required to collect and remit the sales tax, but not until 2014.

It's not a done deal, however. The Tennessee General Assembly must approve the plan. And it still doesn't solve the long-running battle over whether all online retailers should have to collect state sales taxes.

Paul Misener, Amazon's vice president for global public policy, said at the news conference that the company will continue to push for a federal sales tax law to cover all online retailers.

"The sales tax issue must be resolved in Congress," he said. "It's the only way the state of Tennessee will be able to obtain all the sales tax revenue that can be collected for the state."

According to a study released by the University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research, the state of Tennessee loses an estimated \$365.5 million a year in uncollected taxes on online sales. The net fiscal loss to states nationwide is roughly \$11 billion a year.

"I am committed to working with Amazon, other retailers, local, state and federal officials on finding that national solution," said Gov. Haslam. "I am convinced that Amazon truly wants to see that happen also."

### Congressional Action

In July, bills were introduced in both houses of Congress, to require the collection of sales taxes by out-of-state Internet sellers.

Both bills are titled the Main Street Fairness Act (S. 1452 and H.R. 2701). The bill was introduced by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) in the Senate and by Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) in the House. The legislation is co-sponsored by Sens. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) in the Senate and Rep. Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) in the House. Neither bill was introduced with Republican co-sponsors.

The bills are supported by Amazon.com, which previously opposed many state-specific attempts to compel online retailers to collect state sales tax.

"Amazon.com has long supported a simple, nationwide system

of state and local sales tax collection, evenhandedly applied to all sellers, no matter their business model, location or level of remote sales," said Misener.

The bills will "allow states that sufficiently simplify their rules to require collection of sales tax by out-of-state sellers," Misener said.

eBay, however, opposes the bills because they impose "new taxes and regulatory burdens" on small online businesses.

Local retailers argue they are at a competitive disadvantage because they collect sales taxes while out-of-state retailers, including many large online and catalog retailers, in effect give their customers a discount by collecting no state or local sales taxes.

As a result, 44 states and the District of Columbia have worked with the business community and local governments and their representatives, including the National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Conference of State Legislatures, to adopt a comprehensive interstate system, called the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, to simplify sales tax rules and administrative requirements.

To date, 24 states comply with this interstate agreement, including Tennessee. But the Quill Supreme Court decision made it clear that Congress must authorize and sanction such an agreement. According to NLC, the Main Street Fairness Act does that while providing financial assistance for online retailers and small businesses to implement the requirements.

Tennessee's agreement with Amazon marks the second time in a month that the company has struck a deal to collect sales taxes in an individual state. Amazon has also agreed to begin collecting sales tax from California residents next year. According to *Stateline.org*, Amazon's deal with California led many state and retail-industry officials predict that the company would have to agree to similar deals elsewhere.

"With two states now reaching deals with Amazon, there will be added pressure on Congress to come up with a national policy governing the collection of sales taxes by online merchants," reports *Stateline.org*.

# Tennessee's public infrastructure needs continue to grow – now stands at \$37.6 billion

According to a new report released by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR), at least \$37.6 billion worth of public infrastructure improvements need to be in some stage of development during the five-year period of 2009 to 2014.

The information presented in this report provides two types of information: (1) needed infrastructure improvements and (2) the condition of existing elementary and secondary (K-12) public schools. To be included in the inventory, infrastructure projects must not be considered normal maintenance and must involve a capital cost of at least \$50,000.

The current report, which is based on information provided by state and local officials, shows an increase in needs of \$23.9 billion since the first report on public infrastructure needs was published in 1999 and an increase of about \$269 million (0.7 percent) from the September 2010 report.

These needs fall into six general categories:

- Transportation and Utilities: \$19.5 billion
- Education: \$7.7 billion
- Health, Safety, and Welfare: \$6.9 billion
- Recreation and Culture: \$1.8 billion
- Economic Development: \$1.1 billion
- General Government: \$473 million

The increase since last year's report is the smallest since the infrastructure inventory began in 1997. The largest increase since last year is in the Transportation and Utilities category, which remains the single largest category overall. Transportation and Utilities needs increased \$612 million, from \$18.9 billion to \$19.5 billion. Transportation needs alone make up \$18.9 billion (50 percent) of the total reported for all types of infrastructure.

Even with this significant increase in transportation needs, total needs increased only slightly because four types of infrastructure needs—water and wastewater, new schools, law enforcement facilities, and public buildings—decreased by more than \$100 million each.

The report also includes information about the availability of fund-

ing to meet these needs. Of the \$29.3 billion reported for local infrastructure improvements, only \$10.9 billion has been identified. Officials are asked to report only those funding dollars that are available and not to speculate about how a project could be funded.

This inventory of Tennessee's public infrastructure needs is the only source of statewide information on the condition of public school buildings and what it would take to get them all in good or better condition, and the news here is good: According to local school officials, 91 percent of local public schools are now in good or excellent condition. However, they estimate the cost to put the remaining 9 percent in good or better condition at \$1.5 billion, which is a \$38 million decrease from the cost reported in the previous report.

Dr. Harry Green, TACIR's executive director, has noted, "This inventory and report is unique to Tennessee. No other state that, we are aware of, has a comprehensive inventory of needs."

### Other highlights from the report

- Total Education infrastructure needs decreased from \$6.8 billion to \$7.7 billion (-0.7 percent) since the last report. This was the smallest decrease among the six categories.
- Needs for school infrastructure improvements—including new schools and improvements or additions to existing schools—decreased by more and \$100 million for the third consecutive year.
- The largest decrease in the Education category, \$127 million, is

in new school construction needs. The decline in needs for new schools has followed a decline in enrollment.

- Health, Safety, and Welfare at \$6.9 billion is the third largest cost category and accounts for 18.4 percent of the state's public infrastructure needs. Water and wastewater needs alone total \$4 billion or more than 10 percent of the grand total and 58 percent of this one category.

- Water and wastewater, transportation, non k-12 education and local public education combined represent 81 percent of total reported needs.

- Law enforcement needs have steadily increased over the years but decreased for the first time in this inventory. Although more than \$200 million in law enforcement needs were added, that was not enough to offset the 53 completed or canceled projects, which totaled \$389 million.

- General Government needs fell by \$177 million (27.3 percent), mainly because of a \$164 million decrease in public buildings. Fourteen public building projects reported in the last inventory were canceled, and 44 were completed.

- Economic Development needs increased \$109 million from the previous inventory. This increase is attributable to an increase in the estimated cost of the convention center project in Nashville.

The full report is available on TACIR's website at <http://www.tn.gov/tacir/infrastructure.html>. For more information, contact Catherine Corley, Senior Research Associate, at [catherine.corley@tn.gov](mailto:catherine.corley@tn.gov) or 615.253.4240

# Municipal benchmarking project gets underway

Representatives from the 10 cities participating in the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project (TMBP) recently gathered in Franklin to kick off the FY2011 project.

The meeting was coordinated by the UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) with assistance from the Franklin staff. The meeting covered the highlights of the FY2010 report, timeline for the FY2011 process, and the review of data definitions to ensure consistency in data collection and comparisons.

The TMBP is a city-driven endeavor to benchmark service areas of police, fire, refuse collection and disposal, recycling, employment benefits, human resources, finance services, code enforcement, building inspection, and planning and zoning. Performance and cost measures are collected for these service areas. In the annual report, historical trends are provided for police, fire and refuse as data has been collected on these services from the beginning of the project. Each participating city is also compared to averages for selected service benchmarks in the areas of fire, police, refuse and employment benefits.

This is the 10th year of the TMBP, and some enhancements are in the works for the project this year, such as the availability of a comprehensive user manual for participants that defines all performance and costs measures collected for the project.

Another new development will be the use of online meeting technology for participants to meet as needed to discuss data collected, which is an important part of the process. An online interface for participants to input data and retrieve reports will be explored as well. A complete reformatting of the annual report is also among the improvements planned for this year.

Sarah Young, a doctoral candidate in the political science department at UT Knoxville will be the intern for the fall 2011 semester working on the TMBP. Nurgul Aitalieva will continue her assistance to the program even though her official internship has concluded. Nurgul was integral to the completion of the FY2010 Annual Report.

Staff support for the project at MTAS includes: Frances Adams-O'Brien and Rick Whitehead are the project coordinators. Sharon Rollins, Rex Barton, Ron Darden, Al Major, Dennis Wolf, Bonnie Jones and Richard Stokes serve as service area experts for the project.

Faculty support for the project is provided by Dr. David Folz, professor and faculty associate at the Howard Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, UT Department of Political Science.

MTAS will facilitate the efforts of the following cities as they work to improve services to their communities: Athens, Bartlett, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Collierville, Franklin, Germantown, Kingsport and Morristown.

# Administrative Hearing Officer Training set for Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

The Administrative Hearing Officer training is a means for municipalities to acquire training for designated officials who are seeking to become administrative hearing officers. After this training, these officers will have jurisdiction to hear violations of certain locally-adopted codes, including building and property maintenance.

Successful completion of this training authorizes participants to serve as municipal administrative hearing officers pursuant to Public Chapter No. 1128 of the 2010 Public Acts. Pursuant to this law, a city can, via ordinance, create an administrative hearing office with jurisdiction to hear violations of certain locally-adopted codes, including building code and property maintenance ordinances. The law also allows a city, through its administrative hearing officer, to levy fines for such violations in excess of \$50.

Training topics include:

- The statutory authorization
  - Mechanics of Public Chapter No. 1128
  - Overview of Building, Housing and Property
  - Maintenance Codes
  - The Administrative Hearing Process
  - Open Meetings, Open Records and Other Governmental Concerns
- To register for the Administrative Hearing Officer Training course, go to [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) and click on "Register for a Class" under the training tab.

The cost to attend the training class is \$350 and does not include meals or hotel accommodations. You may pay with a credit card when registering for a class or request an invoice. If you need class registration assistance, call (865) 974-0411.

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# Parks and Rec group announces annual awards recipients

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association (TRPA) announces the recipients of the association’s 2011 Awards Program. The outstanding achievements of these individuals, communities and organizations were acknowledged during the association’s 60th Annual Conference at Paris Landing State Park on Oct 5.

**The Distinguished Young Professional Award** was presented to **Jennifer Rich Gentry of Morristown** for her outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation profession and her community. Gentry is a Programmer for Morristown Parks and Recreation and coordinates a variety of Morristown’s events and programs including Scare Crows in the Park, Olympic Day, Christmas in the City, PATH (Parks Add to Health) fitness program, and Celebration of Cultures Festival. Gentry is a member of TRPA, the National Association of Sports Commission, Morristown Hamblen County Chamber of Commerce, American Marketing Society, Ducks Unlimited and serves several of Morristown’s civic and sports and leisure organizations.

**The Fellow Award** is the highest award the association can confer on an individual and recognizes professional members who have made outstanding contributions to the recreation field throughout their career. This year’s recipient is **Craig Price of Morristown**. Price has been the Director of the Morristown Parks and Recreation Department since 1993, overseeing the largest expansion for parks and recreation development since the department was founded in 1954. Price is a 35-year member of TRPA who has served on the TRPA Executive Board 6 times, is a Past President of the Association, a founding member of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Education Foundation (TRPEF), and has served on numerous committees and special appointments within the organization while also serving several of the civic, sports and leisure, and spiritual organizations of the Morristown community.

**The Lifetime Member Award** honors and recognizes individuals who have made numerous and/or significant long-term contributions within the parks and Recreation Profession. This prestigious award can be given to more than one nominee per year. TRPA recognized two outstanding members this year: **Carolyn “C.C.” Carr of Murfreesboro** and **Jacqueline Simpson of Chattanooga**.

After 40 years of service to the field of Parks and Recreation, Carr retired from the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department in 2010 where she was a program coordinator and headed up may programs and the operation of two community centers.

Simpson, also a retiree, worked for the City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department for over 30 years and has dedicated her life and service to the community by opening the doors to Glenwood Recreation Center since 1978.

The Four Star Awards include awards given in 5 categories (based on budget) to recognize excellence in Programming, Special Events, Marketing, and Renovated and New Facility Design; as well as Individual Service and Benefactor Awards for community partners.

**Four Star Program Awards**

- Budget Under \$5,000-Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation for the Climbing Wall Fitness Program

- Budget of \$5,001-\$10,000-City of Franklin Parks and Recreation for the Growing Kids Educational Garden
- Budget Over \$10,000-Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation for The Nashville Collaborative: Successful Childhood Obesity Interventions.

**Four Star Special Event Awards**

- Budget Under \$5,000-Kingsport Parks and Recreation for the Lynn View Funfest Block Party
- Budget Over \$10,000-City of Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation for Graduation Celebration

**Four Star Marketing Awards**

- Budget Under \$5,000-Kingsport Parks and Recreation for the Window Decal Marketing Program
- Budget of \$5,001-\$10,000-Knoxville Parks and Recreation for the Knoxville Greenways Map

**Four Star Renovated Facility Awards**

- Budget of \$100,001-\$500,000-City of Franklin Parks and Recreation for Fieldstone Park
- Budget of \$500,001-\$1,000,000-Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation for Cedar Hill Park Playground
- Budget Over \$1,000,000-Kingsport Parks and Recreation for V.O. Dobbins, Sr. Complex

**Four Star New Facility Awards**

- Budget Under \$100,000-City of Franklin Parks and Recreation for Freedom Run Dog Park at Liberty Park
- Budget of \$100,001-\$500,000-Town of Farragut Parks and Leisure Services for McFee Park Phase 2
- Budget Over \$1,000,000-City of Clarksville Parks and Recreation for Fort Defiance Civil War Park and Interpretive Center

**Four Star Benefactor Awards**

- Barrette Outdoor Living Fencing, Bulls Gap-nominated by Morristown Parks and Recreation for providing fencing for the Rotary Splash pad.
- The late Dr. Harry Coover, Kingsport -nominated by Kingsport Parks and Recreation for providing seed money to fund Allendale Mansion’s outdoor amphitheater “The Heron Dome.”

**Four Star Individual Service Awards**

- Brian Hann, Appalachian Bike Club, Knoxville-nominated by Knoxville Parks and Recreation for coordinating thousands of man hours and putting his own labor into building ten miles of multi-use trails in Knoxville parks.
- Dr. Linda Gilbert, Director of Murfreesboro City Schools-nominated by Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation for her service on the Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Commission and her efforts to initiate The Patterson Coalition.
- Chuck Hope, Jr, Oak Ridge-nominated by Oak Ridge Parks and Recreation for his dedication as a volunteer for the original build of Cedar Hill Park Playground in 1988 and service again as Tools Chairperson the renovation in 2011.

**Branch & Section Awards**

**The Longfellow Award** is presented by the Aquatics and Wellness Section each year to a person, persons or agency responsible for outstanding programming or accomplishments in Aquatics. The 2011 recipient is **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation for the Bradley Learn-to-Swim Program**



Franklin Parks and Recreation Department (L to R: Deanna Scheffel, Anna Shuford, and Director Lisa Clayton) won three different Four Star Awards.



Craig Price, director of Morristown Parks and Recreation, (left) received the Fellow Award from 2011 TRPA President Greg Clark of Collierville.

**The Donald H Stanton Award** is presented by the Ethnic Minority Section to the community determined to have the best overall Community Center programs. The 2011 recipient is **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation**.

**The Wayne Hansard Award** is presented by the Municipal County Section and recognizes the personnel who have demonstrated Excellence in the Maintenance of Parks, Facilities, and/or Grounds. The 2011 recipient is **Steve Toombs, Maintenance Superintendent for Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation**.

**The Robert Horsley Award** is presented by the Municipal County Section and recognizes community center personnel, who have planned, conducted or was responsible for the Most Outstanding Community Center Program during the year. The 2011 Recipient is **Gary Arbit of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation** for “McFadden Community Center After School Program.”

**The Maynard Glenn Award** is presented by the Municipal County Section and recognizes personnel or specialists who have planned, conducted or were responsible for the Most Outstanding Recreation Program of the year. The 2011 Recipient is **Thomas Laird of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation** for “Toddler Time with Thomas”

**Award of Excellence** – is presented by the Resource Management Section to one individual, agency or organization (public or private) that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of Resource Management. The 2011 recipient is **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation** for Murfreesboro Teen Adventure Club



Lanny Goodwin, Director of Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation receiving the President's Cup Award from TRPA President Greg Clark.

**Special Events, Arts and Marketing (SEAM) Awards** recognize innovation and creativity and inspire others to develop similar programs in their own area.

**The SEAM Dance Award** was presented to **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation** for “Dance” at Patterson Park Community Center.

**The SEAM Music Award** was presented to **Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation** for “3rd Friday Concert Series” at Cannonsburgh.

**The SEAM Theater Award** was presented to **Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation** for “Secession and How they Handled It” at Mansker’s Station.

**President’s Cup**

**The President’s Cup Award** recognizes member agencies that have provided exemplary service to TRPA through attendance at state conferences and workshops, membership, staff writing for publications or serving on boards and committees.

- Category I (Population 100,000 and over) Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation
- Category II (Population 40,000-99,999) Kingsport Parks and Recreation
- Category III (Population 20,000-39,999) Morristown Parks and Recreation
- Category IV (Population 10,000-19,999) Brownsville/Haywood County Parks and Recreation
- Category V (Population 5,000-9,999) Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation
- Category VI (Population 4,999 and under) no applications
- Category VII (Other Agencies) TDEC -Recreation Education Services



**Oct. 29: Knoxville**  
*Halloween Haunts and Haints*  
All activities take place at the Marble Springs State Historic Site, 1220 West Governor John Sevier Highway, from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. trick or treating at the historic buildings, face painting, period children’s craft activities, apple bobbing, food and scary stories told by professional storytellers. Children’s activities begin at 4 p.m., costume parade lineup and costume contest judging at 5:15 p.m. with Slightly Scary Stories for the young at the bonfire (bring your own chair) at 6 p.m. Trick-or-Treating at the historic buildings from 6:45-7:15 p.m. Event concludes at 8 pm. For more information, call 865-573-5508 or visit [www.marblesprings.net](http://www.marblesprings.net).

**Oct. 29: Franklin**  
*28th Annual Pumpkinfest*  
Free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Franklin’s Main Street from 1st to 5th Avenues. More than 75 arts and crafts vendors, costume contest, children’s activity area, Five Points stage, Sister Cities’ Great Pumpkin, Franklin Tomorrow Chili Cook-off and more. Held in conjunction with the second annual Franklin Battle of the BBQ. For more information, see [www.franklinbattleofthebbq.com](http://www.franklinbattleofthebbq.com). Night-time cemetery tour “Grave Matters: The Stories Behind the Stones” at the Old City Cemetery and Rest Haven Cemetery from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, see [www.franklinonfoot.com](http://www.franklinonfoot.com). See festival details at [www.historicfranklin.com](http://www.historicfranklin.com). or call 615-591-8500.

**Nov. 3-5: Covington**  
*Annual Holiday Open Houses*  
Held on the Historic Downtown Square. Shop, eat and enjoy refreshments offered by merchants. Nov. 3-10-7 p.m.; Nov.4-10-6 p.m.; Nov.4-10-5 p.m. Chili Cook Off at 4 p.m. on the Court House lawn.

**Nov. 12: Portland**  
*38th Highland Harvest Festival*  
Held from 9 am to 6 pm, at Portland East Middle School, located at 604 South Broadway at Highway 109S. Booths for handmade crafts, food vendors, baked items, and more. For more information, contact Tammy Groves at 615-325-6464.

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# UT LEIC on the cutting edge of integrity, creativity, service

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**  
*TML Communications Coordinator*

Blood dries slowly along the floor and walls of the classroom, as gunshots ring out at the University of Tennessee’s Arboretum in Oak Ridge. Car bombs, crime tape, decomposing bodies; it’s all par for the course at UT’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) in Knoxville, where participants flock to learn the most creative and innovative techniques in law enforcement.

LEIC’s participation with other UT entities has resulted in a state-of-the art menu of specialized training options actively pursued by students across the country: Community Policing, Forensics, DNA analysis, Cybercrime, Leadership, Homeland Security, crime scenes through virtual reality are just a few of the quality courses available.

An impressive advisory board comprises the institute’s think-tank, a nationwide group of LEIC customers from law enforcement and other agencies as well as local leaders such as Larry Godwin, former Memphis Police chief, and Mark Gwyn, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) director.

Developed under the umbrella of the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS), the institute’s goal is to promote good government in Tennessee through quality training programs for law enforcement agencies and technical assistance (services) to public safety professionals and communities. LEIC also works one on one with Tennessee’s elected and appointed state and local officials and their staffs to help them understand issues, trends and priorities.

“We have conducted promotional assessments in Hendersonville; supervisory/leadership trainings in Franklin, Johnson City and Memphis; community policing/problem solving sessions in Martin; and evaluation training in Newport,” said the institute’s executive director, Don Green, a former deputy police chief with the Knoxville Police Department, with more than 31 years of law enforcement experience. The institute’s work with state agencies such as the TBI has brought about positive change in Tennessee, according to Gwyn. “The LEIC has been one of the best training avenues that TBI has ever had,” said Gwyn. “From the National Training Academy to different types of leadership training. LEIC has made TBI a more professional and state-of-the-art agency.”

And as the only agency to provide nationwide training, LEIC fosters its goals of leadership and integrity all across the United States, always ready to lead in the face of new legislation. “Over the past decade, there has been a national explosion in forensic DNA collection,” said Green. “All 50 states and the federal government now have laws that require DNA to be collected from convicted offenders for the purpose of maintaining a criminal DNA database.” During the past

year, LEIC, with the aid of a training grant from the National Institute of Justice, conducted the two-day “DNA Evidence Identification, Collection and Preservation for Law Enforcement” training course across 25 states for 1,016 officers from 375 agencies. In Tennessee alone, 117 officers from 68 agencies including Knox County, Oak Ridge, Humboldt and Newport received the training.

The institute’s continued service with community stakeholders and other agencies, provides relevant assistance with their efforts. LEIC’s partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education’s Safe Schools and Learning Support Center, for example, enables the center to provide quality, research-based training to school systems in the areas of drug, alcohol, and violence prevention, emergency preparedness, and general school safety. The initiative provides networking opportunities in the form of conferences and symposiums to promote the sharing of programs and best practices among Tennessee’s school systems.

Another partnership with UT Chattanooga’s Criminal Justice Department brought about The Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA), an annual seven-week law enforcement leadership and management program designed for progressive and innovative police managers. SECLA prepares mid and upper level supervisory personnel for the increased responsibility of administrative command positions by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful leadership in their agency and community.

“It’s really been a success,” said Susan Robertson, IPS information specialist. “There are always about 25-30 participants, who must be nominated, to participate. A number of Tennessee’s police chiefs and deputy chiefs have been through the program.”

As the prior program manager for LEIC’s National Forensic Science Institute, Green has first-hand experience with one of the institute’s most popular attraction, the National Forensic Academy (NFA). Steeped in hands-on exercises and “real-world” situations, the academy is offered twice a year to professional crime scene investigators. “The Forensic Academy is without a doubt the best criminal forensic training in the United States, and I made a commitment I was going to try to send every TBI Criminal Investigator to this particular training because I have seen how valuable it is,” said Gwyn. “Agents that have attended this training can work some of the most complex crime scenes all across the state that before, would have re-



LEIC’s participation with other UT entities has resulted in a state-of-the art menu of specialized training options actively pursued by students across the country. Pictured from top left to right: students take part in a shooting reconstruction course, a student examines blood spatter patterns in a classroom at LEIC, NFA participants photograph crime scene evidence as others take part in a post-blast investigation. For more information about the UT LEIC, visit [www.leic.tennessee.edu](http://www.leic.tennessee.edu).



quired us to call out the Crime Scene Response Team.”

The 10-week academy’s curriculum helps students with the necessary skills and knowledge in the identification, collection and preservation of evidence. Program participants become submerged in a multitude of mock exercises from firing bullets into vehicles, clothing, upholstery, dry wall and other targets to examining evidence from burned-out vehicles and the various stages of decomposition at the UT Anthropology Department’s famous “Body Farm.”

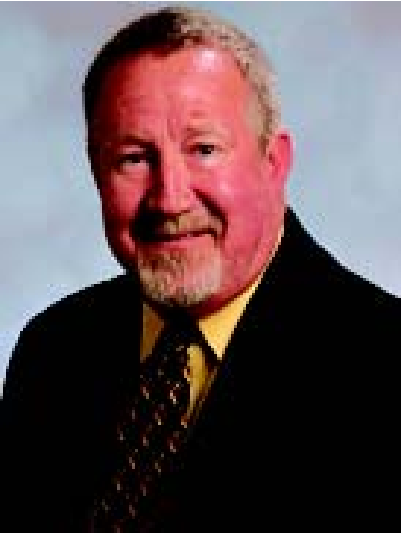
“Our location and connection to the University of Tennessee gives us access to current research techniques from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Anthropological Research Facility that few other training institutions have contact with,” Green said. “We also bring in the most current, relevant subject matter experts who are practitioners in their respective fields rather than turning to “on-staff” personnel, who are generalists.” Session 29 held in September 2011, marked the 10th anniversary of the NFA.

Addressing the increasing need for preparation and education in the growing field of law enforcement, Criminal Justice undergrads and graduate students will soon be able to experience the same hands-on

forensic science experience in a three-week format. LEIC’s recent partnership with UT Martin has allowed the institute to initiate the NFA Collegiate Program beginning July 2012. Students will conduct practical exercises and investigate mock crime scenes under the guidance of nationally recognized subject matter experts.

“The program will aid in preparing criminal justice majors for a career in the field” said Green. “This can both guide them, if they are questioning this career choice, and also provide them with a marketable skill as they enter a tough job market. Because of these advantages, it may also make them more marketable to an agency that is selecting applicants.”

In the midst of its successes, LEIC, like all law enforcement agencies across the state and the nation, faces significant challenges, according to Green. The institute is entirely funded by federal or state grants that dictate its audiences or directs its training initiatives, according to Green. “In many cases, the demands for training far exceed our ability to deliver,” he said. “Funding that has allowed city and county law enforcement agencies to attend for little or no cost has been greatly reduced, so now agencies must turn to internal budgets for



Don Green, LEIC executive director training. In many cases, we work with agencies to reach out to other resources or utilize online training to reduce their training costs.”

“Television and movies sometimes portray an unrealistic expectation of law enforcement abilities, as well as our judicial system,” continues Green. “Budget issues continue to be a focus for agency heads as they must balance staffing, equipment, operational supplies and training against increased expectations from community members. Trying to ensure public safety is continually challenging as criminals become more aware of our abilities and techniques.”

## Crime novelist Patricia Cornwell donates rare collection

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**

During her quest to bring the passion of crime solving to the masses, best selling author Patricia Cornwell amassed a fairly hefty cache of antique collectables. For the mildly curious to the antique aficionado, it’s impressive: historic maps of London; antique artwork; furniture, including the writer’s own desk and bookcases; an original 1934 wanted poster for Bonnie and Clyde dated two days before they were captured; letters by Agatha Christie and other celebrities; knives, whistles and swords used by English Bobbies in the Jack the Ripper case; antique walking canes from the ornate to the whimsical; Victorian medical kits; and at least 1,200 titles of rare books dating from 1546. Many of the items are related to Cornwell’s extensive research for various books including *Portrait of a Killer* and *Jack the Ripper Case Closed*.

And when she decided to downsize her collection, Cornwell’s most obvious choice was to donate at least \$2.2 million of it to UT’s Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) in Knoxville. Cornwell first visited LEIC in 2003 to conduct research for a book she was writing. While doing so, she became enthralled with the center’s work along with its Na-

tional Forensic Academy (NFA). She mentions the NFA in several of her books and in her 1994 bestseller, *The Body Farm*, the main character, Kay Scarpetta, visits the UT Outdoor Anthropological Research Facility, known by the same name “The Body Farm.”

A native of Western North Carolina, Cornwell has been a generous benefactor of the Forensics Academy at LEIC for years. “We are thrilled with the donation and with the support we’ve received from Patricia Cornwell over the past decade,” said Dr. Mary Jinks, vice president of the Institute for Public Service (IPS) which oversees LEIC.

The collectables are currently being housed at the LEIC facility, while the books are with the UT Knoxville Hodges Library. Among the selection is a first printing of Edgar Allen Poe’s *The Raven*, along with a first edition collection of works by Charles Dickens.

“A writer’s personal library is in many ways, a window into her mind and into the creative process,” said Dr. Steven E. Smith, dean of the UT Knoxville Library. “This collection will give researchers and students a chance to see that process in action.”

But don’t rush out to see it. The collection is currently being catalogued. “LEIC has no plans at this time to open the display of rare collectibles to the public,” said Susan Robertson, IPS information specialist.



Patricia Cornwell  
**Patricia Cornwell Biography**

Following graduation from Davidson College in 1979, Cornwell began working at the *Charlotte Observer*, rapidly advancing from listing television programs to writing feature articles to covering the police beat. She won an investigative reporting award from the North Carolina Press Association for a series of articles on prostitution and crime in downtown Charlotte. Her award-winning biography “Ruth Bell Graham, A Time for Remembering,” was published in 1983. While working as both a technical writer and computer analyst at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Richmond, VA., her first crime novel, *Postmortem*, was published in 1990 and became the first novel to win the Edgar, Creasey, Anthony, and Macavity awards as well as the French Prix du Roman d’Aventure in a single year.



Antique artwork, furniture, including the writer’s own desk and bookcases, are part of Cornwell’s donation to LEIC.



Knives, whistles and swords used by English Bobbies in the Jack the Ripper case, line the bookshelves at LEIC.