



## Slate of officials set to speak at Legislative Conference March 5-6

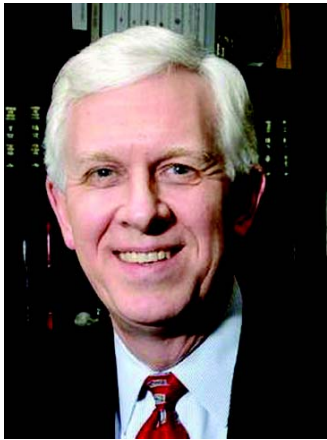
Among a slate of key state officials set to speak at TML's Legislative Conference in March is Commissioner Bill Gibbons of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

Governor Bill Haslam has rolled a comprehensive action plan to improve public safety statewide. Commissioner Gibbons will highlight some of the plan's main components, as well as address several other public safety issues such as efforts to crack down on meth-related crimes and war on a new type of drug -- synthetic drugs sold in convenience stores and smoke shops.

State Comptroller Justin Wilson is also on the agenda to update city officials on revised guidelines and procedures for filing Public Debt Management Reports, as well as address proposed legislation that seeks to regulate how tax increment financing (TIF) revenues are utilized.

Also invited to speak are Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, House Speaker Beth Harwell, Senate Chair of State and Local Government Ken Yager, and House Chair of State and Local

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Bill Gibbons



Justin Wilson

## U.S. Congress gets to work on transportation reauthorization

BY LESLIE WOLLACK  
National League of Cities

With a March 31 deadline looming for expiration of the current surface transportation program, there has been a whirlwind of activity in recent weeks to remove barriers to adoption of a long-term reauthorization bill.

Committees in both chambers have introduced very different pieces of legislation, which will be brought before the full House and Senate next week for debate.

In addition to major policy differences, concerns include funding sources for federal transit, highway, and bridge programs and the duration of the program.

### American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012

After a marathon 18-hour session last week, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee adopted H.R. 7, a five-year, \$260 billion bill, on a mostly party-line vote. The House Ways and Means Committee, responsible for the funding portion of the bill, then voted for a radical shift in financing for public transportation programs—a move strongly opposed by more than 600

interest groups, including NLC.

The bill, as adopted by that Committee, would force transit, including rural and urban public transportation and the Congestion Management Air Quality program, to be funded through the annual appropriations process rather than through the Highway Trust Fund, which is funded with federal fuel taxes. Transit programs would now be forced to compete with funding for local programs, military, foreign aid and defense spending for annual appropriations.

Due to the on-going partisan debate over the House bill and its financing, it is unclear whether leadership will have the support to pass the bill once it reaches the House floor.

### Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act

The Senate began procedural votes to move its version of the surface transportation authorization, MAP-21, after the Senate Finance Committee approved its section of the bill earlier this month. The two-year bill provides full funding of federal transportation programs, including an additional \$13 billion in

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## Tennessee ready to rumble against gangs

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Although it's Christmas Eve, the night is far from silent, as a late night gun battle breaks out at a Chattanooga youth club. The shoot-out by rival gang members has left nine young people wounded and city officials more determined than ever to propose new street gang legislation for Tennessee.

"Chattanooga has an emerging gang situation," said Boyd Patterson, Chattanooga Gang Task coordinator. "They're not completely entrenched, but they're here to stay. They just haven't organized to the level of LA, Atlanta or Chicago."

Data from the *Chattanooga Times*, indicates 65 percent of the city's 2011 homicides are gang related; that's up from 30 percent in 2008. Nationally, a Justice Department survey shows 27,000 gangs operate across the 50 states, with 800,000 gang members. Some estimates have the figure at 2 million members. And a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report says police have identified 5,000 gang members

in Davidson County. Murfreesboro estimates 400 to 500 and Columbia, 200. "Middle Tennessee's gangs are no longer just graffiti-spraying juvenile delinquents. They are armed and dangerous criminal enterprises that recruit young people with the allure of fast money, street status and a sense of belonging — even if the group they join may get them killed or sent to prison," writes *Tennessean* reporter Brad Schrade. "I don't know how much we can do about permanently removing the situation, but everyone is ready for a comprehensive approach to this problem," Patterson said.

Proposed legislation by Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield will run parallel with that of Gov. Bill Haslam, who is calling for enhanced punishments for felons with weapons, people committing crimes in groups of three or more, and individuals guilty of committing domestic violence.

"The Governor's legislation is good legislation," said Patterson. "It's needed. But the Governor's bills are different than ours. His are sentencing bills. Ours are substan-

## Tennessee cities, state prospering from major economic projects

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

Economic development projects and the transformative visions they bring, never fail to capture the hearts and dreams of the citizens of Tennessee. And in 2012, at no other time in history, have Tennessee's cities been better poised to become major economic engines.

Celebrity industries such as Volkswagen, Amazon, and Wacker Chemie have been wooed and are on board, blanketing our communities with the warm promises of future growth and productivity, while sophisticated projects initiated and chaperoned by local governments and the state's top brass in economic development, continue to move full steam ahead.

Under Gov. Haslam's Jobs4TN plan, the creation of future jobs, as commanded by the Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), will only help sweeten the pot, as ECD's field staff

## 'Impact Kingsport' enlists the aid of retirees to recruit volunteers

BY TIM WHALEY  
Kingsport PIO

Calling all recently retired professionals and engineers: The city of Kingsport needs your help. Kingsport Chief Service Officer Clarence "Bunky" Seay issued a challenge for recent professional retirees and other interested parties to step up to the plate to help Kingsport bolster its economic recruiting efforts.

Seay, who was appointed in September by Mayor Dennis Phillips to serve as chief service officer, recently unveiled a plan called "Impact Kingsport." He presented a 19-page report outlining strategies and impact metrics that will guide and gauge the upcoming volunteer effort.

"Over the past five years, three of Kingsport's largest employers — Eastman Chemical Company, American Glass Company and Domtar Paper Mill — have seen over 1,300 individuals retire," Seay noted. "Available data suggests that more than 200 highly educated recent retirees from the past few years are residing in the area. By linking qualified volunteers with interested companies, it is anticipated that Kingsport will have a competitive advantage in recruiting new businesses or assisting in the expansion of existing businesses."

A retired engineer from Eastman, Seay said that the basis of such volunteer service will be short term, with a major potential impact. "We are primarily interested at this time in retired engineers and busi-



In its first full year of operation, Volkswagen in Chattanooga has reached a production milestone completing its 50,000th Passat.

ness executives who would like to be involved," he said. "It would require a minimum amount of time and be on an 'as needed' basis. As a situation develops with a potential new or existing business, you would be contacted and invited to participate in meetings with our economic development staff and/or discussions with the prospective company."

Seay said that Kingsport's higher education initiative, which has resulted in a number of industry-specific programs being offered in the Academic Village in downtown Kingsport, helps ensure that the city has a pool of competent, educated workers for area employers. "Our economic development staff work successfully with a broad array of industries but do not always have detailed knowledge about a specific product or processes, as well as manufacturing suppliers and customers who would be logical recruiting opportunities for Kingsport," Seay said. "This is where the volunteer comes into play. The purpose will be to use their personal knowledge, friendships,

contacts and business knowledge to promote Kingsport as a location for the particular business."

The initiative is designed to support existing economic development initiatives, including efforts by NETWORKS — Sullivan Partnership and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. In particular, the tapping of key volunteers to impact economic development is designed to dovetail with Gov. Bill Haslam's new Jobs4TN economic development strategy, focusing on six key business clusters where Tennessee has substantial competitive advantages, while also strengthening the recruitment process and leveraging the ability of existing industries to lead the state in job creation.

The chief service officer is a volunteer position and part of the Cities of Service program. In Kingsport, the effort is also supported by AARP. For more information about the "Impact Kingsport" program, email Bunky Seay at [BunkySeay@kingsporttn.gov](mailto:BunkySeay@kingsporttn.gov) or call the city at 229-9400.



In the wake of increased gang activity in Chattanooga and across the state, the city of Chattanooga proposed legislation aimed directly at curbing gang crime.

nographers, Patterson notes. "What we're asking to do is simply amend an existing statute adding a third class of criminal in order to prosecute, and that is criminal street gangs," he said. "If a person is an emperor of a criminal organization, they could go away for a very long time."

Under the federal statute, RICCO starts out at range two, a minimum of 12 years prison time, said Patterson, who envisions a significant impact. "Imagine being in a gang meeting and there's 12 guys missing. Members ask 'where are they?' Well, they got put away for 12 years under RICCO," he said.

Proposing gang legislation at the same time as the Governor presents particular challenges for the city, yet Chattanooga has received favorable feed back from the mayors of Mem-

phis, Knoxville and Nashville, according to Patterson. "I hear they're on board with what we're trying to do, and I have personally talked to the gang prosecutors in Nashville and Memphis and they are behind us as well," he said.

Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger has also viewed the legislation, according to Matt Lea, special assistant to Mayor Littlefield. "The county and city are working together to combat the gang problem," Lea said. "The biggest concern we have heard from legislators and associations we have talked to is the cost."

In the past, proposed gang legislation in Tennessee has been hampered by hefty cost estimates. An earlier gang package "Crooks With Guns" and "Gang Crime Equals

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NEWS  
ACROSS  
TENNESSEE



BYTMLSTAFFREPORTS

BRISTOL

State and local officials and dignitaries broke ground on the \$6.8 million Beaver Creek flood risk reduction project. In partnership with the cities of Bristol, Va., and Bristol, Tenn., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville district is moving forward with phase one of four phases that removes an existing box culvert in Beaver Creek, slopes the creek banks, creates a plaza area, installs a parking lot, and provides for landscaping and lighting. in 2001, Bristol, Tenn., entered into an agreement with the Corps on behalf of both cities to conduct a feasibility study, which produced a detailed project report and environmental assessment in 2004. It provided options and established a course of action and funding options. In September 2011, the Corps awarded a \$736,536 contract to Aspen Construction of Hackensack, Minn., to begin construction in phase one. The project site is literally only yards away from State Street that divides the city in half. The Corps expects to award the second phase of the project in the fall of 2012 that provides modifications to the Beaver Creek Dam outlet.Phase three will widen the Beaver Creek channel near 6th Street. Phase four will provide improvements and bridge modifications near 8th Street.

CHARLESTON

The Wacker Institute, a pilot plant and training facility at Chattanooga State Community College, is now open to the public. The \$5 million institute has been described as a world-class science lab that will be part of the engineering technology division at the college. It will be used to prepare students for the fast-growing photovoltaics industry and a Wacker plant in nearby Charleston. Wacker Polysilicon, a partner in the institute, is a leader in the production of hyperpure polycrystalline silicon. Its \$1.5 billion plant in Charleston is scheduled for completion in late 2013 with some 650 full-time workers.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga recently launched the construction phase of a new \$4.1 million, 20,000 square foot WellAdvantage Health and Wellness Center. The Center will be available to employees, retirees and their families. The new Health and Wellness Center will replace two existing facilities currently operated by the city. This venture is designed to better serve the 8,000 employees, dependents, and retirees, who use the current facilities. The city’s on-site health center, pharmacy and fitness center will all be located in the facility.

CLARKSVILLE

Three safe rooms that will each hold up to 1,400 students during severe weather will be in the new Drane Street dorms at Austin Peay State University thanks to more than \$1.78 million in grant funding. The total grant is believed to be the largest single award the university has ever received. The news comes on the heels of a record-setting year for tornadoes in Tennessee. In 2011, 113 twisters hit the state, killing 34. The safe rooms will be designed to

protect students from the threats of inclement weather, such as strong winds and tornadoes.

CLEVELAND

Whirlpool is expected to manufacture and ship the first products from its new Benton Pike site this quarter. The company is beginning the transition from its King Edwards Drive plant to a new 1 million-square-foot manufacturing facility and 400,000-square-foot distribution center, representing a \$120 million reinvestment in Cleveland. Cleveland Utilities also has started installing temporary traffic signals in the road network surrounding the new facility. Whirlpool could roll out products from the Benton Pike location as early as this month, Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland said after a meeting with Whirlpool officials.

COLLIERVILLE

They look like police officers, except that the patrol cars they drive have yellow running lights instead of blue and they’re armed with a radio and pamphlets for new “Colliervillians.” The town of Collierville annexed 4,330 acres of its 9,600-acre reserve area in late December. As part of Collierville’s Special Citizens Volunteer Program, retired businessmen are becoming a “Welcome Wagon” of sorts to the town’s newly annexed neighborhoods. They stop by each house, giving homeowners information about the town and trying to answer any questions. Occasionally, they’re invited inside. The newcomer packet contains information on city contacts and non-emergency police phone numbers, vacation checks and the town’s shut-in program.

DICKSON

It’s move-in time for Dickson County emergency dispatchers and trainees who will gain roughly 3,700 square feet of elbow room as well as state-of-the-art equipment at the new E-911, all-emergency communications hub off Walnut Street. The shift to the 4,900-square-foot facility dovetails, as planned, with the installment of the last communication tower, all of which will be compatible with high-band frequency radio systems funded by the Department of Homeland Security. The new system will help police, firefighters as well as EMTs and paramedics do their jobs by eliminating “dead spots” in remote parts of the county. The whole process began in 2003 with funding from DHS. When Dickson County goes “on the grid” with the system shortly after getting into the new building, the towers will be able to communicate with the entire Tennessee Homeland Security District 7 that includes Stewart, Houston, Humphreys, Dickson, Cheatham, Robertson and Montgomery counties, and was developed for a strategic and coordinated response to terrorism.

DYERSBURG

The Capital Campaign for McIver’s Grant Public Library’s new building took a significant leap forward with a check presentation in the lobby of the current library. Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett visited Dyersburg with a big check in the amount of \$100,000. The funds arrived as work begins on the new location, bumping up the total do-

nated to repay the USDA loan granted to the new facility to just over two-thirds of the total needed. “This brings you to right about \$2.2 million,” Hargett told members of the library board gathered for the presentation. “You still need \$900,0000.” Sen. Mark Norris, Sen. Lowe Finney, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, and Rep. Bill Sanderson each spoke on the efforts to find funds to aid McIver’s Grant Public Library on the state level.

FRANKLIN

Recent data indicates the city’s curbside recycling program hit 61 percent participation the last week of December 2011 and a 22 percent diversion rate. Most of Franklin’s retailers participated in the Operation Blue Bag Christmas campaign with displays in their stores and the city promoted the campaign on social media, print and television. “Our goal with this program originally was to hit 50 percent participation and a 15 percent diversion rate, to exceed our goal is terrific,” said City Administrator Eric Stuckey.

JOHNSON CITY

The first “rails-to-trails” project in East Tennessee gained momentum when the city commission approved a master plan compiled by Durham, N.C.-based Alta/Greenways that will serve as a guide for the 10-mile pedestrian-friendly path from Johnson City to Elizabethton. Work has been under way to remove tracks and other equipment from the site for about two months. The right-of-way agreement returns the land to the railroad if its use as a trail goes away. “Rails-to-Trails,” or “rail-banking” allows an out-of-use railroad corridor to be converted for interim trail use, thereby preserving the corridor until such time as rail service is deemed feasible or necessary again. Railbanking not only allows the construction of trails for public use, but it preserves these scenic corridors.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City is one of the top 10 cities in the nation to obtain a medical degree, according to the January/February issue of *PreMedLife*. Johnson City was also named editor’s choice by the magazine. The magazine notes Johnson City as an economic hub fueled by ETSU and the “Med-Tech” corridor. There are 66 possible medical student slots available to ETSU’s program each year. This past year around 1,600 applications were received by the school.

JOHNSON CTIY

East Tennessee State University is celebrating what school officials describe as a new era of learning opportunities for students and teachers. A USDA Rural Development grant of about \$192,000 will be combined with \$96,000 in contributions from the university to create a “telemedicine system” that will connect ETSU’s Quillen College of Medicine to outlying counties in Tennessee, southeast Kentucky and Virginia. The money will be used to install video equipment and teleconference capabilities and provide remote telemedicine units to allow physicians to send patient information to a consulting site.

JONESBOROUGH

Town leaders are working to get Wi-fi for downtown. They are working with Century Link on the project, and looking at forming a partnership with the company to



State and local elected officials joined members of the McIver’s Grant Public Library board to present a big check in the amount \$100,000. The check was presented to help build the coffers of the library’s capital campaign for a new building. From left, Dyersburg Mayor John Holden, State Sen. Lowe Finney, State Reps. Bill Sanderson and Craig Fitzhugh, McIver’s Grant Library Foundation Board Chairman Bob Harrington, Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, State Sen. Mark Norris and Dyer County Mayor Richard Hill.

serve as a sponsor for town events throughout the year.

LAVERGNE

Retailer Saks Inc. is bringing a distribution center to La Vergne this fall, where it will ultimately employ more than 250 full-time workers. Saks said the center will occupy about 564,000 square feet of leased space 1 Walden Books Drive and be equipped with a robotic fulfillment system similar to the one in use at the retailer’s Maryland facility.

LINDEN

The town of Linden in Perry county got its first EV Charging station at the Commodore Hotel and Cafe. Drivers with electric cars can plug in and have a recharged battery within an hour or two. The hotel’s owner says it’s one of the few charging stations between Nashville and Memphis and should come in handy for travelers. A grant from the Department of Energy covered the cost.

MEMPHIS

A proposed \$20 million renovation to the Memphis Pink Palace Museum promises to remake the facility to be more efficient and visitor-friendly. A city council committee approved a \$10 million outlay. Memphis Museums Inc., the facility’s private fundraising arm, is to raise the other \$10 million. It would be the largest fundraising campaign in the 77-year history of the museum. If approved, the project will include new natural science and regional history exhibits as well as exhibits for a science center focused on fitness, nutrition, health and wellness.

MEMPHIS

FedEx plans to invest \$141.8 million to consolidate and expand its flight-training simulator operations in Memphis. Flight crew training is the main activity expected to be performed at the project site, according to an EDGE staff overview. Building D at the site now has bays for eight flight simulators, and FedEx also uses full-flight simulators or flight-training devices at other leased sites in Shelby County. The company plans to consolidate its flight-training activity at a single Air Operation Training Center.

MEMPHIS

Farmers in West Tennessee are working on a plan to get local produce on lunch menus at Memphis City Schools by fall. The school district has said it intends to spend \$10 million for regional produce next year instead of getting its supply from the federal commodity program and commercial vendors.

Farmers interested in participating met with state school nutrition experts to come up with a plan that could put regional produce such as lettuce, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collard greens and strawberries on lunch trays. Growers from as far away as the Florida Panhandle attended the meeting at the Central Nutrition Center, which included discussion about the benefits and obstacles of contracting with schools. Beginning in July, federal guidelines require students to be offered a half-cup of a fruit or vegetable as one of three choices. The change means school districts will double what they spend on produce.

MORRISTOWN

OTICS USA, Inc. will expand its Morristown facility as a result of increased market demand. The automotive parts manufacturer will invest an additional \$24.8 million and create 67 new manufacturing jobs. OTICS USA, Inc. manufactures automotive parts for major corporations in the automotive industry. The Morristown facility is located in the East Tennessee Progress Center. OTICS USA, Inc. is the first Japanese transplant company in the United States for the OTICS Corporation. This expansion marks the company’s third expansion since its foundation in 2001.

MT JULIET

Mt. Juliet closed on property for a future fire station to cover the fast-growing southern end of the city. The 2.33-acre tract near Belinda Parkway and Athens Drive was purchased for \$244,500. City officials hope to partner with the Wilson Emergency Management Agency, which provides ambulance service countywide and fire service within Mt. Juliet and unincorporated parts of the county, to staff the station. Officials in Mt. Juliet and Wilson County have debated for years how to extend fire and ambulance service in the Providence residential and commercial area, where response times can be as high as 15 minutes. A recent study recommended a city-county partnership as the most cost-effective option.

NASHVILLE

A museum honoring country legend Johnny Cash is scheduled to open this summer in downtown. The plan is to turn a warehouse on Third Avenue South into a museum featuring pictures, guitars and other mementos. Items will include pieces from Cash’s lake house in Hendersonville and artifacts from the “House of Cash” attraction he ran with his wife, June Carter Cash.

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HUD announces grant allocations to cities

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made public all FY2012 grant allocations to cities and states for CDBG, HOME and other grants under Community Planning and Development. Although Congress reduced CDBG funding by nearly 12 percent in FY2012, several cities saw larger or smaller cuts because newer, more up-to-date census data provided by the American Community Survey was used in the formula to determine the allocations.

According to the National League of Cities, the differences in funding reductions among grant recipients have revived criticisms of the CDBG formula, which could complicate efforts to secure an overall increase in CDBG funding in FY2013.

The following graph

reflects full-year allocations for the Office of Community Planning and Development’s (CPD) formula pro-

|                 | CDGB        | Home        | ESG       | HOPWA       |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Bristol         | \$156,456   | \$863,009   | \$0       | \$0         |
| Chattanooga     | \$1,625,052 | \$738,483   | \$0       | \$0         |
| Clarksville     | \$775,162   | \$321,454   | \$0       | \$0         |
| Cleveland       | \$332,936   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Franklin        | \$227,180   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Hendersonville  | \$204,875   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Jackson         | \$530,784   | \$279,732   | \$0       | \$0         |
| Johnson City    | \$442,024   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Kingsport       | \$334,299   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Knoxville       | \$1,561,970 | \$900,066   | \$146,665 | \$0         |
| Memphis         | \$6,589,508 | \$2,800,852 | \$633,925 | \$1,705,456 |
| Morristown      | \$238,411   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Murfreesboro    | \$673,050   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |
| Metro Nashville | \$4,262,373 | \$1,791,694 | \$390,383 | \$900,557   |
| Oak Ridge       | \$226,341   | \$0         | \$0       | \$0         |

grams: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME),

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA); and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG).

Holiday sales boost Tennessee tax revenue

Tennessee tax collections continued an upward trend in January, reflecting December consumer spending during the holiday buying season. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes announced that overall January revenues were \$1.056 billion, which is \$37.1 million more than the state budgeted. It’s the sixth consecutive month of positive growth this fiscal year, with sales tax collections once again contributing heavily to the upward trend.

"For nearly two years, we’ve seen growth in sales tax collections, with January being the 22nd consecutive month in which sales taxes have recorded positive growth," Emkes said. "Holiday sales brought positive growth across Tennessee and the nation, indicating that the economy continues to slowly recover from the worst recession on record.

"Still, due to the uncertainty surrounding resolution of the federal budget, we’ll continue to monitor state spending and work closely with the legislature in order to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget as required by the state’s constitution." On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$25.9 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$11.2 million.

Sales tax collections were \$27.6 million more than the estimate for January. The January growth rate was positive 7.47 percent. For six months revenues are over collected by \$84.0 million. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was positive 6.53 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$1.2 million above the budgeted estimate of \$156.1 million. For six months revenues are over collected by \$144.6 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for January increased by 3.73% and were \$3.4 million above the budgeted estimate of \$69.3 million. For six months revenues are over collected by \$0.4 million.

Tobacco tax collections were \$2.4 million below the budgeted estimate of \$21.6 million, and for six months they are \$8.8 million under the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$2.9 million for the month. Year to date collections for six months are \$8.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. Privilege tax collections were \$2.7 million more than the January esti-

mate, but on a year to date basis, August through January, collections are \$4.3 million below the estimate.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$1.7 million.

Year-to-date collections for six months were \$231.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$214.2 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$17.1 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2011-2012 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of April 15, 2011 and adopted by the first session of the 107th General Assembly in May. They are available on the state’s website at <http://www.tn.gov/finance/budget/budget.shtml>.

The State Funding Board met in December to hear updated revenue projections from the state’s various economists. Based on their predictions the board adopted revised revenue ranges for 2011-2012. The revised ranges assume an over collection of \$187.8 million to \$220.5 million in total taxes and \$177.0 million to \$209.6 million in general fund taxes from the fiscal year 2011-2012 budgeted estimate.

DOT announces next round of TIGER Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) recently published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a fourth round of the TIGER discretionary grant program. The pre-application deadline is Feb. 20, and final applications are due March 19.

As with previous rounds of the TIGER program, funds for FY2012 grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

The NOFA is similar to last year’s notice with some exceptions:

- Eligible applicants may submit, as a lead applicant, no more than three applications for consideration;
- Any applicant that is applying for a TIGER TIFIA Payment must also submit a TIFIA letter of interest along with their application; and
- Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2013. The limited amount of time for which the funds will be made available means that DOT will focus on the extent to which a project is ready to proceed with obligation of grant funds when evaluating applications, and give priority to those projects that are ready

to proceed sooner than other competitive projects.

More information about the latest round of TIGER grants is available at <http://www.dot.gov/tiger>.

Tennessee cities ready to rumble against gangs



Photo by John Partipilo

According to local officials and police agencies, Tennessee’s small towns and suburbs are becoming popular drug and prostitution corridors for street gang operations. One local city is a stomping ground for members of the gang Sur-13, pictured above.

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Hard Time,” pushed by the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition (TPSC), a three-way partnership between the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association, and the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, bore a projected price tag of \$60 million.

“Anytime you’re looking at longer incarceration periods with increased prosecution fees and more prosecutors working, there’ll be a high fiscal note,” Lea said. “It also depends on how the office of fiscal review decides to put the fiscal note together.” According to Lea, the TPSC were helpful in creating the Governor’s current safety legislation, which includes elements of TPSC’s gang crime bills: increasing penalties for violent crimes involving three or more defendants and toughening sentences for repeat felony offenders caught with a firearm.

Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Bo Watson, the Senate sponsor for the Chattanooga bills, and House sponsor Rep. Vince Dean, are currently awaiting Fiscal Review Committee estimates. “Look at the economic impact it’s making on our community,” asks Lea. “The impact on home values, people not wanting to buy in the area, people afraid to come out of their homes due to gang activity. If we had a lot of this going on at the time Volkswagen was considering our community, they may not have decided to come here.”

With gang violence spreading to suburban areas of Middle Tennessee, and small towns and cities becoming popular drug and prostitution corridors for street gangs, police are eager to support more stringent state laws and develop their own initiatives to inform and protect the citizens of Tennessee from gang violence. At one point, gang violence was so widespread that federal authorities helped local police put an end to it. Nine Vice Lords members were indicted on 64 criminal counts. Wilson County police

recently began hosting public forums on gangs since a 2011 gang investigation showed a drug ring manned by the Vice Lords had infiltrated the city of Lebanon.

“You have gang people creating gang fences and crimes in Chattanooga, but they’re driving to East Ridge, Soddy Daisy, Hixson and Middle Valley to sleep,” said Lea. “There’s not a lot of police in those areas looking for them. They’re going to rest their heads in a safe place and then come to town and do their business.”

In March 2011, the Tennessee Probation & Parole Board and the Metro Nashville Police Department started a pilot program designed to suspend gang activity through global positioning system monitoring (GPS). Ten offenders with suspected gang affiliations, who were on probation or parole in Davidson County, were fitted with the same ankle bracelet transmitters used to track dangerous sex offenders. Yet, the program, which is still currently in operation, has fallen short on funding and received intense scrutiny by defense attorneys who questioned the process of allowing probation officials, as opposed to judges, choose felons’ super-visionary methods.

“A lot of what we’re trying to do starts in the home,” said Lea. “These kids are looking for an element of family that they’re not getting at home. They need support, they want love, they want people to accept them, and that’s what gangs do, they offer a family, albeit a messed up family. We’re engaging kids in healthy activities, finishing their GED if they dropped out of high school, working with the faith-based communities, our Parks and Rec department. Whether or not this legislation passes, at least the people of Chattanooga will know that the city tried everything they could from reactive to proactive to legislative issues to get this matter resolved.”

The legislative funding dilemma is a drop in the bucket, according to Patterson, compared with the costs gang crime will increasingly wage in Tennessee. “We’re paying for it one way or the other,” he said. “The current rate for hospitals to treat gunshot wounds, beginning to end, is about \$50,000. That one episode Christmas day cost \$450,000 here in Chattanooga. What’s the total in human life lost? What’s the total when kids get pressured by gangs?”

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# STATE BRIEFS

## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

### FHWA approves I-55 project

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is excited to announce a major milestone in the development of the Interstate 55 and Crump Boulevard Interchange project. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Final Environmental Impact Study for the interchange, allowing the project to move into the final design phase. The approval comes after an extensive study and review of a number of different alignment choices for the interchange. The selected “Z-1” design was developed in response to strong input from members of the community and guidance from the Federal Highway Administration. The Z-1 alignment will avoid all displacements and does address concerns that were raised by residents early in the project development phase. The “Z-1” alignment will increase the traffic capacity and improve the level of service of the interchange, reduce congestion, enhance local mobility, improve roadway safety, and restore interstate route continuity for I-55 travel. The department will now work to develop the preliminary Right of Way plans for 2013. TDOT’s next milestone is to bring the public together for a Public Meeting in the fall of 2012.

### ECD helps create 28,535 jobs

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development helped create more than 28,535 jobs over the last year, according to the department’s 2011 Annual Report. The report says ECD projects created 28,535 new jobs in Tennessee, representing more than \$4 billion in investment. ECD called it “one of the most productive years in the state’s history.” Gov. Haslam said “Our Jobs4TN plan is working. We continue to focus on regionalism, existing businesses and key clusters while also pursuing new businesses for Tennessee.”

### TEMA rolls out new app

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency rolled out a mobile application to give emergency information to residents. The app, Ready-TN is only available for Android users, but an iPhone version is expected to be available soon in the near future. By using a phone’s GPS location service, Ready-TN can relay information about weather emergencies and warnings, open storm shelters and traffic hazards. When the National Weather Service issues a weather alert, a bar on the apps’ main page turns yellow. A touch of the screen shows that weather statement, not just for the user’s area, but every statement in Tennessee. Other features show open shelters with an address, its capacity and how many people are there. Tennessee Department of Transportation Smartway Cameras are also listed.

### TN 2012 Map available

The official 2012 Tennessee Transportation Map is now available. This year’s map contains a Quick Response (QR) code that will allow users to scan and link to the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s mobile web application, TDOT SmartWay Mobile. Motorists can get real-time traffic information using smartphones this way. The map is a joint effort between TDOT and the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development. The map can be downloaded at [www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/maps.htm). They are free at welcome centers and rest areas across the state.

### 10th highest teen unemployment

Tennessee had 10th-highest teen unemployment among the nation’s 50 states last year, with teen males suffering more than their female counterparts, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. The state’s overall teen unemployment rate was 28.8 percent in 2011. The rate for teen males was 35.5 percent, compared to 23.9 percent for teen females. Decades of economic research confirm that mandated labor costs reduce hours and employment for the least-experienced workers like teens.

### TVA loses to mild winter

The Tennessee Valley Authority lost \$173 million in the final three months of calendar 2011 as milder winter temperatures cut electricity sales by \$260 million compared with the same time a year ago. In a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission, TVA said it is revising its revenues estimates for this year downward by 2 percent and looking for ways to cut its spending in fiscal 2012. TVA reported a net loss of \$173 million on revenues of \$2.4 billion in the three months ending Dec. 31. In the same quarter a year ago, TVA lost \$48 million on revenues of nearly \$2.6 billion.

### TN lottery announces new game

The Tennessee Lottery launches a new game with the biggest top prize in the history of the state game. “\$3,000,000 Mega Cash” is an instant game played by scratching a ticket. Besides the \$3 million top prize, there are 10 prizes from \$1 million to \$3 million and more than 500,000 prizes from \$50 to \$20,000. It costs \$20 to play. Meanwhile, the lottery also is instituting “VIP Rewards,” a program that allows players to earn points they can redeem for a range of merchandise in a “VIP Store.” Rebecca Hargrove, president and CEO of the lottery, said the two additions “are sure to be a hit.”

### Chevy Volt buyers eligible for rebate

Chevrolet Volt purchasers are now eligible for the state’s \$2,500 electric vehicle (EV) rebate. The rebate requires that consumers qualify for and participate in The EV Project, a national study on EV use and charging infrastructure deployment. The EV Project will provide participants with a free Blink® 240V networked charge station and a credit of up to \$1,200 towards its installation. To be eligible, Tennessee residents must sign an EV Project participant agreement, purchase the Volt, take delivery of the car, and have SPX Corporation install their Blink charge station by June 30, 2012. Volt owners who have already purchased and taken delivery of their vehicles are still eligible for the rebate if they are accepted into The EV Project. Consumers should contact the original selling dealer to inquire about retroactive rebates.

### Tornadoes predicted in 2012

A record number of tornadoes — 113 — hit Tennessee last year, and this year also could be a lively one for storms. Tornadoes are difficult to predict, but warm, wet La Nina conditions, which are in effect this year, can be an indicator, said meteorologist Bobby Boyd with the National Weather Service. “We have found when we have a La Nina during the spring, we have a higher incident of tornadoes through the Tennessee and Ohio valleys,” he said. “We could be looking at more stormy weather this spring and the potential for tornadoes.” La Nina, which occurred last year also, is when water is cooler than normal in the tropical Pacific Ocean. El Nino is when the water is warmer. Both affect weather patterns around the world. Already, two twisters have struck the state this year: one in West and one in Middle Tennessee. There were no fatalities. Last year, tornadoes were responsible for 34 deaths in the state. The large number of tornadoes in 2011 topped every year since statistics officially began to be kept on them in 1916, Boyd said.

### Verizon awards \$50,000 in grants to TN schools

The Verizon Foundation has awarded Tennessee schools grants totaling \$50,000 to enhance their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs using resources at Thinkfinity.org, an award-winning educational website with tens of thousands of free, engaging materials for teachers and students. The site includes K-12 lesson plans, in-class activities and videos that can be found quickly and searched by grade level, keyword or subject. Tennessee schools that received a \$5,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation include: Brentwood High School, Woodbury Grammar School, Franklin County School District, Gallatin Senior High School, Homestead Elementary, Lake City Middle School, Rhea County Schools, Stone Elementary, Union City Schools, and William James Middle School.

### Summer food funds available

State officials say federal funds are available for the 2012 Summer Food Service Program. The program is intended to assure that children and individuals with disabilities, who rely on free and reduced-price meals during the school year, have access to nutritious meals during the summer. According to the Tennessee

Department of Human Services, new sponsors are needed to partner in the initiative. Eligible sponsors include schools, private nonprofit organizations, government entities and nonprofit residential camps. Sponsors are reimbursed on a per-meal basis. Last year, 57 sponsors served 2.7 million meals to children at 1,526 sites across the state. Details are available by emailing [david.farmer@tn.gov](mailto:david.farmer@tn.gov) or [doug.hutchison@tn.gov](mailto:doug.hutchison@tn.gov).

### Meth tracking system shows progress

Lawmakers say there’s progress in the effort to stop meth makers in the state. Tennessee’s real time tracking system called NPLeX is just more than one month old and already, the state said it stopped the unlawful sale of 4,993 boxes of pseudoephedrine. That’s more than 13,000 grams of pseudoephedrine (PSE), the key ingredient needed to make meth. For each pseudoephedrine purchase, a pharmacist must enter the customer’s driver’s license number and how much they’re buying into NPLeX before making the sale.

### Mobile Vet center to rural areas

A new mobile veterans center will allow behavioral health counselors to treat veterans living in rural and medically underserved communities all around Middle Tennessee. Vet centers have been around since 1979 to serve combat veterans with trauma-related problems in a non-hospital setting where they can obtain confidential counseling from other veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs started off with 50 mobile vet centers and added another 20 more this year, which are modified recreational vehicles. The vehicle includes a wheelchair lift, a small private meeting area, shower, room for a stretcher, computer, fax and phones and video conferencing capability. The services provided include: individual and group counseling, marital and family counseling, military sexual trauma counseling, employment guidance and alcohol and substance abuse counseling. The center also provides outreach and education on post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.

### Sterner penalties in sight for misclassified workers

A state task force is recommending



Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Bill Gibbons and Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer sign a new interagency agreement. The goal of the agreement is to ensure public safety and restore Tennessee roadways to full capacity as soon as possible following highway incidents. TDOT and TDOSHS began working on the new agreement following an incident in December 2011 that closed Interstate 40 in Wilson County for nearly 12 hours, leaving hundreds of motorists stranded overnight. The agreement includes a number of new procedures such as: Classifying incidents as major, intermediate, or minor and requiring reassessment of clearance activities every 30 minutes. To view the entire agreement, visit <http://www.tn.gov/tdot/incident/docs/MOU-TDOT-TDOSHS-Feb-14-2012.pdf>.

sterner penalties for companies found to be misclassifying construction workers after a study revealed such misclassifications are costing the state millions of dollars. The Employee Misclassification Advisory Task Force was formed in July 2011 to research insurance and tax fraud in the construction industry. It found that misclassification of employees — who are either deemed independent contractors or are paid in cash “off the books” — is a prevalent practice in the construction industry that accounts for 11-22 percent of all workers. Using 2006 data, the task force estimated there 21,990 to 36,680 misclassified employees that cost the state millions in unpaid insurance premiums and uncollected taxes. “This type of practice is unfair to those companies who are playing by the rules and lose competitive bids, and it creates a

burden on employees who are not covered by workers’ compensation coverage should they get injured on the job,” said Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Karla Davis.

### Court debtors could lose license

Tennesseans with unpaid court fees may find themselves without a driver’s license come July 1 when a new law takes effect allowing the state to suspend debtors’ driving privileges. Criminal court clerks across the region have struggled for years to collect hundreds of millions owed to taxpayers. In Davidson County alone, taxpayers are due more than \$300 million in unpaid costs. Beginning July 1, the state will have the authority to suspend driver’s licenses of those who have ignored their debts for a year or longer.

## Congress gets to work on Transportation Reauthorization

**TRANSPORTATION** *from Page 1* funding above federal transportation revenues in the Highway Trust Fund. The Committee also added a provision to keep transit commuting benefits equal to parking benefits that expired at the end of last year.

Though the Senate has enjoyed mostly bipartisan support among the

four committees that have jurisdiction over the bill, strong policy debates remain for the floor debate.

NLC will continue to monitor the progress of both bills and will post updates, including details on amendments, financing, set-asides, and other hot issues on the NLC website, [www.NLC.org](http://www.NLC.org).







# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has named TN. Gov. Bill Haslam his campaign chairman in Tennessee. Romney supported Haslam in the state's 2010 governor's race, and Haslam's father and brother also hold leadership positions in the former Massachusetts governor's Tennessee operations.



Haslam

State Sen. **Tim Barnes** traveled to the Pentagon by personal invitation for his work in securing unemployment benefits for military spouses. There, First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced a military spouse employment report designed to help military spouses with occupational licenses. With the passage of unemployment benefits for military spouses, Tennessee would become the fourth state in the nation to attain all of the department's desired outcomes regarding military spouses.



Barnes

Former Bradley County Sheriff **Dan Gilley**, was inducted into the Tennessee 911 Hall of Honor in January. Gilley, who served as sheriff for 20 years, now serves the Tennessee Homeland Security De-

partment. Gilley was cited for his leadership in facilitating the unification of the previously separate communications centers operated by the BCSO and the city of Cleveland. This unification was among the first of its kind in the state, helping to reduce taxes required from the county, and the cities of Cleveland and Charleston and improving 911 services operated today by the 911 District.



Gilley

The community of Brentwood and state and local dignitaries said so long to Police Chief **Ricky Watson** at a recent retirement party. The Brentwood Police Department Honor Guard presented Watson with a U.S. flag that once flew over the State Capital. Watson, a native of Columbia, began his career with the Memphis Police Department in 1978.



Watson

Eagleville has hired its first city manager in town history, **William Haston**, a former budget officer and assistant city manager from Kingsport. Haston also served as a finance consultant with UT-MTAS for three years. The city also hired a new police chief last week, **Elijah Stuard**, who is in training with the Tennessee POST Commission.



Haston

Ending nearly four years as the city's chief staffer, Snellville's city manager, **Russell Treadway**, tendered his resignation to become city administrator in Sevierville, where he previously served in the same capacity for 16 years.

**Shelley Taylor** has been hired as Spring Hill's first full-time human resources director to help guide and manage services and policies for the city's 178 employees. She hails from Shaker Heights, Ohio, and has worked for a Nashville law firm, a nonprofit handling human resource law issues, and the state Social Security disability division in Nashville

East Ridge has appointed local recreation director and sports enthusiast **Marvin "Stump" Martin** as director of its new Parks and Recreation Department. Martin arrives in East Ridge from Rossville, where he has served as the director of Parks and Recreation since 2008. Prior to that, he was a writer for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* for 20 years. Martin has hosted regular sports talk shows on ESPN radio and the "Stump on Sports" TV show. He will be responsible for the overall management of the department's operations, personnel and budget, along with coordinating the management and operations of all athletic leagues, events and activities.



Martin

## Haynes, Harmon, Sontany, choose to step down in 2012

Sen. Joe Haynes (D- Nashville) State Rep. Bill Harmon, (D-Dunlap) and State Rep. Janice Sontany (D-Nashville) have decided not to seek re-election to their legislative seats in 2012.

With plans to continue practicing law at the firm he founded 46 years ago, Haynes, 75, who was elected to the state Senate in 1984, said he's ready to do more reading and fishing.

"The sweet siren call of my family, a huge stack of unread books and a little used fishing boat demand my attention now," he said. Haynes' decision opens up the District 20 seat for the first time in a generation. He is the second senator to announce he won't seek reelection. Sen. Roy Herron (D-Dresden) announced Jan. 26 he would not run. Rep. Joey Hensley (R-Hohenwald), has announced that he plans to run for Herron's open seat in Senate District 28 instead of seeking reelection in the House.

Rep. Harmon has also announced that he will not seek another term in the House.

"I'd like to thank all the people in the four counties I represented for the past 10 years for the opportunity to serve as their representative," said Harmon. Former chairman of the House Transportation Committee whose 37th District includes Sequatchie, Marion, Grundy and Van Buren counties, Harmon said he is considering possible races for the state Senate or Sequatchie County

mayor. "There's been some discussion about me running for the Senate ... and there's been discussion about me running for county mayor at home ... and that decision has not been made yet."

While Sontany, said that the decision not to run was tough, she's looking forward to spending more time with her family, "especially my granddaughter," she said. Sontany has represented House District 53, which includes parts of Nashville in Davidson County, since 2003. Some of her legislation includes mandating sprinklers in all Tennessee nursing homes, and including pets in orders of protection for victims of domestic violence.

Rep. Harry Tindell (D-Knoxville) has also announced that he will not seek a 12th term in the House.



Haynes



Harmon



Sontany

## New HR certificate program a stepping stone to the future

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

A groundbreaking Human Resources certificate program will debut this year at the 2012 Tennessee Chapter International Public Management Association (TPMA) Annual conference April 10 - 13 in Gatlinburg. A collaborative effort of TPMA and the Tennessee Department of Human Resources (DOHR), the new HR Fundamentals Certificate program is geared toward entry-level staff seeking a basic education in public sector Human Resources.

While several state chapters and/or municipal leagues around the country offer quality certification programs, some are the equivalent of an associate's degree, taking up to three years to complete, while others require a certain level of attendance at state meetings or years of work experience. The HR Fundamentals Certificate program is unique as it serves primarily as a stepping-stone toward further education goals or certification.

"Many of the programs currently available for certification or degrees are designed for those who already have a seat at the table," observed Richard Stokes, TPMA executive director. "Public sector agencies at both state and local levels have human resources staff with a wide variance in experience and education/certificate attainment. What we find is many have private sector experience, but not a

very good knowledge of public sector HR application."

With the statutory responsibility for the training and development of all state human resources employees, DOHR, a fellow TPMA member, supports TPMA in the desire to have all public sector human resources staff share basic competencies. This goal is supported by the new certificate program, which is designed for entry-level staff at all levels of Tennessee government.

The program centers on a competency-based model including elements from the "Three Pillars of Human Resources Management": The Role of HR, Legal Issues in HR, and HR Administration.

The HR Fundamentals Certificate program will be offered as part of the pre-conference session. Attendees can register for all three modules at a cost of \$60 or can register for each individual module for \$25 each. Recognition will be given for the successful completion of all modules in each pillar by DOHR and a comprehensive certificate from TPMA will be awarded when all three modules have been successfully completed.

The specific dates of the program are Module I - April 10 at 8am - 12noon; Module II - April 10 at 1pm - 5pm; and Module III - April 11 at 8am - 12 noon.

To register or for further questions about the HR Fundamentals Certificate program, please contact Richard Stokes at 615- 532-6827.

## Associate Profile: E&A Solutions, Inc.

E&A Solutions, Inc. is a Tennessee based company that was established in 2001. Our primary focus is, and has always been, to provide human resource professionals with drug and alcohol testing services that are timely, cost effective and compliant with all federal and state regulations.

Since our inception, and in response to our customer needs, we've added additional services throughout the years to include criminal background checks, drug free workplace training as well as the sale and distribution of instant drug test kits.

Currently, E&A Solutions, Inc. has two Middle Tennessee offices. Our offices are based in Lebanon and Nashville however, our clients are located throughout the state and country due to a consortium of more than 5,000 clinics that we partner with to collect specimens. Our clients include county, city and state governments, school systems, utilities, national trucking companies, professional athletes, staffing agencies and manufacturers. Our certified personnel travel the country providing on-site testing insuring that all collections are completed with the highest level of integrity in the business.

There are many advantages of



using E&A Solutions, Inc. but several of those that help separate us from our competitors include access to our customized website, knowledge of the Tennessee Drug Free Workplace regulations, competitive pricing and an on-staff Medical Review Officer. Our customized website, where clients are given a username and password, allows instant access to client results. From here, clients are able to print the results directly from the website and save them to our server for continued viewing.

Based on our knowledge of the Tennessee Drug Free Workplace program, E&A Solutions can assist clients in saving five percent on their Worker's Compensation insurance premiums and also provide the annual training component, either through our website or by utilizing an on-site presenter.

E&A Solutions, Inc. is one of the most cost competitive companies in

the industry. Our years of experience and current client volumes allow us to leverage pricing with both laboratories and collection clinics. E&A Solutions is one of the largest distributors in the state for instant drug test kits.

Furthermore, another advantage that separates our company from most in this industry is that of our on-staff Medical Review Officer. Unlike most companies who contract MRO services out, which delays result reporting, E&A Solutions utilizes an on-staff MRO to report within minutes of receiving results from the laboratory. This forward thinking and investment allows us the ability to report results as fast as or faster than all of our competitors.

In conclusion, E&A Solutions is extremely excited about becoming a Five Star sponsor of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML). We look forward to meeting TML members and providing solutions to their drug and alcohol testing needs. Our person of contact is Chris Manus, who may be reached at 615-804-0506.

For more information, please feel free to visit our website at [www.eandasolutions.com](http://www.eandasolutions.com).

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# Broken politics does not diminish value of Government

BY JAMES BROOKS  
*CitiesSpeaks.org*

A startling NBC/Wall Street Journal poll (Jan. 22-24, 2012) indicates that 80 percent of Americans disapprove the job performance of Congress. Indeed, attitudes about government generally, whether Congress, the President, cabinet departments or agencies, are generally unfavorable. Research work conducted by Public Works Partners illuminates a bit more of the truth behind these figures. ([www.publicworks-partners.net](http://www.publicworks-partners.net))

The first observation is that attitudes about government tend to reflect a distant institution dimly understood. More importantly, government is immediately equated with contentious partisan politics, with taxation and with services delivered to customers much like candy bars are dispensed from a vending machine.

The good news is that at a deeper level, government and citizenship are valued. Government is viewed favorably as a vehicle for collective action such as national defense. It also provides systems and structures that benefit society as a whole such as courts and a unified currency.

The paradox is that we value government but despise the political process. A survey by the Pew Center for People and the Press finds that when it comes to Congress the problem with the institution is the members themselves, not the political system. In assessing Congress, 55

percent of the public says they think the system can work fine; it's the members that are the problem.

This is nothing new of course. The citizenry have been supporting their government but hating their public decision making process since the founding of the Republic. The ink on the U.S. Constitution was not yet dry when Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay began papering citizens in the State of New York with the essays that we know collectively today as *The Federalist Papers*.

At the founding, the need for government was an accepted principle. "Nothing is more certain than the indispensable necessity of government, and it is equally undeniable, that whenever and however it is instituted, the people must cede to it some of their natural rights in order to vest it with requisite powers," wrote Jay in *Federalist #2*.

But once past that basic hurdle, things get messy; the passions of individuals play upon the system. Madison in *Federalist #10* reminds us, "Complaints are everywhere heard from our most considerate and virtuous citizens ... that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties, and that measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."

The political process is all about "faction;" the interests of one group of persons as compared to another group of persons. Madison gives full

voice to matters about factions in *Federalist #10*. "A landed interest, a manufacturing interest, a mercantile interest, a moneyed interest, with many lesser interests, grow up of necessity in civilized nations, and divide them into different classes, actuated by different sentiments and views. The regulation of these various and interfering interests forms the principal task of modern legislation, and involves the spirit of party and faction in the necessary and ordinary operations of the government." This is to say, disharmony is unavoidable in a free society.

Politics is the art of the possible; of compromise. As such, some will always be disaffected. But the words of John Jay in *Federalist #2* can help today's elected policy makers focus on the values citizens place on the basic institutions of government. "A strong sense of the value and blessings of union induced the people, at a very early period, to institute a federal government to preserve and perpetuate it. They formed it almost as soon as they had a political existence; nay, at a time when their habitations were in flames, [and] when many of their citizens were bleeding."

Local government leaders are political creatures. But to the extent that they can articulate the value and significance of governmental systems and structures, their efforts to instill strong attachments of citizenship and participation in decision making will be rewarded.

**Editor's Note:** *CitiesSpeaks* is the official blog of the National League of Cities.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

**Lawmakers across the U.S. have started 2012 with a controversial message to their judges: keep foreign laws out of our courtrooms.** Twenty-one states are considering measures that would prohibit judges from applying the laws or legal codes of other nations in a wide variety of cases. Three states—Tennessee, Louisiana and Arizona—recently added versions of such laws to the books, while a fourth—Oklahoma—worked a similar change into its constitution in 2010. The movement is motivated largely by a handful of organizations that claim laws of other nations, are creeping into courtrooms and American life, especially in divorces

and child-custody disputes

**About 24 million voter registrations in the United States contain significant errors, including about 1.8 million dead people still on the rolls and many more approved to vote in multiple states.** Even though the inaccuracies impact one in eight registrations, researchers at the Pew Center on the States said they don't see it as an indicator of widespread fraud. Rather, they believe outdated systems are failing to keep pace with the most basic changes in people's lives. In conjunction with Pew's report, eight states said they are working this year on a centralized data system

to help identify people whose registrations may be out of date. About 2.7 million people have active registrations in multiple states, including about 2,000 registered in four or more states, according to the Pew report. Elections officials said it is difficult to track when someone has moved to another state without canceling their previous registration. About 1.8 million deceased people are still listed as active voters, according to the study. Researchers believe 12.7 million records do not reflect the current addresses of active voters while 12 million contain address inaccuracies, including those that make it unlikely that mail could reach them.

COMING  
UP



**Feb. 24 & Mar. 9: Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) Meeting.** East TN—Feb. 24 at Rymer Student Center, 225 Hiwassee College Dr., Madisonville. Registration for this meeting, \$15. Middle TN meeting held March 9, at Columbia State Community College, Hickman Building, Room 125, 1665 Hampshire Pike. Free, if registered before March 5. Registration after March 5 is \$15. Both forums include refreshments and lunch. RSVP to: [treedc08@yahoo.com](mailto:treedc08@yahoo.com).

**March 10-14: NLC's 2012 Congressional City Conference** held in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel. Registration is open. For more information go to [www.NLC.org](http://www.NLC.org)

**March 16: TN Association of Floodplain Management Middle TN Regional Training**—UT-TSU Institute of Agriculture, Rutherford County - Heart of Tennessee Extension Facility, 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Suite 101, Murfreesboro. Members free, lunch provided. For schedule and registration, visit the website [www.tnafpm.com/](http://www.tnafpm.com/)

**April 10-13: 20th Annual TPMA Conference**, at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg. For information, call Richard Stokes, TPMA executive director, at 615-532-6827.

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Chad Jenkins, Deputy Director  
Mark Barrett, Legislative Research Analyst  
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Mona Lawrence, Administrative Assistant  
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TMBF

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND



The city of Dyersburg closed a \$4.5 million loan to use on various municipal projects.

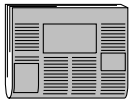


The town of Cumberland Gap closed a \$5,000 Highway Safety Grant Anticipation Note.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

**BRISTOL.** The city is seeking an Economic Development Professional. The successful candidate should hold a B.S. degree in planning, business administration, marketing public administration, or closely related field and a minimum of two years related experience, preferably in municipal government. Competitive salary and benefit package. To apply please submit an application along with a resume, and introductory cover letter to: City of Bristol, H.R. Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189, or electronic submissions may be faxed to 423-968-7197. Position open until filled. To download an application and review summary of benefits, go to [www.bristoltn.org](http://www.bristoltn.org). EOE

### ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

**FRANKLIN.** The city's Engineering Department has a full-time vacancy for a director. Under limited supervision, this position is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the programs of the Engineering Department. Exercises supervision of Engineering Department personnel, making assignments, setting priorities, and reviewing work in the areas of land development, capital improvement projects, traffic engineering, traffic operations, stormwater management, and grant funding procurement. Administers contracts for services obtained from other public agencies, private contractors, and consultants, assists with the preparation of planning and design of municipal construction projects, including cost estimating and right-of-way acquisitions, and cooperates with the CIP Project Executive/City Engineer for inspection services and contract administration of the city's capital improvement program. Directs the review of private development plans to ensure conformance with established engineering standards. Serves as City Engineering in the absence of the CIP Project Executive/City Engineer. Reports to the Assistant City Administrator for Community and Economic Development. Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering required, Master's degree preferred, with a minimum of six to 10 years of engineering and supervisory experience in public works; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. Tennessee Certification (registration) as a Professional Engineer, or ability to obtain it within six months, is required. Ability to obtain approval authority designation from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation highly desirable. Must have strong computer design and mapping skill for a GIS/CAD system, as well as a good working knowledge of other computer software; specifically, knowledge of AutoCAD, Arc View, Microsoft Office, Paradox, and various Eagle Point Civil Engineering Software packages. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012. See full job announcement at our website [www.franklintn.gov](http://www.franklintn.gov). EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

### EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I PUBLIC WORKS

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Department of Public Works Equipment Operator I. Under general supervision, performs a variety of public works construction, maintenance and repair work requiring high skill including: operation of backhoe, skid steer loader, motor grader, side arm mower, knuckle boom truck, bucket truck, snow plow, bulldozer, etc. Performs heavy manual labor through skilled equipment operation, routine inspection and preventive maintenance checks on assigned equipment to include cleaning and referring defect information accordingly. Installs and repairs conduits, installs pipes, culverts, etc. Operates a variety of trucks and other equipment in the maintenance and repair of roads and other facilities. Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent. Any combination of training and experience substantially

equivalent to completion of high school. Considerable experience in the operation of heavy equipment. A valid Tennessee Commercial Driver's License (C.D.L.) Class B with no restrictions is required. Salary is a minimum \$10.92 hourly. Visit the city website for further information and to apply at [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com). Resumes, applications and inquiries should be directed to: City Hall, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: Human Resources Department, phone 615-672-4350 ext. 2108, or e-mail [CLewisSmith@cityofwhitehouse.com](mailto:CLewisSmith@cityofwhitehouse.com). Application deadline is March 1, 2012. EOE.

### RISK MANAGEMENT ANALYST

**CLARKSVILLE.** The city seeks qualified applicants for the position of Risk Management Analyst. Incumbents plan, coordinate and implement a comprehensive risk management program. Responsibilities may include evaluating risks and identifying and implementing appropriate responses; determining the need for third party or self insurance; selecting third party insurers; investigating, evaluating and monitoring liability claims; compiling and analyzing financial information; inspecting city facilities for risks and liabilities; and developing and presenting loss control training. Supervises lower level staff. Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in risk management or a related field and five years experience in risk management, safety and loss control, or a closely related field; a juris doctor or masters degree is strongly preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job. Typically requires reaching, standing, walking, hearing, seeing, talking, grasping and other repetitive hand motions. Exerting up to 10 pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently or constantly to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects, including the human body. Sedentary work involves sitting most of the time. May be subjected to travel. The salary range is \$52,151 - \$73,011. Application available at the Career Service Center of TN, 350 Pageant Lane, Clarksville. Or send a resume to [recruiter@cityofclarksville.com](mailto:recruiter@cityofclarksville.com). Position open until filled.

### PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Superintendent. Under general supervision of the Public Works Director, assists in performing administrative and managerial work in planning, organizing and directing the city wastewater treatment and collection systems, supervising all departmental staff. Assists the director in overseeing daily operations and maintenance. Must have 10 years or more of increasingly responsible administrative, operations and/or project management experience in wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant operations; an undergraduate degree in a natural science related field is preferred. Knowledge of street repairs, sign installation and repair, sanitation and recycling programs; Storm Water/Project Management experience. Considerable knowledge of hydraulics and the chemical, physical, and biological processes used in the wastewater treatment processes. Knowledge of laboratory practices and OSHA guidelines related to large wastewater treatment facilities. Knowledge and experience of wastewater collection system installation, rehabilitation and maintenance techniques. Knowledge and experience with the operation and maintenance of the various types of lift station pumps and controls. Basic knowledge of motor control and electrical systems necessary to convey and treat wastewater. Good oral & written communication skills. Skill in use of various computer software packages. Specialized Training: Grade II Collection Operator certification and Cross-Connection certification within one year of employment; ability to obtain any certification or licensure required by the state necessary to the position. Application deadline is Feb. 29, 2012. Send to: City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: Human Resources Department, e-mail [CLewisSmith@cityofwhitehouse.com](mailto:CLewisSmith@cityofwhitehouse.com). To view a detailed job description, visit the city's website at [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com). EOE.

*Still time to register!*

## Agenda set for Legislative Conference

**CONFERENCE** from Page 1  
Government Bob Ramsey.

In addition, members of the Capitol Hill Press Corp will serve on a media panel to provide insights and their perspectives on the political landscape in Nashville and beyond.

If you haven't done so already, make plans to attend now. The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues currently being addressed by the 107th Tennessee General Assembly.

City officials are also encouraged to use their time in Nashville to attend Monday evening floor sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators.

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

To register on line, go to TML's

website at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org). Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information. To reserve a hotel room, contact the DoubleTree at 615-244-8200.

### Agenda

#### Monday, March 5

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 am | Registration                         |
| 12 pm | Buffet Lunch                         |
| 1:00  | Welcome                              |
|       | Kay Senter, TML President            |
| 1:15  | Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey              |
| 1:30  | Commissioner Bill Gibbons            |
| 2:00  | TML Staff Updates                    |
| 2:30  | Comptroller Justin Wilson            |
| 3:00  | Media Panel                          |
| 3:45  | Sen. Ken Yager                       |
| 4:00  | Rep. Bob Ramsey                      |
| 4:15  | Adjourn                              |
| 5:00  | Attend House or Senate Floor Session |

#### Tuesday, March 6

|      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| 7:30 | Breakfast                  |
| 8:30 | House Speaker Beth Harwell |
| 9:00 | Adjourn                    |

Members encouraged to attend committee meetings



### Mar. 17: Linden

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blooming Arts Festival  
Fine arts, crafts, and performances that are "family friendly." Fire, glass, wood, molten metal, paint splatter, and modern dance. An outstanding slate of educational events and interactive exhibitions. For more information, visit [www.bloomingartsfestival.com](http://www.bloomingartsfestival.com)

### Mar. 12: Etowah

*Cousin Jake Memorial Bluegrass Festival*

Historic Gem Theater, 700 Tennessee Avenue. The Cousin Jake Memorial Bluegrass Festival, now in its 18th year, celebrates bluegrass music and honors the late Jake Tullock, a native of Etowah, who joined Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs as a bass player and comic, performing with them for 20 years as "Cousin" Jake. After his retirement from Flatt & Scruggs, Tullock returned home to Etowah where he continued to perform until his death. Hear the music that Jake loved. Lots of jamming at the L&N Depot Museum, so bring your instrument along. Pick up bargains at the many antique shops and outlets located downtown. Begins at noon and goes on all day. Local Boy Scout Troop 74 will sell bar-b-que during dinner break. For more information, Email: [info@etowaharts.org](mailto:info@etowaharts.org) or call 423-263-7608.

### Mar. 24-25: Goodlettsville

*Historic Mansker Station Spring Encampment*

Moss Wright Park. Observe how people lived on the frontier in the late 1800s. Costumed interpreters and reenactors will camp around Mankers Fort. Watch woodworking, blacksmithing, spinning, cooking over the fire and bread baking. Tour Mankers Fort and the Bowen Plantation House, built in 1787.

## Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 5, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, Feb. 27, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained at 615-255-1561.



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# Tennessee cities, state prosper from major economic projects

PROJECTS from Page 1  
Bradley County  
**Wacker, Chemie**

Officials broke ground April 8, 2010, at the 550-acre site that will become the new Wacker Chemie AG plant, near Hiwassee Industrial Park in Charleston. The Munich company is the second-largest producer of hyperpure polysilicon in the world. Scheduled for completion and production beginning 2014, the \$1.5 billion plant plans to employ some 650 fulltime workers.

This month's ribbon cutting ceremony marked the partnership between Wacker and the Engineering Technology Division at Chattanooga State Community College, where a world class, \$5 million pilot plant and training facility was unveiled to the public. The state-of-the-art laboratory will prepare students for the fast-growing photovoltaics industry.

With more than 700 construction workers on the site and more than four million cubic yards of dirt moved already, the three largest buildings for the Wacker plant have gone verticle and are taking shape, with the installation of precast walls.

The plant's nearest neighbor, Olin Chemical Company in Charleston, recently announced plans to rebuild its plant to the tune of \$125 million. "They're required to do away with mercury in their processing, and could have moved to a South Carolina plant that's mercury free," observed Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland. "But instead, they chose to rebuild in Bradley County."



A jubilant Mayor Tom Rowland celebrates with Cleveland officials and Whirlpool executives following Whirlpool's announcement that the company planned to replace its century old facility with a new \$125 million, LEED certified plant in Cleveland.

Bradley County  
**Whirlpool**

The Whirlpool Corporation sealed its decision to remain in Cleveland permanently with a 2010 announcement of a new \$120 million, 1.4 million square foot manufacturing facility and distribution center to replace its century old facility on Church Street. The facility, which will add about 130 new jobs to its existing workforce of around 1,500, is now complete and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held March 3.

"When we received word that Whirlpool was going to add a premium range line and they wanted to be in a more modern facility, the Industrial Board immediately began putting together property," said Mayor Rowland. "Several property owners became willing sellers,



Photo by Taylor Loyal/DNJ

Smyrna Airport Executive Director John Black stands in front of more than 3,200 solar panels at the airport, which is one of only two major airport solar projects in Tennessee.

and we were able to put the property package together."

To generate ideas about developing or marketing the old site, the city has pulled together a Southside Redevelopment Task Force comprised of concerned citizens and city officials interested in refurbishing the area. Whirlpool sits on the task force as well. "We have a lot of things we are working on like a performing arts center, recycling for other industrial prospects and we're also showing it to industrial prospects, said Rowland.

As the state's 5th largest industrial city and home to 12 Fortune 500 manufacturers, Cleveland's biggest challenge now is running out of industrial property, according to Rowland. "Basically, we are out of industrial property," he said. Currently about 60 percent of Cleveland's employees come from Bradley County, as well as from McMinn, Meigs and Polk counties. "Our unemployment rate dropped to 7.2 and our residential is skyrocketing," Rowland said.

The city will host a celebration ceremony for a new airport in November and has recently annexed another 5.5 miles to Chattanooga "Because of the industrial growth, we must

have a bigger and better airport," Rowland explains. "We had 100 single- family homes permitted last year just in the city alone. We had 175 luxury apartments built inside the city all leased in 30 days, which is unheard of. We're having to build schools both city and county because when people move in, children have to be educated."

Hamilton County  
**Volkswagen**

Volkswagen recently announced it is creating 200 more jobs at its Chattanooga manufacturing facility. The positions are needed as the company ramps up production capacity from 31 to 35 cars per hour. The new jobs will be integrated into Volkswagen's current two-shift operation and filled by full-time Volkswagen employees.

The German auto-maker, in 2008, set off a fire storm of celebrations among state, city and county officials, bringing hope to local businesses and citizens, when they chose to invest \$1 billion into Tennessee's local economy at the 1,350-acre Enterprise South Industrial site. Bringing 2,000 direct jobs to the region, the Chattanooga plant officially opened on May 24, 2011. In its first full calendar year of operation, the new plant achieved its first significant production milestone this month with the completion of its 50,000th Passat.

Hamilton County  
**Amazon**

Completed December 2011, Amazon announced it would open two additional fulfillment centers in Tennessee, creating more than 1,300 new jobs and a \$135 million investment in the state. The new distribution centers to be located in Wilson and Rutherford counties, along with existing facilities in Wilson, Hamilton and Bradley counties, will bring the job total to 3,300 and a total \$270 million investment in Tennessee. During a recent tour by Gov. Haslam at the Chattanooga facility, a top Amazon official referred to the facility as "Chattanooga One," opening speculation that more developments could be in store for Hamilton County. The one million-square-foot facility currently employs 1,700 people.

The Seattle-based online retailer agreed to a deal last year over collecting sales taxes on goods sold in Tennessee, and will begin collecting the tax in 2014. The tax is expected to generate \$22.8 million for the state and \$9.6 million for local governments.

Rutherford County  
**Smyrna Solar Farm**

The Smyrna Airport is flying high after a recent ribbon cutting ceremony for a new one megawatt solar farm that was simply a dream about two years ago. Today, the completed farm sits on six acres on the east side of the airport and includes more than 3,200 photovoltaic panels pulling energy from the sun, producing about 295 watts of power per panel, enough energy to power approximately 50 homes on average a year. The completion of the solar farm is the result of a partnership project between the Airport Authority and private company Soltas Smyrna, LLC. It is also a part of the TVA Generation Partners Green Power Switch Program, which offers businesses and residents the opportunity to generate power through renewable energy resources and sell it back to the local power system.

Smyrna Airport is one of only two major airport solar projects in Tennessee. The other is a smaller solar farm at Chattanooga's Airport. The initial cost of the six-acre solar farm was paid for by Soltas Smyrna, though over time, the project will pay for itself, according to John Black, Airport Authority executive director. "It's a long-term project," Black told reporters at the opening. "You can make [the money] back, especially through incentive programs such as Green Power Switch. It'll be between 10 to 15 years on the payback and after that, it's 100 percent. And the panels will produce energy for the next 30 to 40 years."

Northwest TN,  
**Port at Cates Landing**

The Port at Cates Landing project can be traced back to 1999 when a study group was formed in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers to find a site to build a port in northwest Tennessee. According to local officials, the pain of the loss of manufacturing jobs in Lake County was compounded by the number of prospects who spied what appeared to be an active port from the interstate. They would stop by only to say, "If you had a port, we would bring our industry."

Today, it's a completely different story, according to Dyersburg resident and Northwest Regional Port Authority president Jimmy Williamson. "We should be in operation December 2012," he said. "The piling for the dock is in the final stages of completion, and we hired Informa Economics of Memphis to do a market study and assist with hiring a port operator." In 2001, the local governments in Dyer, Lake and Obion counties sought to create an organization and empower it to lead the construction of the slack water port. A slack water harbor features a steady level of still water which makes for easier loading and unloading than a river with fast moving currents.

The Northwest Regional Port Authority was formed with Williamson, the former Chamber of Commerce president, as its first chairman. After years of support, but frustration, due to lack of funding, the project was finally fueled by a \$13 million federal Tiger II grant, a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, plus a total of \$7 million from the state. The region still lacks Free Trade Zone status, which would eliminate tariffs and quotas and lower bureaucratic requirements in favor of attracting new business and foreign investments, but the designation is guaranteed, according to Williamson. The port along the Mississippi River, is projected to raise residents' standard of living and create more than 1,700 jobs and 2,293 indirect positions, according to an impact study by the Business and Economic Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

Within easy access to other important shipping routes, including I-55, I-40 and I-24, the site will be near the future I-69 route, which will serve 17 of the nation's top 25 seaports and is within 30 miles of railroad lines connecting Canada with the Gulf of Mexico. When the expansion of the Panama Canal is complete in 2014, more freight, particularly from Asia, will be coming directly into eastern ports and will then be transported, in part, along eastern waterways, particularly the Mississippi.

Carroll County,  
**Carroll County Lake**

The 1000-acre Carroll County recreation lake project is moving ever closer to becoming a reality. Construction on the 2400 ft. long dam is now complete, and the three wells currently pumping water into the lake, at 800 gallons of water per minute, are expected to fill the lake by the end of April 2012.

On the front burner for more than two decades, Carroll County Lake is projected to be the largest man-made lake in West Tennessee, holding around 17,000 acre-feet of water, with 22.5 miles of new shoreline, which will be dedicated to incoming residential and business development.

Surrounding the lake, 300 acres of farmland will be transformed into a wetland habitat, the largest wetlands mitigation project in the Southeast. "It's going extremely well," said Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley. "We probably won't open for use until later in the summer because we still have to complete restroom facilities, concession areas, pavilions and add picnic tables." While the TRWA have already released more than 600,000 bluegill, bass, bream, red ear, and catfish into the lake, and will release additional fish this spring, Kelley said fishing will not be allowed until spring of 2013. "We want to allow the fish to mature and expect it to be a great fishing lake for all of west Tennessee," he said.

Estimated economic impact figures for the lake project are close to \$58 million within the first 10 years. "We still have 82 acres in front of the dam and Hwy 70 which we can develop for recreational purposes," Kelley said. "We're in the planning stages and have a lot of things we can do to make it the attractive place we want it to be."

Funding for the lake project was provided through federal and state government and Carroll County passed a \$10 wheel tax during the project's permitting process. "The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund has been tremendous in their support in helping us to find funding as well," said Kelley. "We expect in the next few years it will really blossom to become a great tourist attraction and a showcase in West Tennessee."

*Interested in ECD's Regional Strategic Plans? All nine are available for viewing at [www.tn.gov/ecd/](http://www.tn.gov/ecd/)*



State and local officials visit Amazon's completed Chattanooga facility in December 2011. Amazon announced it would open two additional fulfillment centers in Tennessee, to be located in Wilson and Rutherford counties, bringing the new jobs total to 3,300 and the company's investment to \$270 million in the state.



Fueled by a \$13 million federal Tiger II grant, a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, plus a total of \$7 million in state funding, the Port at Cates Landing project is underway and scheduled to be complete at the end of 2012.

## Tennessee's Coming Attractions

Photo by Gaylord Entertainment

Pictured left to right: Craig Ross, Dollywood VP/General Manager, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, Gov. Bill Haslam, Dolly Parton and Colin Reed of Gaylord Entertainment.

Gaylord Entertainment and Dolly Parton's Dollywood Company have entered into a joint venture to develop a 114-acre family entertainment park near the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. Parton's company, which owns Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, will operate the \$50 million park expected to open in 2014. First year attendance is projected at 500,000, a large portion of which will come from out of state, bringing in substantial tourism revenue to Tennessee and Nashville. Gaylord Entertainment Co. closed its Opryland USA theme park in 1997. The plan clearly wouldn't revive Opryland's roller coasters and theme rides, but officials said it would give tourists a reason to visit Nashville as a leisure destination in both warm and cold months.