



The Greeneville Fire Department's Excellence in Public Safety is one of nine TML Achievement Awards that will be presented Tuesday, June 12, in Knoxville. See Page 8 & 9 for award stories and photos.

## Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Board votes to reduce tank fees

Last month, the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Board initiated the process to reduce the current tank fee from \$250 per compartment annually to \$125 per compartment annually, effective for the 2013 billing cycle.

The UST Fund has returned to a stable balance of \$42 million, and it will continue to grow at an appropriate rate that allows the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to maintain assistance with the prevention of future petroleum underground storage tank releases and the remediation of existing petroleum underground storage tank contamination.

The Tennessee Municipal League joined with the Tennessee

Fuel & Convenience Store Association, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Petroleum Council, and other stakeholders to support the proposal.

The board's UST vote is an important first step in the process, and TML is confident that the job can be accomplished. In June, the UST Board must approve the official rule, establish a public comment period, and then schedule consideration by the Joint Senate & House Government Operations Committee.

Once those steps have been completed, many municipalities can look forward to a reduced bill from the UST Division next year. TML will keep you advised on the progress of this initiative.

## Legislation undermines partnership with local, state, federal governments

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN  
*Nations Cities Weekly*

In a letter to Congress last month, NLC warned that provisions in two different measures that have passed the House and Senate would inhibit collaboration and communication between the federal government and its state and local government partners.

Joining NLC on the letter were the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the International City/County Management Association.

The provisions, which are included in H.R. 2146, the DATA Act, and S. 1789, the 21st Century Postal Service Act, would severely restrict the participation of federal agency personnel in conventions, conferences and meetings hosted by federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. They come in response to the General Services Administration (GSA) spending scandal in which the agency spent more than \$820,000 in tax payer money on a convention for approximately 300 GSA employees. In addition to the legislation, the scandal led to the resignation of the GSA Administrator, the dismissal of other GSA officials, and four congressional oversight hearings earlier in the spring.

In the letter, NLC and other groups acknowledge the importance of reducing spending and promoting transparency but argue that the well-intentioned provisions as drafted would have unintended consequences that would harm the intergovernmental dialogue. "The legislation being considered would limit the type of intergovernmental dialogue necessary for finding solu-

tions to shared policy problems that are vital for conserving scarce resources and meeting public needs," said the groups.

Specifically, the groups are concerned about a section of the legislation, which states: "LIMITATION ON THE ANNUAL NUMBER OF CONFERENCES AN AGENCY MAY SUPPORT - No agency may expend funds on more than a single conference sponsored or organized by an organization during any fiscal year, unless the agency is the primary sponsor and organizer of the conference."

This section could be interpreted to mean, for example, that if the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) spent money to travel to NLC's Congress of Cities Conference in Boston, Mass., later this year, then neither DOT's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations or DOT's Deputy Secretary or any other DOT employee could attend a similar NLC meeting for the year. Given the significance of the federal highway program to local communities, the Deputy Assistant Secretary and the Deputy Secretary spent money in the last year to travel to NLC meetings for local government officials to debate and discuss local priorities for a new program. This type of important dialogue might be prohibited if this section becomes law.

As associations who regularly convene hundreds of events each year to help state and local government officials implement and oversee federal programs and monitor federal activity, the groups closed the letter by calling on Congress "to oppose the provisions like those in H.R. 2146 and S. 1789 that would undermine the intergovernmental relationship between federal, state, and local governments."

## New legislation focus of TML conference workshops: synthetic drugs, TIFs discussed

New laws strengthening state and local law enforcement's efforts to combat dangerous synthetic drugs will be the focus of a Monday afternoon workshop during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference in Knoxville.

Over the past several years, a growing number of cities have become increasingly alarmed about the use and sale of synthetic drugs. When ingested, they cause harmful side effects such as hallucinations, seizures and in some cases resulting in death. The Tennessee District Attorneys Conference developed legislation to address the epidemic.

Barry Staubus, Sullivan County District Attorney General, will review the challenges that law enforcement, prosecutors, and local elected officials have encountered in attempting to address the use of synthetic drugs.

*Behind the Synthetic Drug Legislation*, scheduled for Monday, June 11, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 301 A of the Knoxville Convention Center, will cover the various legislative approaches to over-

come these challenges; and provide an analysis of the individual components of the bills enacted and their prospects for turning the tide.

Also on Monday, Kelsie Jones, executive secretary of the State Board of Equalization, will lead a workshop on Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

This session, scheduled from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. in Room 301 C, will discuss the mechanics of a TIF; provide some historical perspective on the use of TIFs; and summarize the specific changes enacted with the new legislation. TIFs are a financing tool that can be used to fund public improvement projects. Revenues generated through the new developments can then be captured to pay for those improvements.

This workshop has also been approved for CEU credits as part of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program, but is open to all conference attendees.

The conference kicks off Saturday, June 9, and concludes on Tuesday, June 12, with the League's annual awards breakfast.



Staubus



Jones

## Municipal Bond Fund announces new fixed rate loan program; Piper Jaffray to serve as underwriter

The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund's (TMBF) President/CEO Charles G. "Bones" Seivers is pleased to announce an expansion of TMBF's fixed rate bond financing options for cities and counties in Tennessee. Beginning in June, a new, inexpensive, conventional fixed rate bond financing option through a public building authority with terms up to 30 years is expected to be available with TMBF.

In light of today's historically low long-term fixed rates, municipalities have begun seeking to convert some of their floating rate bonds and/ or issue new bonds in a traditional fixed rate bond amortization structure with terms up to 30 years. TMBF's announcement responds to cities' desires and needs by assisting municipalities to take advantage of some of the lowest financing costs in the industry while maintaining the safety and standards of conventional bond issuance.

This expansion is made possible by TMBF creating a working relationship with Piper Jaffray & Co., which will have the first opportunity to serve as the underwriter on this new product. Piper Jaffray is a leading middle market investment bank and asset management firm serving clients in the U.S. and internationally. Their proven advisory teams combine deep product and sector expertise with ready access to global capital. Piper Jaffray has approximately \$3.2 billion of legal underwriting capacity and their underwriting desk has standing authority to take down \$100 million in bonds in a single transaction. Piper Jaffray routinely uses their capital to assure that transactions are fairly priced

and to deliver the lowest possible cost of capital. During 2011, Piper Jaffray used its capital to purchase over \$1.4 billion of transaction par amount.

"Over the last twenty years, TMBF has originated more than \$3.6 billion in loans to municipalities. Today serves as a testament to our continuous efforts to remain a relevant and reliable partner to Tennessee's cities and counties for many more years," said Seivers. "With the addition of Piper Jaffray and the conventional fixed rate bond financing option it will make available to our program, TMBF is positioned to offer our borrowers a full range of financing options in any form they desire. We are extremely proud Piper Jaffray has agreed to participate in this new program," Seivers added.

This new, long-term conventional option will be offered alongside TMBF's two existing and very popular financing options. TMBF will continue to offer its floating rate bonds that have allowed municipalities to materially lower their interest

### Ability to Commit Capital

- Piper Jaffray has approximately \$3.2 billion of legal underwriting capacity
- Our underwriting desk has standing authority to take down \$100 million bonds in a single transaction (and can take down more with management approval).

### Willingness to Commit Capital

- We routinely use our capital to assure that our clients' transactions are fairly priced and to deliver the lowest possible cost of capital.
- During 2011, Piper Jaffray used its capital to purchase over \$1.4 billion (21.35%) of transaction par amount.

Willingness to Commit Capital			
Period	# of Transactions	Par Amount	Capital Committed
1Q 2012	131	2,316,664,275	552,515,000
2011 Total	438	6,646,228,448	1,419,216,259
2010 Total	447	7,926,690,325	1,601,860,705
2009 Total	359	9,841,546,686	1,838,815,345

costs by taking advantage of short-term rates. This variable rate option has proven to be extremely successful and cost efficient for more than 20 years.

TMBF will also continue to offer its hybrid fixed/variable structure that was created in 2009 to respond to some municipality's desires as long-term bond rates began to decline. These five and seven-year short-term fixed rate bond structures with up to 25-year principal amortization have been popular with municipalities. The appeal of this short-term fixed rate option is evidenced in the fact that \$150 million of these bonds have been issued since 2009.

## Gov. Haslam signs bills reshaping boards and commissions, TRA

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam has signed two bills that make structural changes to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) and 21 boards, commissions and licensing programs.

Haslam announced a review of state boards and commissions during his 2011 State of the State address, and after a comprehensive evaluation, he proposed reforms to improve performance, accountability and efficiency.

House Bill 2385/SB 2247 changes the membership of the TRA from four full-time members to five part-time members, allowing the authority to attract well-qualified directors with applicable experience who may not have been able to serve full time. Also, the governor, lieu-

tenant governor and speaker of the House now jointly appoint a full-time executive director. The TRA bill was sponsored by state Reps. Gerald McCormick and Pat Marsh in the House and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Sen. Mike Faulk in the Senate.

Among other changes, HB 2387/SB 2249:

- Eliminates 138 board appointments by combining boards and reducing and reforming the membership of

- the Duck River Development Agency,
- the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission,
- Community Services Agency board, and
- the Commission on Aging and

Disability;

- Combines seven boards into three –
  - the Conservation Trust Fund Board absorbs the Conservation Commission,
  - the Oil and Gas Board and Water Quality Control Board are combined to form the Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas, and
  - the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Board, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and Solid Waste Board are combined to form the Underground Storage Tanks and Solid Waste Disposal Control Board;
- Gives the governor hiring authority for the executive directors of the following five agencies
  - the Commission on Aging and

See **BOARDS** on Page 6



NEWS  
ACROSS  
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

Construction of two 6-million-gal-lon above-ground reservoirs to hold treated water for the city is nearing completion. The \$5 million project features prestressed concrete-walled tanks located on top of the highest hills in Alcoa The tanks each contain 60,000 pounds of wire and are 190 feet across.They replace aged in-ground tanks. Reservoir No. 1 was built in 1919 by ALCOA Inc. and Reservoir No. 2 was built in 1942 to support the war effort production during World War II. They contained a combined 10 million gallons of water. Both of the old reservoirs have been demolished,” said Public Works Director Kenny Wiggins. At least 15 feet of the twin 21-foot-deep reservoirs will be above ground. Final work will include site cleaning, painting of the tanks, landscaping the site to buffer it from the surrounding residential area and repair or installation of new perimeter and interior fencing. The contract calls for completion of the project by July 25. The tanks hold water that has been treated at Alcoa’s Water Treatment Plant

BARTLETT

The Bartlett Fire Department added a Specialized Response Vehicle (SRV) to its fleet of emergency response vehicles. Designated as MedStat 1, the SRV is a mini ambulance built on a Polaris 6-Wheeled Ranger 800 and is designed to be used in situations that limit or prevent the use of a full-sized ambulance. Those situations include off-road locations, within large groups of people, or when roadways are impassable. The cost of MedStat 1 was \$64,471, which includes an 8’x20’ custom trailer, graphics for the MedStat and trailer, and additional emergency warning equipment. The MedStat 1 SRV was provided to the Fire Department at no cost to the city. Funding for the vehicle was provided by the Memphis and Shelby County Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant program, a Federal grant program developed to enhance the capabilities of both pre-hospital and hospital patient surge during mass causality incidents.

BRISTOL

A new fire truck is set to hit the streets on the western side of the city. The truck, a quintuple combination pumper-ladder unit, was custom-built for the Bristol Fire Department to provide ladder capability in the Fire Station 3 area. The new ladder feature was missing from the department’s 20-year-old truck. Other features include a higher-capacity water pump; 660 gallons of water storage; pre-piped foam and a water pump on the ladder, which can reach 60 feet in the air. The truck cost \$613,000. Around \$168,000 came from Sullivan County and another \$443,000 from the city. In addition, the equipment added to the truck is worth about \$99,000, including \$32,000 of high-pressure hydraulics.

CHATTANOOGA

Pilgrim’s Pride is cutting 85 jobs from its Chattanooga poultry pro-

cessing plants and said more may come. The Greeley, Colo., company said it is streamlining operations at its two downtown Chattanooga plants and boosting productivity at other plants.

CLARKSVILLE

Agero, a leading provider of connected vehicle services, including roadside assistance and claims management, will open a call center in Montgomery County. This announcement brings with it a capital investment of \$8 million and the creation of more than 500 jobs. The announcement was made at the site of the new operations, 2971 International Blvd. In addition to providing roadside assistance and claims management, Agero develops and integrates customized, private-labeled connected vehicle services, including voice- web-, and wireless handset/tablet-based interfaces between owners and their vehicles for global automobile manufacturers.

CLARKSVILLE

The Jostens plant in Topeka will close and move its work to Clarksville.The company announced the move, which will affect 372 jobs, will help it become more efficient. The Minnesota-based company makes yearbooks, class rings and other products, and has been in Topeka since 1969. It has been moving jobs and production out of the city for several years.

DYERSBURG

The road to creating a bike and walking trail that winds throughout the Dyer County community received a boost, when state officials presented a check for \$97,000 to complete a portion of the community’s Master Plan. The funds are a grant from the Recreation Trails Program, a federally funded program established to aid diverse recreation trail projects. The RTP grant is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act. The funds will be used locally to enhance the Downtown River Park and extend walking and biking trails along the levee. The project includes a paved bike path/walkway that runs approximately one mile along the Reagan Levee. The proposed leg is a portion of a larger plan to circle the Dyersburg community with a bike-and walk-friendly trail system.

ELIZABETHTON

The Highlands Group is preparing to go into full production at its new facility in the former Smoky Mountain Books in the Watauga Industrial Park. The Winston-Salem, N.C. headquartered company announced last year that it was locating its new operations in the former 50,000-square-foot book distribution warehouse. Set to create 34 manufacturing jobs, the company recycles plastic into pharmaceutical grade material.

GALLATIN

With the opening of its new biosolids plant, the city is now recycling its sewage into a sludge that has fertilizer qualities. “Biosolids” is the term used to describe sewage sludge that has been treated to a certain public health standard. The biosolids plant is part of the new \$30

million wastewater treatment plant, which partially opened in January 2011. It is expected to meet Gallatin’s sewage treatment demand for the next 30 years. The city currently processes on average about 4.5 million gallons of water per day in dry weather. The utility used to have to pay \$250,000 per year to have what Class B sludge hauled away and stored in a landfill.

JACKSON

As part of a nationwide effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency, the U.S. Postal Service announced it will consolidate its network of 461 processing facilities. The nearly bankrupt postal service is moving ahead with plans to close dozens of mail processing centers, saying it can no longer wait as Congress remains deadlocked over how to help. The consolidation process will take place in three phases, and in Phase I, Jackson’s processing and distribution facility will move all operations to a Memphis facility. Phase I of the plan — which involves 140 facilities — will begin this summer and end in February 2013. According to a postal service spokesperson, although all Jackson area mail will be trucked to Memphis for processing, there should not be a change in the length of time it takes for mail to be delivered.

LEBANON

A May 29 groundbreaking marked the start of construction on Middle Tennessee’s first transit-oriented development, Hamilton Springs, in Lebanon. Hamilton Springs will create a traditional neighborhood “village” of residences and businesses with a Music City Star commuter train station at its center. The 221-acre community will also incorporate walking-distance access to offices and retailers from residences. It is the first Middle Tennessee development planned, designed and constructed to emphasize use of transportation modes other than cars. Phase I of the project will include a boulevard and 396 multi-family units. Transportation and planning officials note the project will encourage community and economic development efforts and enhance the transportation infrastructure in a sustainable way.

MURFREESBORO

Amazon.com will construct new long rumored centers in Wilson and Rutherford counties, creating more than 1,300 new jobs and a \$135 million investment in the state. Together with existing facilities in Wilson, Hamilton and Bradley counties, Amazon will be creating 3,300 jobs and more than 270 million investment in Tennessee. The new facilities are expected to be completed by next fall.

NASHVILLE

CareSpot Express Healthcare (formerly Solantic) urgent-care chain that moved its corporate headquarters from Florida to Brentwood late last year plans to add 70 employees in the Nashville area to bring its local total to 100. Its billing operations will remain in Jacksonville, Fla., with about 500 workers in that city. CareSpot plans to expand beyond Florida and double its locations within the next six months, said Mike Klein, the CEO.

NASHVILLE

Dillards plans to close its Internet sales distribution center in Nashville this summer, leaving roughly 125 employees without jobs. The center is expected to close in August, with



Gatlinburg will offer free trolley service to patrons along the length of the Parkway for nine weeks this summer starting June 15.The Free Parkway Trolley Program was such a big success last year on a trial basis that it has been implemented for the 2012 Season, allowing visitors and local residents to board one of three specially designated Trolleys at numerous stops along the Parkway at no charge. The shuttle service route extends from Traffic Light #1 at the north end of town to Light #10 at the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The free specially painted open-air shuttles will operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from June 15 through August 18. Extra stops have been established along the special route to bring the number to 40 along the Parkway.



Pet food giant Mars Petcare, broke ground on its \$87.9 million regional innovation center in Thompson's Station. It will be Mars' sixth site in Tennessee, and the company's first U.S. regional innovation center for North America, one of five globally, with the other five overseas. It's where new pet food recipes will be produced, and researchers and veterinarians will test the foods on dogs and cats that will live there. Mars expects to hire 144 new employees at the innovation center. Mars and Nutro in Franklin currently employ about 615 people. The majority of those employees will not relocate to the Thompson's Station site until the headquarters is built in a later phase. The construction site is 93 acres at the corner of State Route 840 and Columbia Pike (U.S. 31).

its work transferred to a newer, larger, state-of-the-art facility in Maumelle, Ark.

OAK RIDGE

A new documentary film miniseries chronicling the history of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex is now available online.The four-part series aired on East Tennessee Public Broadcasting System earlier this year and will be rebroadcast in July. The documentary can be viewed online at [www.y12.doe.gov/about/history/video.php](http://www.y12.doe.gov/about/history/video.php) .The miniseries was conceived and produced by Y-12 historian Ray Smith. It describes the contribution Oak Ridge and Y-12 made to help end World War II and efforts during the Cold War and today’s emerging threat of terrorism. A DVD set of the miniseries will be available at the Y-12 History Center starting in June.

PARIS

Dana Holding Corporation has decided to expand its Paris manufacturing operation. The expansion represents a \$3.8 million investment and will create 49 new, full-time jobs in addition to the approximately 500 jobs already based at the plant. Dana is a leading automotive supplier of axle, driveshaft, and structural, sealing and thermal-management products, whose customer base includes virtually every

major vehicle producer in the world. The Ohio-based company operates more than 90 major facilities in 26 countries and ships original-equipment and aftermarket products to customers in more than 125 countries.

SMYRNA

MI Windows & Doors Inc. will close and cut 103 jobs by July 21. The company is based in Gratz, Pa. MI Windows & Doors Inc. acquired the small factory in Smyrna in 1999.

SPRING HILL

City officials say they believe the city has continued to grow, and want to know where the city’s population stands. The city’s Budget and Finance Committee is recommending \$100,000 be included in the 2013-14 fiscal year budget to pay for a special census. If approved, the special census would begin next year. The city would recover the cost by receiving additional state shared revenues, which are distributed to cities on a per capita basis, such as taxes on retail sales, fuel and alcohol. The city would hire a third-party firm to conduct the citywide census.Then, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development’s local planning office must make it official. Tennessee cities can conduct up to four special counts between federal censuses to show their population growth.

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## ***Cumberland Region Tomorrow unveils New Regions Roundtable***

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

Will the next great bridge design or national bestseller be the result of riding the neighborhood bus? Perhaps, if Tennessee's local governments find a way to propel mass transit dreams into fully funded visions. Relaxing commutes and resourceful workweeks are just part of the basic amenities mass transit will provide, according to Middle Tennessee leaders Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, Gallatin Mayor JoAnn Graves, Franklin Mayor Ken Moore and Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley. The four were part of a panel on regional transportation/transit issues at the recent Power of Ten Regional Summit in Nashville hosted by Cumberland Region Tomorrow (CRT), a citizen-led quality-growth collaborative for the middle Tennessee region.

The mayor-founded Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee was developed to build private sector support behind efforts to develop and fund a regional transit system in Middle Tennessee. Ed Cole, former chief of Environment and Planning for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, serves as executive director and also served as the panel's moderator.

"I think we all have a comprehensive vision of what a region

ity, including not just car ownership, but if the area has reasonable public transportation. Basically, if an area is a “compact” neighborhood with good bus or rail service, then the corresponding foreclosure rate was probably lower.

The report states, “Homeowners in location-efficient areas may be better protected against rising gas prices such as those observed in the summer and fall of 2008. Even before that spike in gas prices, transportation costs were the second largest expenditure for the typical American household, averaging \$8,750 per year—or more than 17 percent of the average household’s pretax income.” (To view the complete report, visit <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/files/LocationEfficiency4pgr.pdf>)

"We need our workforce to live wherever they want to live," Graves continued. "But they can only do that if they can go where the jobs are and still make their house payments, pay for food and their children's well-being." Those livability costs factor significantly into the mayor's last point—regulation.

"Every time we get into attainment, EPA standards go up and we're out of regulation again, and there's a cost to regulations," Graves said. "We pass that cost on to everyone in our area. Health, economics and regulation play into our ability to

said Dean. “We picked BRT over streetcars for a variety of reasons. The most important are: our consultants told us that the ridership for streetcars verses the BRT would be about exactly the same. The other reason is that it would be about \$140 million cheaper.”

According to Dean, the plus for the region is that a rider who works at Vanderbilt, for example, taking an RTA Express Bus from Gallatin into Nashville, would be dropped off at Vanderbilt for their job, but would not be trapped there. They would have access to the BRT that would take them to any point along that route, where they could have lunch or go to other meetings. "In essence, it opens up the city for anybody who travels into the city either by train, which has seen a dramatic increase in ridership also, or by express bus," said Dean. "It makes a visit to Nashville much more pleasant."

More entities will be leading discussions on top regional issues in the future thanks to a \$300,000 grant awarded to CRT provided by the Surdna Foundation to create The Tennessee Regions' Sustainable Communities Roundtable. The roundtable was developed to facilitate the creation and operation of a network of Tennessee lead regional organizations to advance joint regional and statewide economic and community development efforts that build upon the sustainable communities work currently in process.

"Tennessee has been identified as a promising state because of our success in attracting great companies like Volkswagen and Amazon over the past few years," said Bridget Jones, executive director of CRT and coordinator of the roundtable. "That success has been due in part to our reputation as a state that works regionally."

Led by their partners in the Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga and the Knoxville regions and key state government departments such as the TDOT, Economic and Community Development, Tourist Development and Agriculture, CRT, in affiliation with Smart Growth America, identified the opportunity to coordinate the development and submission of the grant request and will act as the lead organization and re-granting agency for the roundtable. Some of the objec-

tives members plan to accomplish  
include:

- Support and expand statewide goals of supporting job creation and economic competitiveness, creating Quality Community Development and insuring Wise Use of Fiscal Resources.
- Create leadership and expertise among public and private sector partners, state and local governments, design and planning communities.
- Create new regional capacity and synergy through shared knowledge, technical assistance and resources, outreach and communication efforts and “best practices” sharing among the regions.
- Position Tennessee as the leading southern state in successful implementation within quality growth and sustainable communities principles and practices.

For more information about the Tennessee Regions' Roundtable, contact Dr. Bridget Jones at 931-626-7701.

**Roundtable Lead Partner Organizations:**

- Memphis Region - ULI Memphis and Memphis/Shelby County Office of Sustainability
- Jackson Region - Southwest Tennessee Development District
- Nashville Region - Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Greater Nashville Regional Council, and Nashville Area MPO
- Chattanooga Region - Southeast Tennessee Development District
- Knoxville Region - Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Agency

**State Advisors:**

- TN Dept of Transportation
- TN Dept of Agriculture
- TN Dept of Economic and Community Development
- TN Dept of Tourist Development TN Advisory Commission of Intergovernmental Relations
- TN State Architect
- TN Wildlife Resource Agency
- TN Housing Development Agency
- TN Office of Information Resources/GIS
- TN Dept of Environment and Conservation
- UT Institute of Public Service



Nashville Mayor Karl Dean



Gallatin Mayor Joann Graves



Franklin Mayor Ken Moore



Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley



*Photo courtesy of Varallo Public Relations*

State officials with Tennessee Regions Roundtable Representatives

should do, but at the same time, our vision cannot be attained if we don't have a modern and efficient transportation system," said Moore.

According to statistics provided by the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the federally-designated transportation planning agency for Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson, and parts of Maury and Robertson counties, Tennessee's 10-county region will grow by just under one million new residents by 2035. This growth will have significant implications for congestion and commute times, as well as other quality-of-life factors such as access to parks and green space, preservation of agricultural and historic properties, air quality, affordable housing, and health. This information serves as the main driver for the MPO's *2035 Regional Transportation Plan*.

“With the population growth that we’re going to experience in this region in the next 25 years and the number of jobs we’re projected to create over the next 20 years, it scares me to think that we’re not ready with a modern transportation system,” Moore continued.

"Mass transit is important because of 'HER.'" Graves emphasized, folding the region's transportation issues into an acronym. "Cars sitting in traffic release pollutants into the air. Health is a big issue in mass transit today. Our air quality, many times, is not at EPA level. Asthma is on the increase in this country. If we can take cars off the road and move people in a mass, large volume way, we can reduce the pollutants in the air and our quality of life goes up."

The “E” is for economics,” she continued. “We need to be able to attract people here. With gas prices going up, we need affordable ways to move our work force. Mass transit addresses that. It allows us to move people in an efficient and effective manner, which allows them to keep their transportation costs down.

Graves also recalled a correlation between transportation availability and foreclosures.

recruit. If I'm bringing an industry to Tennessee, I want to know if people can travel to my business and I want to know if the cost of regulation is low."

According to Graves, bus service and van pools are working well throughout the county. “The people in Sumner County use that time to work on their lap tops or I-Pads, and they’re able to get things done while they’re in transit, so when they get home, they’ve got time for their families,” she said. Where Gallatin/Hendersonville currently share an express bus, Graves said a third bus was added for the afternoons and in the future, both cities will have their own bus.

The sentiment was echoed by Robertson County Mayor Howard Bradley, where the RTA introduced bus service last year. "The Springfield/Joelton Express has been very successful," he said. "I think there's a great correlation between increase in fuel prices and all forms of mass transit ridership."

In heavily diverse Robertson County, where agriculture is the leading industry and nearly 80 percent of citizens commute outside the county, ridership has risen. "Once we get people on the bus, they have a very positive experience," Bradley said. "By the time you get through the morning paper, you're there." Bradley cited the county's unique transportation needs as a platform to become a member of the MPO. "With our people commuting into Davidson County, I think that one statistic makes it essential that Robertson County be admitted into the MPO," he said. "The city of Springfield is a current member and we are not."

In less than three years, bus rapid transit service (BRT) is set to deliver a major impact on one of the most heavily congested areas in Nashville. The East/West connector will connect a seven-mile stretch of East Nashville with the western parts of the Broadway/West End corridor including White Bridge Road. With the ability to extend green lights for fewer stops, the hybrid buses will also use a dedicated lane. "You could get from a Vanderbilt basketball game to downtown through rush hour faster on the bus than you could in a car."

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The image shows four men standing side-by-side, each representing a different profession. From left to right: a construction worker in a yellow hard hat, red and black plaid shirt, and jeans; a police officer in a blue uniform with a badge; a firefighter in full orange protective gear with a helmet and an axe; and a naval officer in a dark blue uniform with a peaked cap.

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# STATE BRIEFS

## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

**Students make gains in Science**  
The Nation’s Report Card shows Tennessee students making slight gains in science. State education officials say the latest results from the National Assessment of Education Progress show eighth-graders scoring higher in science than they did two years prior. Nearly 31 percent of students scored at or above average in science when the kids were tested in 2011, compared with 28 percent in 2009. Tennessee ranks 32 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in NAEP science results. Economically disadvantaged students also made gains in science. State Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman said that he was pleased by the upward trend because Tennessee’s new accountability model now measures science, instead of math and reading only.

**New TPAC education programs funded by Disney**  
A \$75,000 grant from Disney will help the Tennessee Performing Arts Center develop theater programs in Nashville schools. The grant was awarded by Disney Theatrical Group, a philanthropic arm of the entertainment company, to provide greater access to theater education to inner city youth. It is the first of its kind awarded outside New York City. Through the grant, five Metro schools will receive performance rights and educational support from TPAC and Disney. This year’s participants are Glengarry, Hattie Cotton, Hull-Jackson, Kirkpatrick and Percy Priest elementaries. Students from each of the schools will present a musical number at TPAC.

**Hwy 385 named for Gov. Dunn**  
Tenn. 385, the eastern semi-circle roadway linking the Memphis suburbs, is about to have a third name on it: the Gov. Winfield Dunn Parkway. Gov. Haslam signed House Bill 3373, designating the stretch of Tenn. 385 from its intersection with U.S. 70 near Arlington to U.S. 72 at Collierville “in tribute to” the former Memphis dentist who in 1970 was elected Tennessee’s first Republi-

can governor in 50 years. Dunn, 84, now lives in Sumner County. In 1998, the legislature named the portion of Tenn. 385 that was then known as Nonconnah Parkway as the Bill Morris Parkway, stretching from its intersection with I-240 in southeast Memphis to Collierville. Morris is a former Shelby County mayor and sheriff. The following year, lawmakers designated the section of Tenn. 385 from U.S. 51 at Millington all the way to Collierville as the Paul W. Barret Parkway, although the highway was only complete at that time to Interstate 40 near Arlington. The new designation alters the 1999 act by limiting Paul W. Barret Parkway to the stretch from U.S. 51 to U.S. 72 and re-naming the newer stretch to Collierville after Dunn.

**Unemployment rates drop**  
Unemployment fell last month in Tennessee to the lowest level in more than three years. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development said that the jobless rate in April fell in the Volunteer State to 7.8 percent, the lowest Tennessee rate since before 2008.

**Discouraged workers figures spike**  
The state’s unemployment rate continues to drop, but officials who track workforce trends say some of that decrease can be attributed to thousands of out-of-work Tennesseans who have stopped looking for work. According to Tennessee Department of Labor statistics, almost 3,000 people who were part of the labor force in March stopped looking for work the very next month, joining a category economists call “discouraged workers.” Over the last few months, the number of discouraged workers has slowly dropped from this year’s high of more than 21,000 people. The figure popped back up to 18,970 in April, a 14 percent increase from March, according to estimates from the monthly Tennessee Labor Force Estimates summary, monthly unemployment insurance claims reports, the 2000 census and national unemployment statistics. Discouraged

workers make up 7.3 percent of the 259,340 out-of-work Tennesseans. In January, the figure was seven percent.

**Insurance agency on the move**  
A fast-growing insurance agency with a retail-oriented approach plans to open 30 Middle Tennessee locations in the coming years as part of an aggressive regional growth push. Jacksonville-based Brightway Insurance plans to open up to 72 franchised stores across Tennessee. In the Nashville area, its planned footprint would be home to almost 300 agents. The company, which runs more than 100 locations from Florida to Texas, rang up 2011 revenues of \$168 million.

**TN teens seek summer jobs**  
Thousands of Middle Tennessee teens and young adults are in a fierce competition to land the summer jobs that are available. Some government-funded summer work has disappeared amid budget cuts, particularly among federally funded programs. And while the overall state jobless rate has improved in recent months, it’s still relatively high in some counties. While federal stimulus dollars put a lot of young people to work at the height of the recession, those numbers have dwindled along with the government dollars. There are a few government-sponsored programs still operating, but most have significantly more applicants than available jobs. The unemployment rate among 16- to 19-year-olds in Tennessee was 28.8 percent for all of 2011 on average, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

**Bike safety ranking improves**  
Tennessee’s ranking as a bike-friendly state moved up one spot this year, to 26th in the nation, on a new list released by the League of American Bicyclists. The state has been as high as 24th, back in 2009, when Tennessee rose dramatically from 43rd. The league evaluates states based on bicycle legislation and policies, funding, planning, and safety education efforts. The state has moved up in the rankings in recent years because of legislative changes that mandated that drivers give bicyclists at least three feet of space and a law that allows cyclists to move through red lights at intersections after first coming to a stop. The report card for the state lists the first Tennessee Bike Summit, hosted in



In celebration of its 75th anniversary, Tennessee State Parks gained its newest edition — Cummins Falls State Park. More than 200 acres of land along the Blackburn Fork State Scenic River in Cookeville officially became Tennessee’s 54th state park with a dedication ceremony at the site. It is the first traditional state park to open since Cumberland Trail opened in 1998. Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation acquired Cummins Falls in an auction for about \$1.5 million. Since the 2010 auction, the foundation formulated a payment plan in which a third of its would come from the state, a third from the federal government and a third from private citizens and the business community.

Chattanooga, as a positive improvement from last year. The next summit is scheduled to take place in Nashville in April of next year, according to the Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization. The report recommended improvements to the bicycle safety component of the Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan and a push to increase ridership, which remains below the national average.

**TN drug crime rises**  
As Tennessee celebrated four years of general crime declines last month, drug crimes rose to their second-highest number in 11 years. While overall crime in 2011 was a mixed bag, drug-related incidents generally rose in Davidson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties. In Davidson and Ruth-

erford counties, drug crimes rose by double-digit percentages, possible fallout from the state’s battle against methamphetamine. The prescription drug problem also could be fueling a growing appetite for heroin, law enforcement officials said. Police have increasingly dealt with more drug cases, so have rehabilitation centers, which are ushering in a new generation of drug addict. Tennessee for years has struggled with two main categories of drugs: synthetic opiate painkillers, such as OxyContin, and methamphetamine. Drug experts warn that successful efforts to tamp down on the prescription drug abuse problem are having an unintended effect: a rise in heroin. With heroin costing only about \$160 a gram and providing a similar high to prescription opiates, it has become the go-to replacement.

## More Tennessee newspapers available online with Chronicling America project

For more than 100 years the Tennessee State Library and Archives has been collecting and microfilming historical newspapers. Now through the Chronicling America project, selected papers from cities and towns across the state are being converted to digital format and made available for free searching online. Thanks to a recent partnership with the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Tennessee, dozens of Tennessee newspaper titles have been scanned, indexed, and posted on the Internet. The focus is on papers from the Civil War era. All three of the state’s grand divisions are represented, with available newspapers from towns as small as Athens and as large as Memphis. More than 60,000 pages of Tennessee newspapers dat-

ing from 1850 to 1876 are now online. “This collaboration enables all of our patrons—not just those who are able to visit our physical home on Capitol Hill—to experience the richness of some of our most important holdings,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. “Newspapers provide insight into the events that were important to our communities at specific times in the state’s past.” Historical research is made easier through projects like this, according to State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill. “With the word-searching capability of this software, details that have been buried in print are now coming to light,” Sherrill said. “Articles that have been in the dark since the day that newspaper was laid aside can now be found again with keyword searching.”

Sherrill himself found new material about a Civil War renegade named Calvin Brixey, a bushwhacker who killed Sherrill’s great-great grandfather during the war. “I have been interested in Brixey for many years, but would never have found this article from 1863 in the Memphis Daily Appeal without this new technology,” he said. TSLA is a division of the Office of the Secretary of State and is the chief repository of history, collecting books and records of historical, documentary, and reference value. TSLA’s resources are available in person or online at [tn.gov/tsla](http://tn.gov/tsla). The “Chronicling America” Historic American Newspapers site is accessible from the TSLA web pages at <http://www.tn.gov/tsla-resources/index.htm> or by visiting <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>


## Complete College Act implementation going well, but improvements still needed

Implementation of the Complete College Act of 2010 is going well, although there are steps that should be taken to improve the process, according to a report released by the Comptroller’s Division of State Audit. Auditors examined the efforts of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Board of Regents in implementing the law. Under the law, public community colleges and universities are supposed to create “transfer pathways” – that is, blocks of class credits that are guaranteed to transfer from one higher education institution to another. However, through the end of last year, transfer pathways had been created to accommodate only 23 majors. The report recommends that transfer pathways be created for all available college majors, or else the Tennessee General Assembly may

want to consider exempting some particularly challenging majors from the provisions of the law. The report also suggests that colleges and universities should place more emphasis on publicizing the available transfer pathways on their web sites. The new law also requires funding for colleges and universities to be based on a formula that includes factors such as the number of students who graduate, as opposed to the number of students who enroll. The report suggests that the Tennessee Higher Education Commission needs to provide more detail about what types of data higher education institutions need to submit in order to take advantage of the funding formula. Also, the report says those institutions should take additional steps to verify that the data they provide is accurate. The law calls for the elimination of unnecessary redundancies in academic program offerings. The report recommends that the Tennessee


Higher Education Commission be vigilant in ensuring redundancies are eliminated. If unneeded programs are not eliminated, the report says the General Assembly may wish to transfer authority for eliminating those programs from the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. “I am pleased that progress has been made, but this report clearly illustrates that there is more work to be done,” Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. “I hope the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will continue their efforts to implement these recommendations in order to make sure the law is put into practice in the manner in which our state legislators intended it to be.” To view the report, go to <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/repository/SA/pa11055.pdf>

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## PEOPLE IN THE

Gov. Bill Haslam announced that **Larry Martin** will join his staff to oversee implementation of the Tennessee Excellence and Accountability Management (TEAM)



Martin

Act. His responsibilities will include coordinating and collaborating throughout state government agencies to effectively begin recruiting new employees on all levels, updating performance evaluations in all departments, and a review of employee compensation that includes the salary study funded in the governor's FY 2013-2014 budget. From September 2006 to December 2011, Martin, 64, served as deputy to the mayor for both Haslam and Mayor Daniel Brown. He was responsible for Finance, Public Works, Community Development, Information Systems, Purchasing and Risk Management for the city of Knoxville.

**Will Alexander**, son of U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, has been tapped to become the new chief of staff for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development under Commissioner Bill Hagerty. Alexander replaces Brad Smith, who will leave the office by the end of this month. Until now, Alexander has been assistant commissioner for strategy.

**Kenneth L. Moore** has been named special agent in charge of the FBI's Knoxville division. Moore, who's been with the FBI since 1987, most recently served as chief inspector of the FBI's Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters since April 2011.

Japan is bestowing national decorations on **Sen. Lamar Alexander**. The Consulate General's office announced that Emperor Akihito is conferring the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star to Alexander for furthering U.S. economic relations with Japan. In the early 1980s, during his tenure as Governor, Alexander led numerous trade missions to Japan. The recruitment resulted in Nissan building the first Japanese auto assembly plant in the U.S. at Smyrna. Bridgestone and Komatsu followed. More than 170 Japanese companies now have Tennessee operations accounting for 35,000 jobs.



Alexander

Franklin has named **Paul Holzen** as Director of Engineering. He has worked for the city since 2009. He was promoted to Engineering Supervisor in 2010 and Interim Director of Engineering in November 2011. Holzen also worked as a consultant in site development and transportation design. He is a professional engineer (P.E.) and a LEED accredited professional.



Holzen

**Sandra Dudley**, executive director of the Water Authority of Dickson County, has been appointed as TDEC's first executive director of its new division of water resources. Dudley, who also teaches at Lipscomb University, begins June 1.

## NLC executive director announces retirement

NLC Executive Director Donald J. Borut announced last month that he will retire from his position at the end of the year. Borut has served as executive director of NLC since 1990.

"It has been a privilege to serve as NLC's executive director for the past 22 years, and I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked on behalf of elected leaders of America's cities and towns," said Borut. "My appreciation for those in local elected office is even stronger today than when I started. The ability of local elected officials to address the unique challenges in their communities and find common ground to make decisions affecting the quality of life of their citizens reflects the fundamental strength of democratic local government."

Borut's municipal career has spanned more than 40 years. Prior to his appointment at NLC, he served as Deputy Executive Director at the International City Management Association. He began his career in municipal government in 1964 as a staff assistant in the Office of City Administrator in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Borut is currently a member of



Don Borut

the Board of Directors at the National Academy of Public Administration, and he serves as the Secretary General of the North American Section of the United Cities and Local Government, a global organization dedicated to improving local government.

NLC President Ted Ellis, mayor of Bluffton, Ind. will lead the NLC in conducting a national search for Borut's replacement. Details on that process will be made available in the coming weeks.

## States, Feds poised to write new chapter in public safety communications network

BY MELISSA MAYNARD  
*Stateline Staff Writer*

A running joke about public safety communication is that first responders are only trying to catch up to the average teenager with a smartphone. But the issue really isn't funny at all: The performance of the nation's aging web of public safety networks, which often can't communicate with each other, is a matter of life and death.

According to *The 9/11 Commission Report*, many of the first responders on Sept. 11, 2001, lacked the ability to communicate with one another at the site in a situation where time was extremely limited. "One of the most critical things in a major operation like this is to have information," one of the first fire chiefs on the scene told the Commission. "We didn't receive any reports of what was seen from the [NYPD] helicopters. It was impossible to know how much damage was done on the upper floors, whether stairwells were intact or not."

More than a decade after that disaster, Congress has approved \$7 billion and the reallocation of 20 megahertz of spectrum airwave capacity to try to deal with the intercommunication problem. Those resources will help in the effort to create a national public safety network capable of transmitting both voice and data, including videos and photos. But many implementation challenges lie ahead, even with generous funding and broad bipartisan agreement that the network is a national priority.

"There are significant opportunities with going to this network," Delaware Gov. Jack Markell said in an interview with *Stateline*. "Think about an ambulance that had picked up a patient and they can send a video directly to the doctor."

Markell serves as vice chair of the National Governors Association, and testified before a congressional committee on that organization's behalf about the need for a nationwide network and the accompanying airwaves. The National Governors Association will hold a meeting in late June designed to help states understand the federal legislation and the options it lays out for them, including whether to build their own portion of the network or allow a new federal entity to do so on their behalf.

Markell says Delaware has achieved interoperability within its borders and will have to figure out how recent investments will fit into the nationwide network. "We [in Delaware] have made a really big investment over 10 or 15 years but those investments need to continue," he says. "This is an opportunity to look not just five years down the road but 25 years down the road. Having this much spectrum available is a very big deal."

Ed Cruz, chief information officer of Guam, says interoperability will allow public safety agencies to communicate with the large population of military personnel on the island in the event of typhoons and other natural disasters. During past typhoons, the current system hasn't



Congress has approved \$7 billion and the reallocation of 20 megahertz of spectrum airwave capacity to address with the inter-communication problems among public safety agencies, creating a national public safety network capable of transmitting both voice and data.

proven to be very reliable, sometimes delaying response times. "We have a public safety network, but it's ailing and aging," he says.

### FirstNet

The legislation sets out a complex structure and timeframe for implementation. In the near term, it tasks the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration with launching a new independent authority, FirstNet, by Aug. 20.

FirstNet will be in charge of designing, building and operating a single nationwide network in collaboration with a private sector operator that will be chosen through a competitive bidding process. The network must eventually operate on a break-even basis by charging public safety agencies enough money to cover ongoing expenses.

States will face difficult, time-sensitive questions in the months ahead about whether to allow FirstNet to build and operate the network on their behalf or instead use a provision that allows them to opt out and build and operate their own portion of the national network while adhering to the federal standards set by FirstNet.

The national network moves away from the longstanding "network of networks" approach to communications and gives FirstNet broad powers as the sole licensee of the network. Assistant Commerce Secretary Anna Gomez told a recent gathering of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers that this centralized approach was necessary to ensure interoperability. "We did not want to repeat the same circumstances of the past in which voice networks were built on individual bases and therefore were not interoperable so that police and fire couldn't communicate during an emergency or EMS couldn't communicate with the National Guard, or whoever the responders are in the particular incidents," she said.

After FirstNet chooses a private sector operator, it will develop a blueprint and determine funding levels necessary to complete the seg-

ment of the national network to be housed within each state.

### Opt Out Provision

After receiving this information, the governor of each state will have 90 days to decide whether to allow FirstNet to build the network using promised funding levels or to opt out and take responsibility for building the network itself. States that opt out will have to demonstrate their ability to comply with a host of technical requirements and will receive less funding for constructing the network—and no funding for operating and maintaining it. They will also have to demonstrate technical and operational know-how and adequate funding capacity in order to secure a lease of the allocated spectrum.


Richard Boes, Vermont's chief information officer, says his state has already made a lot of progress on its own and in collaboration with nearby public safety agencies. "We already share information and have an ability to interoperate with some of our neighbors," he says. Still, Boes says Vermont is a long way from knowing whether it would seriously consider opting out because of a lack of clarity about logistics and costs.

Many are worried about the ultimate price tag of building, operating and maintaining the network, and who will bear any excess costs. The plan relies upon the assumption that the national network will be able to lean heavily on existing public and commercial infrastructure. Private providers will be incentivized through an agreement that allows FirstNet to lease excess network capacity to companies that partner with it to deploy the network.

Carlos Ramos, secretary of the California Transportation Agency, says that the available public infrastructure in California will likely require upgrading and reengineering to meet the national network's needs.

"It's a very worthwhile goal but it's also pretty expensive," he says. Then again, he adds: "When you really look at it, \$7 billion is not that much."

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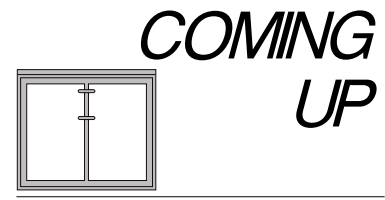


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**Save the Date: 59th Annual Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development.** Oct. 18 -19 Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nashville. Join Gov. Bill Haslam and ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty as they host the 59th Annual Governor’s Conference on Economic and Community Development. Hundreds of community leaders, economic development professionals, elected officials and business executives will convene in Nashville to participate in informative sessions on a variety of timely economic development topics.

**Save The Date:The NLC 2012 Congress of Cities** Nov. 28-Dec. 1 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in Boston. The conference will offer a range of learning and networking opportunities to city officials including mobile tours highlighting successful programs from the City of Boston, along with the traditional keynote speakers, workshops and peer networking sessions. For more information, visit <http://www.nlc.org/events/coc>

**New Tennessee laws reshape boards, commissions, TRA**

**BOARDS** *from Page 1*

- Disability;
- 2. the Commission on Children and Youth;
- 3. the Tennessee Higher Education Commission;
- 4. the Tennessee Arts Commission; and
- 5. the Council on Career and Technical Education.

The boards and commission bill was sponsored by state Rep. Gerald McCormick (R-Chatanooga) in the House and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) and Sen. Mike Bell (R-Riceville) in the Senate.

On April 11, the governor signed HB 2386/SB 2248, which transfers oversight of parolees from the Board of Probation and Parole to the Department of Correction. That proposal was also part of the governor’s public safety action plan.

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**NATIONAL BRIEFS**

**Cheaper gas won’t be enough to get many more Americans on the road this summer.** They’re still too worried about their jobs and the economy. Economists and tourism experts are expecting only a small uptick in summer travelers. Gas prices are lower, but still high enough to keep some Americans off the road. The job market is improving, but still shaky. And household debt remains high. The bulk of road trippers, experts say, will take shorter trips and reduce food and entertainment spending to conserve cash. Gas prices may keep some low-wage earners home, but for the most part, Americans will buck up for gas, assuming they can afford to take a trip in the first place. Some travelers will drive this summer because they can’t afford to fly.

**Many commuters living in growing urban areas are opting to ride bikes to work as an alternative to congested roads and higher gas prices.** The most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates show about 730,000 Americans bike to work as their primary means of transportation, a 50 percent increase from 2000. This shift is most prevalent in large metro areas. Bicycle commuting varies greatly throughout the country, typically being more common in densely populated areas. College towns, in particular, report high numbers of cyclists. Overall, only a small share of Americans – less than one percent – bike to work. The survey only measures the primary means of commuting to work for those age 16 and older. Tennessee’s ranking as a bike-friendly state moved up one spot this year, to 26th in the nation, on a new

list released by the League of American Bicyclists. Darren Flusche, policy director for the League of American Bicyclists, said commutes to work do not account for most bicycle trips. Recreational use and making short trips to nearby shops and restaurants are more common. The League of American Bicycles advocates communities become more bike-friendly, offering multiple steps to encourage cycling. Flusche said constructing streets accommodating cyclists and setting lower speed limits are key. He also recommends outreach efforts and involvement of public officials to raise the profile of cycling.

**States are failing to meet federal recommendations on how much of their tobacco tax revenue should be invested in anti-smoking initiatives, according to analysis released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).** The CDC studied state income from tobacco taxes and state spending on tobacco control and investment from 1998 to 2010. The analysis found that states had spent a combined \$8.1 billion on efforts to reduce tobacco use — \$21.1 billion less than they would have if states followed the CDC’s Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control released in 1999. According to the CDC analysis, the \$641.1 million that states spent on tobacco prevention initiatives in 2010 amounted to only 2.4 percent of their tobacco tax revenue. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids has estimated that states would have to spend 15 percent of their tobacco-related income to fully fund their anti-smoking programs. According to CDC analysis since peak-

ing in 2002 at \$820.9 million, state spending on tobacco use prevention has steadily declined to \$641.1 million in 2010. Instead, states are increasingly using tobacco money for general purposes or to cover budget shortfalls, which reached an estimated \$191 billion in fiscal year 2010.

**Average U.S. rates on 30-year and 15-year fixed mortgages dropped to record lows again, with the 15-year loan dipping below three percent for the first time ever.** Low rates have helped brighten the outlook for home sales this year. They have made home-buying and refinancing more attractive to those who can qualify. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said that the average rate on the 30-year loan fell to 3.75 percent. That’s down from 3.78 percent last week and the lowest since long-term mortgages began in the 1950s. The 15-year mortgage, a popular refinancing option, slipped to 2.97 percent. That’s down from 3.04 percent last week. Rates on the 30-year loan have been below 4 percent since early December. The low rates are a key reason the housing industry is showing modest signs of a recovery this year. A drop in rates could also provide some help to the economy if more people refinance. When people refinance at lower rates, they pay less interest on their loans and have more money to spend. In April, sales of both previously occupied homes and new homes rose near two-year highs. Builders are gaining more confidence in the market, breaking ground on more homes and requesting more permits to build single-family homes later this year.



**June 15 – 16: Oak Ridge**  
*Secret City Festival*  
Live music and entertainment featuring headliners A1A Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band and 38 Special. The south’s largest WWII reenactment, Oak Ridge history exhibits, Manhattan project site tours, expanded children and teens areas, zipline, *TN Creates* juried art show, antiques and collectibles, food and much more. Sat. at 7:30 am, Secret City Home Run—5K Run/Walk. For a full schedule of events and information, visit the website <http://www.secretcityfestival.com/>

**June 16: Bell Buckle**  
*RC Moon Pie Festival*  
Celebrating the South’s finest tradition: RC Cola & Moon Pie. Chamber of Commerce 10-mile run, a certified countryside course of gently rolling hills. For more information visit [www.bellbucklechamber.com](http://www.bellbucklechamber.com)

**June 21-23: Lynchburg**  
*Frontier Days 50th Celebration*  
Public Square/Wiseman Park, 10 Mechanic Street. Parades, live music, food, country crafts and more. For more information, e-mail [info@lynchburgtn.com](mailto:info@lynchburgtn.com) or call 931-759-4111.

**June 21-23: Lynchburg**  
*50th Annual Frontier Days*  
Parades, contests, auction, music, food, vendors, something for the whole family. Plan to attend a great weekend of fun. For more information visit [www.lynchburgtn.com](http://www.lynchburgtn.com).

**June 22 – Fayetteville**  
*Main Street “Swamp Stomp”*  
Held at Lincoln County Museum. for more information call 931-433-7006.

**June 23: Dandridge**  
*Mott Summer Music Festival*  
Downtown Dandridge from 11 am to 9 pm. Family fun with music, shopping and more. Headliners Freedom Song, Bean and Bailey, H&H Brothers. Sidewalk musicians, local cuisine. For more information, visit [mottdandridge.com](http://mottdandridge.com) and [musiconthetowndandridge.com](http://musiconthetowndandridge.com)

**June 29-30: Cumberland Gap**  
*White Lightning Trail Festival*  
Cowlyn Street. Food, arts, crafts, reenactments, live music, car show, bike run, beauty pageant, Appalachian Heritage demonstrations. For more information, call 865-585-7386.

**July 4 Morristown**  
*East Tennessee Nissan 2012 4th of July Party*  
Headliner country music singer/songwriter Lee Brice at the Citizen Tribune Jefferson Federal Amphitheatre in Cherokee Park. Activities begin at 4 p.m. with Tyler Farr taking the stage at 6 p.m. followed by Brice at 8 p.m. A fireworks display at approximately 9:30 p.m. Admission \$5 per person with children 12 and under free. Parking included in admission price.

**July 4: Pigeon Forge**  
*22nd Annual Patriot Festival*  
Patriot Park. Festivities begin at noon and end at 10pm. Great food, games for the entire family, entertainment and fireworks. This year’s featured entertainers include country artist John Anderson. Free parking, trolleys and admission. So grab your blankets, lawn chairs and sunscreen and join the celebration. For more information, call the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events at 865-429-7350.

**July 6-7: Ripley**  
*Lauderdale County Tomato Festival*  
Ripley City Park, 200 Mary Robert Drive. Carnival rides, petting zoo, games, baby crawling contest, food and craft vendors, live music, tomato contest, tomato tasting, Saturday Salad, 5-K run, beauty contest and more. For more information, call 731- 635-9541.

**July 6-7: Smithville**  
*Fiddlers’ Jamboree & Crafts Festival*  
Downtown Public Square. Crafts, music. Grab a barbecue sandwich and ice cold lemonade, sit back and enjoy a free show. Paid parking nearby. For more information, visit [smithvillejamboree.com/](http://smithvillejamboree.com/).

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# Cities use high-tech innovation to engage citizens through digital means

BY NEAL PEIRCE  
*Washington Post Writers Group*

In our age of acronyms, you'll be excused if you can't define SFPark, SFStartup, SmartSF, EngageSF. They're all part of SFGov — or to be more precise, San Francisco city government's leap into a world of far-ranging innovations.

Jay Nath, appointed in January by Mayor Edwin Lee to serve as San Francisco's Chief Innovation Officer, is at the cutting edge of a new brand of urban governance: looking to citizen and business innovators to work with city hall in devising ways for local government to function — and interact — in more efficient, economical, user-friendly ways.

Largely (but not exclusively) the new approach is driven by cutting-edge technology — “apps” on citizens’ computers and mobile phones, fiber optic connections, ubiquitous sensors spread around town, and ever-speedier computing. But it's also competitive economics: ways for city government, competing for businesses and tax-paying citizens, to make itself an ever-more desirable place to be.

So consider SFPark. It's an app that provides a real time inventory of available parking spots for residents and tourists. The goal is to reduce circling and double parking. Result: less congestion, cleaner air, safer streets, and a clearer path for

public transit. Drivers are encouraged to park in underused areas and garages. Prices on the installed street meters (currently 25 cents to \$4.75 an hour) are regularly adjusted to keep one or two spaces available on any block.

Then they're “parklets” — a “StartupSF” feature to reclaim and “green” public space, that was first conceived by a local studio, Rebar Art, that mixes art, design and activism. The simple idea: if you put quarters into a parking meter, in effect renting street space from the city, why not rent the space for another purpose? So parklets, built out into parking lanes, are suddenly creating space that can be reprogrammed for people to relax, drink a cup of coffee and enjoy the urban scene. Business owners, expected to be chief adversaries, are now spending significant dollars to rent parklet space beside their cafes and restaurants.

The basic idea, says Nath, “is to engage the community, make sure it has information and can share ideas with us.” So San Francisco has been encouraging “hackathons” — a type of public consultation at which citizens and businesses are invited to suggest and think through designs to address problems the city faces.

Why go to all this trouble? Nath explains it's to address “pain points” the city is experiencing. The new tech-cures range all the way from new software to tame the

city government's labyrinthine obstacles in licensing new businesses to improving the notorious mismatch of would-be riders and taxi cabs on San Francisco streets.

Why address “pain points”? In a way, it's classic city marketing — to enhance, Nath says, San Francisco/Silicon Valley's reputation as a business start-up capital, and then to retain the new businesses with superior city environment and quality of life. And to keep the tourists coming. But expectations are running dramatically higher — especially among today's app-friendly, data-addicted youth. Advanced data centers and networks are key. But the technology needs to include, and build, on intentional outreach to citizens and companies — and ways for city governments to become more transparent, citizen-responsive, than ever before.

San Francisco's not alone in the scramble for cutting-edge innovations. New York, Boston and Chicago are also leaders, and often exchanging information with San Francisco. And Philadelphia is the only other city with a direct counterpart to Nath — Adel Ebeid, recently appointed chief innovation officer by Mayor Michael Nutter.

One expects more and more cities will be taking the same step, especially in an era when cities are more than ever neglected by state and national governments, “on their own” to compete in fiercely competitive times.

TML Workshops  
focus on digital  
citizen engagement

**Monday, June 11**  
**9- 10 a.m** Room 301 B  
*Civic Engagement in a Digital World*  
Speaker: Michael Ashford

This workshop will provide an overview of the evolution of mobile functionality and offer real-world examples of how communities are engaging the public digitally in new and exciting ways. Through an assessment process, attendees will be given a blueprint for utilizing the technology and setting the course for a new generation of involved citizens.

**10: 15 - 11:15** Room 301 B  
*Mobile Government: There's an App for That!*  
Speakers: Andy Huckaba, Councilmember, Lenexa, Kansas; and Sgt. Charles Warner and Officer Chris Grant, Franklin Police Department

With the explosion of smartphones and iPads, cities across the country are making their services even more accessible to their constituents by creating applications for smart devices. This workshop will give specific examples of what apps and tools cities have in place for making government services and information more accessible and more responsive to the public.

# Tennessee Cracks Down on Roofing Contractor Fraud

BY MICHAEL ADAMS  
*Insurance Journal West*

Roofing contractors operating in Tennessee will have to provide residents whose homes are damaged due to tornadoes and other storms with more information about their company and about their rights to cancel contracts under a new law. Gov. Haslam recently signed a new law that comes into response to widespread complaints from homeowners following a number of severe storms that caused widespread damage in the state during the last couple of years.

In 2011, a number of tornadoes swept through the Midwest and South causing billions of damage. A hail storm that passed through Knoxville and Nashville later that year also damaged many homes and businesses. As a result, the state was flooded with out-of-state roofing contractors who, along with some in-state roofers or individuals posing as roofers, reportedly, took advantage of homeowners.

Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance spokesperson Christopher Garrett said that the department doesn't specifically track roofing complaints. However, he said, the department did hear from more homeowners concerning repairs.

“As far as statistics go, the Contractors Board received an increase

in home improvement complaints from victims of the 2011 storms,” said Garrett.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Ketron, SB2714/HB 2915 required that roofing contractors whose work is covered by an insurer must provide a homeowner with their address, telephone number, license registration, email address, and a detailed description of all damage and repairs.

The contract must also contain a form notifying homeowners of their right to cancel a contract within three days after signing and/or receiving a written statement from their insurer that the contract is not a covered claim. Once a contract is cancelled, roofing contractors have 10 business days to return any payments to the homeowner, except for emergency repairs.

Roofing contractors or their agents are also prohibited from telling homeowners they can negotiate a claim with an insurer unless they are also a licensed public adjuster. Any violations of these laws would be covered under Tennessee's Consumer Protection Act of 1977.

Frank Barrett, owner of the roofing firm, Barrett Co. in Knoxville, said that fraud is endemic in the roofing business especially as contractors and other individuals hit hard by the downturn in the construction industry scramble for any work available. He said his company runs television ads in East Tennessee warning

homeowners about roofing contractor fraud and advising them to check a contractor's reference and the Better Business bureau for any complaints before hiring a company.

But most important, he said, homeowners should not give a roofer money upfront. That is especially the case when homeowners receive a check from an insurance company to pay repairs and end up handing it over to a roofer who says he needs it to buy materials only to never show up again.

“Some people are just knocking on the door and tearing up a roof saying it needs to be fixed and stealing money,” said Barrett. “No one should get paid until the work is done.”

Barrett also said that homeowners are often unaware of what their homeowners policy covers. He said some insurance companies are neglecting to inform homeowners that they may be required to pay a high deductible to complete repairs.

Dave Dodson, owner of the Tamko Building Products in Knoxville, said he supports efforts to crackdown on fraud, but is unsure how the state will enforce the new law, since the state has no jurisdiction over out-of-state roofers. However, he said out-of-state contractors are needed given the magnitude of the storms that are frequent occur-

rences in the state.

“When you have the kind of storms we had in Knoxville, you had to have out-of-state contractors; the locals could not get it done,” Dodson said.

The insurance industry's Property Casualty Insurers Association of America came out strongly in favor of the bill and praised lawmakers for taking steps to rein-in contractors and ensure that consumers and insurers are not being taken advantage of.

“After severe weather there are always some crooked contractors who descend upon neighborhoods and take advantage of unsuspecting homeowners,” said PCI vice president Ann Weber. “While the vast majority of contractors are honest, reputable business people, states across the country took positive steps to crack down on these storm chasing contractors, particularly from out of state, who use questionable solicitation and business tactics.”

**Other States Take Action**

Tennessee is not alone when it comes to cracking down on contractor fraud. Iowa lawmakers recently approved a similar bill that is now awaiting Gov. Terry Branstad's signature. Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Nebraska, Kentucky, and South Dakota have also approved measures to increase consumer protections against roofing contractor fraud.

No loan is too large or too small



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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# 2012 TML Achievement Awards presented in Knoxville



The Princess Theater has been restored to its former glory in Harriman.

## Harriman: Excellence in Historic Preservation

The decision of city leaders to support a downtown historic renovation project while adding a government/education channel has drastically changed the lives of Harriman’s school children and citizens of all ages. Today’s historic Princess Theater and adjacent TV station, where entertainment, classes and school projects are held, lives on in testament of the city’s progressive future and illustrious past, a blend that makes Harriman an educational and cultural haven. TML will recognize the city with an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award

The life and times of The Princess Theater in downtown Harriman plays like a good movie, both lighthearted and melodramatic, but thanks to the partnership of concerned citizens, educational leaders and the city of Harriman, the story has a happy ending for all.

In 1926, the 900-seat Princess Theatre was all the rage. A downtown centerpiece for 76 years, the theater’s glistening lobby and flickering screen launched many warm memories for adoring fans from all over Roane County. But by the end of 1998, the opulence waned, as changing times shuttered the once thriving venue and turned downtown into a ghost town. The theater remained closed for several years until the owner, in 2005, decided to donate the building to the city, hoping it would draw grant money to reopen the facility and spur downtown revitalization. The Princess Foundation, a non-profit board, was formed to help with the effort. The group envisioned a multi-purpose facility, a cultural place for arts education, movies, live theatre, concerts etc. With support from the Roane County School Board, the Tennessee Technology Center and Roane State Community College, the foundation was awarded a TDOT grant in 2008 that would help remodel the entrance and lobby areas as a Trailhead for a visitor’s center.

The city of Harriman sweetened the pot by donating the building next door to create a city-owned government/education TV station to compliment the theatre’s educational activities. The city met with Roane State, who agreed to help operate the channel and equip the theatre using stimulus money from the federal government. But in Dec. 2008, disaster struck with the TVA ash spill, which threatened the region’s economy.

Like-minded government officials approached TVA requesting a sponsorship for local projects throughout the county to make it a better place to live work and play. Resolutions passed by local entities and the sponsorship of TVA brought several projects to life including the historic Princess Theater. In the midst of low morale and public skepticism, the Princess Foundation received \$1.7 million from TVA to help complete the dream. In an 18-month period, the old theater was restored to its former grandeur.

On March 2012 dance and musical entertainment by the county’s students lit up the stage before a sold out crowd as The Princess regained her crown. Future downtown development is in the picture too. So far, Harriman has received 12 letters of interest from 10 different developers interested in either moving their businesses or starting a business downtown because of the project.

“The city is truly deserving of the TML Award due to the tremendous community wide teamwork led by Mayor Chris Mason,” said Warren Nevad, UT MTAS consultant. The art deco venue is one of Harriman’s most happening places, where people can see elementary school plays, high school band concerts and visiting artists all in one week. Instructors from RSCC, who lease the theater along with the city’s adjoining TV space, are right at home teaching theater classes, producing plays and assisting college students in producing and editing their own TV shows. Thanks to the foresight of local leaders, the region’s public is discovering what their ancestors already knew, the Princess Theater is, and always was, a true gem.

## Newport: Excellence in Community Development

The willingness to recapture a dream has opened the door for major progress in downtown revitalization for Newport. Newport is one city that understands the future of development lies with showcasing a community’s valuable assets. Cooperating under the enthusiasm and guidance of a new city administrator, city officials helped facilitate the completion of a once stalled project along the banks of the Pigeon River. Today,



Phase I completion of Newport’s Riverwalk project

Phase I of the city’s Riverwalk Project stands as a shining example of the endless possibilities lying ahead, as public interest in the project and grant funding continues to grow. In recognition of the city’s initiative in developing and promoting its natural resources, TML will present Newport with an Excellence in Community Development award.

Reigniting an old flame is not always easy, as Scott Collins would want you to know. In 2008, after coming on board as the city’s new administrator, Collins’ interest was drawn to a Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant the city was awarded in 1998 by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The grant’s purpose was for building a Riverwalk along the banks of the Pigeon River. In the 10 years since the city received the money, little progress had been made and interest had waned among the city’s officials and community. Now, Newport was in danger of losing the funding. “I decided to make it my life’s mission to get this done,” Collins said. But the idea had grown cold and had to be re-sold to the city’s Mayor and aldermen along with other key business leaders and citizens. A task force was created and after several meetings between TDOT, engineers and Newport officials, Phase I was finally underway.

“TDOT was wonderful to work with and we couldn’t be more excited,” said Collins. “Of course, once things got underway, we wanted it completed yesterday.” Phase I was completed in only six months, Collins notes, and the city has once again been awarded a TEP grant for \$346,048 for Phase II. The project is already completing the environmental phase and bids and construction are tentatively scheduled for late summer of fall of 2012.

“This program allows us to give money to areas that need to be promoted and saved,” said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer, upon presenting the grant to the city.

Before and after photos reflect how the overgrown banks of the Pigeon River have been transformed into a major asset to the community, as scores of people visit the Riverwalk daily to walk, fish and enjoy the great outdoors. The city has also received an \$89,600 Recreational Trails Program grant, as part of the project’s Master Plan, which will create a Park & Float facility complete with a boat launch area, parking, picnic shelters and restrooms.

The city is excited to host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Showcase on the River, that will bring thousands of visitors to downtown Newport. “We hope the project will serve as a stimulus for downtown redevelopment and look forward to possibly working with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund on a new library in the future,” said Collins. “Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge are wonderful neighbors, but we hope people will consider visiting and making their future home in Newport.”

## Church Hill: Excellence Downtown Revitalization

“Can’t” just isn’t an option in Church Hill, where progressive leadership keeps downtown a vibrant, special place. Planning with limited resources, town leaders opted to transform a vacant downtown building into a multi-use, state-of-the-art facility where citizens of all ages can now work, conduct business and play. In recognition of the town’s efforts to prevent downtown blight, TML will present Church Hill with an Excellence in Downtown Revitalization award.

A vacant supermarket became a challenge for Church Hill when its local IGA food store closed in the center of the community. With no new tenants on the horizon for several years and no new funds to purchase and remodel the building, there seemed to be little hope in staving off downtown blight. But when IGA Corporation suddenly agreed to sell at a bargain price, town leaders knew the time was right to buy the building and transform it into a downtown cornerstone. Working with limited resources, the town redesigned the facility to accommodate a new police station, senior center, community fitness center and new library. Construction took almost three years to complete, and everything was accomplished using town labor.

“Make note, this is no ordinary facility,” said UT MTAS consultant Pat Hardy. “The police station is a model of modern design and technology.” With full energy-efficient systems, all heat and air systems in the building are geo-thermal, with underground lines maintaining a consistent temperature. Hot water systems are on-demand, where water is not constantly heated, but only as needed. Solar panels on the roof provide additional heat sources as well.

Use levels at all the facilities have been extremely high, according to town officials. The quality building should serve future generations of Church Hill citizens for years to come.

“Church Hill should be commended for the can-do attitude and resourceful manner in which they envisioned and achieved a set of model facilities for both citizens and employees,” said Hardy. “They have a perfect mix of leadership in City Recorder Mark Sandidge and a supportive encouraging board of Mayor and Aldermen.”



A vacant supermarket became a challenge for Church Hill, who remodeled the downtown building into a multi-use facility that includes a new police station, senior center, community fitness center and library.

## Ducktown: Excellence in Green Leadership



Ducktown completed a 28kilowatt solar photovoltaic system on city-owned property and utilizing city labor.

With an eye on education strategies, green energy partnerships and the development of money saving projects typically reserved for much larger communities, Ducktown’s efforts amount to a sustainable future for its citizens plus plenty of green for the city’s economy. In recognition of the administration and staff’s efforts to pursue renewable and sustainable methods of operation, TML will present Ducktown with an Excellence in Green Leadership Award.

Although Ducktown’s mayor, James Talley, is president of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council,—TREEDC, a statewide organization of cities and counties with a mission to promote renewable energy— creating sustainable energy sources is not something that happens in any community all on its own. It takes diligence, tenacity, and a little volunteer spirit all rolled into one. That’s what this tiny community of 475 has.

When funding obstacles slammed the door on the city’s first project, a 28 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system, Ducktown officials, leaders and staff determined that they could construct the system anyway using municipal and local trades required for the job, while developing the necessary skill set in house. The solar development project team consisting of Ducktown’s employees, Mage Solar, PV Racking, DC Electrical, TREEDC, South East Tennessee Development District and Farmer-Morgan, were able to construct a 28 kilowatt system on city owned land adjacent to an old landfill. Ducktown employee, Jeremy Tipton, agreed to travel to Georgia for solar install training and worked tirelessly to see the project up and producing energy with quality in craftsmanship.

The system is expected to produce an average of \$8,000 per year to the city at a cost of \$100,000 funded through an Energy Efficiency Community Development Block Grant. The project’s success has only spurred the city’s imagination. The city plans on building a 200 kilowatt solar farm in the future becoming totally dependent on solar.

“Through a vision for a renewable and sustainable way of developing their city, Ducktown has chosen a difficult path to prosperity by leading through example,” said Mayor Talley. “The city is reinvesting the revenues generated from the 28 kilowatt Solar Farm, but this project benefits the community in many other ways. First, by developing municipal employees and a community that understands solar technology and what its impacts can be on the community and surrounding landscape. And second, the town can assist in developing future systems whether they are private or public sector projects.”

Mayor Talley has helped TREEDC work closely with the Tennessee Valley Authority to promote clean energy and the city is now looking at ways to convert its municipal wastes into clean energy. Ducktown also is in the process of installing two electric car charging stations on public properties.

“Ducktown proves that no city is too small to become a giant in renewable energy,” said UT MTAS Consultant Warren Nevad. “For these reasons, the city is deserving of the 2012 TML Award for Green Leadership.”

**TML Achievement Awards presented Tuesday, June 12, 8:00 a.m.  
at the Knoxville Convention Center**



# 2012 TML Achievement Awards

## Excellence in Public Service

Behind every successful city are its unsung heroes, those loyal souls that keep marching ahead against the odds to get the job done for their communities. While many cities stay divided on matters from services to resources, the cities of Bradford and Rutherford will forever be united by the actions of two loyal staff members, city recorders Tracy Lannom, Bradford, and Melissa Workman, Rutherford; who, in spite of Workman’s full-time commitment in Rutherford and Lannom’s serious illness, keep orderly and efficient services going in both communities



Melissa Workman and Tracy Lannom

by working together. TML is pleased to recognize these outstanding public servants with an Excellence in Public Service Award.

Loyalty is a strong foundation that withstands the test of time and circumstance. That’s what the cities of Bradford and Rutherford would find out as two city recorders put the needs of the communities before their own. Former co-workers at Bradford City Hall, Workman was once the city’s recorder, and Lannom city clerk, before an exciting opportunity two years ago, changed the course of both women’s lives. Workman was offered and accepted the city recorder position in her hometown, Rutherford, reducing her commuting costs by nearly 500 miles every month, while Lannom was subsequently promoted to city recorder by Bradford’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The transition for the employees and the cities went smoothly.

Then, about six months ago, Lannom learned she had cancer. Her life was suddenly turned upside down by a battery of radiation and chemotherapy treatments followed by surgery. Although the treatments left her weakened and tired, she insisted on being at city hall at least two days per week, as often as she could.

“Tracy Lannom’s work ethic deserves recognition,” said David Angerer, UT MTAS consultant. “Regularly reporting for duty while struggling with cancer is, by itself, a remarkable statement of her dedication and determination. That she does so with passion and intensity is extraordinary.” Angerer recently met with Lannom and Mayor Frank Lockard concerning the budget they are developing for the coming fiscal year. “Despite all that she has to think about these days, she still showed a command of the facts and figures needed to write a budget and a passion for seeing that the process went well,” Angerer marveled.

The cancer diagnosis brought about another extraordinary turn of events. After her official duties in Rutherford are finished for the day, Workman chooses to spend many evening hours and Saturdays back in the Bradford city hall, helping Lannom with the city recorder duties. Having knowledge of the city’s computer system, she has played a major role in keeping bills paid and records current while Lannom is away from work. And she is assisting the city of Bradford in assembling records in advance of their annual audit.

“The Mayor of Bradford has told me how helpful she has been to her former employer and co-worker,” said Angerer. “The help Melissa Workman has provided to a former employer – while performing her regular duties in Rutherford and studying for her CMFO certification – is an example of an exceptional public servant. Every city should be as fortunate to have employees such as these.”

## Greeneville: Excellence in Public Safety



Greeneville’s new prevention and public education efforts have resulted in a decrease in the number of structure fires from an average of 39 per year to an average of 19 per year over the last three years.

Significant improvements in Greeneville’s fire service delivery have reduced the actual number of fires in the community, cut response times in half, and improved its ISO Classification rating. The Greeneville Fire Department’s tremendous work and commitment to improving fire protection efforts is being recognized with a 2012 Tennessee Municipal League Achievement Award for Public Safety.

In 2005, the Greeneville Fire Department underwent a comprehensive management review conducted by the University of Tennessee’s Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).The study evaluated the entire fire department and made recommendations related to fire department management, operations, resources, and enhanced level of services. The study included a review of the ISO rating, meeting OSHA and NFPA requirements, and best practice management of the fire department. Best practices are acceptable performance standards in the fire service that are recognized and used to improve operations and safety. The report made recommendations tailored to Greeneville based on the size of the community, land use, existing and potential use of resources, public perception of services, basic geographical features of the community, and the applicability of alternative methods of providing fire protection. The report made 146 recommendations in eleven categories that covered all aspects of management and operations.

In the process of making the improvements, under the leadership of Fire Chief Mark Foulks, the department has not only improved its ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating from Class 4 to Class 3, which will help lower costs and it has become a stronger presence in the Greeneville community by initiating extensive public education and prevention programs. In addition to 2,700 smoke alarms, the city received a grant from the State Fire Marshal’s office and the department installed 200 additional smoke alarms through this program. An outreach program has been developed geared to reach Greeneville’s most vulnerable citizens, its children. The Safe at Home and Risk Watch programs are now taught in the city’s schools, grades K-5. As impressionable little minds learn the basics in fire safety techniques taught by actual firefighters, they also learn firefighters are their friends, inspiring a whole new generation of safety leaders. The firefighters also provide fire extinguisher training, safety and evacuation planning, CPR, First Aid, and fire education programs to business, industry, healthcare, church and civic groups and festivals in the community.

According to recent studies, these prevention and public education efforts have resulted in a decrease in the number of structure fires from an average of 39 per year to an average of 19 per year over the last three years. The department established a Child Seat Safety program, currently with nine certified Child Safety Seat Technicians. Other new training programs initiated by the department provide approximately 340 hours of training per firefighter per year. This does not include specialty schools such as TFACA Officers School, Pump Operations, etc. Training prior to 2006 consisted of 40 hours per firefighter per year.

In July 2011, the firefighters began responding to life threatening emergency medical calls. The director of the city’s EMS program notes that the fire department response has cut the response times inside the city limits in half. The program provides basic life support (BLS) capabilities and some advanced life support (ALS) capabilities.

“Residents challenge government officials and leaders to deliver or improve services at the lowest cost possible,” said Dennis Wolf , MTAS fire consultant. “The commitment and dedication of Chief Foulks, the Greeneville firefighters, and the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen have accomplished this mandate by improving fire and emergency services and service delivery and improving firefighter safety, and they truly deserve recognition for their efforts.”

## Gatlinburg: Excellence in Public Works

The ability to make grueling budget decisions during economically tough times depends on complete knowledge of the issues at hand. That quest for understanding is the mechanism that propels great services in Gatlinburg, where public works officials and department heads worked as a team to make major equipment upgrades during the recent economic downturn. The administration and staff’s efforts to research, prioritize and chart all expenditures not only resulted in vital purchases being made, but opened the door for a municipal fleet budgeting process for the future. TML will recognize Gatlinburg’s efforts to be resourceful stewards while maintaining great services with a TML Excellence in Public Works award.

Like most Tennessee cities, Gatlinburg watches its revenues very carefully especially in tough economic times. Seventy-five percent of the city’s revenue comes from sales tax linked to tourism “During 2008-09 we saw a decrease in revenue of 4.4 percent,” said David Beeler, Gatlinburg finance director and assistant city manager. “Then in 2009-10 we saw another decrease of 4.6 percent.” The city cut the budget dramatically, putting off important equipment purchases.

As the city’s revenue rose in 2010-11, the need for new vehicles and equipment to provide services from fire and police protection to water and wastewater, street maintenance and sanitation collection had become critical. That’s when Gatlinburg City Manager Cindy Ogle decided to present a challenge to department heads.

“I called a meeting of those who had fleets in their department,” Ogle said. “I knew they were



Pictured with the city of Gatlinburg’s newly purchased vehicles for the Recreation, Police, Street and Fire Departments are: L-R-Police Chief Randy Brackins, Public Works Manager Larry Henderson and Fire Chief Greg Miller.

struggling to get their jobs done with an aging fleet, but I also wanted them to understand the financial problems that those of us in administration were facing.” Ogle asked them to come up with ways to balance the budget in their own departments. “It was a huge eye-opener, as they began to understand that everything is a trade-off,” said Ogle.

During the spring of 2011, due to careful budgeting and increased tourism, revenue increased. Ogle asked the department heads to create a spreadsheet that ranked equipment by age, condition, replacement cost, and leasing options. Vehicle replacement guides generally use a weighted point system based on age, usage, type of service, maintenance and repair costs and overall condition of the vehicle. Recognizing that as replacement of a fleet is deferred, maintenance costs continue to rise, the city asked the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to analyze the data and develop a fleet replacement plan, emphasizing delayed purchasing and financing alternatives. The study ranked vehicles, examined financing alternatives and recommended that the city put in place a vehicle replacement fund.

“They wanted to get to a point where they replaced vehicles when maintenance costs were routine—not excessive,” said MTAS Consultant Sharon Rollins, who co-authored an article with Judy Kellar about Gatlinburg’s steps toward a fleet replacement plan featured in *Tennessee Public Works Magazine*. “MTAS’ assessment showed that an annual investment of \$880,000 is needed to keep current with fleet replacement needs,” she said. The city established a new vehicle replacement fund at the end of FY2011 by transferring \$500,000 from its general fund year-end surplus. Gatlinburg also started FY2012 requiring annual appropriations from city departments based on straight line depreciation over the expected life of the equipment.

As a result of these steps, Gatlinburg was able to purchase about \$1 million in vehicles and equipment which will help provide the standard of services citizens require and deserve.

“The city’s staff did an excellent job of assessing each of its 142 vehicles, listing condition, mileage, replacement cost, life expectancy and more,” said Rollins.

## Chattanooga: Community Progress

A vision of beauty and modernity, Chattanooga is moving far beyond its novelty “See Rock City” signs, and staying on the cutting edge of safety, economic, transportation, redevelopment, housing and energy needs for its citizens. A true renaissance city, Chattanooga is home to manufacturing celebrities Volkswagen and Amazon. And as the darling of national trade publications, the city encourages healthy lifestyles supported by ample recreational trails and venues. Visitors choose Chattanooga time and again for its quality business facilities and one-of-a-kind entertainment offerings. In recognition of the city’s efforts to create and achieve a dynamic sense of place as a thriving, modern community, TML will present Chattanooga with a Community Progress award.



Chattanooga revitalized riverfront

As the state’s fourth largest city, Chattanooga is recognized most often for its scenic beauty, massive downtown redevelopment, riverfront and amazing attractions such as the Tennessee Aquarium, Lookout Mountain, Civil War battlefield sites, and the Appalachian Trail. The world cheered as manufacturing giants Volkswagen and Amazon made the city their home. A \$1 billion investment from the German car manufacturer resulted in 3,000 direct jobs and 9,500 indirect jobs, while the distribution center, already the size of 17 football fields, is expanding its 1,700 jobs.

Impressive as well are the mechanics going on beneath the surface of this progressive city. Nothing is more important to a growing metropolis than public safety, and Chattanooga is determined to maintain a community where citizens are free to study, work and play with a strong sense of security. After a Christmas morning altercation where nine people were shot, city officials pushed an amendment to the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, (RICO) legislation expanding and amending the current definition to include “Criminal Street Gangs.” The amendment, which passed, will allow local district attorneys and local governments to dismantle street gangs through “group prosecutions” against several gang members at once.

The city was also having serious problems with various night clubs selling beer and alcohol to minors, then allowing various types of illegal activity to be conducted during business hours. Formerly, the only steps cities have in place to stop this activity from occurring is for their local Beer Boards to suspend/revoke their beer license. Unfortunately, these clubs continue to sell liquor due to possessing a separate state liquor license. The City of Chattanooga Beer Board/TN ABC Pilot Program creates procedural changes regarding how local beer boards work with the Tennessee Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC).

It takes a lot of power to keep a city as vibrant as Chattanooga on top. Using a 100% fiber optic network as its backbone, city-owned electric utility, EPB, is constructing a Smart Grid. The grid is a next-generation electric system that includes communication capabilities designed to reduce the impact of power outages, improve response time and allow customers greater control of their electric power usage. EPB’s fiber network collects billions of data points and provides real-time management that will significantly boost the grid’s reliability and performance. In September 2010, EPB became the first company in the United States to offer one gigabit-per-second Internet speed, a critical component of next generation technology innovation and economic development.

In this decade, Chattanooga has won three national awards for outstanding “livability,” and nine Gunther Blue Ribbon Awards for excellence in housing and consolidated planning. Also, moving around the city and county is a breeze thanks to an extensive greenway system which includes five miles of constructed riverwalk beginning downtown and meandering through the historic art district and several parks. The city also supports a downtown shuttle fleet of zero-emission electric buses, manufactured in Chattanooga for commuters and visitors wishing to park-and-ride.

“For its progressive leadership, outstanding livability and community visioning,” Chattanooga enters the 21st century as one of the most progressive and livable mid-size cities in the US.,” said Ron Darden, MTAS consultant. “It is a clear winner to receive a TML Achievement Award.”



# Knoxville’s Madeline Rogero brings urban planning career to mayor’s office

BY GAEL STAHL

Madeline Rogero, the first female mayor of Knoxville and first female mayor of any of the Big Four Tennessee cities, was sworn in on Dec. 17, 2011. She has been a Knoxvillean for 31 years and an urban planner ever since getting her urban planning degree 25 years ago in 1987. She served on the Knox County Commission from 1990 to 1998. In 2003, she ran against businessman Bill Haslam, now Gov. Haslam, for mayor and lost by just six percentage points, 57 percent - 63 percent.

She was born July 26, 1952, in Jacksonville, Fla., the middle of three children. Her father, Gerald Rogero (the “g” in Rogero is pronounced like an “h”), a plumber, took young Madeline, her mother, Anita Ghioto, a former nun, and her sisters to Cape Canaveral, then on to Eau Gallie, 20 miles south, where she spent grades 1 to 8. The family moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1966 where Rogero started high school. During a high school project, Rogero had the honor of being mayor for a day – a memory she still cherishes. She graduated from Archbishop Alter High School in Kettering, a suburb of Dayton, and went to Temple University before attending Ohio State University.

At Ohio State in the mid-1970s, she joined a student support group backing the United Farm Workers (UFW), a labor union that sought better wages for migrant farm workers by boycotting grapes, lettuce and Gallo wine. She postponed her college studies to work for the UFW starting in Ohio where she met her future husband, Mark Pitt. They worked as organizers for César Chávez’s UFW in Ohio, married and moved to Chicago, where their son was born, in order to organize boycotts. They then moved to California to follow the harvests with the farm workers.

They left UFW and moved to South Carolina when Pitt got a job with Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Rogero had three years of college under her belt when she became pregnant with her second child. She finished her bachelor’s degree work at Furman University, a Southern Baptist college school with a B.A. in Political Science. In 1980, Pitt was transferred by ACTWU to run the office in Knoxville (it’s now called UNITE). Rogero worked for the local Appalachian field office of a national foundation called the Youth Project and started on her master’s degree.

An attempt by the city to install temporary trailers in her neighborhood in anticipation of the 1982 World’s Fair persuaded Rogero to switch from law to urban and regional planning to learn how to advocate for better city planning regulations. Her 1987 Master’s thesis, “A Proposal to Foster Civic Leadership and Participation in Knoxville,” sparked a series of public discussions about civic engagement. It could also be seen as a blueprint on how to begin running for mayor.

Before becoming mayor last year, she had served Knoxville for three decades in a variety of roles including community development director, county commissioner, non-profit executive, urban and regional planner, community volunteer, and neighborhood champion, promoting a vibrant local economy, strong neighborhoods, and a high quality of life. Mayor Rogero has also served on numerous boards in Knoxville. She was a 1992 graduate of Leadership Knoxville and a 1994 graduate of Community Leadership.

She’d been in Knoxville only 10 years, when she ran against a 24-year incumbent county commissioner. She raised just \$6,800 so he didn’t take the new outsider seriously. Big mistake. For years she’d been networking with community people, spent eight years at the ball parks with the other parents and knew lots of people at UT. She won the north Knoxville seat by a landslide and served two four-year terms. A firm believer in term limits, she term-limited herself to retire after two terms in 1998. A few years later, the courts enforced that limit on all county commissioners.

In 2003, she ran for mayor against Bill Haslam. Three years later, Mayor Haslam asked her to join his administration to reorganize the Community Development Department. In late 2010, she re-

signed her position with the city to run for mayor. Bill Haslam had been elected governor and an interim mayor was appointed by city council to fill his unexpired term. She ran against a field that included Councilwoman Marilyn Roddy, former city councilmen Ivan Harmon and Joe Hultquist, businessman Mark Padgett, and local 911 operator Bo Bennett. When Roddy dropped out to run for the state senate, Rogero became the front runner and won the primary with 49.91 percent of the vote and the runoff with 58.6 percent on Nov. 8, 2011, having been endorsed by the city’s main newspapers and dozens of well-known current and past elected officials in Knoxville and Knox County. She was sworn in as the 68th mayor of Knoxville in December.

Prior to her election, Mayor Rogero had been a consultant to Capital One Financial Corporation’s Community Affairs office and to America’s Promise - The Alliance for Youth founded by General Colin Powell. She was executive director of Knoxville’s Promise: The Alliance for Youth, Dolly Parton’s Dollywood Foundation, The University of Tennessee Community Partnership Center, and the Coal Employment Project. She was a grants consultant with Levi Strauss Foundation, and a community and economic development planner at Tennessee Valley Authority and the East Tennessee Community Design Center.

She and Pitt divorced in 1983, and she and her second husband Gene Monaco, an engineer and construction manager, now live in South Knoxville where they are both bee keepers, enjoy music, kayaking, and the beauty of East Tennessee. Their combined families include five grown children ages 22 to 36 and four grandchildren.

**TT&C: Starting at age 22 you began to live a less comfortable more activist life. Some of your first community involvement was working with the legendary César Chavez and the United Farm Workers.**

**MR:** It was a wonderful experience working with Chavez and the United Farm Workers, not only because of the issue we were dealing with, but also the people and the culture. Mark and I lived on \$5 to \$10 a week, with housing and board provided by UFW. I worked boycotts in Chicago and Ohio and then went to California to follow the harvests and be involved in issues. Future saint Dorothy Day worked those fields about that time. It was a simple life but fulfilling. Like being a volunteer for or the Peace Corps.

**TT&C: You seem to have inherited your activist passion from your mother, who lives south of Knoxville in Athens. I saw where she has kept stacks of three-ring binders with all your press clippings since your mayoral run in 2003 and said that as a middle child, she knew you would accomplish much, were always a straight-A student, and more concerned with issues of social justice than being liked. She has to be your best fan.**

**MR:** That’s right. My mother is tremendously supportive. She’s a go-getter herself. She’s still working. For several years she’s been executive director of the Etowah Senior Citizens Center. She’s finally decided to retire this summer at age 85.

**TT&C: How did you become mayor for a day in Dayton?**

**MF:** All the schools sent students from high school civics classes to represent their high school for the Mayor for a Day event. Some students were appointed city commissioners. I represented my school and was selected to be mayor. I don’t think my mother was surprised. We shadowed the mayor all day and held our mock council meeting. Who would have thought then I’d one day be mayor of Knoxville?

**TT&C: You have always been involved in Knoxville by serving on many boards and non-profit organizations that show your love and passion for the community. Which of your involvements were favorites?**

**MR:** I’ve sat on the boards of dozens of Knoxville organizations. It’s hard to name favorites because they were all doing such great work. My work with Dolly Parton’s foundation and Colin Powell’s America’s Promise was very rewarding and gave me



*“I think the times have changed and people realize that women can do the job just like men can, but I am honored to be the first female to lead a major city.”*

- Mayor Madeline Rogero



Mayor Madeline Rogero with students from Lonsdale Elementary School. The group visited Mayor Rogero in her office in May to talk about their Walking School Bus program, in which students meet at a chosen location and then walk together to school under a parent’s supervision.

experiences and connections beyond Knoxville and Tennessee.

**TT&C: Serving in Mayor Haslam’s administration must have given you tremendous insight into how the city operates and allowed you to hit the ground running.**

**MR:** Yes, I talk about that a lot. Having worked four years under Mayor Haslam’s administration helped me to understand the budget process, plus I worked with Civil Service, and worked with probably every department in the city one way or the other. All that experience was a tremendous asset coming into this office. I already knew how city government works.

**TT&C: Did Gov. Haslam’s bringing you in during his third year to reorganize the community development department carry over into a good working relationship with him at the state level?**

**MR:** Absolutely. Immediately after we ran against each other and he beat me, we started communicating and working together. I wanted him to be successful. We both ran to make the city better so we started working together informally. He appointed me to a couple of things, we went out to lunch now and then, and stayed in touch. Then three years later he asked me to work with him formally. As governor, he is kind to take my phone calls whenever we have an issue here in Knoxville that needs to be addressed. I appreciate the relationship that we have and his continued support for Knoxville.

**TT&C: As Knoxville’s community development director what were you able to accomplish?**

**MR:** That department is responsible for neighborhoods and community revitalization. We primarily worked in low and moderate income residen-

tial and commercial neighborhoods. We had funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to do affordable housing and commercial revitalization in older neighborhoods. My department included programs such as the Fair Housing Office, disability services, commercial facade improvement, blighted property redevelopment, the empowerment zone, small business loans and commercial expansion loans. As director, I built a cohesive, high-functioning team that won national recognition, worked with a Neighborhood Task Force to create the city’s Office of Neighborhoods, and with the Partnership for Neighborhoods Improvement successfully completed a \$25.6 million Empowerment Zone program. I launched a city-county-neighborhood initiative to address the problem of vacant and blighted properties, convened a five-county regional consortium that won a highly competitive \$4.3 million grant for sustainable community planning. I also co-chaired the Mayor’s Energy and Sustainability Task Force.

**TT&C: You also have business background working with the likes of Levi Strauss, Capital One, and did economic and community planning for TVA?**

**MR:** Yes, I have had my own consulting business in which I worked with Levi Strauss on grantmaking in the area. I helped Capital One by developing a program to train their executives to effectively serve on nonprofit boards in the communities in which CapOne operates. I worked on commercial business development as a TVA planner.

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**TT&C: What did you do after your county commissioner days ended in 1998 before joining the Haslam administration in 2006?**

**MR:** I managed nonprofits and had my own consulting business. I was director of the Dollywood Foundation and director of Knoxville’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth. I was then a consultant to America’s Promise and to Capital One.

**TT&C: How has your background in community and economic development and planning helped to prepare you to be mayor of Tennessee’s third largest city?**

**MR:** Much of what I was doing, working for revitalization and reinvestment and strengthening of neighborhoods as well as working with businesses over the years, has made me very comfortable doing that as mayor.

**TT&C: You’ve had varied training for what you’re doing as mayor. I understand you now have new tools in your arsenal for addressing blight and vacant properties due to a new city ordinance the city council recently adopted?**

**MR:** We asked the council to approve four ordinances that strengthened our ability to be proactive in the field to address vacant and blighted properties. For example, we will now have an administrative hearing officer who can expedite the process faster and assess higher fees for non-compliance. We have changed our Better Building Board into an appellate board rather than an approval board, which gives our codes officers on the street the ability to take action quicker to protect the safety of tenants and neighbors. Basically, we were putting more teeth into our local laws to better protect the property values of responsible property owners from irresponsible owners who neglect and abandon their property.

**TT&C: You’ve just submitted your first annual budget. Want to share some of the details?**

**MR:** This year we held the line – no property or sales tax increases. Like most mayors, I have a certain amount of fixed costs that continue to rise. We had some natural revenue growth and were able to meet our fixed costs and reinvest in some capital projects this year without new taxes. Our general fund budget is \$180.6 million and we have a \$28 million capital budget. We will put money into paying down pensions, and in order to attract business to our city we’ll support quality of life amenities like the zoo, the Knoxville Museum of Art, the Knoxville Symphony, libraries and greenways and parks. We’re covering the nuts and bolts of running the city and providing services while striving for economic and community development. Also, to attract business we’re continuing our emphasis on sustainability and our focus on living and working green by investing more on our greenways, sidewalks, parks and downtown improvements.

**TT&C: How does it feel to be the first female mayor of Knoxville or of any of Tennessee’s Big Four cities? Do you feel there are different expectations for you or are they what the position of mayor of Knoxville would require of anyone, male or female?**

**MR:** The expectations are the same for both genders but the fact I’m the first female means there are eyes on me and how I’ll do. I think the times have changed and people realize that women can do the job just like men can, but I am honored to be the first female to lead a major city.

**TT&C: Tennessee Municipal League members are looking forward to seeing you June 9 – 12 at the TML Annual Conference in Knoxville.**

**MR:** We’re very excited that so many people will be coming to Knoxville from all over Tennessee. The sessions should be informative and during free time we hope that folks will enjoy all that we have to offer. Our downtown is vibrant with lots of local, authentic retail and restaurants, a movie theater, great music and performance venues, an arts district, history and arts museums, and more. Nearby is our Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center where bikes, paddleboards, and kayaks can be rented and you can learn where our 65 miles of paved and unpaved greenways and trails are located. If you haven’t been to Knoxville in awhile, I think you will be pleased with all we have to offer.