

Cities' message to Congress: Sequestration is bad policy

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
National League of Cities

Now that Congress has passed a continuing resolution to avoid a government shut down and adjourning until after the election, the nation's cities are bracing for sequestration, a set of across-the-board spending cuts to the federal budget set to take effect on Jan. 2, 2013. NLC opposes these draconian cuts and instead is calling on Congress to take action to prevent the cuts from taking effect.

"It's irresponsible, it's bad policy, and we deserve better from our federal government," said NLC President Ted Ellis, mayor, Bluffton, IN.

According to studies, the cuts will reduce the nation's gross domestic product by \$215 billion; decrease personal earning of the workforce by more than \$100 billion; will cost the U.S. economy 2.14 million jobs; and raise the national unemployment rate above nine percent.

"Cities continue to face the effects of the economic downturn; however, local leaders are still paying their bills and working to create opportunities for growth in their local communities," said Ellis. "But local governments need certainty and support from their federal counterparts, not bad policy like the sequestration."

The threat of sequestration became law last August, when bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate passed and the President signed the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). The law forged a framework for reducing federal spending and raising the nation's debt ceiling in order to avoid default on the federal government's loan obligations. Specifically, the BCA called for the spending cuts to occur in two phases. The first round of cuts

happened as part of the fiscal year 2012 appropriations process. To find the second round of cuts—\$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years—the BCA called for the creation of a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, a bipartisan committee of 12 members selected by the respective majority and minority leadership in the House and Senate.

Although sequestration is now a political orphan for which no one takes credit, the House passed the legislation by a vote of 269 to 161, with 174 Republicans and 95 Democrats voting for it. The Senate passed the legislation by a vote of 74 to 26, with six Democrats and 19 Republicans voting against it. The President signed it into law on Aug. 2, 2011.

Under the law, the Joint Select Committee, which became known as the "Super Committee," had until Nov. 23, 2011, to reach agreement on the additional cuts and to refer this package of cuts to Congress for consideration. Recognizing perhaps the tendency in Congress towards gridlock rather than agreement, the BCA included the threat of sequestration to take effect in January 2013 if the Super Committee failed to reach agreement on the second round of cuts. These across-the-board cuts would be applied equally to non-defense and defense discretionary spending over the next 10 years, with both categories being cut by a total of \$54.7 billion each year. Overall, sequestration would result in a 9.4 percent cut in defense discretionary spending and an 8.2 percent cut in non-defense discretionary spending. Sequestration would also impose cuts of 2 percent to Medicare. Transportation programs funded by the Highway Trust Fund, Social Security, Medicaid, and civil and military employee pay are exempt from sequestration.

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Tennessee commemorates Energy Awareness month with sustainability practices

BY JAN COMPTON
& HAROLD MADISON
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Nearly 21 years ago by presidential proclamation, October was designated as Energy Awareness Month bringing government in partnership with citizens, businesses and organizations to focus on the need. The United States has long been a major consumer of energy with reliance on external sources to meet those demands. Concerned Americans in a variety of capacities are helping to create energy awareness by highlighting new technology advancements in renewable energy, identifying better ways to conserve and becoming less dependent upon non-renewable energy sources.

Transportation is one of the primary energy concerns in the United States. It is more than an environ-

mental concern with the increasing cost of fuel, challenges with meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards affecting health and economic development, the infrastructure needed for the growing number of internal combustion engines required to transport both passengers and freight and the increased dependence on foreign oil. Last year the United States spent a record \$420 billion for imported oil. This is the pain we all experience when filling the tank which makes the exploration of alternative passenger vehicles more popular.

National Plug-In Day was celebrated on Sept. 23 across the nation by 25,000 attendees in more than 60 locations, including four in Tennessee. Chattanooga, Nashville, Knoxville and Kingsport hosted events during this second annual event which included everything from test

See SUSTAINABILITY on Page 9



Attendees at the Knoxville Plug In Day were attracted to the stylish Fisker Karma. Photo courtesy of the East TN Clean Fuels Coalition

ECD proposing changes to CDBG program

BY CAROLE GRAVES
& KEVIN KRUSHENSKI
TML Staff

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) is soliciting input on proposed changes to how the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is administered and how applications are reported.

ECD held a public hearing Oct. 4 to review the CDBG program as it has operated, to inform communities of changes for the 2013 application year, and to make suggestions for other possible changes.

For the 2013 application year, ECD is proposing changes to several reporting requirements as well as changes to the actual grant program including dedicating funds to Tennessee's very small communities, establishing a new Microenterprise Grant Program, and proposing earmark funding for a Commercial Façade Program for Main Street and TN Downtown communities.

The CDBG program provides grants to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services. The CDBG is a federally-funded program and must meet national objectives. ECD administers only the Small Cities CDBG program.

Entitlement areas receive money directly from HUD. Those entitlement areas include Shelby County and Memphis, Jackson, Clarksville, Hendersonville, Davidson County, Franklin, Murfreesboro, Oak Ridge, Knox County and Knoxville, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Morristown, Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson City.

For small cities, the block grant funds are provided to the state, which distributes them as grants to eligible local governments. Local governments have the responsibility to consider local needs, prepare grant applications for submission to the state, and carry out the funded community development activities. Local governments must comply with federal and state requirements.



Among the changes ECD is proposing includes earmark funding for a Commercial Façade Program for Main Street and TN Downtown communities.

The following are changes ECD is proposing to reporting and application requirements:

- **Elimination of maps that show random survey methodology.** Instead of submitting maps to determine the number of households served in a CDGB funded project, the grant applicant will now have to certify that the survey sample was random.
- Housing applications will now require a standard reporting of the number of people to be served. In prior years applicants provided many different statistics, and as a result, ECD received applications that included anything from the number of people served -- to the cost per person -- to the number of households impacted -- to the size of

- the target area.
- **Additional information will be required on Target Area Surveys (TAS's).** HUD raised concerns about income reporting and the verification process. Surveys will now require a signature of the person living in the house when documenting income.
- **Any amendments to an application once submitted, will require a new application submission.**
- **Minor changes will be made to the budget format to match the applicant's contract.**

Proposed program changes:
• **Should ECD set aside money for the smallest communities?**
ECD is soliciting feedback on See CDGB on Page 5

National coalition formed to protect tax exempt funding for public infrastructure projects

TMBF Board Member Russell Truell named to committee

A coalition of municipal market professionals has launched a national effort to defend the tax exempt status of municipal bonds and to make certain critical public projects continue to have access to reasonably priced funding.

Municipal Bonds of America is committed to protecting the federal tax exempt status for municipal bonds and will work with city, county, and state leaders from all 50 states.

Russell Truell, Franklin assistant city administrator for finance and board member of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, has been named to the national coalition.

For nearly a century, municipal bonds have been exempt from interest, in accordance to the Revenue Act of 1913, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

Today, cities and states are re-

sponsible for building more than 75 percent of the critical public infrastructure of the United States, including schools, streets and highways, bridges, hospitals, affordable housing, sewer and water systems, and power utilities.

"Given the growing need to replace aging infrastructure and renew economic growth, it is now more important than ever to make certain that local and state governments continue to have access to reasonably priced funding," said Municipal Bonds for America Co-chairman Marty Vogtsberger.

"Tax exempt municipal bonds have been a successful financing tool throughout the century," said Co-Chairman Ken Williams. "Policy makers should not try to fix what isn't broken; a tax on tax exempt bonds ultimately shifts more burdens to local governments."



Russell Truell

Municipal Bonds of America will provide a unified advocacy voice to promote and defend the municipal bond market. The coalition will serve as a single source of information for policy makers and the media regarding municipal finance and the benefits to taxpayers, investors, and state and local governments.

Facebook addresses city page concerns

BY GREGORY MINCHAK
National League of Cities

In response to concerns raised by cities and NLC, Facebook has created a new escalation process that is intended to make it easier for cities to get information about a new requirement concerning city page names and about how to make the necessary switch.

Facebook has been sending notices requiring changes in how cities identify themselves on the social networking service. The company's user rules require that page names cannot be generic in nature and many cities' use of their legal name has gotten

their page designated as generic, which resulted in losing access to the service.

One of the major complaints by cities has been the poor communication from Facebook when requiring cities to make this change. Facebook has now defined a smoother transition process. NLC held a joint NLC-Facebook webinar in September for cities to understand the rules and for Facebook to hear from cities. Facebook has recognized the issue and has created the new escalation process.

If a city needs to speak to someone for more information or to assist them in making the switch,



Facebook will now have dedicated staff to interact with cities. This moves the process away from the page operators who regularly enforce Facebook's user agreements. This switch should clarify some of the confusion encountered where See FACEBOOK on Page 4

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BRISTOL

The Bristol Fire Department has received an award of \$266,400 from the Department of Homeland Security under its Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The highly competitive grant process requires a local match of 10 percent (\$29,600) of the total project cost of \$296,000. The award will allow the city to purchase needed radio communications equipment for meeting the most recent FCC mandate known as Project 25, toward a goal of complete interoperability among emergency services agencies. Key elements of the initiative include a dedicated public safety radio frequency band spectrum in the 700-800 MHz frequency range. Greater efficiency is to be achieved by "narrow-banding", a requirement that radio systems must be efficient to within 12.5 kHz instead of the current 25 kHz. Narrow-banding allows more public safety channels to be accommodated within the dedicated frequency band spectrum. The grant, along with city funding, will be used to purchase a total of 74 Project 25 compatible radios through a competitive bidding process.

CENTERVILLE

Agrana Fruit US is expanding its Centerville location. The \$10 million expansion will create 64 new positions at the Hickman County plant. Ohio-based Agrana Fruit US prepares fruit for the dairy industry. The expansion will allow the company to add new production lines, according to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

CHATTANOOGA

Work will start later this month to double the size of Chattanooga Airport's solar farm after it received a \$3 million federal grant. The FAA Airport Improvement Program grant will fund the second part of the three-phase project at the airport. Phase two should be online in early 2013. While the power will go into the electrical grid, the solar farm will produce enough energy to power 250 homes a year. The environmental savings achieved through the solar farm cuts costs long-term for airport users. In addition, officials recognize that aviation leaves a large carbon footprint. The airport is putting in a 10 percent match to the grant, or \$300,000.

CLEVELAND

The new addition to Cleveland State Community College's technology center officially opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of the Board of Regents and local officials in attendance. The new design is intended to give students the look and feel of today's industrial manufacturing environment. The floor space of the building will be separated into three work cells addressing basic robotics and terminology; integrating computer design with computer numerically controlled fabricated machines and loading fabricated parts into an assembly system. Students will be able to see the entire process from beginning to end. The entire project cost \$2.3 million.

COLLIERVILLE

The Battle of Collierville holds the distinction of being the biggest Shelby County land battle of the Civil War. A re-enactment of the battle was witnessed by 1,515 people at Schilling Farms, where history, cannon fire and rifle volleys were reminders of the nation's bloodiest war. The track bed of the old railroad runs alongside Schilling Farms, adding a note of authenticity to the re-enactment, which included almost an hour of cannon and rifle volleys.

GOODLETTSVILLE

The city has been awarded a grant by the Tennessee Division of Forestry to plant trees through the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program. A total of seventy Yoshino cherry trees will be planted within the median of Conference Drive. It is projected that the trees will be planted over the fall and winter.

GREENEVILLE

New technology at the Greeneville Central Fire Station is enhancing communication while saving fuel costs. Video and audio equipment, valued at approximately \$10,000 was purchased with leftover 2011 grant funds received by the department. According to Chief Mark Foulks, Greeneville was one of the first fire departments in the region to use video conferencing for training among stations. The GFD says video conferencing should save \$8,951 annually by preventing fire trucks from leaving the three outer stations for required training.

HUNTINGDON

The town is working with the state Department of Tourist Development in joining the Tennessee Civil War Trails Program, part of a five-state trails system. The map guide identifies nearly 200 Civil War sites throughout Tennessee. Two notable Civil War Unionists, Isaac R. Hawkins and Alvin Hawkins, came from Carroll County. A plaque will be installed at cabins directing tourists to the officers' burial sites. There will also be a Civil War Trails marker at the Carroll County Courthouse. The town approved signage as well for the Cotton Junction Trail, which travels from Memphis through West Tennessee with signs every five to seven miles.

JASPER

The board voted to ask that the state allow Tennessee Galvanizing's \$2.25 million centrifuge project to begin before the state approves grant funding to help with infrastructure improvements. County and city administrators already approved a 10-year tax abatement plan for the company's expansion. Tennessee Galvanizing is applying for the funds because of a delay in the project's permit approval with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The company had hoped the new facility would be in production by late December. If approved by the state, Tennessee Galvanizing could get up to \$250,000 for improvements to more than 1,000 feet of water and sewer lines on the property. A reimbursement agreement has been approved in which Tennessee Galva-

nizing committed to reimburse the city if any repayment of the grant money is imposed by the state, officials said.

KNOXVILLE

A German manufacturing company that specializes in equipment for producing cardboard is planning to move its Grainger County factory to Knox County. BHS Corrugated North America has filed an application with the Knox County Industrial Development Board for a facility that would make and refurbish the rollers that are used in making corrugated cardboard. According to local reports, the company plans to develop a 33,500-square foot building at a cost of \$2.4 million, and would invest \$4 million in equipment and tooling.

LEBANON

Lebanon will get four electric vehicle charging stations as part of a nationwide initiative to encourage gas-free driving. The four charging stations will be installed at the Martha Leeville train station, Lebanon City Hall, Don Fox Park and the Lebanon Senior Citizens Center — at no cost to the city. Drivers will pay \$1 an hour to charge on these stations and 50 percent of that goes to the city to cover operating costs. The stations are scheduled to be installed by the end of the year. Lebanon could receive up to 10 stations through the EV Project designed to put in 15,000 stations nationwide, including 2,000 in Tennessee in the next 14 months. The Lebanon sites already have an electric meter and the city said additional electricity will be reimbursed. Upkeep costs will be paid by ECOtality through the end of the project scheduled in 2013.

NASHVILLE

Hospital Corporation of America will open two new headquarters on West End Avenue. The expansion of Parallon and SCRI will employ nearly 2,000 workers within five years and represent a private investment in excess of \$200 million in Davidson County. The project, located at the West End Summit development, will consist of two, 20-story towers. HCA CEO Richard Bracken said the new jobs will be filled by 2017. Construction at the site on 1600 West Ave. is scheduled to start early next year. Parallon is expected to occupy approximately 350,000 square feet as the anchor tenant of one tower. SCRI will be approximately 150,000 square feet, as the anchor in the other tower. Approximately 2,500 parking spaces are part of the planned development, as well as a restaurant and retail space. Parallon Business Solutions will relocate 750 jobs to Nashville from Williamson County with plans to add about 800 to its workforce by 2017. This is believed to be the largest number of new permanent jobs created by one economic development project in Davidson County since the relocation of Dell's facilities to Nashville in the 1990s, and one of the largest in the region's history.

NASHVILLE

BNY Mellon, the global leader in investment management and investment services, broke ground for the expansion of its existing Tennessee Processing Center to increase the firm's global technology infrastructure. Following completion of the



Hospital Corporation of America will open two new headquarters on West End Avenue, creating 1,000 new jobs. The development will include the corporate headquarters of two important HCA business units: Parallon Business Solutions and Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI). The \$200 million project, located at the West End Summit development, will consist of two, 20-story towers.

project, the company will occupy nearly 500,000-square-feet of space locally, including more than 120,000-square-feet of world-class processing space designed specifically for high density processing solutions, using the latest in network technology. The expansion also will provide support for future generations of newer, faster equipment, which are focused on power-saving, greener efficiencies.

PULASKI

Two distilleries planned for Giles County will be dedicated to producing the same kind of Tennessee sippin' whiskey made famous by Jack Daniel in Lynchburg and George Dickel, near Tullahoma. Tennessee South Distillery, located on a 28-acre plot near Lynnville, will be a small, boutique-style company with limited production runs. The distillery will fire up operations in December. While a big-time operation, the Tennessee Spirits Co., will

be built on a 120-acre site along Interstate 65 at the Pulaski/U.S. 64 exit. Plans call for the large distillery and processing plant to have a capacity to produce five million cases of "Jailers Premium Tennessee Whiskey," billed as "Music City's Whiskey," to be distributed worldwide.

SOUTH PITTSBURG

When the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 report showed the city shrinking by more than 300 people, city officials said they had to follow up to correct that number because losing population costs money. According to the census, the town's population dropped from 3,295 in 2000 to 2,992 in 2010. Now, thanks to the appeal process, known as the Count Question Resolution Program, 117 people have been added, bringing the total up to 3,109. The process, which included submitting multiple forms, addresses, and maps showing the location of each residence, took over a year.

Smyrna, Murfreesboro's Channel 3 receive top awards

The cities of Smyrna and Murfreesboro local channel 3 received national awards during the 27th annual Government Television Programming Awards presented by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA). The awards program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies. The winners were announced during a gala event on September 29 in New Orleans.

Murfreesboro's Communications Department, home to Murfreesboro CityTV, received 11 awards. CityTV brought home two third place awards for "Telling the Story" produced by Marcus Delaney in the category for Interview/Talk Show and "Habitat House 100" produced by John Padgett in the category for Community Awareness. Honorable mentions were received for CityTV "Bulletin Boards" created by Alan Bozeman in the category for Video Text Bulletin Boards, "Were Here" produced by Michael Nevills in the category for Promotional Video Campaign and Public Service Announcement, "In the City" produced by Steve Burris in the category for News Series, "Adult Day Services" by John

Padgett in the category for Seniors, "Murfreesboro Tourism" produced by John Padgett in the category for Promotion of a City, "200: The Story of Murfreesboro" produced by Michael Nevills in the category for Documentary Event Coverage, "South Maney Avenue Study Area" produced by Steve Burris in the category for Public Education, and "Destination Rutherford" produced by Steve Burris in the category for Community Awareness.

Smyrna's Channel 3 was recognized with a third-place award in the Video Bulletin Boards category. The channel also received honorable mentions in the categories of Documentary, for its production of "Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb" and the category of Community Event Coverage, for the Smyrna Baseball League's opening day ceremony.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.

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Artificial bat cave built to monitor deadly fungus

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Dark caves, killer fungi— it's the stuff great horror flicks are made from, except the unwitting victims in this ghastly feature are the tiny, winged creatures of the night. More frequently associated with the ghosts and ghouls of Halloween, national studies indicate that bats are tremendously beneficial to the nation's economy, eating many of the insects that destroy vital crops. Now, it's the creature itself in need of saving, as a lethal fungal infection threatens to catapult several U.S. species into extinction.

"Bats are people's best friends," notes Alex Wyss, conservation director for the Tennessee Nature Conservancy.

Reaching Tennessee in 2010, an estimated 5.6 million bats have died in its wake across the U.S.

To reduce the potential for the spread of WNS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a cave advisory in March 2009, urging the closure of all caves in the affected areas and bordering states. Yet, the fungus marches on. In some states with WNS, bat colonies have been reduced as much as 95 percent.

"We know we have had caves with typically a couple thousand bats in them," said Wyss. "Two years after white-nose was found in Tennessee, those caves have very few bats in them."

The bats enter into hibernation with the fungus already on them, according to Wyss. "When bats hibernate, they shut down a lot of their

soil, similar to an underground septic tank. With ample space to fit the anticipated 8,000 bats, the structure has an 11-foot-tall textured ceiling perfect for roosting.

The fake cave's nearest neighbor is a natural cave loaded with a colony of about 200,000 hibernating gray bats. And according to Wyss, the clock is ticking, as WNS has already been detected at this cave.

The real test, is getting the bats to venture inside the new space, and to take up residence throughout their hibernating cycles.

"We'll be closing the structure as soon as the temperatures drop and bats begin looking for places to hibernate," Wyss said. Conservationists hope to lure the bats inside the concrete cave with ultra-sonic bat calls distributed via loud speaker.

"We're installing equipment, such as cameras that allow us to see in the dark, to monitor whether any bats are in the cave and how many are in there," Wyss adds. The University of Tennessee will also be a collaborating partner in collecting data on the bats' behavior.

"Bats don't just use any cave, but those with the right environmental conditions," said Wyss. "We're shooting for the right temperature and humidity ranges."

To mimic those ideal conditions, the conservancy worked with environmental and coolant engineers to design the way the air flows, while trapping warmer temperatures in certain areas. After monitoring the bats during the winter hibernation period, the structure will be opened in the spring, after all the bats have exited. That's when the structure's ceiling and walls will be scraped and pressure washed with a solution of water and anti-fungal disinfectant.

"We're hoping we will be able to treat the bats with antifungal agents such as what people use for athlete's foot," Wyss said, adding that no other living organisms will be present inside the cave.

"Not only would a fungicide affect other living creatures in the cave probably rarer than the bats themselves, we also could run the risk of polluting water sources," he explains.



A hibernating bat's face and wings are enveloped with the sugary white coating of white-nose syndrome. Caused by the fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, there's no known cure for the condition, which has killed millions of bats as it travels across the U.S. Experts predict the fungus may have originated in Europe, where it has been detected, and then introduced into the U.S. unwittingly by cave enthusiasts.

While there isn't an exact count of how many bats have already succumbed to WNS across the state, the disease takes about three years to take its toll. "The state is coming up on its third winter, which is typically when you start to see mortality," said Wyss.

All in all, the project will probably require around a half million of private funding to continue, which the conservancy is planning to raise, according to Wyss. "Not a penny of government funds have gone into this," he stressed. "We are probably looking at the next five years in terms of maintaining the structure, and doing some construction, as we find we need to make adjustments with air flow, that sort of thing," he adds.

And if the project flies, the conservancy predicts artificial caves could become a widespread way of protecting bats from WNS in the future. "The goal, as we start to see signs of success, is that it could be replicated across the country," said Wyss. "That's when it would be most beneficial for both private and government entities to come together and work on replicating this on a greater scale."

"It's such a widespread problem, he continues. "I don't think any single strategy is going to be sufficient. We're going to have to be really creative, innovative in our science, and hopeful and optimistic that there's some natural resistance in the bat species. We'll also have to hope for good luck."



After building a \$300,000 artificial bat cave near Clarksville, the Tennessee Nature Conservancy is conducting a controlled study of white-nose syndrome this winter. The new structure, completed in September, will mimic the cold, damp environment of a nearby natural cave populated with a large colony of endangered gray bats. The cave property is deeded to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency by the Conservancy.

"The value they provide in controlling pests and nighttime flying insects is in the billions of dollars each year."

According to national figures, in Tennessee alone, bats provide an annual value of \$313 million in agricultural pest control.

"They're particularly good at consuming pests that ravage cotton or corn," Wyss adds, "so if you're concerned about the price of food, clothing or gasoline, you should really thank a bat."

In what could also be deemed as a little sci-fi magic, the conservancy is in the midst of a first-of-its-kind project in Montgomery County; a \$300,000, privately funded, artificial bat cave built for monitoring and arresting the effects of white-nose syndrome (WNS).

The condition, which is fatal to bats, is the work of a powerful fungus *Geomyces destructans*. WNS is named for the fuzzy white patches it weaves around the snouts and wings of infected mammals as they hibernate. The fungus thrives in the cold, humid conditions of natural caves, where it eats holes in the delicate tissues of bats' wings, and interrupts their natural hibernation cycles.

First detected in 2006, in upstate New York, there's no known cure for the disease and it travels fast.

body functions and slow down their metabolisms," he explains. "Their hearts beat much slower, as they turn down their immune systems and run on very low energy in the form of fat reserves built up over the year."

As the fungus begins to invade and wreak havoc on their bodies, the affected bats begin to wake up frequently. Flying around, hungry and emaciated, they quickly run out of energy in a furtive search for food.

While it's not expected to be a magic bullet for WNS, Wyss notes that artificial caves could one day be a beneficial link in protecting individual types of bats, particularly the gray bat, an endangered species. With more caves here than in any other state, gray bats are highly concentrated in Tennessee. In fact, ninety-five percent of all gray bats hibernate in just nine caves, and three of those caves are located in the state.

"Because they're so concentrated, white-nose could sweep through their populations very quickly," Wyss said.

The new bat sanctuary, assembled from prefabricated concrete sections, is built on land the conservancy bought and deeded to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. It's the size of a single-wide mobile home, covered by four feet of

Bat facts and resources

- All bats in the eastern United States feed almost exclusively on insects and thus are extremely beneficial. In fact, bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects. A bat may eat more than 50 percent of its own body weight in insects each night (approximately 3,000 or more insects).

- Bats, like humans are mammals, having hair and giving birth to living young and feeding them on milk from mammary glands. More than 900 species of bats occur worldwide; they are most abundant in the tropics.

- Bats have good eyesight, but most depend on their superbly developed echolocation system to navigate and capture insects in the dark. Bats emit pulses of high-frequency sound (most are not audible to human ears). By listen-

ing to the echoes reflected back to them, bats can discern objects in their path.

- Only three species, all in Latin America, are vampires. They really do feed on blood, although they lap it like kittens rather than sucking it up as horror movies suggest. Even the vampires are useful: an enzyme in their saliva is among the most potent blood-clot solvers known and is used to treat human stroke victims.



Just like caped crusaders, Tennessee's conservationists are headed to the bat cave to monitor and perhaps, one day, successfully manage the effects of white-nose syndrome.

For further information about the artificial cave project, bats, conservation agencies, and white-nose syndrome, visit the Nature Conservancy website at <http://www.nature.org/index.htm>; The Tennessee Bat Working Group at <http://www.tnbgw.org/index.html> or Bat Conservation International at <http://www.batcon.org/>

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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Education receives \$5.5 M grant

The Tennessee Education Department has been awarded a federal grant for more than \$5.5 million to improve pay structures and provide greater professional opportunities to teachers in high-poverty schools. The U.S. Department of Education announced the Teacher Incentive Fund award which will serve school districts in Haywood, Lincoln and Polk counties. The money will help fund the state's Recognizing Excellence in Rural Tennessee project. It will build on recent efforts to implement a statewide educator evaluation system that ties student outcomes to educator effectiveness.

TN lottery has record 1st quarter

The Tennessee Education Lottery Corp. has raised a record \$81 million in the first quarter. That's a 14 percent increase over the same period last fiscal year, which set the previous record with \$71 million. Total lottery funding for education-related programs in Tennessee exceeds \$2.47 billion since the lottery's inception in 2004. According to data from the Tennessee Student Assistance Corp., lottery money has provided more than 600,000 scholarships and grants to in-state educational institutions during that time. More than 100,000 scholarships and grants were provided during the past academic year alone. Lottery funds are also used to support after-school programs and energy efficiency in schools.

Parton nulls theme park deal

Dolly Parton has pulled the plug on a \$50 million theme park that was announced earlier this year. Parton said her decision was prompted by a vote of Gaylord shareholders to sell the Gaylord brand and management rights of several Gaylord properties — including Gaylord Opryland — to Marriott International Inc. "Gaylord makes decisions that they feel are good for their company and their stockholders and I have to make decisions based on what is best for me and the Dollywood Co.," Parton said in a statement.

SR 109 bridge transforms corridor

The new \$29 million State Route 109 bridge over Old Hickory Lake will extend 1,600 feet and carry four lanes of traffic. It will be a far cry from what's there now: a 58-year-old steel trestle bridge that, although safe, is structurally deficient and can

no longer meet the needs of fast-growing Wilson and Sumner counties. The new bridge, under construction, is expected to be completed next year. It is the latest in an ongoing effort to transform State Route 109 into a more modern transportation corridor, carrying commuters and freight and spurring economic development efforts in the region. Last year, more than 17,000 vehicles each day traveled on State Route 109 just south of the bridge, according to TDOT's traffic count. That's an 80 percent jump over the past two decades. TDOT officials said the traffic crossing the bridge is even higher, between 23,000 and 24,000 vehicles a day, and the numbers could increase to 34,000 by 2032. Already, the route has been widened to four lanes between Interstate 40 and U.S. 70 in Wilson County and again from Gallatin to Portland in Sumner County along the new State Route 109 bypass. The new bridge will be about 10 feet higher than the existing one and will include sidewalks on either side of the roadway.

Pickett state park unveils Iron Mike statue

Pickett State Park recently honored its heritage with the dedication of a life-size Civilian Conservation Corps statue — the first of its kind in Tennessee. The statue, "Iron Mike," honors and commemorates the hard work and accomplishments of the 70,000 Tennesseans that served in the CCC from 1933 to 1942 and who were instrumental in the development of the park. The CCC built the first state parks in Tennessee, and two CCC camps were located at Pickett State Park and Forest. Their work included building cabins and campsites, which are still in use today. They also hung telephone lines, built more than 35 miles of horse and foot trails and a 12-acre lake. At the statue's unveiling ceremony, original CCC "boys" from across Tennessee were recognized by TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, Sen. Ken Yager, Rep. Gary Moore and Park Manager Alan Wasik.

Records fee waiver draws praise

The state's Office of Open Records Counsel's move to automatically waive the first \$25 in fees for public records requests is drawing praise from open government advocates. The proposed rules, scheduled to be reviewed by state lawmakers, would

also give the comptroller the discretion to waive all costs related to public record searches and copies. The state's Office of Open Records Counsel, which recommends statewide guidelines, is under Comptroller Justin Wilson's jurisdiction.

Big box chain versus Tennessee

Electronics retailer Best Buy has sued the state looking to get a refund of more than \$1.3 million in state sales taxes. Best Buy officials claims they are due the cash because of state law allowing retailers to get back sales taxes related to an unpaid debt. The money in question comes from purchases made at Tennessee Best Buy stores from 2008 to 2011 on credit cards issued on behalf of the retailer. A number of purchasers later defaulted on their credit card payments and Best Buy now wants the sales taxes from those purchases refunded. Best Buy is claiming that it's eligible under a state statute that allows "a deduction from taxable sales ... for bad debts arising from a sale on which the tax imposed by this chapter was paid." The national electronics retailer filed a request for the refund last year. But the state never responded, thus in effect denying the request. Best Buy, which last year earned \$330 million from continuing operations on almost \$51 billion in revenues, runs about 25 full-scale stores in Tennessee.

Synthetic drug laws working

Synthetic versions of traditional, illicit drugs appear to be on the decline in Tennessee, according to local law enforcement, drug treatment centers and emergency room data. Just two years ago, states were grappling with how to outlaw this new crop of designer drugs masquerading as incense, bath salts or fertilizer but designed to be a legal high. This year, however, emergency rooms are seeing declines in synthetic-drug-related visits. Treatment centers are seeing fewer cases, and police are finding these drugs less often on the streets. Tennessee passed a series of laws banning the substances. The state also made it a felony to sell synthetic drugs and allowed municipalities to shut down businesses that sold them. Sgt. Gene Donegan, a veteran narcotics investigator with Metro Nashville Police, said the nuisance law, along with a law making the sale of synthetic drugs a felony, has made a difference. "I think people kind of weren't aware that the new law had passed, and they continued to use it." Donegan said. "We have actually made a few undercover buys from individuals and arrested several people since then, but it is definitely slowing down since the new laws went into place."

September revenues show marginal growth

Sales tax collections in Tennessee continued to show marginal growth in September revenue figures. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes reported that overall September revenues were \$1.1 billion, which is 5.45 percent above the budgeted estimate. September sales tax collections reflect spending that occurred in August.

"The sales tax is the 'bread and butter' of our revenue collections in Tennessee, and it's our leading economic indicator," Emkes said. "September sales tax collections continue to reflect the sluggish national economy, but we are pleased with the positive growth rates reported in corporate franchise and excise taxes."

"Leading economic indicators on the national level continue to reflect mixed results, which calls for

continued scrutiny of expenditures for the balance of this fiscal year, so we can keep the budget in balance and conservatively manage the state's spending."

On an accrual basis, September is the second month in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

September collections were \$55.8 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$57.7 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$1.9 million.

Sales tax collections were \$2.2 million less than the estimate for September. The September growth rate was 2.84 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$54.9 million above the September budgeted estimate of \$254.2 million. The September growth rate was positive 22.31 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for September decreased by 2.12 percent and were \$3.0 million below the budgeted estimate of \$71.5 million.

Tobacco tax collections for the month were under collected by \$2.9 million, and the growth rate was negative 7.51 percent.

Privilege tax collections were \$5.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$15.4 million.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$0.1 million above the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes were over collected by a net of \$3.6 million.

Year-to-date collections for two months were \$41.9 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$51.4 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$9.5 million.



Photo: TN State Parks/Terry Bonham

Pickett State Park honored its rich heritage with the dedication of a life-size Civilian Conservation Corps statue — the first of its kind in Tennessee — on Sept. 20. "Iron Mike," a CCC Legacy statue, honors and commemorates the hard work and accomplishments of the 70,000 Tennesseans that served in the CCC from 1933 to 1942 and who were instrumental in the development of the park. Pictured left: current state park rangers dressed in original CCC work clothes serve as living history re-enactors to share Pickett State Park's story. On the far right are: TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill and Sen. Yager. Rep. Moore is third from left on second row, with Park Manager Alan Wasick in back row.

Unemployment rates drop across Tennessee in August

Unemployment rates across the state were down in August, reversing an upward swing in July, according to new data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The data shows the rate decreased in 90 counties, increased in two and stayed the same in three. Statewide unemployment in August increased to 8.5 percent, up from the July revised rate of 8.4 percent. The national unemployment rate for August 2012 was 8.1 percent, 0.2 percentage point lower than July.

Williamson County had the second lowest unemployment rate at

5.9 percent, unchanged from July. Davidson County also held steady at 7.4 percent, unchanged from the previous month.

Scott County had the highest rate in the state at 17.5 percent. Tennessee added 24,600 nonfarm jobs in August, putting the state near the middle of the pack in terms of job growth for the month.

According to numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tennessee ranks No. 21 in nonfarm job growth. The state grew to a total of 2.68 million nonfarm jobs, compared to 2.65 million in August 2011.

Grant money available for special anti-litter projects

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is sponsoring a statewide competition for \$1 million of grant funds for special litter projects that go beyond routine maintenance.

Each winning proposal may be awarded a total amount of \$25,000 to \$100,000 in grant funds, which will be used to reimburse expenses on a quarterly basis for a maximum of three years.

According to StopLitter.org, the state of Tennessee spends \$11 million each year picking up litter. That figure does not include what local governments spend for litter removal annually.

TDOT invites any local government, community organization or non-profit entity to apply. Eligible

projects include any activity (pickup or education) that will cleanup or prevent litter in Tennessee. Recycling programs are also eligible. The grant may not be used for landscaping or beautification projects.

Proposals must follow certain criteria and TDOT's Highway Beautification Office will judge all applicants according to the criteria and award funding to the highest ranked applicants. The deadline to submit applications is Nov. 15, 2012. Grant winners will be notified by Nov. 30, 2012.

To apply and find out more information click here <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us> or contact TDOT's Highway Beautification Office at 615-741-2877 for more details.

TDA now accepting water quality grant proposals

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant proposals for projects that will help improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is Dec. 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria and applicable EPA nonpoint source grant guidelines.

"Through the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, we've been able to make measurable improvements in water quality in watersheds across Tennessee," state Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson said. "We're seeking local governments and other organizations that we can partner with to address water quality problems and encourage stewardship in both urban and rural areas."

Local governments, regional agencies, public institutions, private nonprofit organizations and other state agencies are eligible to apply for federal dollars administered by TDA's Water Resources office. Priority is given to projects that seek to

make measurable improvements to waters known to be impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals and other contaminants that come from many different sources and degrades surface and groundwater quality. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation assesses water quality and compiles a list of impaired waters. The list can be found online at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/wpc/publications/>.

Other priorities for funding include water quality related educational programs, projects that implement an approved Total Maximum Daily Load in a watershed area and projects that reduce urban runoff.

The FY 2013 Request for Proposals can be found online at <http://www.TN.gov/agriculture/water/nps.html>, or for more information, contact TDA's Nonpoint Pollution Program at 615-837-5306 or e-mail Sam.Marshall@TN.gov.

Facebook addresses city concerns

FACEBOOK from Page 1 some cities have received conflicting information and will give cities someone to work with them in finding a new name for the page.

Additionally, Facebook's notices to city page administrators read like form letters and were either captured in SPAM filters, or were seen by the recipient as a potential SPAM or virus and were deleted without any action being taken. Facebook is rewriting the letters to prevent this

and provide more information.

Facebook continues to tell NLC that any city losing access to the service can have its page restored once the name issue is worked out. It also has reexamined the need for the policy and has decided that it will continue to ask affected cities to make the required changes.

For more information, contact Gregory Minchak at NLC at minchak@nlc.org or (202) 626-3003.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Knoxville native and real estate developer **LeRoy Thompson** has been named The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development East Tennessee regional director. Thompson will be responsible for leading economic development efforts in the East Tennessee jobs base camp region and will serve as the primary point of contact for all issues relating to job creation. Thompson will oversee efforts to attract new businesses, help existing businesses expand and support other regional economic development efforts. Thompson previously served as president and CEO of BDT Development & Management, LLC in Knoxville, a real estate and construction firm specializing in the development of diverse public and private real estate and construction projects, including a wide variety of single- and multi-family residences, retail shopping centers, churches, clinics and commercial properties.

Grady Bogue, a retired University of Tennessee professor and longtime university administrator, has been appointed interim chancellor of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Bogue, a Knoxville resident who writes a column on leadership and accountability for the *Greater Knoxville Business Journal*, succeeds Chancellor Roger Brown, who retired Sept. 30. Bogue was a professor of leadership and policy studies at UT's Knoxville campus from 1991 until his retirement earlier this year.



Bogue

Brentwood's assistant city manager **Kirk Bednar** has accepted the city manager position. A Brentwood staff member since 2000, Bednar was a municipal management consultant with University of Tennessee MTAS before coming to Brentwood. He also held various positions with the city of Fort Worth in Texas. Bednar takes the reins from current Brentwood city manager Mike Walker when he retires Jan. 25, after 22 years of service with the city.



Bednar

The La Vergne Police Department has named **Glenn L. Taylor** assistant chief, making him second in command to Chief Mike Walker.



Taylor

Taylor will help Walker manage the department's 72-member force, which includes 52 commissioned officers, dispatchers and records clerks. Taylor brings with him more than 31 years of law enforcement experience. He previously retired as supervisor and manager with the Hendersonville Police Department, where he was a leader in the patrol division, while also serving in multiple administrative roles. Additionally, Taylor spent more than 21 years in the Tennessee National Guard with duties ranging from administration to security, logistics and training.

George Hayfield was recently

sworn in as Dover's new city administrator. Hayfield served as a former city planning consultant from Seagrove, N.C..

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander has been named as an inaugural member of The Tennessee Automotive



Alexander

Manufacturers Association's new hall of fame, created to recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions advancing the automotive industry in Tennessee. Sen. Alexander, as Tennessee governor from 1979-87, recruited Nissan and General Motors to establish major auto manufacturing and assembly plants in the state, and set the foundation for future auto industry growth through state-led economic development initiatives. Other nominated members include the late **Richard G. "Skip" LeFauve**, the first president of General Motors' Saturn Corporation, and the late **Marvin T. Runyon**, former CEO of Nissan North America.

The Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders (TAMCAR) has elected its new officers for the 2012-2014 term. The new officers are as follows: Lynn Carmack, President, Collierville; Allison Myers, Vice President, Farragut; Melinda Holliday, Secretary, Dover; Jason Griggs, Treasurer-Dyer; Cristy Pratt, East TN Director-Collegedale; Barbara Culp, Middle TN Director-Clifton; Randy Potts, West TN Director-Greenfield.

Kingsport conference highlights nexus between education, economic development

BY TIM WHALEY
Kingsport Community & Government Relations

The city of Kingsport, nationally recognized for innovation in advancing economic development through education, hosted its third annual "Straight to the Top" conference in late September, providing 1,700 college and K-12 educators an opportunity to hear encouragement regarding their daily impact, and analysis of what to expect in the future of the profession.

Featured speakers included former State Sen. Jamie Woodson, president and CEO - SCORE; Tennessee Board of Regents Vice Chancellor Dr. Warren Nichols; Nika Maples, Texas Teacher of the Year and author of "Twelve Clean Pages." U.S. Representative Phil Roe, and Dennis Bega, U.S. Department of Education Acting National director of Regional Operations/Office of Communications and Outreach.

Keynote speaker Maples exhorted teachers to look past the focus on testing and teacher accountability to embrace what she called "the hardest job in the world," finding "joy and happiness" in the moment of helping children overcome obstacles to become the best they can be.

Congressman Roe noted the need for holding the line on higher education costs, saying in his time, he managed to obtain a medical degree while incurring no student loan debt, something that is "absolutely unheard of today."

Roe also talked of the importance of teachers, saying he began school in Clarksville, in a one-room school house with "no indoor plumbing, but a great teacher."

This year, Kingsport City Schools, Sullivan County Schools and Northeast State Community

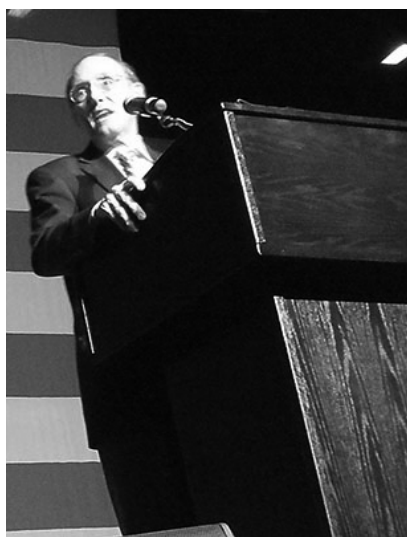


The city of Kingsport, recently hosted its third annual "Straight to the Top" educational conference for college and K-12 educators.

College took the conference opportunity as an in-service day for faculty and staff, allowing educators to take full advantage of the innovative ideas and creative conversation sparked by conference speakers.

In 2009, Kingsport won the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's "Innovations in Government" award on the strengths of its higher education initiatives as well as the city's "Educate and Grow" program, the nation's first initiative by a city to provide scholarships to fund two years of post-secondary education for qualified students. Kingsport was one of the top two winners out of more than 700 applicants from across the country.

Kingsport has been at the forefront of aligning K-12 and post-secondary education efforts with its economic development goals. Today, Kingsport's Academic Village includes the Regional Center for Health Professions, the Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing, the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, and the Pal Barger Regional Center for Automotive Pro-



U.S. Rep. Phil Roe

fessions.

At the same time, Kingsport continues to draw additional interest from other colleges and universities interested in providing education in downtown Kingsport. Each day, Kingsport has more than 2,000 students on campus learning the skills necessary to join an increasingly competitive and well-educated workforce.

Another round of CDGB funds awarded to Tennessee cities

Gov. Bill Haslam announced another round of recipients receiving Community Development Block Grants that will assist with infrastructure improvements in area communities. Municipalities receiving grants include: Adamsville, Baileytown, Bethel Springs, Bolivar, Centerville, Harrogate, Henry, Hohenwald, Huntsville, Jonesborough, LaFollette, Michie, Mt. Pleasant, Madisonville, Rogersville, and Rutledge.

Additional CDBG recipients were previously announced in September.

"Community Development Block Grants allow communities to complete projects that will ultimately lay the ground work for future economic development opportunities," Haslam said.

"CDBG has such a huge impact

on our rural communities where we have some of our biggest challenges in economic development," Haslam continued. "Having the proper infrastructure in place can lead to additional jobs and investments for a community and enhance the quality of life for its residents."

The funds were allocated under a procedure authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly. Allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set at local levels where community needs are best known. The CDBG program is administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The grants were approved following an application by each community and are supported by each community's state legislators and members of U.S. Congress.

Community	Project	CDBG Amount	Local Funds	Total Amount for Project
Adamsville	Sewer System Improvements	\$411,400	\$72,600	\$484,000
Baileytown	Sewer System Improvements	\$321,687	\$39,759	\$361,446
Bethel Springs	Water Systems Improvements	\$357,105	\$11,045	\$368,150
Bolivar	Sewer Systems Improvements	\$471,700	\$58,300	\$530,000
Centerville	Sewer System Improvements	\$387,000	\$63,000	\$450,000
Harrogate	Sewer Line Extension	\$442,897	\$43,803	\$486,700
Henry	Housing Rehabilitation	\$500,000	N/A	\$500,000
Hohenwald	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$62,000	\$562,000
Huntsville	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$132,150	\$632,150
Jonesborough	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$900,000	\$1,400,000
LaFollette	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$49,500	\$549,500
Madisonville	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$132,911	\$632,911
Michie	Water Systems Improvements	\$500,000	\$96,500	\$596,500
Mt. Pleasant	Sewer System Improvements	\$500,000	\$55,556	\$555,556
Rogersville	Water System Improvements	\$500,000	\$1,025,000	\$1,525,000
Rutledge	Fire Protection Improvements	\$200,000	\$15,054	\$215,054

ECD proposing changes to Tenn CDBG program

CDGB from Page 1

whether the very small communities would like to participate in the program, and if so, what should the criteria be to participate in the program. For example:

- How should a "very small community" be defined? ECD suggested communities with fewer than 3,000 residents.
- ECD is proposing an initial investment of \$5 million. Is that a fair amount?
- Should the smaller communities be required to follow the same criteria?
- Or should there be a separate program solely for the very small communities?
- Or should ECD just guarantee a minimum amount of dollars set aside for smaller communities?

ECD is proposing a new Microenterprise Grant Program.

- The proposed grant program would be funded with the Economic Development loan repayment fund and therefore, will not impact CDBG money.
- Grant money will be limited to

only graduates from one of the nine regional business accelerators. Regional Entrepreneurial Accelerators are part of Gov. Bill Haslam's Jobs4TN initiative designed to drive innovation across the state.

- ECD is proposing to initially start with a small pilot program and expand it if deemed successful.

ECD is proposing earmark funding for a Commercial Façade Program for Main Street and TN Downtown communities.

- The first year's initial allocation would be \$200,000 to be dispersed among eight grant recipients.
- The Tennessee Main Street and the TN Downtowns associations would help determine eligible recipients.
- Once established, should communities that currently have an open grant be able to participate?
- Should grant applicants receive additional points for increased energy efficiency in water and sewer system projects?
- Additional points would be given in the project need category if the PER shows that the project will save energy. For example, points would be given for saving 20 percent on energy costs, and additional points for saving 30 percent.

Next steps

ECD expects to release the final plan by the end of October. In the meantime, communities should start their Target Area Surveys, get their application materials together, and close out any current projects. For any questions about the CDGB program or proposed changes, contact Brooxie Carlton at (615) 741-8806.

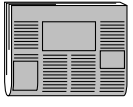
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ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER BRENTWOOD. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Assistant City Manager. Requires bachelor's degree; prefer master's degree in public administration or equivalent; Minimum 5 years senior local government management experience required; preferably as CM or ACM. Must have excellent administrative, analytical, and communication skills. Serves as city manager in that staff member's absence, with departmental oversight responsibility for HR, technology, library, community relations and capital improvements program. Hiring range: \$91,582-\$114,500 DOQ + excellent benefits. All applications are subject to public disclosure under state law. Send cover letter, resume and salary history by Oct. 29, 2012 to: HR, City of Brentwood, P.O. Box 788, Brentwood, TN 37024-0788 or via e-mail to hr@brentwood-tn.org. EOE.

CITY MANAGER COLUMBIA. The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Manager. Columbia is a full service city with an annual budget of approximately \$54 M, and employs approximately 400 people. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Management or a related field; a master's degree would be preferred. Candidates will have substantial experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similarly sized community, with preference given to applicants with five years of municipal experience with broad and complex management responsibility. Experience in budgeting and budget management, management of complex departments, legislative issues, economic development and redevelopment of commercial and retail areas of the city, planning, historic preservation and wastewater management are high priorities. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of achievement and innovation that will allow the city of Colum-

bia to build upon its strong tradition of providing superior services to its residents and customers. The city of Columbia is a historic community incorporated in 1817. It is a culturally and economically diverse community located approximately 40 miles south of Nashville. Columbia is known for its quality of life, historic preservation, various community events, and being the home of the first community college in the State of Tennessee. Resumes, along with a Cover Letter and 3 professional references will be received at: Personnel Department, City of Columbia, 700 N. Garden Street, Columbia, TN, 38401. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. The city manager, at the time of their appointment need not be a resident of the city, or of Tennessee, but is required to reside within the city during their tenure. The city of Columbia is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications will be received until 4:00 pm November 16, 2012.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CLERK LAKELAND. The city has an opening for a community services clerk. Tasks include reconciling utility customer lists and issuing periodic reports; prepares and issues permits; resolves customer problems and explains procedures regarding a variety of city functions including solid waste, sewer, code enforcement and other issues; ability to interact with a variety of city staff, members of Lakeland Boards and Commissions, vendors, and contractors; extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially Word and Excel is required. Experience with Access and automated applications are desirable. High School diploma or General Educational Development (G.E.D.) plus a minimum of two years related experience. Effective communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills. Ability to interact with tact. Attention to detail. Valid driver's license from state of residence. Applicants are encouraged to review the full job description requirements prior to applying. <http://www.lakelandtn.gov/Jobs>. Applications may be emailed to Personnel@lakelandtn.org, or mailed to the City of Lakeland, 10001

Highway 70, Lakeland, TN 38002. Pay is negotiable depending on experience and training.

EMS DIRECTOR JOHNSON CITY in Washington County. The community is seeking a proven Emergency Medical Services Director. Salary range begins in low \$70's and moves up depending on qualifications. Excellent benefits. Position answers to a nine-member board chosen by participating jurisdictions. Retiring director served 12 years. Desire a manager with strong leadership, communication, and team-building skills. Proven success in the delivery of comprehensive EMS services is required. Director responsible for all operations including administration of 114 FT employees and a \$10 million budget. Approximately 45,000 calls for service annually. At least 5 years progressively responsible EMS supervisory and management experience required - a bachelor's degree is preferred. Must be EMS licensed in Tennessee or obtain such within three months. Resume is a public record. See website at wcjems.org. Send resume by November 19, 2012 to City of Johnson City: Attn. Kevin Bratton, 601 East Main St., Johnson City, TN 37601. Fax: 423-461-1652. Phone: 423-434-6020. Email: kevinb@johnsoncitytn.org.

ENGINEERING/OPERATIONS MANAGER St. Charles County, MO. Alliance Water Resources, Inc., a professional management and operations contractor, is seeking a manager for its St. Charles County, MO Division. The selected candidate will serve as the Manager of Engineering & Operations for Public Water Supply District #2 of St. Charles County, MO, located just west of St. Louis, Missouri. The district has 35,000 water service connections and 10,000 sewer connections and is the largest public water supply district in Missouri, providing water and wastewater services to over 100,000 people in portions of St. Charles County and Warren County. The manager is expected to provide overall leadership and management, and is responsible for regulatory compliance, intergovernmental relations, planning, budgeting and overseeing departmental staff which provides water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, field and office customer service, engineering and administration. Responsibilities include but are not limited to

the operation of a 22 mgd lime softening water treatment plant and 8 various sizes/types of wastewater treatment facilities serving a 437 square mile service area. Qualifications: BA/BS in business, public administration, engineering or related field plus at least ten years of progressive utility management and supervisory responsibility. State licensed water/wastewater certifications are desirable. Alliance offers a competitive salary and benefits package including an outstanding 401k match. Apply online at www.alliancewater.com.

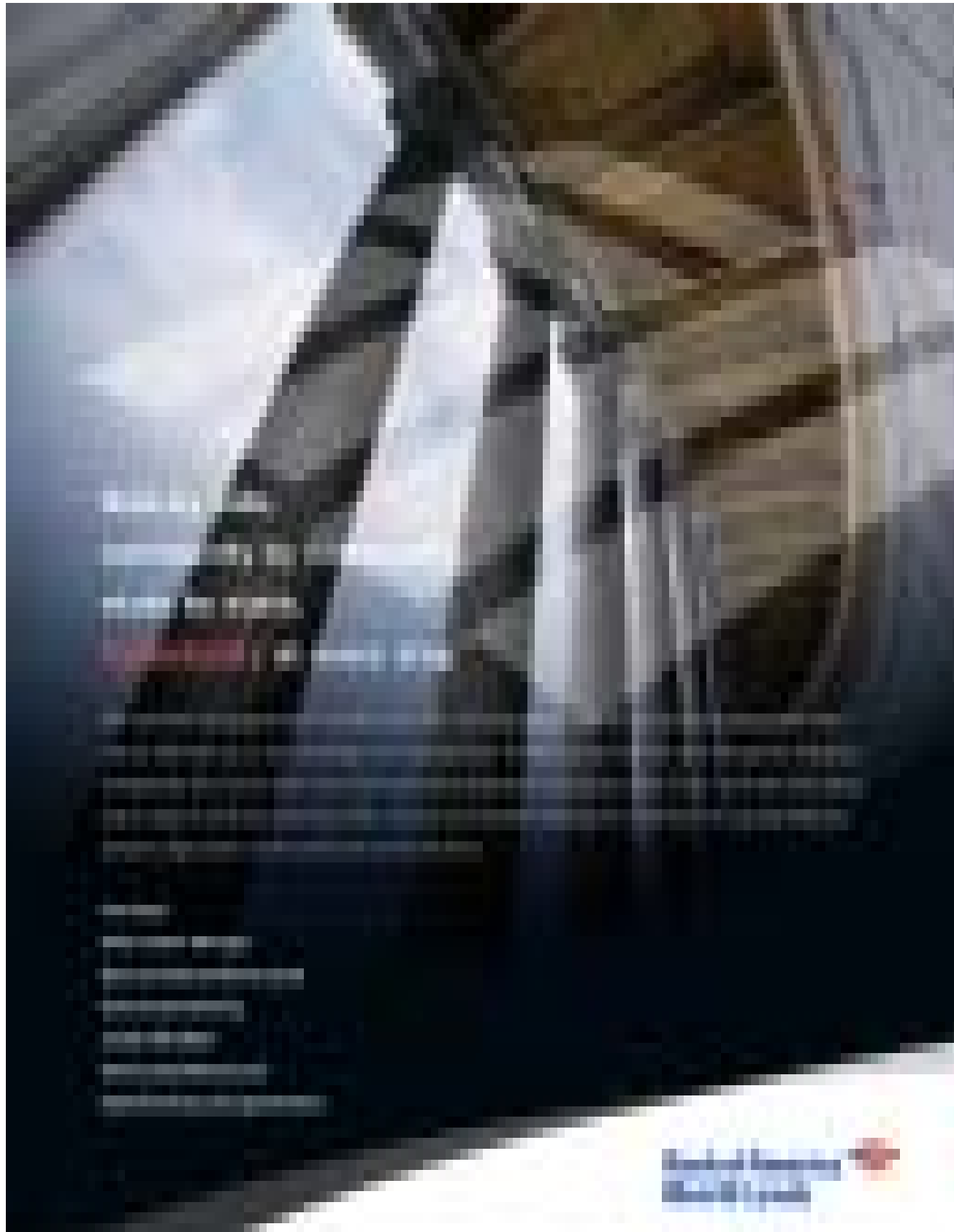
PLANNING/CODES DIRECTOR WHITE HOUSE. Under direction of the city administrator, is responsible for the oversight and overall management of the Planning and Codes Department. Administers the department budget; develops and enforces departmental policy and procedure; assigns, trains, supervises and evaluates staff; supervises and participates in the issuance of all building permits and other fees collection; calculates applicable impact fees, supervises and/or participates in the inspection of building construction sites for conformance to approved plans, codes and ordinances; administers subdivision regulations and zoning ordinances; commercial design standards; coordinates subdivisions and site plan review; inspects new streets, water lines, fire plugs, utility lines, drainage and grading, layout of subdivisions for Planning Commission. Oversees property maintenance code and compliance. Comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices, methods, techniques, tools and equipment used in planning and codes administration; knowledge of the principles and practices of good supervision and management. Position requires superior communications ability; significant computer skills; and good mathematical abilities. Position requires graduation from an accredited college or university with a four-year degree in planning, geography, geology, urban studies, public administration, or similar necessary to understand the principles and practices of municipal planning. At least four years of experience in a municipal, county, or state planning environment is required. Certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners is highly desired. Must hold current state certification as a Building Inspector, or complete certification within one year of appointment to position. Must hold current certification in Plans Review. Possession of a valid Tennessee Operator's License appropriate to the assignment is required. Salary range is \$47,673- \$57,947. Application deadline is Nov. 1, 2012. Forward resume & Application to: City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: Human Resources Department or e-mail CLewis-Smith@cityofwhitehouse.com. Visit www.cityofwhitehouse.com for application information and instructions. EOE.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR SHELBYVILLE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Director of Planning & Community Development. This is a highly responsible professional position and is a department director, reporting to the city manager. Duties include re-

view of land use amendments, zoning requests, site plans, subdivision plats, and related planning matters. Economic development/redevelopment experience desired. Grant writing and grant administration experience preferred. A bachelor's degree in urban planning or related field is required; a master's degree is desired. A minimum of 3 years experience in local government planning required. Salary is based upon education and experience. Salary range is 42K-52.8K, plus excellent benefits. The city is an EEO Employer. A completed city application form, cover letter and resume shall be submitted to City Recorder, City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street, Shelbyville, TN 37160. Position shall remain open until filled. First review of applications begins October 25, 2012. For more information and job description, please visit our website: www.shelbyviltn.org

POLICE/RESERVE OFFICERS White House. The city announces a call for applications for police and reserve officers. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and possess a high school diploma or GED. Applicants must pass a thorough background, psychological and medical exam, including drug screen prior to position appointment. Police officers must be Tennessee POST certified (or have the ability to become certified within six months of employment.) Reserve Officers must live, own a business or be employed within the city's urban growth boundary area and be able to complete 80 hours of classroom training. The application deadline is Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012. Visit the City of White House website for further details and on-line application at www.cityofwhitehouse.com. Forward resumes and applications to: The City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: HR Dept, e-mail CLewis-Smith@cityofwhitehouse.com. Only selected applicants will proceed through written and physical agility examinations, currently scheduled for Sat., Nov. 3, 2012. Selected applicants will be notified of their status, immediately after Oct. 25. EOE.

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE STAFF
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2012 Summary of Public Acts that affect TN municipalities

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

EDUCATION

Chapter No. 690 (HB3266/SB3060). School personnel may participate in student-initiated religious activities on school grounds. Creates a new T.C.A. § 49-6-2907 by prohibiting an LEA or school administrators from prohibiting school personnel from participating in student-initiated religious activities on school grounds so long as such activities are voluntary and do not conflict with personnel responsibilities. *Effective April 10, 2012*

Chapter No. 701 (HB3241/SB3116). Local boards of education must adopt policies regarding the relocation of students for safety reasons. Creates a new T.C.A. § 49-6-4018 that requires a local board of education to adopt a policy regarding a teacher's ability to relocate a student for safety reasons. *Effective April 11, 2012*

Chapter No. 703 (HB3469/SB3024). Teacher effect data confidential. Amends T.C.A. § 49-1-606(b) by making teacher effect data confidential and not open to public inspection. Such data shall only be used in the evaluation of teacher preparation programs. *Effective April 11, 2012*

Chapter No. 772 (HB2592/SB2900). Special education diploma must be awarded upon IEP completion. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, by requiring a special education diploma to a student who satisfactorily completes an individualized education program and have a satisfactory record of attendance and conduct, but who have not met the proficiency testing requirements. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 781 (HB3679/SB3558). LEA discipline policy must address indecent exposure. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 40, by enacting what has commonly been referred to as the baggy pants bill. Requires an LEA to include in its discipline code a provision prohibiting a student from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the learning environment. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 784 (HB3505/SB3606). LEA partnerships to encourage parental involvement authorized. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 70, by authorizing an LEA to partner with individuals, community and faith-based organizations to design and implement programs to improve parental involvement. *Effective April 23, 2012*

Chapter No. 794 (HB3539/SB3178). Charter schools to comply with open meetings and open

records laws. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, by requiring a charter school to comply with the Tennessee Open Meetings Act and the Tennessee Public Records Act. Requires a charter school to maintain a website with certain information where the local LEA does the same. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 801 (HB2237/SB2635). LEA employee discipline provisions amended. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 5, by clarifying that a teacher may be dismissed or suspended for the following: incompetence, inefficiency, neglect of duty, unprofessional conduct and insubordination. Also states that provisions for a hearing by the board do not apply to a disciplinary suspension for a period of three days or less. Makes other minor revisions to related provisions. *Effective April 23, 2012*

Chapter No. 811 (HB1908/SB1447). Individual teacher evaluations are confidential. Amends T.C.A. § 10-7-504 by making all records containing the results of individual teacher evaluations confidential and not open to public inspection. *Effective April 25, 2012*

Chapter No. 823 (HB2883/SB2723). Local board of education can conduct a meeting electronically. Amends T.C.A. § 49-2-203 by authorizing a local board of education to conduct a regularly scheduled meeting electronically if the absent member can be visually identified. Only allowable where a board member is out of the county for work, family emergency or military service. Requires a quorum of members to be physically present. Not applicable in Metro Nashville – Davidson County. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 830 (HB2999/SB2982). BEP funds may be used to employ a building manager. Adds a new T.C.A. § 49-3-364 authorizing an LEA to expend BEP funds earned for non-classroom components for employing a building manager. *Effective April 25, 2012*

Chapter No. 875 (HB1954/SB1429). Authority of Commissioner of Education to remove a local board of education member who fails to attend annual training. Amends T.C.A. § 49-2-202(a)(5) by removing the authority of the Commissioner of Education to remove a member of a local board of education who fails to attend the annual training prescribed by the state board of education. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 879 (HB3540/SB3345). Foreign funding of charter schools regulated. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 13, Part 1, by requiring disclosure in its charter school application or renewal of any foreign funding. Au-

MTAS Nov. MAP Class Schedule

Code Enforcement and Property Maintenance

Wage and Salary Administration is the creation of a system of orderly payments that are equitable (fair) to the employee and to the employer - and that provides sufficient motivation to employees to exert considerable effort in the performance of their jobs.

This course will identify and outline the basic purposes and components of an established and equitable wage and salary system within local government.

Participants will identify the purposes of a compensation system; describe the compensation of employees relative to internal worth; describe the compensation of employees relative to external worth; and describe the compensation of employees on an individual basis of job performance.

Participants will explore four different methods to rank jobs within local government settings.

Time

All classes are from 8:30am to 12:30pm

Instructors

Courses are taught by MTAS consultants

Nov. 7 - Franklin
Nov. 8 - Knoxville
Nov. 9 - Collegedale
Nov. 14 - Jackson
Nov. 15 - Bartlett

Training Facilities

Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Franklin, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane
Jackson, West Tennessee Research and Education Center, Seminar Room 150,605 Airways Boulevard
Knoxville, University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, 4th floor.
Bartlett, Bartlett Station Municipal Center

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL
ADVISORY SERVICE

These courses are CMFO continuing credit hour eligible (other) Price of course: \$50. A fee of \$65 is charged for non-city officials. Registration is required. Seating is limited at all sites, so please register in advance.

To better meet the needs of our customers, MTAS has changed to an online registration system and will accept registration and payment by credit/debit card through your Solution Point account. If you need assistance with registration or payment, call 865-974-0411.

thorizes a chartering authority to disapprove an application if a charter school plans to utilize more than 3.5 percent foreign workers, excluding foreign language teachers. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 901 (HB2222/SB2547). Achievement school district to adopt dress code for professional employees. Amends T.C.A. § 49-1-614 by requiring an achievement school district to adopt an appropriate dress code for its professional employees. *Effective May 9, 2012*

Chapter No. 905 (HB1105/SB1923). Local boards of education to implement plan for evaluating director of schools. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, by requiring a local board of education to develop and implement a plan for annual evaluation of its director of schools. Also authorizes the governing body of a municipality located in a county with a transition planning commission to request a referendum on raising local funds to support a new city school system. City must be authorized by its charter to operate a school system and possess a student population of sufficient size to comply with state requirements. If a special election is requested, the city will bear the costs. *Effective May 9, 2012*

Chapter No. 918 (HB2167/SB2591). Interest inventory tests must be made available to students. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, by requiring an LEA to make available to middle school students or ninth graders an interest inventory or personality test. Summary data must be transmitted to the Department of Education. *Effective July 1, 2012*

Chapter No. 934 (HB2753/SB3044). Local boards of education authorized to receive federal and private grants. Amends T.C.A. § 49-2-203(b) by authorizing a local board of education to apply for and receive federal or private grants for educational purposes. Any grant requiring matching funds, in-kind contributions, real property or expenditures beyond the life of the grant requires a resolution passed by the local board of education and notice to the local governing body. *Effective May 10, 2012*

Chapter No. 962 (HB2346/SB2208). School accountability provisions amended. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, by making various amendments to provisions related to school accountability and achievement school districts. *Effective May 10, 2012*

Chapter No. 970 (HB3234/SB2908). Prohibition on creation of municipal school districts lifted in certain circumstances. Amends T.C.A. § 6-52-112 by lifting the prohibition on creation of a new municipal school district where administration of a special school district is transferred to a county board of education. *Effective May 10, 2012*

Chapter No. 973 (HB3621/SB3310). Cause of action against person or organization promoting gateway sexual activity created. Amends Tennessee Code Annotated by creating a cause of action against a person or organization who promotes gateway sexual activity or demonstrates sexual activity. Not applicable to instruction by a teacher employed by an LEA. Prohibits an LEA from utilizing the services of a person or organization to teach family life curricula who endorses student non-abstinence as an appropriate or acceptable behavior or that promotes gateway sexual behavior. Also requires every LEA within a county in which the pregnancy rate exceeds 19.5 percent for females aged 11 to 18 to adopt a family life curriculum. Specifies that the family life curriculum must be abstinence based. Makes numerous other changes to family life education. *Effective July 1, 2012*

TML Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, at 1 p.m. in the TML Board Room on first floor of the 226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, Nov. 9, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.

TMBF Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012, at 9 a.m., local time, in the conference room of Suite 502 of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said Board. Some members of the TMBF Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Friday, Nov. 9, in the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, Nashville, Tennessee. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence, telephone number 615-255-1561.

Pool Board of Directors to meet

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, at 10 a.m. local time in the Board Room at The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tennessee, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698

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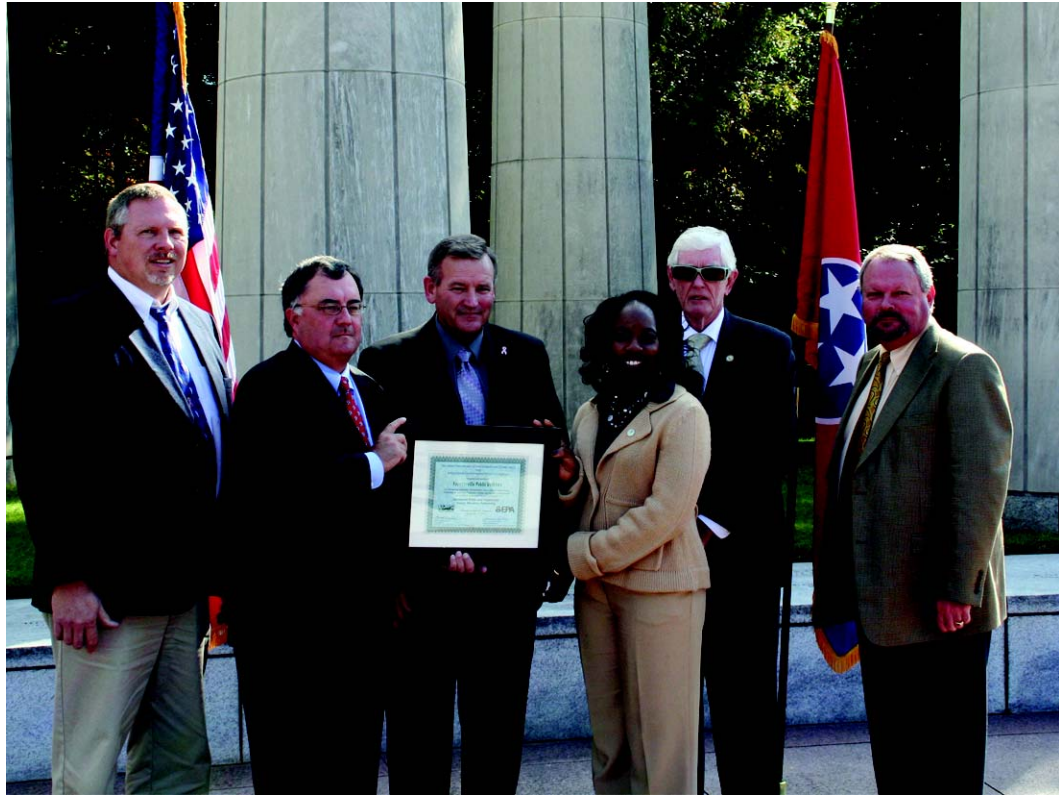
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EPA, TDEC recognize TN water and wastewater utilities



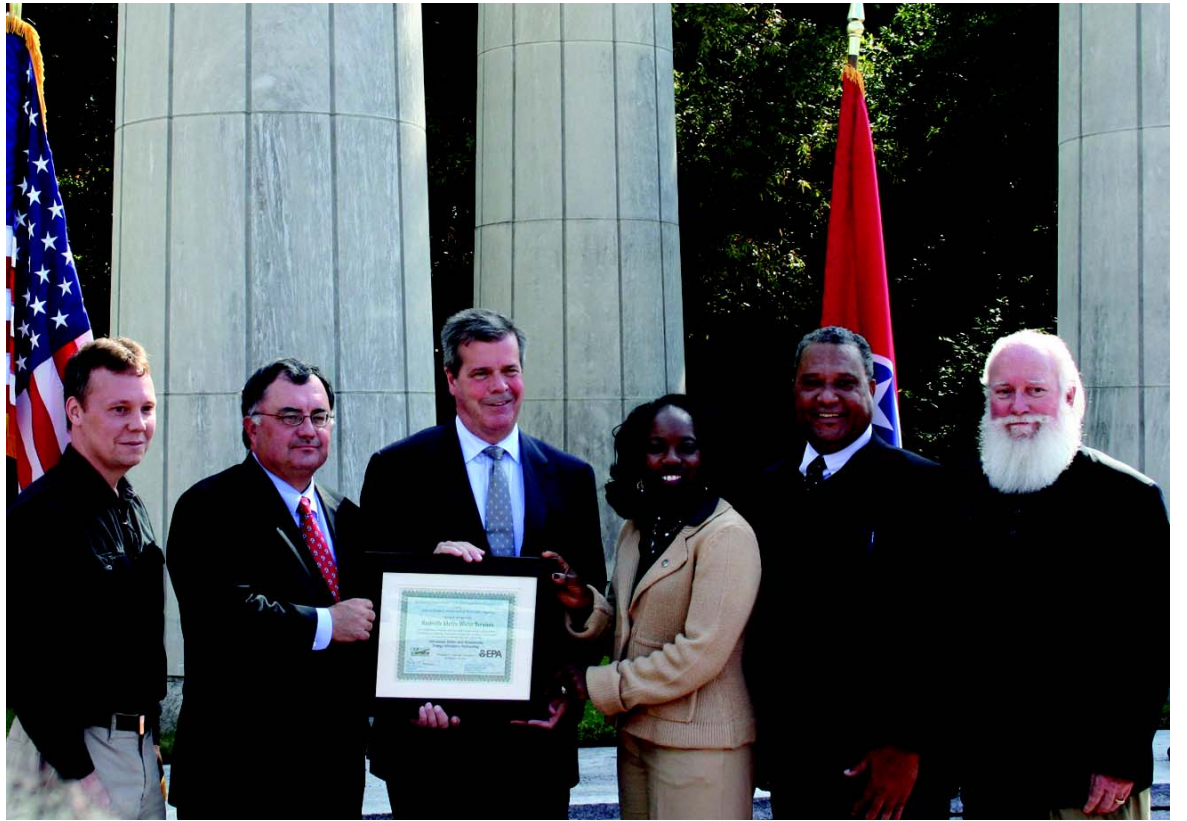
EPA Regional Administrator Gwen Keyes Fleming and TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau recognized the Fayetteville Public Utilities (FPU) for saving 517,000 kWh and for saving the city \$34,000. (L-R) Mike Rozar, Fayetteville Public Utilities; Martineau; Britt Dye, FPU General Manager; Fleming; Mayor John Ed Underwood; and Mickey Lawson.



The city of Franklin was recognized for saving 1,699,440 kWh and \$194,000. (L-R) Wayne Davenport, Franklin; Mark Hilty, Franklin; Commissioner Martineau; Mayor Ken Moore; EPA Administrator Fleming; Juan Davis, Franklin; and Andrew Orr, Franklin.



The city of Columbia was recognized for saving 1,300,000 kWh and \$100,000. (L-R) Hal Haywood, Columbia; Commissioner Martineau; Mike Anderson, Columbia Wastewater Department Director; Mark Williams, Columbia; and EPA Administrator Fleming.



Nashville Metro Water Services was recognized for saving 2,400,000 kWh and \$210,000. (L-R) Brent Freeman, Metro Water; Commissioner Martineau; Nashville Mayor Karl Dean; EPA Administrator Fleming; David Tucker, Metro Water; Ken Cox, Metro Water.

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau joined EPA Regional Administrator Gwen Keyes Fleming to recognize seven drinking water and wastewater utilities throughout Tennessee for their efforts to reduce energy demand at their facilities.

Improvements already made at four of the utilities are saving 3,300,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), \$260,000 and more than 3,200 tons of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Municipal utilities recognized include:

- City of Columbia (1,300,000 kWh, \$100,000)
- Fayetteville Public Utilities (517,000 kWh, \$34,000)

- City of Franklin (1,699,440 kWh, \$194,000)
- Nashville Metro Water Services (2,400,000 kWh, \$210,000)

"Drinking water and wastewater systems account for approximately three to four percent of energy use in the United States, adding more than 45 million tons of greenhouse gases annually," said Fleming. "EPA applauds these utilities in Tennessee for their leadership in reducing energy use, which is expected to save costs and yield substantial health and environmental benefits across the state and Southeastern region."

According to the EPA, added to additional improvements under way or planned at the utilities, the initia-

tive is expected to save more than 7 million kWh per year and reduce CO₂ emissions by 6,696 tons – equivalent to removing 1,190 cars from the road or powering 739 homes for a year.

Participating utilities are projected to save an average 17.8 percent in energy demand – amounting to an estimated \$663,750 in cost savings, with individual utilities expected to save between \$15,750 and \$210,000 each.

"TDEC has strived to become a more customer-focused department, improving both our community outreach and helping us maintain meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders," said TDEC Commissioner Martineau. "Today's gathering is a great example of how government

partnerships can work together and we've been pleased to help provide these communities with energy efficiency tools, expertise and support for Tennessee's water and wastewater utilities -- assisting them in reducing energy costs and environmental pollution, while saving money and benefiting their ratepayers."

Each of the utilities participated in workshops and conducted energy assessments to determine how best to reduce energy use at their respective plants.

Operational improvements ranged from minimizing the number and use of blowers to adjusting collection, UV disinfection and aerobic digestion processes to optimize performance.

Several utilities participate in

EnerNOC, TVA's demand response program. In addition, two utilities added solar panel arrays to their plants which allowed them to realize further energy savings. The utilities used EPA's online ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to benchmark and track energy use and savings at their facilities.

The Tennessee Water and Wastewater Energy Efficiency Partnership began in 2011 as a collaboration of EPA Region 4, TDEC, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, the Environmental Finance Center (University of North Carolina) and Schneider Electric. It is the first statewide effort of its kind in the Southeast.

Tennessee commemorates Energy Awareness month with sustainability practices

SUSTAINABILITY from Page 1 ride "n" drives to parades hoping to educate the public about the advancements in technology for electric vehicles, new vehicles available, costs and the advantages of alternative choices. Electric Vehicle (EV) owners at each event brought their vehicles for display and included signage for the number of gas-free miles driven. Many questions were answered for those seeking information on purchasing an EV including maintenance required, battery logistics, plug in stations and models available.

Knowing the lingo is important when considering what types of electric vehicles are on the market and the Electric Auto Association sums it up well. An EV is sometimes referred to a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) and includes vehicles that use electric energy stored in batteries to power the motor. They must be plugged in to recharge. They have ranges up to 300 miles but the size of the battery pack is the most expensive component of the EV; therefore, the typical range is 70-100 miles to keep the vehicle economically feasible.

The Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) is like a traditional hybrid but with a larger battery pack and a plug to charge the batteries

from standard household current. The vehicle is dual-fuel and can be powered by either electricity, gasoline or both. Last is the Extended Range Electric Vehicle (EREV) which typically has a range of up to 50 miles. If the battery becomes depleted during a trip, the gasoline engine turns on and is used as a generator to power the car beyond the electrical range.

There are three types of charging stations: level 1, level 2 and level 3. Level 1 is the most common home charging option simply requiring a standard outlet. The charging time for this 110 volt unit is approximately 8 hours. The level 2 station is commonly found in public accessible stations, operates with 240 volt and completes full charge in around 3 hours. Finally the level 3 station, also known as the DC Fast Charge, can completely charge an EV in approximately 30 minutes with 480 volts of power.

The most recent advancement in the push of electric vehicle use was the result of the EV Project, which was officially launched in October 2009. ECotality was awarded a grant through the Department of Energy, which totals approximately \$230 million with partner matches to initiate the EV Project with plans to install over 14,000 stations nation-

wide over 3 years. This marks the largest deployment of EV charge infrastructure in history. The Nissan Leaf and the Chevrolet Volt are partners in the project, allowing qualified drivers to receive a residential charger at no cost.

Tennessee was one of nine states, along with DC, chosen to participate in the initial project and currently has more than 500 EV charging stations located across the state. Most charge points are located in the "Tennessee Triangle," the stretch of highway between Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Expanded infrastructure in the western and south-central sections of the state will help complete Tennessee's EV Freeway.

ECotality recently announced it surpassed 1 million residential charge events on its Blink Chargers, making it the first in the industry to reach that milestone. This solidifies the popularity of the program and anchors this EV automotive category as a viable and clean transportation option.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is leading by example with the purchase of five Nissan Leaf vehicles earlier this year which were manufactured in Nashville. The vehicles are stationed in Memphis and Nash-



The Nissan Leaf zero emission vehicle is a great fit for the fleet at Eastman Chemical Company.

ville, replacing the traditional fleet vehicles. Charging stations have also been recently installed at the state employee parking lot and Montgomery Bell State Park to promote alternative transportation and increased awareness of options available.

Some things to consider when making the price comparison of an EV to a gasoline powered automobile are the convenience and cost savings of maintenance required as EV's have far fewer moving parts, less fluids to change, extended brake

wear and are conveniently charged at home. The battery, motor and associated electronics with an EV require little maintenance and the cost for charging is 15-20 percent that of gasoline. EV's have great low end torque because they don't have a traditional transmission which helps them accelerate quicker. They are very quiet and handle well due to the low center of gravity with the battery.

If considering an electric vehicle purchase, a test drive may secure the deal.

Jim Thomas, the first MTAS executive director to be based in Nashville

BY GAEL STAHL

Jim Thomas is the youngest of four siblings, the only true Southerner in his family. He's hugely proud of that distinction. His parents were born, grew up, met, married, and had his two brothers and sister in the Ohio/Pennsylvania area. His father, who was in the steel business all of his life as were both of his grandfathers, followed a job to Chattanooga in 1949 as a career employee of Republic Steel Corp. Two years later, Thomas was born April 18, 1951, and has been a Southerner ever since.

Raised in a Catholic family, he was taught by nuns in elementary and junior high school and graduated from Chattanooga's Notre Dame High School in 1969. He's grateful for being grounded by the nuns in English and math, science, and history, and taught to write well. During his childhood, he seldom got out of Chattanooga so going 110 miles away to Knoxville for college was a big step for him. He spent four years in undergraduate school, got a degree in animal science in 1973, went right into graduate school and finished his master's program in animal science in 1975.

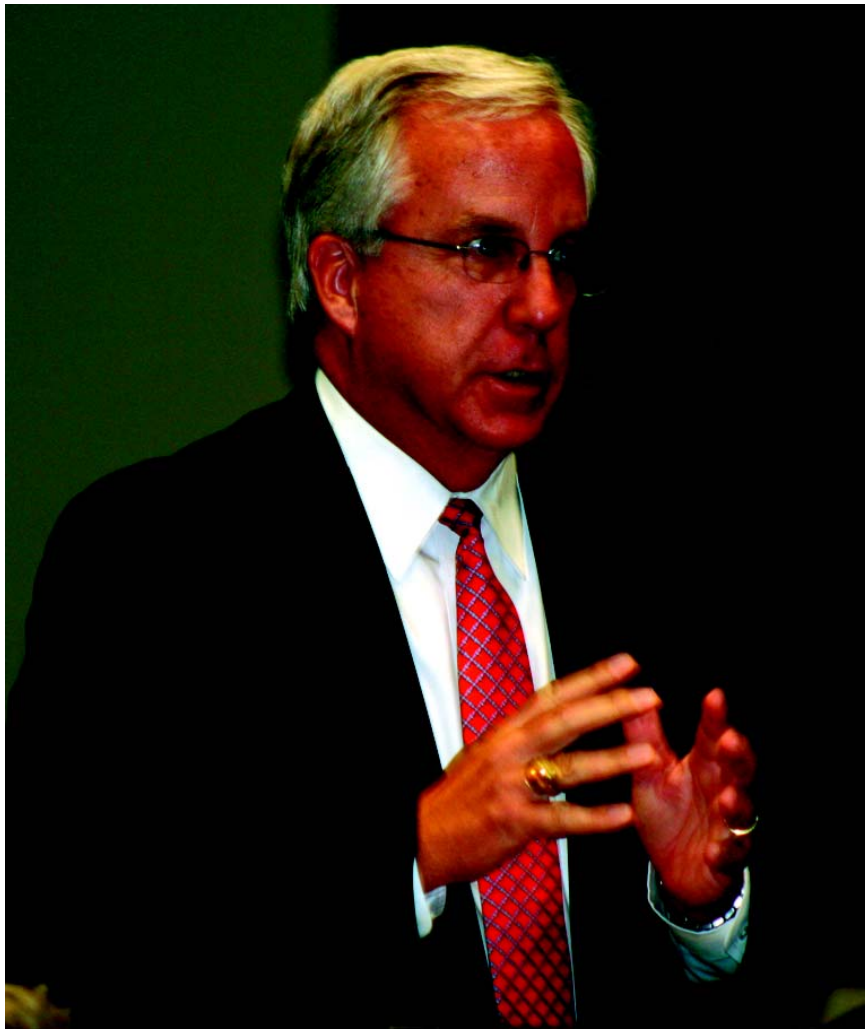
Many have wondered how a city boy like him got interested in animal agriculture. The path of an animal scientist to city manager was a twisty path, but in Thomas' mind it was a logical progression. He grew up around horses. He also worked after school, weekends, and summers for a large veterinary practice that included large animals. In college, he studied animal agriculture and beef and dairy cattle nutrition.

Thomas met his wife Marilyn "Sissy" Frost, a native of Goodlettsville, in college. They started dating toward the end of their junior year and both graduated in 1973. She took a job in the South Central Bell marketing office in Knoxville during his graduate school studies. They married in 1974 and Thomas graduated in 1975. When they moved to Middle Tennessee in 1975, they decided to stay temporarily in Sissy's hometown of Goodlettsville on Nashville's northern boundary. She'd gone to grade school and high school where her father was a high school teacher and long-time football coach. Thirty seven years later they are still there "trying to figure what they want to do with their lives" with no desire to leave the Goodlettsville area. They have one adult daughter, Jamie born in 1981, who has long been an emergency medical technician with the Metro Fire Department. She is planning a spring wedding.

Sissy worked for AT&T and HCA, a hospital management company, before developing a successful real estate practice. Thomas worked briefly with a small animal feed manufacturing company in Columbia and then in 1976 for Oscar Mayer Foods, Inc. in Goodlettsville until he went to the Food and Dairy Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture in 1978. He served as assistant director of the division and was promoted to director when the director left state government for a job in the private sector. He enjoyed the governmental environment and became increasingly interested in how government works. Thomas later worked for an agriculture-based holding company and a consulting firm as a financial consultant. On the side he served as a voluntary board member of the Planning and Zoning Board in Goodlettsville and was elected to serve a term on the Goodlettsville Board of Commissioners. In 1999, he became assistant city manager and in 2004 city manager of Goodlettsville. In 2011, he became assistant director of MTAS and this July executive director. He was the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association president in 1991 and served two terms on the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors and on the MTAS Advisory Committee as a member and as its chairman. He served eight years on the Sumner County Joint Economic and Community Development Board, and was chairman of the Sumner County/Tennessee Council of Governments. In 2006, he was the council's Municipal Administrator of the Year.

TT&C: In your first big job with the state Food and Dairy Division, did you work with farmers and food marketers?

JT: The regulatory division I directed provided some training but



Jim Thomas, MTAS Executive Director

"We make our best services available to any city that need us."

mostly inspectional services for the food chain of the state. If you warehoused, distributed, manufactured, or processed animal food or human food we inspected you and enforced the state laws. Only the administrative staff, our food safety laboratory and our chemical laboratory worked out of division's headquarters at the Ellington Agriculture Center in south Nashville. Everyone else worked as state inspectors from their homes all across the state. I had a hard-working, dedicated staff that belied the popular notion that state employees slough off and don't work hard. I have ample testimony from that experience to challenge that misconception.

TT&C: Yet you left that after eight years?

JT: Yes, I thoroughly enjoyed that work but took an opportunity in 1985 to leave state government to work in the private sector with a former commissioner I'd worked for. When he left, he went with a Brentwood-based holding company and I followed him and worked with him until 1996. It was a holding company that owned agriculture production companies around the Southeast such as cotton gins and cotton warehouses and a couple of hardwood lumber mills. I was sales manager, then director of operations and finally assistant to the president of Pen Cotton Company coordinating operations in three states. When the company was sold, the new owners chose to put their own staff people in place.

TT&C: And, for the first time instead of leaving a job you had to look for one?

JT: I went to work in 1996 for a Brentwood-based firm that provided consultative services and did financial planning for private individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations, and charitable organizations.

In 1999, the Goodlettsville Board of Commissioners authorized city manager David Wilson to hire and train an assistant city manager to replace him when he eventually retired. I was hired and when David retired in January 2004, the board promoted me to city manager. I served eight years through October of last year and came to the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). It's been a twisty road but I think it was logical.

TT&C: You had a great run as city manager of Goodlettsville. How did the city grow and evolve during your stay from 1999 to 2011?

JT: When I was first employed by the city it was under 13,000. When I left the city last year, the decennial census had the population at more than 16,000. That's significant growth, not unlike other suburban cities around Nashville in the 2000s. There were demographic changes but issues didn't change except in format. Small cities in our state live and die with retail sales tax collections. Like most small cities we put on a full court press to try to attract

additional retail services to our city to fund growing service needs.

Goodlettsville has been a stand alone city for quite some time with its own police and fire services, public works, and parks and is not dependent on Metro Nashville/Davidson County or Sumner County in which it's situated. Annexations in the early 1970s went across the county line into the Sumner part of the city so the rate of growth there far out-paced growth in the Davidson part of the city where the Metro charter froze the boundaries of all satellite cities in 1963. We couldn't annex on the Davidson County side.

We faced the typical issues any small city struggles with. What you can do depends on how much retail is available to supplement the property tax base. We had successes and failures.

TT&C: It's hard to imagine any failures. Don't all the Rivergate Mall sales tax collections go to Goodlettsville?

JT: Actually, only part of them. It's always been assumed that the entire mall lay in the limits of Goodlettsville but a crazy crooked path winds through the mall facility and much of sales tax goes to Metro Nashville. But Rivergate continues to be an important sales tax generator for Goodlettsville, just not the generator it was when it first opened in the 70s and 80s.

The development of the Long Hollow Pike corridor to the northeast has been aggressive in the last 15 years and that will continue as residential development grows in that Sumner County part of the city. We've had excellent working relationships with Hendersonville, Millersville, and certainly with Metro Nashville and Sumner County. We support each other and come to each other's aid. Within an hour of when the tornado went through Goodlettsville in 2006, we had resources from every surrounding city that could send us help, especially Nashville.

TT&C: What kind of projects did you oversee as city manager?

JT: Service requirements were increasing all the time, emergency services, the parks division, and programming for new recreational interests and facilities. We invested significant money into a soccer complex at Moss Wright Park. We increased police and fire services, public works, garbage collection, and street maintenance.

TT&C: What was it like to go from city manager to MTAS assistant director last year and executive director this year?

JT: Since my first day with MTAS on Nov. 1, 2011, it's been a whirlwind 11 months. I thought I knew a lot about MTAS from my contacts with it as city commissioner, as assistant city manager and as city manager. I was so frequent a user of MTAS services that some joked that I wasn't a user but an abuser of MTAS services. For human resources ques-

tions, I had Rick Stokes' number on the speed dial. Dennis Huffer and later Josh Jones answered my legal questions. Gary Jaeckel was the management consultant assigned to Goodlettsville. Never a week went by that he wasn't calling me or I calling him. Despite that familiarity, I quickly realized when I came to work last November that I didn't know everything about MTAS. I certainly didn't know the culture and bureaucracy of the university. Frankly, that's taking time to get used to. MTAS is really a nonacademic entity embedded in a very academic institution, the University of Tennessee. I can't say enough about how welcoming the MTAS staff has been and how everybody at the Institute of Public Service (IPS) level were in helping me to figure out these things.

Earlier this summer my MTAS boss Steve Thompson, who was hired as MTAS director two years ago, was promoted to assistant vice president of IPS and IPS President Dr. Mary Jinks talked to me about succeeding him as MTAS director. I told her I was still drinking from the fire hose trying to figure all of this out but if she thought it would work, let's give it a try. My first day as executive director was three months ago on July 16. I am thrilled for a new opportunity.

TT&C: You're the first MTAS director to be stationed in Nashville?

JT: Yes. Last year when I was considering the offer to be assistant director I had no desire at all to uproot my wife and me from our home in Goodlettsville. I let that be known and it proved not to be a problem so long as I was willing to spend an appropriate amount of time in the Knoxville headquarters offices. There were also strategic reasons for it. MTAS highly values its strong relationship with the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) whose offices are one floor above the MTAS offices in Nashville. We're in offices adjoining the Legislative Plaza, the General Assembly, and the state Capitol. MTAS works primarily with towns and cities but also with state government as part of our mandate. MTAS now has one of its leadership positions centrally located to further build those strong relationships. It turns out that over the years there'd been talk about the executive director working out of Nashville.

TT&C: Steve Thompson told us two years ago that 58 percent of the Tennessee population – about 3.5 million people – live within incorporated cities and towns and 30 percent of them live in cities under 25,000 population who receive roughly 84 percent of MTAS' services.

JT: That's because larger cities have revenue bases to hire most services MTAS provides to smaller communities. We can tell you just how many hours we spend with cities of whatever population. In terms of time available, our biggest commitment is to the smaller cities, but the largest cities are just as important to us. No more, no less. There are 345 cities in the state. We serve them all. We make our best services available to any city that needs us. In the last year or two we've been emphasizing some success in providing more service to bigger cities. We are talking to a couple of the bigger cities about becoming part of some MTAS service programs that are typically requested by the middle size or smaller cities.

TT&C: What kinds of programs?

JT: One is the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking program. Most of the membership has been smaller cities, but Chattanooga has been an active participant during the existence of the program and Knoxville and Nashville have expressed an interest in benchmarking, too. The benchmarking program studies comparable city services and tries to find their common denominator. The collaborating cities provide data to the benchmarking group and analyze it. Big city Chattanooga collects garbage, small city Goodlettsville collects garbage. We compare their efficiency and effectiveness and note their similarities. Let's say it costs Chattanooga \$5 to collect a ton of garbage and it costs Goodlettsville \$15. The benchmarking group studies how Chattanooga does it at a lower unit cost and what Goodlettsville could do to lower its cost. That's step No. 1. Step. 2 asks, why are we different? Third and probably most important asks what best practices do we learn that each member can adopt to make their ser-

vice operation more effective and cost efficient. The group collects volumes and volumes of data to see how cities can perform better services.

TT&C: MTAS has applied for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) Achievement Award's third level of four TNCPE recognitions of excellence?

JT: Basically that's a self study where a private company or a university service agency like MTAS does a critical self analysis of how it's performing against an extensive list of performance criteria to determine its level of excellence. Examiners evaluate what you submit to them to see how you're achieving in a step-wise progression to various levels. We've gotten to the level 3 stage and recently submitted our application, the paperwork, and documentation to the examination team that will come to the Knoxville MTAS headquarters offices to interview staff to get further information. That group will prepare a report and decide if MTAS achieved the standards of the criteria of areas where we need to improve. An incredible amount of work goes into that, and the end result is seeing if we are performing at the highest level possible for our entity to perform at or not.

TT&C: What is the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council that recently won a governor's stewardship award?

JT: TREEDC, as it is referred to, is a group of mayors and city officials from an ever increasing number of cities that aligned themselves to learn from other members and entities what they can do to better conserve their energy resources and make the use of those resources more efficient. It has become a very successful program and is an initiative that MTAS worked with to help get it off the ground. Many cities are members. MTAS management consultant Warren Nevad represents MTAS's primary support of TREEDC.

Where is MTAS going next?

JT: Our strategic plan directs us to anticipate needs that will arise for municipal government. To that end we have a project going that Steve started called Building Better Cities. We've surveyed all 345 cities in the state and recorded data about 28 things we feel cities should have available as they go forward. We will analyze that data and hopefully identify areas where we can become more adept and knowledgeable in delivering services to cities that this data tells us they need. We'll probably find that we're meeting the basic need but that there are some unanticipated needs that we've been looking right past that we need to know to better serve cities.

TT&C: How can MTAS work even better with TML, its Bond Fund, and Risk Management Pool to improve municipal services?

JT: It goes without saying that all four us are focused on serving city governments. We all work day in and day out to support each other. For instance, perhaps the Risk Management Pool is doing some training for cities that MTAS has requested or MTAS is providing support to TML for the educational part of the annual TML conference. We all collaborate well to best serve our customers, which are Tennessee's towns and cities.

TT&C: MTAS frequently hires former city managers to manage its consultants. What features of your municipal expertise do you think Dr. Mary Jinks, Chuck Shoopman, and Steve Thompson saw in you to lead MTAS?

JT: Their total focus was and is on delivering the best possible consulting, training, and research services to municipal governments across the state. I think my involvement first as a voluntary member of the Planning and Zoning Board of Goodlettsville, then as an elected city commissioner for a term, and then as an administrative employee of city government as city manager met their requirements that senior leadership should have some experience at the local level. Lacking the understanding of knowing what a mayor, city manager, public works director, or police or fire chief are experiencing and feeling day in and day out as they try to do their job, would make my job impossible.