

City officials urged to contact Congressional members on key issues

During the recent TML Conference in Memphis, TML staff discussed federal legislation, including the "Marketplace Fairness Act" and various proposals addressing the tax treatment of interest on municipal bonds. As part of those discussions, the TML Board of Directors formally adopted resolutions on these two issues.

If approved, the Marketplace Fairness Act would allow state and local governments to collect sales taxes on online and remote sales that are already owed. The change is estimated to generate billions of dollars for state and local governments.

The U.S. Senate approved the legislation in May with a 69-27 vote. Sen. Lamar Alexander is a lead sponsor of the legislation. Sen. Bob Corker is among a bipartisan group of co-sponsors.

It is now being considered by the House, where it is believed to have a harder time due to anti-tax pledges many members have signed in which they've vowed not to raise taxes. However, the Act does not create a new tax or increase any existing tax; it simply provides for the enforcement of state and local governments' authority.

The National Conference of State Legislators estimates that the

state of Tennessee and its local governments lost a combined \$748 million in sales tax on E-commerce in 2012.

The legislation also aims to level the playing field between traditional brick and mortar retailers who are required to collect sales taxes at the time of purchase and the online retailers who are not.

Tax-exempt municipal bonds

Tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary means by which state and local governments finance critical infrastructure of our nation, including roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and utility systems.

Under current law, the owners of municipal bonds are not required to pay federal income tax on the interest income they receive from the bonds.

Municipalities benefit from this tax exemption through substantial savings on the interest cost of borrowed money.

Recently, Congress has considered many options available to reduce the federal deficit. One option Congress is evaluating would reduce, eliminate, or phase out the exemption on municipal bond interest. President Obama's Fiscal Year 2014 budget proposal recommends **ISSUES on Page 4**

Sign your city up and get moving! Walk Tennessee kicks off in September

BY DAN POPOVIC

Did you know that one in three children and two in three adults are overweight? And according to the Institute of Medicine, obesity costs businesses \$4.3 billion in annual losses due to health-related job absenteeism. Even more alarming is the health problems that occur such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure.

In order to have an impact on this epidemic, there are several areas that need improvement. For starters, we need to exercise more, and eat better.

As local leaders in your community you can play a critical role in this fight against obesity by becoming actively involved in creating healthier communities.

Through a new initiative launched by the Tennessee Municipal League, city leaders will have an opportunity to engage their citizens in a city-to-city walking challenge.

Walk Tennessee, a city-to-city initiative for better health, is designed to be a fun, social challenge to determine the most active city in Tennessee while highlighting all the great events in various communities.

Through an Internet-accessible program, community members can interact with one another online; form their own running, walking and fitness teams; set goals; track successes; and even earn points toward rewards and prizes. (You can



view a sample of what the interactive community will look like, by visiting: www.cmecompete.com/communities/walk-tennessee)

The six month challenge is set to launch in September and continue through February. The winning city will be recognized during TML's Legislative Conference in March.

But despite whether or not your city is the one that logs the most miles, everybody is a winner. The initiative is meant to be fun, engaging and rewarding. And through a

collaborative, community approach, the challenge can also open doors to other community connections with businesses, schools and families who are interested in participating on some level.

We are here to help you along the way. To get your city team set up and events loaded on the *Walk Tennessee* community page, email info@cmecompete.com. We will walk you through the process!

Help us create a healthier Tennessee and sign your city up today!

Being green is at the core of Ripley's downtown revitalization project

BY MARK PENLAND
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Illustrating that economic development, environmental protection and community empowerment all go together, the city of Ripley recently completed Phase 1 of a courthouse square revitalization project, making it the first "green downtown" in Tennessee.

The project began in 2010 when Lauderdale County became one of only six counties in the state to receive a Courthouse Square Revitalization (CRZ) pilot project grant. The funding is the result of legislation known as the Courthouse Square Revitalization Pilot Project Act of 2005. The legislation reallocates state and local tax revenue collected from activities conducted at or near a courthouse public square for the maintenance, improvement and revitalization of the public square.

The project consists of three phases, with the final phase to be **See RIPLEY on Page 9**



The first phase of the project focused on the revitalization of the downtown area and the restoration of the Lauderdale County courthouse.

State Rep. Lois DeBerry passes away

Tennessee Rep. Lois DeBerry, of Memphis, the first female speaker pro tempore in the House and the second African-American woman to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly, has died after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer at age 68. A well known trailblazer in state politics, DeBerry was loved by colleagues and constituents alike for her friendly demeanor and dedication to helping the downtrodden.

She was first elected in 1972 and had been the longest-serving member of the state House of Representatives. Legislative leaders along both party lines often sought her support on key legislation.

"Coming in as a new governor, Lois quickly became one of my favorite people on Capitol Hill because of her wit, charm and dedication to her constituents," Gov. Bill Haslam reflected in a statement. "Lois was a history maker, a wonderful woman, a great legislator and a true friend. I will miss her."

"The impact she has had on this great state, the lives of countless Tennesseans and people all across the country is astounding," said

House Speaker Beth Harwell. "Her dedication to children's issues, women's issues and criminal justice reform have resulted in a better Tennessee."

The Lois DeBerry Center in Nashville, which was named after her, revolutionized the way the state dealt with the incarcerated population.

"She helped bring the state's prison system out from under federal oversight and into the 21st century," former House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh commented. "I will miss Lois DeBerry. I will miss her laughter and her great sense of humor. I will miss her example and her leadership for our state. But most of all, I will miss my best friend."

In 2000, the National Conference of State Legislators recognized DeBerry with the William Bulger Award for Legislative Leadership. The award is given to one legislator each year who promotes the good of legislative institutions through honesty, integrity and hard work.

During her political career, she



Rep. Lois DeBerry

worked with seven Tennessee governors, including Haslam, Phil Bredesen, Don Sundquist, Ned McWherter, Lamar Alexander, and Ray Blanton.

DeBerry is survived by her husband, Charles Traugher, and son, Michael Boyer.

Getting Started visit: www.cmecompete.com/communities/walk-tennessee

1. Log-In & create your profile.
2. If you are the team leader, set up your team and name it.
3. Recruit members to join your team.
4. Everybody must create a profile.
5. Set up weekly or monthly walks.
6. Add events occurring in your community.

For help, email info@cmecompete.com.

Valerie Mann provides common sense tips for successful grant writing

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

In her 35-year career as a successful grant writer, Valerie Mann says she still hears something new in the field everyday. Author of "Getting Your Share of the Pie—The Complete Guide to Finding Grants," and consultant to local governments and non-profit agencies in federal and state grant programs, Mann discussed many of the dos and don'ts of the process, along with basic application protocol, during her workshop at the TML Annual Conference in Memphis.

Preparing grant applications in close consultation with entities ranging from the USDA and U.S. Dept. of Justice to the Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Mann surmises that successful grant applications rely on good old fashioned common sense.

"Even though I have been writing grants for 35 years, I still talk to the funding agencies ahead of time before I submit an application," she advised attendees. "They're not going to tell you whether you have the money, but they can tell you if you're in the ball park. Ask what they think about the project or activity. Tell them the need and situation, and ask if they think it's fundable."

The process begins with the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), a rather lengthy document that talks about all the various items



Valerie Mann

required in the grant application and whether the applicant and activity is eligible—including geographically.

"Someone else's solution might not be the best one for your situation. Consider what makes the most sense," Mann said. "Focus on your need rather than meeting the criteria of a particular program, or even what your own staff is suggesting."

And with a wealth of available funding sources out there, looking at as many as feasible, rather than only one in particular, is the rule, according to Mann, who discourages an "all in one basket" mindset. "Grant writing is highly competitive and I've seen how that basket can break **See GRANTS on Page 5**



BRISTOL

A \$2 million, three-phase project is under way that will allow the Public Works Department staff to use radio waves planted in meter casings to read the community’s water meters without leaving their vehicles. Interim City Manager Bill Sorah said the plan is to fully automate meter reading for the department by 2015. The system has a digital electronic water volume device equipped with its own radio frequency that will be placed at each residential and business meter. The meters will remotely read numbers using drive-by technology that takes just seconds to read. “We replace the old meter in the register with an encoded reader that is equipped with an electric impulse. That impulse is picked up by a transmitter in the register and can be picked up by another device inside the employee’s vehicle,” Sorah said. Depending on topography, the transmitters have a range of nearly one mile. All of the equipment communicates with each other. The meter reader will have the receiving device place the data into a specially programmed laptop computer that will register water usage numbers with the city’s billing department, reducing the likelihood of errors. The installation process of the transmitters, secured with \$2 million in utility bonds obtained by the city, began in the city’s East District, with a total of 2,500 new meters in place. The technology will spread by an additional 5,000 meters in 2014 and replacements in 2015, all at no extra cost to the customer.

CHATTANOOGA

Southeast Mahindra USA will establish a new tractor assembly and distribution facility in Chattanooga. The exclusive Southeast Mahindra Assembly and Distribution Center is an expansion of one of Mahindra USA’s four facilities of this kind. The project includes building a new facility through an investment of \$4 million that will create 55 new jobs while retaining 45 existing positions in Hamilton County. The proposed assembly plant will receive and store various components and raw materials required for final assembly of finished tractors for distribution to over 500 retail dealerships across the United States. The facility will be between 40,000 to 60,000 square feet and will accommodate 10 shipping/receiving docks and six assembly lines with overhead cranes. The facility will also include warehouse, office space and training areas. Southeast Mahindra USA aims to finish constructing the new facility and become fully operational by mid-January 2014.

CHATTANOOGA

Pilgrim’s Pride will cut 200 jobs, building on a previous wave of 400 layoffs in 2012. The company employed more than 1,500 workers at its Broad Street and Market Street facilities at the beginning of 2012, but today employs closer to 900. According to the company, its cook and cold-storage facilities, which are in its Market Street building, will shut down within the next two weeks. There are no changes at Pilgrim’s “kill” operation on Broad Street, nor to its deboning operation on Market Street.

DECATUR

The town has been recommended by Gov. Haslam for a \$500,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant to provide upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. Funds provided by the ARC grant would go toward improving the wastewater treatment plant, which operates above capacity 40 percent of the time. Currently, there is a sewer moratorium in place and no new customers, including any new industries, can be added until the upgrades are complete. The \$500,000 ARC grant will be matched with \$1.2 million from the local community. The project will serve 542 residential customers. Additional ARC grant recipients will be announced throughout the summer

DUCKTOWN

Ducktown received a \$256,791 transportation grant to replace sidewalks and install new street lighting, landscaping and new crosswalks at the intersection of Main Street and State Route 68. The project is Phase I of the Pedestrian Enhancement Project located on Main Street within Ducktown’s historic down-

town area. The improvements are the first in a two-phase project to rehabilitate Main Street. The transportation alternative grant is made possible through a federally-funded program formerly known as transportation enhancement and is administered by TDOT.

ERIN

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency closed their Erin office on July 31, due to cuts in administrative funds from the federal government. The local office managed Section 8 vouchers for Montgomery, Houston, Humphreys and Stewart counties. “Our administrative costs have been cut, but not the program dollars for the rent payments. We are continuing the payments to the landlords on behalf of the residents,” said Ralph M. Perrey, executive director of THDA. The state agency will use space in Clarksville’s City Hall to meet with it’s Montgomery County voucher holders. Applications for the rental assistance program have been handled online for several years and THDA will continue housing inspections and other work from their home offices.

FRANKLIN

The city will be conducting a special census this year. Census cards were mailed to every household the week of August 1. Once the card is received, residents were asked to provide the name and age of each person living in the household and return the card in the postage-paid envelope prior to August 23. Residents may also visit the city’s website to complete a form online. An accurate population count helps cities better plan for facilities and services. It also means an increase in the amount of state-shared revenues cities receive. “We estimate that this Special Census could mean an additional \$600,000 for the city,” said Catherine Powers, director of the city’s planning & sustainability department. Results of the federal government’s 2010 Census list the population of Franklin at just over 62,000. Every household that does not respond either by mail or online will be visited by a census taker to collect the necessary information from that address.

GATLINBURG

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park says visits are up since a major road has been reopened. Still, year-to-date tourism was off 5.3 percent for the first half of 2013. Park officials announced that June visits were up 5.2 percent, compared with June 2012. A total of 1,264,490 people came into the park last month. June marks the beginning of the summer travel season and is usually when the number of visitors begins to exceed a million per month. Park officials say visitation has returned to traditional levels since Newfound Gap Road was reopened in April.

JOHNSON CITY

Earlier this year, approval was given by the Tennessee Board of Regents for a new football program to be started at East Tennessee State University (ETSU). Now, an \$18 million football stadium project was approved by the Tennessee State Building Commission (SBS). According to Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, any funding the state may provide still needs to be included in a future budget. According to the documents, \$7.5 million of the \$18 million project will be funded by student fees. SBC just approved a concept for the funding of the project. The commission also approved the hiring of an architect and designer to come up with a plan. Ramsey said \$10.5-\$11 million must be secured to go with the \$7.5 million from students.

KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Carousel Project of Engage Kingsport and the city of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts announces ‘Campaign 2014’ beginning July 15. ‘Campaign 2014’ will invite 2014 carousel supporters to become ‘First Riders’ of the finished carousel with their donation of \$100. Each \$100 donor receives six ‘First Rider’ tickets for the Kingsport Carousel. The carousel project is a volunteer-led effort to produce hand-carved, hand-painted animals and install them on a working vintage 1956 Allan Herschell carousel. Successful fundraising to date has the carousel on track for completion in

early summer 2014 at the Kingsport Farmers Market site. The public is invited to participate in this phase of funding which will help to refurbish the machine and build a gift shop connected to the Pal’s Roundhouse which will house the carousel.

MEMPHIS

New electronic parking meters are on schedule to arrive in Memphis by mid-to-late September with a price tag of about \$1.7 million. The new meters will accept debit and credit cards and will be placed throughout downtown Memphis and the Medical District. City officials are now working on the final details of a lease/purchase agreement with parking equipment company Parkeon, a New Jersey company that has its parking meters in New York City, Austin, Oklahoma City and others. John Cameron, director of city engineering division, said the deal includes 140 multi-space meters and 440 single-space meters and will cover about 1,400 on-street parking spaces in Memphis. The current parking rate is \$1 per hour, which is low compared to peer cities, Cameron said, but decisions on any rate change have not yet been made.

MURFREESBORO

Amazon.com Inc. is beefing up hiring at distribution centers across the country by 25 percent, including at its warehouses in Murfreesboro and Chattanooga. In total, the company said it will add 5,000 full-time jobs to its distribution network, which currently has about 20,000 workers. Amazon did not say how many jobs would be added at each location.

NASHVILLE

Food and uniform services company ARAMARK is locating a business

Ducktown TREEDC sign sister city contract in the Philippines



Photo by Bong Lacson

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Ducktown and Mabalacat City for international cooperation in renewable energy and environmental protection, was signed recently in the Philippines. Ducktown Mayor James Talley, TREEDC president, also presented Mayor Marino “Boking” Morales a framed copy of a May 13, 2013 *Tennessee Town & City* article featuring TREEDC’s new partnership with the Philippines. Looking on are Vice Mayor Christian Halili and Warren Nevad, MTAS consultant and TREEDC director.

services center in Nashville, bringing more than 1,000 jobs over the next three years. The \$20 million investment from the Philadelphia-based company will consolidate and centralize some financial and human resources services that are currently dispersed across the company’s North American operations. ARAMARK is securing property in southeastern Davidson County for the new facility, which it expects to be operational by the end of this year. ARAMARK delivers food, facility and uniform services for businesses, universities, hospitals, stadiums and various other institutions.

THOMPSON’S STATION

The construction of Shelter Insurance Company’s state headquarters is complete. The \$5 million building officially opened with an open house July 31, about a year after starting construction. The two-story, 30,000-square-foot building sits on 3.2 acres within Tollgate Village along Columbia Pike (U.S. 31). The headquarters will occupy the second floor with leasable commercial space on the first floor. Shelter’s Tennessee state office had been based in Nashville for more than 25 years until the headquarters moved into leased space in Cool Springs.



The Franklin Parks Department is celebrating new installations at the city’s two dog parks, Freedom Run and K-9 Korral. A bench, and shade structure were installed at the K-9 Korral, and three pieces of agility equipment were installed at Freedom Run Park. The equipment was funded by The Nutro Company and parks staff supplied the labor for installation. The Nutro Company became a corporate sponsor for the city’s dog parks in 2012. Along with the monetary sponsorship, Nutro Company associates meet park staff at the dog parks and assist with installing benches, planting trees, spreading mulch, or just general cleanup once or twice a year. Both parks and The Nutro Company staffs will be planning some fun events at both dog parks in the near future. To learn more about the locations of the dog parks and dog park rules visit, the city’s website at www.franklintn.gov. Click on “Parks” and follow the link to Dog Parks.

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PEOPLE

Dr. Carroll Van West has been appointed as state historian. West replaces the late Walter T. Durham,



West

who served 11 years in the honorary position. West, 58, has served as director at the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area since 2002. He has taught as a professor in the MTSU history department since 1985. He currently serves as a co-chair of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and as a Tennessee representative on the National Board of Advisors of National Trust for Historic Preservation. West also sits on the Executive Board of Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc., and on the Advisory Board of Teaching with Primary Sources, Library of Congress. West's term is four years and began July 1, 2013

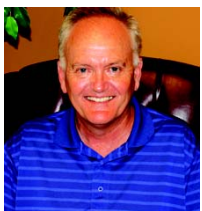
Former East Ridge city manager **Tim Gobble** was named to the state Board of Parole. Gobble, an interim deputy chief in the Hamilton



Gobble

County Sheriff's Office, will fill the vacancy left when board member Charles Taylor resigned in January to take a position with the Department of Correction. Gobble's term runs through 2015.

Mark Williams is Columbia's new Wastewater Department director. Williams brings more than 28 years of experience working in the plant, starting as an operator trainee in 1985. Most recently, Williams served as the interim Wastewater director, following the retirement of Mike Anderson in April. In his new position, Williams will manage a large-scale professional services and construction contracts, oversee the wastewater utility, wastewater treatment, industrial pre-treatment, and sanitary sewer collection system.



Williams

The National Association of Secretaries of State has elected Tennessee Secretary of State **Tre Hargett** as its new president. Hargett most recently served as the group's treasurer and has been Tennessee's secretary of state since 2009. Prior to that, he was a member of the Tennessee General Assembly for 10 years and later the chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Hargett said he believes that citizens are counting on the national group to lead the way in developing best practices for running honest and efficient elections, increasing voter turnout and civic awareness, and protecting people and businesses from unnecessary federal laws and regulations.



Hargett

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) announces that **Melissa "Missy" Marshall** will become executive director of the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc.



Marshall

Marshall comes to KTnB with more than 20 years of experience in public service. She began her career in state government as a public health educator for the Tennessee Department of Health. Since 1995, Marshall has held several executive positions, serving as legislative liaison for eight state departments, nine commissioners and on the teams of three governors. Prior to her recent appointment, Marshall served nine years as director of Communications and External Affairs for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Development Disabilities.

After 14 years on the job, Cookeville Police Chief **Bob Terry** retired July 1. Previous to being police chief, Terry was director of the 13th Judicial District Drug Task Force. Major **Randy Evans**, 53, has been tapped to replace Terry. Evans commands the Uniformed Services Division.



Terry



Evans

Let's Move! awards Jackson national medal for addressing childhood obesity

On July 10, Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist was recognized by the National League of Cities for the recent completion of key health and wellness goals for *Let's Move! Cities, Towns, and Counties* (LMCTC). LMCTC is a major component of First Lady Michelle Obama's comprehensive Let's Move! initiative, which is dedicated to solving the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation.

Mayor Gist attended the White House event on behalf of the city. "Jackson is honored to be recognized for taking initiative to alter the cycle of childhood obesity through actionable nutrition and physical activity goals," he said. "The community is committed to sustainable partnerships and policy and environmental changes that continue to result in improved health for our children."

Mrs. Obama extended appreciation to those leaders willing to implement community action goals to prevent childhood obesity stating, "We're certainly encouraged that obesity rates are starting to decline. City leaders and communities are making the health and well-being for young people a priority and stepping up to care for our next generation. The most important part of our lives in this society is our children, and you all have demonstrated that by putting them top on your list. We still have work to do. You all are at the forefront of this work, and we need you to continue to lead the way as we work to end our country's epidemic of childhood obesity."

Participants have the opportunity to earn up to five gold medals, one for each actionable goal they commit to as part of the initiative. Eleven medals were awarded to Jackson for action taken to improve access to healthy, affordable food and increase opportunities for physical activity.

The city received medals in four of five goal areas:

- Goal I: Start Early, Start Smart: Promoting best practices for nutrition, physical activity, and screen time in early care and education settings. The city received Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals.
- Goal II: My Plate, Your Place: Prominently displaying MyPlate in all municipal or county venues where food is served.
- Goal III: Smart Servings for Students: Increasing participation in



Photo by The Jackson Sun

Mayor Jerry Gist cuts the ribbon at a Jumpstart Jackson walk earlier this year.

school breakfast and lunch programs. The city received Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals.

- Goal IV: Model Food Service: Implementing healthy and sustainable food service guidelines that are aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The city received Bronze and Silver Medals.
- Goal V: Active Kids at Play: Increasing opportunities for physical activity. The city received Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the lead collaborating partner on this initiative, working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Association of Counties, and other nonprofit organizations, in assisting local elected officials to implement policy and environmental changes to prevent childhood obesity. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded NLC a grant to provide technical assistance to local elected officials working to create healthier

communities and prevent childhood obesity, including sites participating in LMCTC.

"Local elected officials play a critical role in addressing childhood obesity in our country and communities, and the National League of Cities commends those leaders being recognized for their achievements in taking action to improve healthy eating and physical activity in their communities," said NLC President Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor of Avondale, AZ.

More than 330 cities, towns and counties are participating in LMCTC. Each month, NLC recognizes local elected officials who achieve key benchmarks for the five LMCTC goals. To date, NLC has awarded 1,019 bronze, silver, and gold medals to recognize local elected officials across the country for their progress.

For more information about LMCTC and Jackson accomplishments, visit www.HealthyCommunitiesHealthyFuture.org.

TDEC energy conservation project conducts workshops

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs announced the launch of the next phase of the state's Qualified Energy Conservation Bond Program (QECB), as well as a series of workshops throughout the state providing information on how these bonds can be utilized for energy savings projects.

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds were created by Congress in 2008 and expanded in 2009 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Tennessee's total allocation for the program is approximately \$64.7 million. More than \$18.1 million has been, or is currently scheduled to be issued for qualifying projects by jurisdictions automatically eligible under the federal legislation.

The QECB program will make the remaining \$46.6 million available for qualifying projects. Entities eligible to participate in the program include all local government jurisdictions in Tennessee, along with public universities. Local governments can issue the bonds on behalf of a private project, with conditions.

The Office of Energy Programs will release a Request for Proposals in October 2013. The RFP will be available at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/energy/qualified-energy-conservation-bonds.shtml>.

Leading up to the October 2013

RFP release, the Office of Energy Programs will conduct a series of lunch and learn workshops around the state as part of the Tennessee Energy Education Initiative. Each of the workshops will feature valuable information about the QECB Program, including presentations from bond experts and case studies from successful projects. Workshops will be offered at the following locations:

- Sept. 3: Ellington Agricultural Center's Ed Jones Auditorium in Nashville
- Sept. 6: UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St in Knoxville
- Sept. 11: Jackson Energy Authority Training Center Auditorium, 320 Highway 45 By-Pass in Jackson
- Sept. 12: Green Spaces, 63 Main St. in Chattanooga

All workshops will take place from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 pm local time and lunch is complementary. Registration for the workshops is free, but space is limited. Register online at <http://tnenergy.org/events/>. Additional information on the QECB program is available through TDEC's Office of Energy Programs, 615-532-0238 or pete.westerholm@tn.gov.

The Tennessee Energy Education Initiative and related events information is available through Pathway Lending at 615-425-7171 or <http://tnenergy.org>.



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State’s transportation system among America’s best

For the fourth year in a row, Tennessee’s transportation system ranks as one of the best in the nation, according to CNBC’s 2013 study “America’s Top States for Business.” According to the report, Tennessee ranks second best in America in the category of “Transportation and Infrastructure,” up from fourth place in 2012. Tennessee is also the only state topping the list that has no transportation debt. Many states across the nation carry transportation debt, and must allocate a large portion of their funds to interest payments. The CNBC report scored all 50 states on 51 measures of competitiveness developed with input from business groups. States received points based on their rankings in each metric. Those metrics were then separated into 10 broad categories, including the vitality of each state’s transportation system. Tennessee also ranked well in the categories of workforce and cost of living. This is the seventh year the news network has performed the study.

TN rated lowest indebted state

Tennessee is the lowest indebted state, according to a new report from the bond rating agency Fitch. The Volunteer State has the lowest net tax-supported debt and unfunded pension obligation as a percent of personal income.

Driver’s License wait time shows slight improvement

The wait time at driver service centers in Tennessee decreased slightly for the first six months of this year over the same period last year. According to the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, the average wait time from Jan. 1 to June 30 was 31 1/2 minutes. That is down 2 1/2 minutes from the same period in 2012. The reduction comes despite an increase in customers served of nearly 5,000. Commissioner Bill Gibbons said that reducing wait times is a priority for the department. The department is in the process of installing new equipment and software that is expected to further reduce wait times. The Driver Services Division also is hiring part-time employees to help the centers at peak hours.

Longer wait for hard copy licenses

It is going to take Tennessee drivers longer to get a hard copy license. All state driver license bureaus will hand out a temporary paper license to people getting a license for the first time, or renewing. Before, applicants could apply for a driver license and receive a hard copy on the same day. Their card will now be mailed to them within 20 days. Currently, the change is being implemented in Knoxville. "We're replacing a very outdated issuance system that we have now," said Wanda Adams, executive project manager for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security Driver Services Division. Adams said the new process, a central issuance system, will cut down on wait times. "So the process will be much smoother where every two examiners will have their own camera. So the applicant will be dealing with the same examiner and doesn't have to move between lines," Adams said. State officials hope it will prevent fraud. "By being mailed to a residence, that helps us verify that person is living at that residential address which is one of the requirements for issuance of a Tenn. driver license," Adams said.

WGU Tennessee launched

Gov. Bill Haslam recently launched Western Governor’s University—WGU Tennessee—an online, competency-based university aimed at expanding access to higher education for Tennesseans. WGU Tennessee was established to meet the needs of working adults who are looking to complete a bachelor’s or master’s degree to advance their careers. WGU Tennessee offers accredited bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in business, K-12 teacher education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. WGU Tennessee was created through a partnership between the state and nationally recognized Western Governors University. Rather than earning degrees based on credit hours or time spent in class, students are required to demonstrate competency in degree subject matter. They advance by writing papers, completing assignments,



State officials announced a new “innovative” online pre-registration form allowing veterans and their families to get pre-approval for burial in one of Tennessee’s veterans cemeteries. According to Veterans Affairs Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder’s office, funeral directors traditionally contact the nearest state veterans cemetery when they receive a request to bury the remains of a veteran or dependent who previously expressed interest in burial at one of the four locations. Officials say in many cases, family members are unable to locate the veteran’s discharge papers needed to determine eligibility. The process to request and receive the appropriate documents and determine eligibility can take several days, even weeks. Now, veterans and their families can complete the online form, which is submitted securely to their preferred state veterans cemetery, and then mail their discharge papers to complete the application process. For more information regarding pre-registration for burial at the State Veterans Cemeteries visit http://www.tn.gov/veteran/burial_elg.shtml.

and passing exams that demonstrate their knowledge of required subject matter. Dr. Kimberly Estep, former vice president for academic affairs and student services at Nashville State Community College, will serve as WGU Tennessee’s first chancellor. WGU Tennessee is being established with a one-time appropriation from the state of \$5 million and a \$750,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Afterwards, the program will be self-sustaining on tuition with no ongoing funding from the state.

Grants established for community college students

The state is establishing an endowment of \$35 million through the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation to provide grants for students at two-year public community colleges. A portion of Tennessee’s operating fund for administering the Federal Family Education Loan Program is being used to establish the endowment, and TSAC will work with the Tennessee Department of Treasury to set the best investment option for the endowment. Grant payments will be made directly to a community college on behalf of grant recipients. Financial need will be calculated based on a variety of factors including household income, assets and family size. TSAC will regularly perform audit reviews to ensure program compliance. The bill is a component of Gov. Bill Haslam’s “Drive to 55” initiative, which has the goal of increasing the number of Tennesseans with two-year degrees or higher to 55 percent by 2025. According to state statistics, an estimated 32 percent of adults in Tennessee have some sort of college degree.

State awarded fresh produce funds for schools

Some Tennessee students will get an extra dose of fruits and vegetables during the 2013-14 school year. The state has been awarded \$3.3 million in federal funds to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to schools with the highest rates of students participating in free and reduced lunch. The state will allocate funds to 159 schools in 29 districts that applied to take part in this program. Students at participating schools will receive a fresh fruit or vegetable during the school day, at some point other than a regular meal. The program allows students to sample fresh produce they might not otherwise be able to access. Students could snack on anything from fresh broccoli and peppers to cauliflower and peaches. Schools will be awarded \$50 per child based on enrollment to provide this produce over the course of the school year. Each school can decide when and where to deliver this produce to students.

Agritourism nets profits

Researchers with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture estimate visitors to Tennessee agritourism operations in 2012 spent more than \$34.4 million directly and more than \$54.2 million total. Those estimates are based on survey re-

sponses from 171 Tennessee agritourism farms. The 110 agritourism operators who reported visitor numbers on the survey estimated they hosted more than 1.75 million people on their farms in 2012. The most common types of activities and attractions were on-farm retail markets, school field trips, event hosting, pick-your-own product operations, wagon rides and farm tours. More information is available on the website of the UT Center for Profitable Agriculture at <http://ag.tennessee.edu/cpa>.

State extends jobless benefits with dependent children

Faced with the possible cutoff of an estimated \$122 million in federally funded benefits for 22,000 unemployed residents, Tennessee labor officials have delayed a planned cut in special benefits for the unemployed who have dependent children until next year. The cutoff of benefits for dependents of the unemployed had been scheduled to go into effect July 1 but was delayed at the last minute when state officials said they first learned such a move would trigger a cutoff of aid to the 22,000 getting federally funded supplemental benefits.

Report pushes for services reform for victims of human trafficking

Tennessee ramped up its criminal penalties for human traffickers with an unprecedented slate of law changes, but rehabilitative services for survivors remain disjointed and reliable incident data remain elusive, a new state study finds. The new 97-page report says that communities don’t have sufficient services designed specifically for trafficking survivors. They often need housing, relocation assistance, transportation and legal aid. Officials recommend that victims receive face-to-face visits from a trained counselor within four hours of the discovery of an incident. And, for the first time, the study says specifically that two state agencies — the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children’s Services — will be responsible for assigning staff members to coordinate help for adults and children, respectively. Nongovernmental organizations also will be chosen across Tennessee to keep up regular face-to-face contact with survivors. The report pushes for officials to create a consistent way to track trafficking, even suggesting a mandatory reporting law similar to the requirement that suspected child abuse be reported to authorities. A state task force will collect data from police, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, DHS and DCS. Those groups will be asked to funnel all reports through the state’s trafficking hotline at 1-855-55-TNHTH. The report tasks DHS and DCS with creating four staff positions focused on trafficking. Meanwhile, the study notes a groundswell of attention on trafficking, from local and national advocacy groups. The state wants to help grass-roots groups work together.

June revenues \$3.2M more than state budgeted

Tennessee tax collections for June were \$1.2 billion, which is \$3.2 million more than the state budgeted. It marks the 11th consecutive month this year in which total collections have experienced positive growth.

Sales tax collections in June were flat, while corporate tax collections exceeded the budgeted estimate. All other tax sources, taken as a group, were above the budgeted estimates.

On an accrual basis, June is the eleventh month in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$8.9 million, and the four other funds were under collected by \$5.7 million.

Sales tax collections were \$0.1 million less than the estimate for June. The June growth rate was positive 1.18 percent. For 11 months revenues are under collected by \$27.8 million. The year-to-date growth rate for 11 months was positive 1.67 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$2.3 million above the budgeted estimate of \$338.9 million. The growth rate for June was

negative 8.85 percent. For 11 months revenues are over collected by \$278.9 million and the year-to-date growth rate was 8.76 percent.

Privilege tax collections were \$0.9 million above the June estimate. For 11 months collections are \$30.1 million above the budgeted estimate.

Business tax collections were \$1.2 million more than the June estimate. Year-to-date collections for 11 months are \$1.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$7.9 million above the June estimate. For eleven months collections are \$35.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

Tobacco tax collections were \$2.4 million below the budgeted estimate of \$27.8 million. For eleven months revenues are under collected by \$11.0 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for June were under collected by \$4.0 million. For eleven months revenues are under collected by \$22.5 million.

All other taxes for June were under collected by a net of \$2.6 million.

ECD announces first Select Tennessee certified sites

Six sites declared “shovel-ready”

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the first six Select Tennessee Certified Sites. The Select Tennessee program was launched in June 2012 with the goal of helping Tennessee communities prepare available sites for investment and expansion. The program sets a consistent and rigorous standard upon which companies can rely in making critical location decisions. The first six sites are:

- State Road 111 Industrial Park: Overton County (310 Oak Hill Rd., Livingston)
- Centre 75 Business Park, Lot 7: Loudon County (1600 Centre Park Dr., Loudon)
- Horizon Center, Development Area 6: Roane County (Renovare Blvd., Oak Ridge)
- Langley Hall Industrial Site “East”: Sumner County (Airport Road, Gallatin)
- Langley Hall Industrial Site “West”: Sumner County (Airport Road, Gallatin)
- Timberlake Industrial Site: Henderson County (Kirby Drive, Lexington)

“We believe Tennessee is the best place to do business in the Southeast, but beyond our state’s ideal location, high quality workforce, low tax rate and business-friendly environment, we know having an attractive site ready to go may make the difference in attracting new investment or expansion,” said ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty. “By choosing one of this initial group of six Select Tennessee Certified Sites, companies can feel confident about doing business in our state. This certification to international standards has been performed by world class leading site selection firms Austin Consulting and The Foote Consulting Group.”

The program acknowledges that companies looking to expand or relocate their operations often eliminate less prepared sites and addresses this issue by ensuring sites meet a specific standard. Among the qualifications needed to become

certified, a site must have at least 20 developable acres, proper zoning in place to allow for ease of development, all utilities at the site or a formal plan to extend to the site, and truck quality road access.

A hallmark of the program is ensuring that Tennessee sites are ready for development, whether through marketing those ready for a prospect or providing guidance for uncertified sites to achieve a higher level of preparedness.

ECD has partnered with Austin Consulting and The Foote Consulting Group to administer the program.

“The thorough due diligence process that these sites have undergone removes risk and uncertainty by uncovering and addressing potential obstacles that can delay a project,” Austin Consulting Location Consultant Brandon Talbert said. “This assures prospective companies and consulting organizations that development can commence quickly at these sites and provides Tennessee a competitive advantage for attracting new business investment.”

“Companies looking to expand and site selectors representing these companies are often on very tight time lines and, therefore, want to see sites that are ready to go right now,” said CECD, president and CEO Foote Consulting Group, LLC, Deane C. Foote. “The Select Tennessee Certified Sites program assures expanding companies and site selectors alike that they are seeing some of the very best sites in the nation, sites that meet rigorous standards and that can be developed right away in order to meet strict corporate objectives of getting product to market. The result will be more successful project locations, more jobs and more capital investment for Tennessee.”

The Select Tennessee program accepts applications twice a year. The next round of applications can be submitted through August 9. Communities interested in applying to the Certified Sites program can visit www.SelectTennessee.com

City officials urged to contact U.S. Congress

ISSUES from Page 1 mends capping the tax exemption of municipal bonds at 28 percent.

Reducing or eliminating the exemption on municipal bonds would cause investors to demand higher returns on their municipal bond investments to make up for the tax they would have to pay. The outcome of reducing or eliminating the tax exemption on municipal bond interest would be higher borrowing costs for state and local governments, less investment in infrastructure and fewer jobs.

The TML board and staff are urging cities to also formally adopt resolutions on these two important issues and to send copies of these resolutions to your U.S. Senators and/or House members.

Information concerning the “Marketplace Fairness Act” may be

found at www.tml1.org/pdf/up/Marketplace_Fairness_Model_Resolution3.pdf.

Please send a copy of the adopted resolution to your representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Information concerning the tax exemption for municipal bonds may be found at, www.tml1.org/pdf/up/Tax_Exempt_Municipal_Bond_Interest_Resolution.pdf

Please send a copy of the adopted resolution to Sen. Alexander and Corker as well as your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

More information about both issues can be found on TML’s website in our Hometown Connection section, or contact a member of the TML staff at 615-255-6416.

Tips for grant writing offered at TML Annual Conference

GRANTS from Page 1 apart,” Mann said.

Noting that online and Internet sites are the most lucrative search options, Mann suggested Grants.gov, which provides many types of federal grants as well as The Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance, located at www.cfda.gov/. Also entities such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a variety of economic development programs to help with job creation, as well as community programs.

“For municipalities, private funding really can be an option,” Mann added. “The Foundation Center online, based out of New York and Washington, have a great database of private foundations that offer grants. You can go to one of the Community Foundations in your area and look at it for free.”

Community Foundations, along with college and university libraries and other nonprofit resource centers, have what is called “Cooperating Collections,” free funding information centers that provide a core collection of Foundation Center publications and a variety of supplementary materials and services in areas useful to grant seekers.

Mann notes in terms of federal opportunities, the website of the agency that regulates your area of interest, such as the Justice or Education departments, might yield a tab with all of the available grants listed. “Or you might want to go through the public agencies that regulate your need, such as Public Works,” she said.

Identifying the need is one of the single most important steps before designing the project, according to Mann, and communicating that need adequately in the application process is vital. “Before you decide what you want to do— talk to people—she encouraged. “Do background research. You really need to back up *why* you’re saying what you’re saying,” she stressed. “In a municipality, for example, if you have a crack in a sidewalk, you’ll need to replace that sidewalk. But in the case of other types of projects, the actual activity might not be so obvious.”

Along with routine preparations such as proofreading the application more than once, for spelling, math and grammatical errors—Mann stressed that any deviation from the granting agency’s directions or from the document’s question format could place an applicant out of the running. “Answer the questions in the order that they appear on the application,” Mann said. “Sometimes, they really will throw it out if you don’t follow directions.”

Appear less than the ideal candidate? Funding agencies really do talk to one another and honesty is the best policy, according to Mann. “If you think it makes you look bad, address it,” she said. “They will know if it looks like you’re trying to give a limited answer.”

While she personally avoids flowery language, Mann said she’s sure to add something compelling to the narrative to try to get a leg up. “Describe what’s going to happen if the project is not funded,” she sug-

gests. “If you have a broken sidewalk and elderly folks are falling and injuring themselves, state how without the repairs, there will be more injuries.”

Utilizing wise time management strategies during the search and application process will help streamline the process. “It’s very important to have grant writing staff who can meet deadlines,” Mann said. “There is no negotiation and you can’t ask for an extension. So, you might want to wait until the next grant cycle to apply, rather than develop a project hurriedly.”

Eliminating unnecessary sources from your search will also help speed up the process. “If it’s a community foundation and you live in another county, they’re not going to fund your project,” Mann notes. Other sources to avoid might include opportunities designed only for pre-selected organizations. “You want to make sure there are no deal breakers and you’re actually in the competition,” Mann advised.

Instead, a simple, one to two page letter of inquiry (the same template can be used for every request) can serve as an exemplary time saver and well worth the effort, Mann advises. “Most foundations, two-thirds to three-fourths, require the letter of inquiry as the first method of contact,” she said. “You might talk about the need first and how the particular project can help fill that need, then on to major goals and objectives, as well as your own organization’s background,” she explained. “Most agencies want to know that the money is going to be in good hands and that you are going to be able to carry out the project.”

Last, but not least, if the funding agency contacts you for more information, it’s a mistake not to reply right away. It means you might have a leg up for getting the money. “Sometimes they request a site visit, which is really a good sign,” said Mann. “It means they want to get a better idea of the project.”

In addition to guest appearances, Mann hosts a 30 minute webinar online. For more information or for questions, visit www.best-grant-writing-workshop.com or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/#!/valerie.m.mann or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/valeriemann>.

Order a copy of Valerie Mann’s book “Your Share of the Pie—The Complete Guide to Finding Grants,” at Amazon.com.

Clean Tennessee energy grants awarded to communities for cost-saving projects

Nineteen Clean Tennessee Energy Grants were awarded locally for projects designed to reduce air emissions, improve energy efficiency and create cost savings. The grant program provides financial assistance to state and local government agencies, utility districts, and quasi-government entities in Tennessee to purchase, install and construct energy projects.

Eligible categories of the Energy Grant Program include:

- Cleaner Alternative Energy – biomass, geothermal, solar, wind;
- Energy Conservation – lighting, HVAC improvements, improved fuel efficiency, insulation, idling minimization; and
- Air Quality Improvement – reduction in greenhouse gases, and hazardous air pollutants.

Funding for the projects comes from an April 2011 Clean Air Act settlement with TVA. Under the Consent Decree, Tennessee will receive \$26.4 million over five years to fund clean air programs in the state (at approximately \$5.25 million per year). As part of the grant program’s initial offering, a total of \$5.3 million in Clean Energy Grants was awarded in 2012 to a variety of projects within state government, municipalities, utilities, state colleges and universities, and communities throughout the state.

The maximum grant amount per project is \$250,000 and requires match from the applicant. Grant recipients were chosen based on the careful consideration to meet the selection criteria and for those projects that expressed the greatest need.

The following were among the Clean Energy Grant recipients:

- Oak Ridge, Anderson Co.—\$200,000 to replace and retrofit existing fluorescent lighting fixtures to LED lighting in the Oak Ridge Municipal Building and the Oak Ridge Civic Center Complex.
- Clinton Utilities Board, Anderson



The city of Oak Ridge was one of 19 communities that were awarded a Clean Energy Grant. (L to R) Rep. John Ragan, Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge Public Works Employee (and Grant Writer) Pat Fallon, Gov. Haslam, Sen. Randy McNally, and Rep. Kent Calfee.

Co.—\$200,000 to renovate the wastewater treatment plant with new diffusers, blowers, electrical and pipe-works.

- Cleveland, Bradley Co.—\$75,000 to replace the existing roof with an energy-efficient thermoplastic polyolefin membrane roof, to reduce energy waste at the Community Center through excessive electricity usage.

- Elizabethton, Carter Co.—\$176,000 to install oxidation ditch equipment into an existing unused basin allowing an aging and inefficient conventional aeration treatment train to be decommissioned.

- Ashland City, Cheatham Co.—\$47,835 to upgrade and expand the water/wastewater plant by replacing the HVAC with a SEER rating above 16, installing low-wattage LED lighting and varying frequency drives on water treatment pumps to use only energy necessary to meet demand.

- Duck River Utility Commission, Coffee Co.—\$30,000 to implement TVA Energy Audit recommendations by replacing all inefficient light fixtures with high-efficiency fixtures and installing occupancy sensors resulting in approximately a 60 percent electric energy savings.

- Cumberland County—\$52,801.30

to retro-fit existing buildings with drop-ceilings, energy efficient lighting, network thermostats and a solar package.

- Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, Davidson Co.—\$181,250 to construct a 50 kWh solar array canopy parking structure servicing at least three new electric vehicle charging stations. Excess power produced from the solar array will supply power to nearby parking lot lighting, which will be retrofitted with LED technology.

- Greeneville Water & Light Commission, Greene Co.—\$250,000 to replace three inefficient pumps with one energy efficient pump and install two variable speed drives on existing pumps in order to reduce energy consumption and operate the pumps more efficiently.

- Chattanooga Fire Department – Firehouse No.11, Hamilton Co.—\$16,800 to support the additional cost premium to install a geothermal HVAC system in the office/living/sleeping area.

- Chattanooga Fire Department – Firehouse No. 9 – \$15,960 to support the additional cost premium to install a geothermal HVAC system in the office/living/sleeping area.

- Middleton, Hardeman Co.—\$65,000 to improve existing motors and pumps at the wastewater treatment facility.

- Hardin Co.—\$37,500 to implement energy efficiency upgrades to the Hardin County Fairgrounds. Upgrades include replacing 220 34-watt bulbs with new 17-watt energy efficiency lighting and installing a new HVAC system.

- Knoxville Utilities Board, Knox Co. — \$17,500 to replace an existing black roof with a cool, white roof at one of its facilities.

- McMinn County—\$200,000 to add a 16,000-square-foot inmate pod and a 27,000-square-foot courthouse addition to the McMinn County Justice Center. A geothermal HVAC system will be used to heat and cool both buildings.

- Sweetwater Utilities Board, Monroe Co.—\$200,000 to renovate the water treatment plant. Phase 1 of the renovation is to replace existing pumps and electrical switch gear with new pumps with high efficiency motors, as well as replacing the filter media at the plant.

- Cumberland Utility District, Morgan Co.—\$250,000 to replace outdated, inefficient pumps with high efficiency pumps with variable frequency drives, reduction in system pumping requirements and various lighting and HVAC improvements at treatment plant.

- Gatlinburg, Sevier Co.—\$30,380 to replace 124 400-watt metal halide bulbs with 250-watt fixtures in the Great Hall of the Gatlinburg Convention Center.

- Sumner Co—\$74,488.50 to complete lighting and HVAC improvements at the Sumner County Criminal Justice Center. The project will involve the installation of LED and LEP lights, which will be more energy efficient. The project will also involve purchase and installation of Building Automated System controllers for the HVAC system.

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CITY RECORDER
WHITE HOUSE. The City of White House is accepting applications through close of business Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013 for the position of City Recorder. This is a paraprofessional position providing support to the city administrator and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Requirements include strong interpersonal and clerical/administrative skills, bachelor's degree or equivalent in liberal arts or business, and a minimum three (3) years' experience in a professional office environment. Starting compensation range is \$33,883.20 - \$41,283.39 DOE plus benefits. For a full job description and application, visit the website www.cityofwhitehouse.com. Applications and resumes should be returned to the Human Resources office at 105 College Street, or faxed to 615-616-1058, or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. EOE

DIRECTOR
PARKS & RECREATION
MILLERSVILLE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Director of Parks and Recreation. This employee is responsible for the effective and efficient operation of the city park and community center, programs, and support services for the department and is under the general supervision of the city manager. Salary (DOQ) with a competitive benefits package. This employee will be in year 3 of the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP). Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management or related field and a minimum of 3 years working experience in the field. Candidates must have working knowledge of and experience with administrative skills and practices and procedures of parks and recreation management. Event and program planning will be a major part of the director's responsibilities. Candidates must be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public, businesses, organizations, city officials, other city departments and employees. Please see the job listing at www.cityofmillersville.com for more information. Submit a completed application, along with resume to: City of Millersville, 1246 Louisville Highway, Millersville, TN 37072. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Millersville is EOE.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CITY CLERK
CLEVELAND. The city is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Finance/City Clerk. Qualified applicants will possess a BS Degree in Accounting, and will be a Certified Public Accountant with more than ten years related experience preferably in the field of governmental accounting. Major duties of the position include: assist the city manager and other department heads with the development and implementation of financial policies, procedures and controls; supervise the preparation of financial statements and related reports; supervise disbursement of city funds; coordinate

development of the annual budget with the city manager, assistant city manager, department heads, city council and outside agencies; update statistical tables and schedules and complete an application and grading sheet for a government sponsored budget recognition program; manage preparation of city council agendas and review minutes of council meetings; coordinate City Code updates; maintain official city files, records, minutes, leases, deeds, contracts and other financial records; assist the public with requests for information and attest official records; supervise staff and participate in various personnel functions including hiring, training employees, planning, assigning and directing work, appraising performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, addressing complaints and resolving problems; other duties as assigned by the city manager. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and resume by mail to the city of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department, or by email to jdavis@clevelandtn.gov. Salary range entry level is \$76,664.EOE .

UTILITY SYSTEMS SUPERVISOR
MONTEAGLE. the town is seeking a utility systems supervisor to perform high level and responsible professional work related to management of the city's utility systems. In accordance with city, county, and state requirements, the employee supervises the operation and maintenance of the city drinking water production and distribution system, wastewater collection and treatment system, water meter system, and installation, calibration and repair of instrumentation related to water distribution systems and sewer pump stations. More information can be found on the town's website: www.townofmonteagle-tn.gov. Resumes can be mailed to Town of Monteagle, P.O. Box 127, Monteagle, TN., 37356, or applications can be picked up at town hall, 16 Dixie Lee Ave.

GRADE III WATER PLANT OPERATOR
MONTEAGLE. The town is seeking qualified applicants for the full time position of Water Plant Operator with a Grade III license. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to Town of Monteagle, PO Box 127, Monteagle, TN 37356 or applications may be picked up at Town Hall, 16 Dixie Lee Ave. The Town of Monteagle does not discriminate based on race, color, or national origin, sex or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to access, or operation of its programs, services and activities.

TN Fire and Codes Academy congratulates 32 fire departments for training commitment

The TN Fire and Codes Academy congratulates 32 fire departments for their commitment to continuing education

Once a year the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy (TFACA) recognizes fire departments, both career and volunteer, who have excelled in their commitment to training. The Elite Club of Fire Departments annual list celebrates Tennessee fire departments that have made a commitment to continuing education and enrolled their staff in classes such as Officer Development, Driver Operator, Emergency Response to Aircraft/Airfield Incidents and Technical Rope Rescue Operations.

At the 2012-2013 Annual Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association Conference 32 fire departments were recognized by TFACA for their extraordinary efforts in training and education. The top four fire departments recognized had more than 4,000 hours documented. The top department, Bradley County Fire Department, documented 18,900 training hours.

"The entire team with the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy appreciates the hard work of these departments," said Executive Director Roger Hawks. "We consider it an honor and privilege to play a vital role in training firefighters across the state. The investment these departments made this year in training their staff displays their commitment to providing the best service for communities in Tennessee."

This year's Elite Club of Fire Departments inductees are:
Platinum Level
Bradley County Fire Department: 18,900 hours
Rural/ Metro Fire Department: 6,864 hours
Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue: 4,550 hours
McMinnville Fire Department: 4,019 hours
Gold Level
Lebanon Fire Department: 3,308 hours
Rutherford County Fire & Rescue: 3,222 hours
Morristown Fire Department: 3,054 hours
Nashville Fire Department: 2,985 hours
Johnson City Fire Department: 2,938 hours
Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department: 2,436 hours
DeKalb County Fire Department: 2,377 hours



At the 2012-2013 Annual Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association Conference 32 fire departments were recognized by TFACA for their extraordinary efforts in training and education.

Wilson County EMA: 2,234 hours
Hendersonville Fire Department: 2,223 hours
Gallatin Fire Department: 2,183 hours
Hardin County Fire Department: 2,011 hours
Silver Level
Elizabethton Fire Department: 1,874 hours
Jefferson City Fire Department: 1,821 hours
Athens Fire Department: 1,859 hours
Cookeville Fire Department: 1,857 hours
Milan Fire Department: 1,709 hours
Cumberland County Fire Department: 1,600 hours
Germantown Fire Department: 1,521 hours
Clarksville Fire & Rescue: 1,508 hours
Shelbyville Fire Department: 1,486 hours
Selmer Fire Department: 1,427 hours
Greeneville Fire Department: 1,303 hours
Blount County Fire Department: 1,281 hours

Humboldt Fire Department: 1,216 hours
McMinn County Rural Fire Department: 1,120 hours
Cocke County Fire Department: 1,059 hours
Rhea County Fire Department: 1,028 hours
Smymrna Fire Department: 1,025 hours

The Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy is a state-of-the-art training facility located on 330 acres in Bell Buckle, TN. The Academy's unique dual curriculum of fire service and codes enforcement training is a combination found nowhere else in the country. Fire service students have the opportunity to train in a computer-controlled, six-story burn tower with propane-ignited fire props that aid in teaching fire suppression techniques for various building types, including theaters, offices and hotels. The academy also includes a hands-on training center with specialized laboratories, modern classrooms, a research library, a mock courtroom and a three-bay fire station for up to 24 recruit firefighters to live during training.

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MTAS Aug.-Sept. 2013 Legislative Update

This course will provide a summary of legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly during the 2013 session that will impact municipalities. Public acts touching every aspect of municipal operations will be discussed. Of particular concern to cities this year were bills related to land use, eminent domain, annexation, firearms and many other issues. This course will be conducted by MTAS legal consultants and will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions about any new legislation.

Who should attend: elected and appointed municipal officials who are responsible for implementation and monitoring state legislation.

Time: All classes are from 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Schedule of Sessions
Aug.6: Nashville—TBI Headquarters, 901 R.S. Gass Blvd.
Aug. 7: Jackson—West Tennessee Research and Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd.
Aug.22: Knoxville— University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley St., 4th Floor
Aug. 28: Kingsport—Northeast State Community College, Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 West Market Street
Cost: Municipal Employees – \$50/person/class. All other participants – \$65/person/class.

Will qualify for three hours of CMFO continuing education hours (financial). Planning board member continuing education credit eligible.

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MTAS will accept registration and payment by credit/debit card through your Solution Point account. To register, go to the website, www.mtas.tennessee.edu and click "register for a class." MTAS needs to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance. For assistance with registration or payment, contact MTAS at 865-974-0411.

For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu

COMING
UP

Aug. 14: Funding Options for Small Water Systems Workshop
Held at Tennessee State University, Holland Hall, Room 106, 3500 John A Merritt Blvd, Nashville, from 9 am – 5 pm. Training for drinking water systems interested in investigating financing options for infrastructure projects. This free workshop will include presentations from the public funding programs in the state. Presentations will also focus on how multiple programs can fund different parts of one utility project. View the agenda at http://efcnetwork.org/documents/2013/06/tn_fundingcoord_agenda.pdf. While operators are welcome, this training is best suited for individuals who make financial decisions for the water system. Lunch will be provided. For more information or questions, contact Stacey Berahzer at berahzer@unc.edu or call 770-509-3887. Register at <http://efcnetwork.org/nashville-tn-funding-options-for-small-water-systems-workshop/>.

UT MTAS Sept. MAP Classes

Considerations When Looking at Water/Sewer Rates & Fees

Rates and fees should be fair and equitable and they must sustain the financial obligations of the utility. In this class, the legal requirements for the financial viability of a water and/or wastewater system will be explained, along with a discussion of the items that should be included in reviewing water and sewer rates and fees.

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

Cost: Municipal Employees – \$50/person/class. All other participants – \$65/person/class.

Schedule of sessions
Sept. 11 - Jackson
Sept. 12 - Bartlett
Sept. 17 -Collegedale
Sept.18 - Morristown
Sept. 23 - Franklin

Location
Jackson, University of Tenn.—West Tenn Research & Education Center
Bartlett, Bartlett Station Municipal Center
Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall
Morristown, Tusculum College
Franklin, Williamson County Ag Expo Park

Will qualify for four hours of CMFO continuing education hours (financial).

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To register, go to the website, www.mtas.tennessee.edu and click "register for a class." MTAS needs to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. For assistance with registration or payment, contact MTAS at 865-974-0411. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu



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Aug. 15: The East Tennessee River Valley Geotourism Council and the Southeast Watershed Forum first southeastern conference on Geotourism "Geotourism: A Promising Strategy for Sustainable Economic Development" held from 9 am-4:30 pm at the Chattanooga Marriott Downtown. Planned in collaboration with National Geographic, the program is designed for tourism operators, hospitality businesses, outfitters, local and regional planning associations, chambers of commerce, state and federal agencies, and park and recreation departments. Conference speakers include: John Campbell, National brand manager for *National Geographic* Travel Group; Dan Austin, director of Austin-Lehman Adventures, specializing in world-wide adventure travel; Chris Seek, Marketing for Solimar International, and Commissioner Susan Whitaker from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Regional successes in geotourism will be featured, such as Gatlinburg Goes Green, Outdoor Chattanooga and Outdoor Knoxville. Visit www.southeastwaterforum.org for conference information and online registration

Sept. 17-19: 2013 Governor's Conference on Tourism. Held at the Cool Springs Conference Center and Franklin Marriott Hotel. For more information, registration and event schedule, visit <http://www.tennsourisroundtable.com/governorsconference/2013conferenceinfo.html>.

Oct. 3-4: Registration for the **60th Annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development** at the Music City Center in downtown Nashville is now open. To register, visit <http://www.tnecdcon.com/>

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Trenton closed a \$2.5 million loan to be used for various public works projects.



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



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Be sure to check out some of TML’s new vendors who exhibited their products at the 2013 Conference in Memphis



AdComp Systems



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HRO Partners



i-City Corporation



Jonathan’s Jewels



KorKat, Inc.



M3 Fire Apparatus



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Parsons Brinckerhoff



Q-Star Technology



ReCommunity Recycling



Red Bud Supply



Scruggs Equipment Co.,



Sewern Trent Services



Siemens Industry, Inc.



Slaughter & Associates



Software Solutions



Vulcan Materials Company



WastePro

Special Thank You to all Conference Exhibitors!

- A2H (Askew, Hargraves, Harcourt & Associates, Inc)

Aclara Technologies

AdComp Systems, Inc.

Alexander Thompson Arnold

Allen & Hoshall

Alliance Water Resources

Ameresco, Inc.

American Fidelity Assurance Co.

American Red Cross

American Traffic Solutions, Inc.

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Keep Tennessee Beautiful

Kidz Zone Play Systems

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Laserfiche Document Imaging

Local Government Corp

Lose & Associates, Inc.

M3 Fire Apparatus

Master Meter Inc

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Miracle Recreation of KY & TN

Most Dependable Fountains

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Pioneer Credit Recovery,

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Republic Services

Scruggs Equipment Co.

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Severn Trent Services

Siemens Industry, Inc.

Slaughter & Associates, LLC

Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. (SSR)

Software Solutions Inc

Southeast Recycling

Development Council

Southern Corrosion Inc.

Strategic Resource Management

Stringfellow Inc.

Sweeping Corporation of America, Inc.

TN Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Tennessee Business Enterprises

Tennessee Chapter American

Public Works Assn (TCAPWA)

TDEC, Brownfield Program

TDEC, Revolving Loan Fund

TN Development District Assn

Tennessee Drug Card

Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

TN Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC)

The Grant Book Company

The Malone Company

The Pool

True North Geographic Technologies

Utility Service Co., Inc.

UT-Municipal Technical Advisory Service

Vulcan Materials Co.

Waste Connections of TN, Inc.

Waste Industries of Tennessee

Waste Management Inc.

WastePro



For more information on how to join the TML Marketplace, contact TML Marketing Director Debbie Kluth at 615-425-3908 or email at dkluth@tml1.org



Aug 21 - 31: Shelbyville
75th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration
The world championship of Tennessee’s native breed of show horse. Division champions will be crowned with the naming of the new World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse. For information, call 931-684-5915, or visit www.twhnc.com.

Aug. 31: Sept.1: Franklin
Franklin Jazz Festival and Fire-works Show
Held at The Factory at Franklin, 230 Franklin Rd. Plenty of free parking. The Marketplace and community stage will be in Jamison Hall and the Main Stage and "Jazz Cafe" will be located in Liberty Hall. Tickets available on the web site, or at the door. For more information and event schedule, visit http://www.franklinjazzfestival.com/fr_home.cfm

Aug. 31: Franklin
Rescheduled Franklin July 4th Fire-works
Coincides with the Franklin Jazz Festival, held Labor Day weekend in the evening at The Park at Harlinsdale Farm.

Aug 30 - 31: Jackson
African Street Festival
Promotes African culture awareness with entertainment, workshops, educational seminars and much more. For more information, call 731-267-3212, or visit www.Saaca.com.

Aug. 31: Waynesboro
Old Timers Day
Live entertainment, food and fun for all ages. Parade featuring Mr. and Mrs. Old Timer and antique cars and tractors. Begins with breakfast at Ralph Hughes Park in the center of town. For more information, contact Jerdie Ayers at 931-722-1099.

Sept. 2: Harrogate
Annual Labor Day Celebration
Harrogate City Park at 3 pm with kids' games, live bands, food, crafts and business fair. Spectacular fire-works display at 9 pm. Rain Date Sept. 7. For more information, call Harrogate City Hall at 423-869-0211.

Sept. 5-7: Clifton
Horseshoe Riverbend Festival
Live music on Main Street with vendors, Military fly-over, 10+ bands on Friday and Saturday and many things to see and do! Thursday Youth Night. Dancing on the street until 1 am both Fri. and Sat. nights. Tap beer sold on Main Street. Past headliners include Sammy Kershaw and Little Texas. For more information, call 931-676-3311 or Clifton Marina at 931-676-5225 or visit www.cityofclifton.com.

Sept. 14: Charleston
International Cowpea Festival
Admission free, with the option of purchasing a \$5 tasting spoon at the Cowpea Cook Off and casting your vote for your favorite. Opens at 10 am with Princess and the Pea Pageant, crafts, concessions and a farmer’s market. Musical headliner Grammy award-winning artist Suzie Bogguss takes the stage at 7 pm. For more information, visit <http://www.cowpeafestival.com/#!>

Sept. 15-21: Sharon
Annual Corn and Music Festival
Live music, baking contests, corn baking contest, horseshoes, quilt show, parade, nightly business support meals, tractor show, pet show, children activities. For contest entry forms and information, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/sharonfestival/> facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/SharonCornAndMusicFestival>.

Oct. 11-13: Maryville
Foothills Fall Festival Ticket Sales
Stars from Blues Traveler and Rascal Flatts to local American Idol contestant Janelle Arthur, will take the stage in October at the Theater in the Park. Tickets sales at Knoxville Tickets Outlets. Call 865-656-4444, or toll free 877-995-9961, or online at www.knoxvilletickets.com. Purchase in person at Maryville Municipal Center and Blount County branches of FirstTennessee.

Ripley’s revitalization project serves as rebirth to downtown, spurs economic growth

RIPLEY from Page 1
completed by 2023. The primary focus for the first phase of the project was the revitalization of the downtown area and the restoration of the Lauderdale County courthouse. Phase I was completed in 2010 and resulted in a more aesthetically pleasing and functional downtown that attracted residents and businesses. Numerous elements had multiple benefits.

Smart development and infrastructure was at the heart of the project. A mixed-use allowance for existing buildings in the high density area encouraged in-fill, reducing the need for expanded infrastructure like water, sewer and electrical services in the outskirts. The mixed uses also make the downtown area more vibrant and attractive to both merchants and customers alike.

Architectural and engineering consultant A2H, Inc. utilized a development strategy that also included the narrowing traffic lanes to allow more, trees, green landscaping and the widening of sidewalks into plazas. The enhanced landscaping and sidewalks encouraged visitors to stroll and shop instead of driving between destinations. These features had the dual benefit of reducing vehicle emissions in the region and improving pedestrian safety. The increase of green space and decrease of impervious pavement also improved local water quality. More pervious surfaces mean that the amount of storm water runoff entering the city’s drainage system has been reduced and amount of water recharging the local aquifer increased. An additional benefit of the increased green space has been a reduction in the “heat island” effect.

Building upgrades paid dividends on several fronts. New energy efficient windows, doors and HVAC system reduced the energy consumption of the courthouse by approximately 35 percent, thereby lowering energy bills and reducing the building’s carbon footprint. Environmentally friendly refrigerant in the HVAC system prevents damage to the ozone layer. The air conditioner units were also specially designed for easier cleaning, more efficient disassembly and practical recycling. To further reduce the impact on local landfills, the units use long-life washable filters rather than the more common disposable filters. The building also makes use of a smart energy system that senses the needs of a particular room and provides service accordingly.

Material selection for the project also contributed to the myriad of benefits. Local companies such as Crab Orchard Stone and Marvin Windows were selected to provide materials for the restoration work. Marvin Windows was able to custom design energy efficient doors and windows that were in keeping with the art deco style of the courthouse architecture. Tennessee quarried Crab Orchard stone was used in various hardscaping aspects of the project. Using these products reduces transportation costs and supports Tennessee businesses.

According to Frankie McCord with the Ripley Downtown Development Corporation (DEVCO), Phases II and III will progress as additional funding becomes available. Ms. McCord said that she highly recommends smaller cities and towns explore the possibility of applying for future restoration grants through the various federal agencies. She indicated that as a result of the city’s successful efforts to



Storefronts on Ripley’s downtown square get a much-needed facelift as part of a multi-phase revitalization project.



The downtown fountain adds beauty and creates an inviting atmosphere to help draw people to the square at night.

revitalize its downtown, she has seen increased attention from businesses interested in relocating there. While this project is on-going, the early successes led to local property owners working more closely with DEVCO in an effort to further increase Ripley’s sustainable growth efforts and carbon footprint reduction.

Ripley is proud to be known as Tennessee’s first “green downtown.” With the receipt of the grant, the community leaders had an opportunity to revitalize their downtown, but their successes went far beyond the public square. State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, who played an integral role in getting the funding legislation passed, says it best. “I am very excited about our future. We have the opportunity to literally transform our city and make it viable for the 21st century. The project has done much more than city officials originally imagined. It has also had a positive impact on industrial recruiting and really saved our downtown area.”



New widened sidewalks and updated storefronts make the downtown area more pedestrian friendly while remaining environmentally friendly.



Above, the mosaic tile adds another dimension to the new fountains on the Courthouse square.

At right, custom windows produced at the Marvin Windows & Doors facility in Ripley help preserve the Lauderdale County Courthouse’s historically significant art deco styling while helping reduce energy consumption by as much as 35 percent.



Litter pick up/music project spotlights TN culture, pride

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

For every scrap of litter, there’s a place, story or song that adds beauty to Tennessee. It’s what Scenic Tennessee’s anti-litter slogan “Love the Land, Lose the Litter,” is all about. Funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), the non-profit’s month-long summer litter campaign “Pickin’ Up Tennessee,” juxtaposes many of the elements that make Tennessee great: music, stories, people and scenery, against the reality of roadways, lakes, and landscapes marred by litter. The project raises awareness that every citizen, regardless of age, can be part of the ongoing tradition of keeping Tennessee clean one community at a time.

Last fiscal year, more than 23 million pounds of litter were collected from Tennessee’s county, state route and interstate roadsides. “We want to remind folks that this is Tennessee,” said Marge Davis, Scenic Tennessee president. “This music is Tennessee, these mountains are Tennessee. Litter is the outsider. It doesn’t belong here. We want folks to feel that, and to act on it.”

During the month of June, the nonprofit’s staff, volunteers and filmmakers, traversed across 20 county lines in a white RV decorated with pickin up TN logos, to capture the state’s natural beauty, music, sto-

Tennessee Waste Reduction Assistance program, Davis has stood on the front lines for recycling and litter reduction for more than two decades.

The conversation with the students led to a grant proposal for the TDOT program encouraging ideas from non-profits and local governments for innovative approaches to litter. Scenic Tennessee, in Phase II of the project, plans to compile all of the footage and back ground music into an hour-long documentary.

What initially seemed like a daunting task came together like a homespun mosaic, as Davis sent out an e-mail to city and county mayors asking for ideas. The cities and counties responded enthusiastically, laying out the welcome mat for the traveling band in the form of friendly support, names of music groups in the area, all who performed free for the cause, two free campsites a night at the local state parks, police escorts and most importantly, community volunteers for the organized litter pick ups.

“The helpfulness of the local municipalities was fabulous,” said Davis. “The litter grants programs were absolutely phenomenal at every clean up. They would send out volunteers and litter crews, including inmates who were non-violent offenders. In one case, Marshall County invited us to eat lunch with the inmates at the recycling facility, which is a wonderful place in

cent counties, and getting to a state park before dark. The crew would then set to work compiling videos at the campgrounds, ultimately sifting through 60 hours of footage and thousands of photos.

As the family travels along Tennessee’s highways, roadways and interstates, picking up litter in the summer heat, the process takes on a new dimension, one that reflects environmental inquisitiveness and adventure, when viewed through the children’s eyes.

Each community also has a unique sustainable side story to accompany the music performances, such as Falls Mill, near Tims Ford State Park, an old working grist mill that provides corn meal and whole wheat flour the old fashioned sustainable way, an Appalachian museum on the grounds of Scott High school in Scott County, built and run by students, with a replica mill and corn crib and annual fall festival; and a local woodworker who salvages wood anywhere he can get it in order to repurpose it.

“Finding 20 diverse performing groups was a coordination effort, but not hard because of Tennessee’s reputation of being a music state,” Davis said. “It just makes me cry thinking about how great it was.”

In Savannah, the Holt family, sang a traditional spiritual hymn in front of a Civil War-era mansion on the bank of the Tennessee River. In Memphis, an African American Church choir sings at their church; and in Roan Mountain, an old homestead in the middle of rhododendron season becomes the backdrop for an old-time Mountain Music group who grew up on the mountain, T.V. Barnett and his Roane Mountain Moonshiners. One of the biggest turnouts was in Davidson County, where an all girl garage band called “Churchyard” plays at

“Fond Objects,” a funky music venue in East Nashville.

“We want to honor the fabulous diversity that we saw in the course of a month while telling the story of litter and recycling in our state,” said Davis. “We hope to work with counties to make their own videos, as we promised TDOT we would do that, where there will be dozens and dozens more, with every county having their own.”

In this second phase of the



One of the few remaining oldtime stringbands playing genuine East Tennessee Southern Appalachian mountain music, T.V. Barnett and his Roan County Moonshiners, play on the porch of an old homestead. This performance, along with several others across the state, was filmed by Pickn’ Up Tennessee videographers during a 20-county litter clean up project this summer.

project, Scenic Tennessee plans to develop an online environmental module for Tennessee’s school children, with the aid of the Tennessee Environmental Education Association and Murfreesboro’s Middle Tennessee State University’s Center for Environmental Education. “Many of the people we talked with on this tour, the litter grants people and their directors and volunteers, feel like litter education in the schools is getting tired. We told them we wanted to make these interactive online mod-

\$2,500 or more. I would like the effort to represent a wide variety of companies in the state who have an interest in waste management or businesses who have a stake in manufacturing with recycled material. Perhaps an in state foundation would be willing to give us a grant, which would be nice to have, but I’m a big fan of Tennessee businesses. I think our fundraising goal will be \$100,000 but we certainly won’t stop there.”

“I’m proud of the tour as an



In tallying the litter pick ups for the Pickin’ Up Tennessee project, amounts were measured by volume, rather than weight or individual piece count. Items were often broken up, worn down and shredded into bits, so that it was impossible to tell what they were, let alone accurately count them as individual pieces. Bags were filled with the sorted materials, counted by number filled and partially filled bags, and multiplied by the gallon-size of each bag. Comparing the recyclable gallons to the non-recyclable gallons gave an approximate proportion of recyclables in the day’s pickup. The proportion of recyclables averaged 50+ percent and primarily consisted of beverage cans and bottles.

ries and culture through photography, community cleanups, video and blogs, which are currently being posted on YouTube. “We had been talking to the students at UT Knoxville, who have their own environmental group, SPEAK, (Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville) about a litter/recycling promotion campaign that would combine pickup footage movies with music,” said Davis. A former staff person for the University of

Lewisberg. The inmates were polite and super helpful taking the recyclables to the facilities.”

In the search for videographers, Davis had happened upon the Porfiri family, Dave and Linda from Chattanooga; husband and wife filmmakers, who with their two daughters, Jane, 10, and Harlan, 8, agreed to take on the project. Each day’s schedule involved a litter pick up, followed by a music event, not necessarily in the same county or adja-



Volunteers hold up “Love the Land, Lose the Litter” slogan signs during a litter pick up for Pickin’ Up TN, a summer initiative of non-profit Scenic Tennessee.

ules, with footage from the tour using teachers in the communities to help us write the lesson plans, and perhaps featuring the two Porfiri girls.”

However, with the TDOT funding spent from Phase I, much of what gets done depends upon new revenue sources.

“We hope to be off the ground in six months,” said Davis. “We’d like to target the next fundraising effort toward companies that rely on recycled materials, such as QRS or Alcoa. My goal is to ask each company for

inspiring show of what Tennessee is all about,” continued Davis. “Tennessee is really not about losers who throw trash out the window to make it look nasty. The 99.9 percent of people that never dream of littering will be proud of the landscape and the concerts, which are the things that make Tennessee fantastic.”

To view the video footage, photos and blogs, including the pick up tally by county from the Pickin’ Up TN tour, visit www.pickinuptn.org/.

Recycling as an economic driver: Officials offered scholarships to SERDC Symposium

Ready for a \$180 million job creation boost in Tennessee? It’s the value of commodities lost annually due to the lack of recycling efforts across the state, and what’s sending Tennessee plants scrambling to other states to secure much needed production materials.

Far beyond the “tree hugging” moniker, once associated with the movement, recycling has matured into an economic driver that’s positioning many companies toward an advantage in the global marketplace, according to the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC), a diverse array of industry and municipal representatives committed to protecting the environment and improving local economies through recycling.

Tennessee is taking steps to learn more about the collection and processing infrastructure that feeds the recycling economy. This process will better position the state and local governments to take advantage of the economic benefits of recycling.

SERDC recently assisted the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in a characteristic report, “Characterization of Tennessee’s Recycling Economy,” about the state’s current recycling

economy, including material flow, and potential opportunities, that could help increase local government collection of key recyclable materials.

In the process, SERDC developed community profiles for a diverse collection of municipal and county recycling programs, discussing various methods currently used for residential recovery, and highlighting options on how to divert more recyclable material to help grow Tennessee’s economy.

In partnership with TDEC, SERDC is hosting a follow-up Symposium in Nashville where in the closing session, TDEC will announce its local government grant program funding opportunity and its direction for the next two years.

The Symposium will feature speakers from state and national companies, exploring how economic expansion and job creation can be generated in Tennessee. Break out sessions will cover everything from management practices to tools to make recycling less expensive with focus materials on feedstock for the increase of jobs in Tennessee.

“We want to lay out what the economic opportunity is, a plan for moving forward and tools to get there while putting some funding on the table,” said Will Sagar, SERDC executive director. “We’re not anti-

environmental by any means, but our effort is solely economic impact. When you see Alcoa and Vican spending \$100 million a year on feedstock that’s all recovered material, it’s big.”

A limited number of Symposium scholarships are available for municipal elected officials. “We’d like to see more TML members on the registration list for the Symposium,” Sagar said.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Jackson at elizabeth.jackson@serdc.org or call 828-577-2263.

SERDC Symposium: “Recycling and the Economy.”

Held August 15-16 at the Double Tree Downtown Nashville. Register online at serdc.org/events. Includes access to the exhibits, sessions, and reception as well as breakfast and lunch.

* Check into scholarships for municipal officials.

Keep TN Beautiful “I want to be recycled” PSA campaign

Only about 35 percent of the 250 million tons of trash the U.S. accumulates each year is recycled, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. That’s tons of valuable materials, plastics, paper, aluminum—which could add value to the nation’s economy. To address this national concern, the Ad Council and Keep America Beautiful (KAB) has launched a full scale public service (PSA) campaign to help raise awareness about the benefits of recycling. The agencies’ goal is that every American will come to see recycling as a societal norm.

The campaign directs audiences to IWantToBeRecycled.org, which has a localized tool allowing users to find where they can recycle, whether curbside or the nearest recycling center. The site also illustrates the recycling process and offers information about what materials can be recycled.

Funded by industry giants: Keep America Beautiful by Alcoa Foundation, American Chemistry Council, Anheuser-Busch, Nestle’ Waters North America, Niagara Bottling, Unilever and Waste Management, one of the featured PSAs was filmed on location at M&T Bank Stadium, home to the NFL’s Baltimore Ravens. The stadium’s exterior and other areas, are partially constructed from post-consumer recycled aluminum.

The media industry plans to donate all of the space and time for the new PSAs, which will be distributed

nationwide by TV, radio, outdoor and digital media. For more information about the campaign, visit kab.org. Also follow @kabtweet on Twitter.

“People’s aversion to recycling is that they don’t know what can or can’t be recycled,” said Pam Willingham, Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) Recycling Programs coordinator. “They’re also not sure about the convenience of the location. This PSA campaign is targeting the two thirds, or 62 percent of Americans who are not avid recyclers.”

In conjunction with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), Keep Tennessee Beautiful will celebrate its 30th anniversary as a state leader in litter prevention, greening, and recycling at the 2013 TDOT/KTnB Biennial Conference, Aug. 13-14. The event will feature the Awards of Excellence all at the Nashville Airport Marriott.

“We want to let people know this is a convenient state in which to recycle,” Willingham said. “Our mission at KTnB is teaching people that it’s a personal responsibility.”

For more information, about the TDOT/KTnB Biennial Conference, visit <http://www.keeptnbeautiful.org/about-us/2013-tdotktnb-biennial-conference/>.