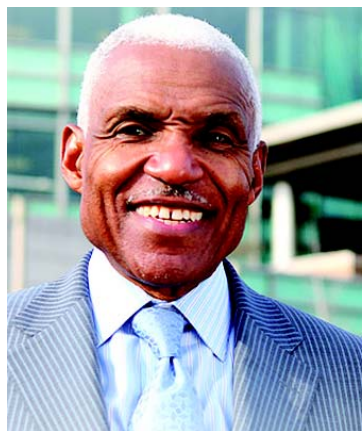


## Welcome to Memphis; hope the conference is productive

On behalf of the citizens of the city of Memphis, I would like to offer a warm welcome and extend official greetings to everyone in attendance for the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference.

By serving Tennessee's cities and towns, the Tennessee Municipal League provides beneficial assistance with the General Assembly. As a member of TML, your cooperative engagement with legislators leads to our communities becoming more appealing places to live, learn, work, and grow our families by expanding services and resources in the region.

Thanks for selecting Memphis as your host city for such an important event. Best wishes on a



A.C. Wharton  
Memphis Mayor

successful and productive conference.

I encourage you to enjoy the wonderful amenities our community has to offer during your visit.

## Reduction in sales tax on food takes effect July 1

On May 13, 2013, Gov. Bill Haslam signed into law a reduction in the state sales and use tax rate on sales of food and food ingredients. Effective July 1, 2013, the state sales and use tax rate on sales of food and food ingredients will be reduced from 5.25 percent to 5 percent.

With the change, food and food ingredients will be subject to a reduced state sales and use tax rate of 5 percent plus the applicable local sales and use tax rate. Prepared food, dietary supplements, candy, alcoholic beverages and tobacco continue to be subject to the general state sales and use tax rate of 7 percent plus the applicable local sales and use tax rate. Existing laws defining which items are considered food and food ingredients remain unchanged by the new legislation.

Local governments are not held harmless from the loss of state-shared sales tax revenue under this bill. The recurring decrease in local revenue is estimated to be \$807,600 per year. The recurring decrease in local revenue pursuant to the state-shared allocation is estimated to be \$1,152,137 (\$25,030,128 x 4.603

percent).

Businesses selling food items subject to the reduced rate of sales and use tax are advised to begin making the necessary changes to allow for the new rate beginning July 1, 2013. Changes to cash registers and accounting systems should be completed by the July 1, 2013, effective date. Businesses must continue to collect and remit the existing 5.25 percent tax on sales of food and food ingredients made through June 30, 2013, to the Department of Revenue.

The Department of Revenue collects approximately 87 percent of total state tax revenue. During the 2012 fiscal year, the department collected \$11.4 billion in state taxes and fees.

In addition to collecting state taxes, the Department of Revenue collects taxes for local, county and municipal governments. During the 2012 fiscal year, local government collections by the Department of Revenue were \$2.2 billion.

The department also apportions revenue collections for distribution to the various state funds and local units of government.

## OSHA requires employee training on Hazard Communication Standards

BY DENNIS WOLF  
MTAS Fire Consultant

Recent revisions by OSHA to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) aligns OSHA requirements with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

The revisions were published in the Federal Register in March 2012 (77 FR 17574). The intent is to improve the quality and consistency of hazard information in the workplace, making it safer for workers by providing easily understandable information on appropriate handling and safe use of hazardous chemicals.

Two significant changes contained in the revised standard require the use of new labeling elements and a standardized format for Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), formerly known as, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs).

The new label elements and SDS requirements will improve worker understanding of the hazards associated with the chemicals in their workplace. OSHA is phasing in the specific requirements over several years (Dec. 1, 2013 to June 1, 2016) to help employers comply with the revised standard.

The first compliance date of the revised HCS is Dec. 1, 2013. By Dec. 1, 2013, employers must have trained their workers on the new label elements and the SDS format. This training is necessary as workers are already seeing the new labels and SDSs on the chemicals in their workplace. To ensure employees have the information they need to protect themselves from chemical hazards in the workplace during the transition period, it is critical that employ-

ees understand the new label and SDS formats.

The list below contains the minimum required topics for the training. Training on label elements must include information on the type of information the employee would expect to see on the new labels, including the:

- Product identifier
- Signal word
- Pictogram
- Hazard statement(s)
- Precautionary statement(s)
- How an employee might use the labels in the workplace
- General understanding of how the elements work together on a label
- Training on the format of SDS

Employers may conduct the training in-house or may contract with someone knowledgeable on the revised OSHA hazard communication standard to conduct the training. The employer must provide training in a manner that is understandable by each employee, which means the employer must consider and accommodate limitations such as language, vocabulary, and literacy.

Tennessee OSHA (TOSHA) has a PowerPoint presentation that an agency can download and use for training on the revisions and the GHS. The person who conducts the training should be familiar with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. The PowerPoint is available at: [http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha\\_pres.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/tosha_pres.shtml)



## Free Conference mobile app available

Connects to all smartphone devices

A mobile app featuring the 2013 Annual Conference information is available for free and is accessible from any smart phone device.

The app was developed by the Tennessee Municipal League to help improve smartphone users conference experience with this easy to use digital guide. It contains detailed conference information on workshops, speakers, exhibitors and special events – and it's all at your fingertips.

To download the free app, it's as easy as searching for "2013 TML Annual Conference" in the Apple App Store or Google PLAY Marketplace. There is a web app available for Blackberry and Microsoft phones.

### How to Use It

Once your app has successfully downloaded to your phone, the conference schedule, workshop information, vendor contact information, plus much more is accessible through easy, navigable functions.

**Schedule.** To access the conference schedule, tap on the schedule icon and scroll up and down, or flip left and right through the different days. You can also tap the arrows at the top corners to switch between dates. Touching an event will reveal a description, and if it's a workshop, speaker bios are also available. As an added feature, you can create your own personal schedule by touching the plus symbol next to

events. You can also set reminders for yourself if you like. Conference events are color-coded by each event type. By using the filter button at the top to apply a filter, you can quickly reference categories such as food, workshops, or special events.

**Speakers.** To learn about each of our conference speakers, scroll through the list and tap on the speaker's photo to reveal their bios.

**Exhibitors.** The exhibitors section includes contact information, booth numbers, and links to company websites. And once you've left the conference, you can always refer back to this app to find all the contact information you need to get in touch with a vendor.

**Sponsors.** TML Sponsors help underwrite some of the conference expenses, as well as support us in the daily work of representing Tennessee's municipalities. In this section, you can learn more about our See **TML APP** on Page 3



Improve your conference experience with this easy to use free mobile app.

## Disparity exists in condition of local vs. state bridges

BY MIKE MACIAG  
Governing Magazine

If policymakers want to prop up aging bridges most in need of repairs, they'll need to target more fixes for those owned by local governments.

A *Governing* review of Federal Highway Administration inspection data found a stark disparity in the condition of local bridges compared to those owned by states. According to federal data, bridges under local jurisdiction are more than twice as likely to be considered structurally deficient, suffering from deterioration to the bridge deck, substructure or other major component.

Some of these bridges – most of which counties own – are not heavily trafficked. And while states work with only limited funding for bridge repairs, municipalities possess even fewer resources. It's for these reasons, experts say, that bridges localities own typically fall low on the list for priority repairs.

An analysis of 2012 FHA inspection data showed the disparity in bridge conditions to be widespread:

- About 15 percent of all bridges local governments own in the U.S. are structurally deficient, compared to 7 percent for states.
- Of states with at least 1,000 locally-owned bridges, only Colorado has a higher share of structurally deficient state than locally-owned bridges.
- Counties are responsible for more than half of the nation's nearly 67,000 structurally-deficient bridges.

Factors transportation officials weigh in deciding which bridges to fix include age, density of traffic, type of traffic and proximity to detour routes.

Andy Herrmann, past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, said states should take a hard look at all bridges when targeting investments. "You have to look at the system as a whole, not who owns the bridge," he said.

To illustrate the contrast in bridge conditions, consider Oklahoma. Inspectors deemed nearly 32 percent of its 14,117 county-owned bridges structurally deficient last year, compared to about 9 percent of its 6,799 state bridges.

Some of the county bridges are older wooden crossings with shorter lifespans, taking a beating from trucks hauling heavy loads, said Randy Robinson, executive director



Photo by Rick Lund, Seattle Times

Rescue boats sit on the water near the collapsed section of bridge on the Skagit River near Mount Vernon, Wash. The bridge collapse in May rekindles concerns over our nation's aging infrastructure and how to pay for much needed upgrades.

of the Oklahoma Cooperative Circuit Engineering Districts Board, which coordinates research and funding for county roadways.

Up until 2006, the state provided counties less than \$30 million for construction of new roads and bridges. This left local agencies largely unable to pay for construction of bridges long overdue for replacement.

"All they could do was patch, repair, and hopefully keep them open to traffic," Robinson said.

Oklahoma's allocation for local repairs recently increased significantly. About 15 percent of motor vehicle tax revenues fund a program for county roads and bridges, an amount set to increase next fiscal year to 20 percent, giving counties an estimated \$120 to \$130 million to jumpstart improvements.

"The funding will go a long way," said Robinson, who added that counties would otherwise close some bridges without it.

Inspection data reported by Iowa and South Dakota depicts a similar pattern. Only a small fraction of bridges those states maintain are structurally deficient, compared to about a quarter of bridges under the jurisdiction of local governments.

Even in areas where far more bridges are owned by the state than localities, the divide holds true. Pennsylvania – with the most structurally-deficient bridges in the country -- is responsible for two-thirds of its bridges inspected. Yet 35 percent of bridges counties, cities and towns

own are deficient, compared to 20 percent for the Commonwealth.

The disparity in bridge conditions largely hinges on funding, said Bob Fogel, senior legislative director for the National Association of Counties.

Local governments typically lean heavily on real estate taxes for general fund revenues. Smaller or rural counties don't have expansive enough tax bases to pay for upgrades. And urban localities often need permission to levy taxes funding transportation projects from both state governments and taxpayers – a major hurdle.

A smaller share of bridge funding trickles down from states and the federal government, varying greatly from system to system. Michigan, for example, distributes a portion of gas tax revenues to cities and counties, some of which is set aside for its Local Bridge Program. Other states also share fuel or motor vehicles taxes with localities, but even this added money doesn't begin to cover all the costs.

"Our members feel the federal government and most state departments of transportation don't provide county governments with the share of funds generated by gas taxes that are reflective of the condition of bridges owned by counties," NACO's Fogel said.

It's worth noting that traffic congestion along many of these locally-owned bridges doesn't come See **BRIDGE** on Page 6



**BRISTOL**

U.S. Solutions Group, Inc. will expand its call center operations on West State Street, invest \$117,000 and create 128 new jobs. In October 2012, U.S. Solutions Group, Inc. opened its first call center in Tennessee, investing \$4.1 million and creating 548 jobs. U.S. Solutions Group, Inc. was established in 2001 in response to the demand from leading corporations for customized outsourced services. The company provides customized, complex integrated call center based solutions for its clients. Services include billing support, hotlines, technical support, web inquiry support and other customer service.

**CHATTANOOGA**

A \$40 million road project will mean the biggest changes in decades for motorists exiting Interstate 24 to Chattanooga's Southside and Look-out Mountain. State transportation planners are eyeing a wider east-bound exit lane, a new ramp into the Southside and a connector road to simpler interchanges at South Broad, Williams and Market streets. TDOT is doing preliminary engineering and design work. Some \$3.7 million has been approved for engineering, but the rest of the work will need funding. The agency is estimating \$28 million for interstate widening and \$9 million for the interchange work.

**CHATTANOOGA**

HomeServe USA officials announced the company will expand its Chattanooga operations. The expansion will add an additional 100 customer service positions in Hamilton County and represents an investment of \$65,000. HomeServe offers emergency repair service to more than one million homeowners in the U.S. and Canada. The company partners with many of the nation's leading water, gas and electrical utilities to offer their services, and in select areas, service plans are provided directly to homeowners under the HomeServe USA brand.

**CLEVELAND**

The Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) showed the strongest job growth of the 10 metro statistical areas in Tennessee in 2012, according to the Tennessee Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). Employment there grew 5.6 percent compared to 1.4 percent statewide, according to the report "Recession and Employment in the U.S. and Tennessee: A Long Road to Normal." The report summarizes employment conditions from the onset of the depression in December 2009 through March. The growth was measured from March 2012 to this past March. Cleveland was ranked fourth in the nation for job creation in 2012 among all statistical areas. "Our first priority is to create an environment that allows existing industry to flourish and new industries to put down roots," said Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland. Employment in the Cleveland MSA area showed 41,400 jobs in March 2012 to 43,700 this past March.

**FRANKLIN**

Columbia State Community College President Janet Smith publicly unveiled the first drawing of a new \$36.4 million Franklin campus and said she expects its first phase to be completed by 2016. Smith, who addressed Franklin aldermen, said she expects about \$32.4 million in public monies to be set aside by Gov. Bill Haslam for the campus in next year's budget. The remainder would come from private donations. "I'm very, very hopeful that we're going to be breaking ground next year," Smith said. After years of languishing, the school's long-standing plans for a new campus on 36 acres along Liberty Pike are now getting renewed attention. School officials have pushed for the project for years, citing a need to replace its out-of-date Franklin campus. Last month, Haslam told Williamson County leaders the campus was a high priority for his administration. While most of the money would come from public sources, school officials have been meeting with private donors and have some financial commitments.

**KNOXVILLE**

Up to 200 of the best adventure racers in North America will come together Oct. 10-12 to compete for the 2013 Checkpoint Tracker Adventure Racing Championship. Indi-

viduals, two-person and four-person, co-ed and same sex teams will be required to navigate a 100-mile, non-stop course by map and compass from checkpoint to checkpoint in under 30 hours. Scheduled activities will include trekking, caving, orienteering, mountain biking, paddling, rappelling, ascending and a mystery; the first team to the finish line with the most checkpoints will be declared the 2013 Checkpoint Tracker Adventure Racing champions. For more information, or to register for the 2013 Checkpoint Tracker Championship, visit <http://www.checkpointtracker.com/events/checkpoint-tracker-championship>.

**LEWISBURG**

Meiva Industry, a Japanese auto supplier, will open its first U.S. factory in Lewisburg, investing \$6.1 million and creating 98 jobs. Headquartered in Atsugi, Japan, the facility will be located at 1041 Veterans Drive. The company supplies products to Japanese car manufacturers, including Nissan, Toyota and Honda. Along with establishing a base for North American operations, the Lewisburg facility will allow Meiva Industry to eventually extend its services to other carmakers in the future.

**MARTIN**

The West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation has committed \$1 million to the expansion of the registered nursing program at the University of Tennessee at Martin's Parsons Center. UT-Martin offers West Tennessee's only basic baccalaureate program in nursing at a public institution outside of the Memphis area, and construction on a 10,000-square-foot addition to the school's current nursing facility is expected to begin this summer. The addition will include classrooms, a skills laboratory and a high-fidelity computerized simulation laboratory. The Jackson-based West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation focuses on healthcare, educational and quality of life programs. When the facility is completed, the Parsons Center will have openings for 30 students annually for the program, twenty slots for traditional students and 10 for licensed nurses. The funding was included in Gov. Haslam's budget. The gift will comprise a combination of cash contributions in the first two years and a \$714,000 nursing endowment that will provide scholarships for nursing students at the Parsons Center.

**NASHVILLE**

*Forbes* named the city as the No. 10 best city in the U.S. for tech jobs in a recent ranking. *Forbes* pointed to 43 percent growth in the Nashville area's tech industry and 18.5 percent growth in (STEM) science, technology, engineering and mathematics-related jobs over the past decade, adding that the number of STEM jobs is still at about 70 percent of the national average. To see the full report, visit <http://www.forbes.com/pictures/edgl45edji/methodology-4/#gallerycontent>.

**NASHVILLE**

Mayor Karl Dean was joined by the director of Metro-Nashville Parks to outline \$6 million in improvements to Centennial Park. City officials said the plan will be executed in six phases and be completed by May 2015. Phase one will entail bringing a spring that is under the park to the surface and establishing a stream to Lake Watauga; cleaning and deepening the lake; improving the parking lot around the Parthenon; establishing a permanent stage and seating for Musicians Corner.

**PIGEON FORGE**

A study shows that the Island at Pigeon Forge will bring an \$80 million per year economic impact in the Sevier County area. With phase one of the project complete, Darby Campbell, developer of The Island, notes the attraction features a new 200 foot wheel that will give visitors an all new view of the Smokies. There's also several shops and restaurants to keep everyone entertained. Campbell said 90 percent of tax revenues generated at The Island will go directly to the city and thousands of new jobs are being created by the development. The Island opened to the public on June 21st.

*News Across Tennessee is comprised from media reports and press releases from across the state.*

**Greenville employees graduate from MTAS Municipal Management Academy**



Thirteen Greenville employees recently graduated from the Municipal Management Academy of the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). The nine-month academy covers such topics as communication skills, planning and organizing, positive discipline, workplace harassment and violence, safe workplace environment, and motivating your workforce. Successfully completing the academy were: William Barner, public works; John Darnell, parks & recreation; Brooke Davis, accountant; Beth Dyke, police; Craig Fillers, police; Mark Foulks, fire; Butch Patterson, parks & recreation; Brad Peters, public works; Amy Rose, public relations; Marty Shelton, fire; Alan Shipley, fire; Carol Susong, recorder; and Jeff Woods, building department. Greenville partnered with Morristown to share the cost of the training. The Greenville employees attended the training with a similar size group of employees from Morristown, and sessions met in the two cities on a rotating basis. To graduate, each employee must attend all eight sessions of MMA, each of which lasts four hours. MMA is designed to help both the new and the experienced manager/supervisor develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for successful management. Each course emphasizes discussion and group activities to encourage participants to learn from one another, often resulting in better teamwork, cohesiveness, and communications among managers. For more information on MMA, visit [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu).

**State revenues for May continue to climb**

Tennessee revenue collections continued an upward growth trend in May with a net positive growth of 3.92 percent over collections made in the same month last year. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall May revenues were \$905.3 million or \$31.5 million more than the state budgeted. It's the tenth consecutive month this fiscal year in which total collections have reflected positive growth.

"The sales tax growth rate rebounded in May compared to earlier months, mainly because of building materials sales and purchases of new automobiles," Martin said. "Corporate tax collections continued to show strong growth, exceeding budgeted expectations."

"Tennessee's sales tax collections suggest that we are continuing to slowly recover from the worst recession on record. Slow recovery coupled with national and global economic concerns call for us to closely monitor collections and expenditures for the remainder of the year."

On an accrual basis, May is the

tenth month in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The general fund was overcollected by \$35.3 million, and the four other funds were under collected by \$3.8 million.

Sales tax collections were \$11.2 million more than the budgeted estimate for May. The May growth rate was positive 3.97 percent. For 10 months revenues are undercollected by \$27.7 million. The year-to-date growth rate for ten months was positive 1.72 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$8.8 million above the budgeted estimate of \$45.3 million. For ten months revenues are \$276.6 million over the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$17.0 million above the May estimate. For ten months collections are \$27.5 million above the budgeted estimate. Privilege tax collections were \$3.5 million more than the May budgeted estimate, and for ten months collections are \$29.2 million above the budgeted estimate.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for May decreased by 7.26 per-

cent, and were \$3.9 million less than the budgeted estimate. For ten months revenues are negative 2.63 percent, and \$18.5 million below the budgeted estimate of \$702.5 million.

Business tax collections were \$2.0 million less than the May estimate and year to date for ten months collections are \$0.2 million above the budgeted estimate. Tobacco tax collections were \$1.7 million below the budgeted estimate of \$23.0 million. For ten months revenues are undercollected in the amount of \$8.6 million. All other taxes for May were undercollected by a net of \$1.4 million.

Year-to-date collections for ten months were \$319.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was overcollected by \$319.7 million and the four other funds were undercollected by \$0.1 million. The FY 2013 revised budget assumed an overcollection of \$305.9 million in General Fund Taxes. Therefore, the amount of overcollection, August through May, compared to the revised FY 2013 budget is \$13.8 million (\$319.7 million minus \$305.9 million).

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# PEOPLE

## Sen. Mark Green

is an appointee to the Council of State Government (CSG) Interbranch Affairs Committee. The committee brings together leaders from Green across the nation to focus on ways the branches of state government can work together. CSG's Interbranch Affairs Committee reviews and monitors major interbranch issues and seeks to foster collaboration and understanding among and between the branches of state government. Members of the committee focus on emerging trends, innovative and effective solutions, and viable policy positions and response projects. The committee is designed to encourage multi-state problem solving and sharing of best practices, and to facilitate networking among state officials and between the public and private sectors. Green's appointment extends through 2015.



## Managing attorney Michele Johnson

will succeed Gordon Bonnyman as executive director of The Tennessee Justice Center. Bonnyman will continue to serve clients as a TJC staff attorney. Bonnyman and Johnson cofounded the public interest law and advocacy nonprofit 17 years ago to advocate for Tennessee's vulnerable populations, particularly those struggling to find access to health care. Johnson, a Nashville native, is nationally known for her legal work with children who have special health care needs. As managing attorney, she represents uninsured children in working families and TennCare patients who are denied care by their HMO. Johnson is president of the board of Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC) and serves on the Board of Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and the Nashville Bar Association Board of Directors. She was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for advocacy by Tennessee Voices for Children.



## Bonnyman

## Burns Phillips

was named the new commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Coming from the Finance Department, where he was managing director of customer-focused government initiatives administration-wide, the 64-year-old Phillips had agreed to stay on after replacing Commissioner Karla Davis in March. He had been serving as interim commissioner of the department.



Phillips

**Mike Baker** will trade his interim title to become Clarksville's official director of Building and Codes. Baker has received and maintains certifications for plumbing inspector, building plans examiner, building official, building inspector, building code official, and commercial mechanical inspector. He has worked in various facets of the building industry for more than 35 years.

## Buford Pusser Festival recognizes top law officers, the fallen in line of duty



The city of Adamsville recently celebrated its Annual Buford Pusser Festival, named for the legendary McNairy County sheriff who inspired the movie "Walking Tall." The event coincided with National Law Enforcement Week. Activities included an award ceremony for outstanding officers and a tribute to those in Tennessee who have fallen in the line of duty. Pictured above with Dwana Pusser, daughter of the late Buford Pusser, the "National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award was presented to Colonel Mike Edmonson (top) of the Louisiana State Police and the "Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," award was presented to Mike Wilson, Weakley County Sheriff.

## Free Conference mobile app available

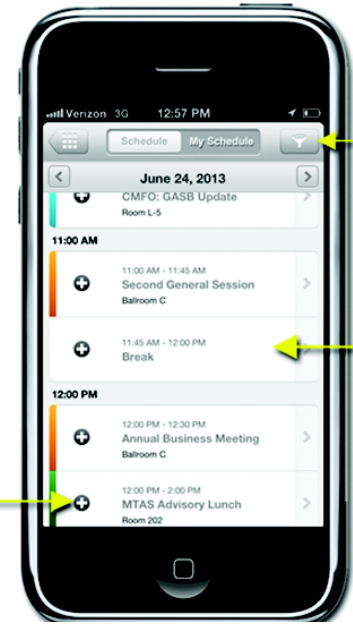
**TML APP**, from Page 1 sponsorship partners, including how to get in contact with their company.

**Convention Center Map.** A detailed map of the NW/SW Exhibit hall, home of the TML Marketplace vendors, are available in this section, as well as maps of the convention center where the workshops and general session are held. You can move maps around, or swipe left and right between maps, or zoom in or zoom out. The room numbers on the schedule correspond to the rooms on these maps. The booth numbers attached to exhibitors in our exhibitors section correspond to numbered booths on the NW/SW Exhibit hall map.

**Memphis Map.** We have also included a map of downtown Memphis, to help you get around town and to help identify a few important conference locations.

If you need help while at the conference, find a TML staff member to assist you. After the conference, contact Mark Barrett at TML at 615-255-6416.

To access the conference schedule, tap on the schedule icon and scroll up and down, or flip left and right through the different days. The events are color-coded by event type. Use the filter button at the top to apply a filter and quickly reference categories such as food, workshops, or special events.

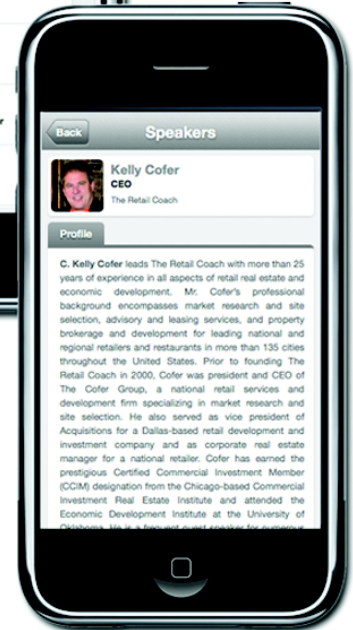
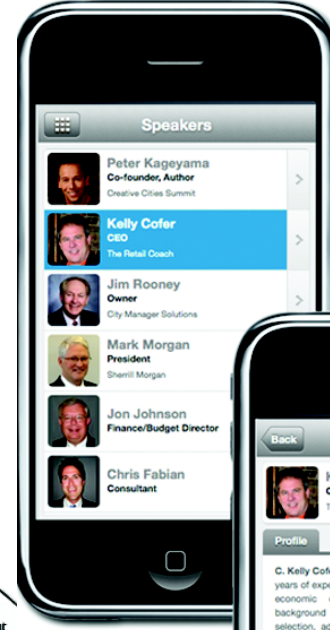


Filter Button

Tap To Reveal More Information

Make A Schedule

You can learn about each of our conference speakers, by scrolling through the list and tapping on each speaker photo to reveal their bio.



You can scroll the maps of the convention center floors or a detailed map of the NW/SW Exhibit hall, home of the TML Marketplace vendors.

Use your touch to move maps around, to swipe left and right between map pages, and to "pinch" or "spread" for zooming in and out.

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There is a web app available for Blackberry and Microsoft phones.  
[zkw11s.m.attendify.com/#](http://zkw11s.m.attendify.com/#)



## STATE BRIEFS

### Regulators work toward safer medications

State regulators say they are taking further steps to protect people from tainted medication, specifically, drugs made at compounding pharmacies. Officials said this comes after serious problems at two compounding pharmacies including one in Tennessee. The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy announced that it is increasing its efforts to make sure the drugs produced by compounding pharmacies licensed by the state are both safe and sterile. Last month, there was an outbreak caused by tainted medicine from the Main Street Pharmacy in the west Tennessee town of Newbern. So far, at least 20 people have gotten sick from steroid shots produced by that pharmacy. Last year, there were contaminated drugs produced at the New England Compounding Center in Massachusetts that killed 55 people, including 15 here in Tennessee. The Pharmacy Board said it will expedite the suspension of sterile compounding by a pharmacy when a serious problem is discovered, meaning the Board and the department of Health will no longer have to wait for a full board meeting to pull a license.

### Cumberland River dams open for fishing again

Anglers in Tennessee and Kentucky can once again get close to Cumberland River dams to fish. President Barack Obama signed into law legislation prohibiting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from putting in place boating and fishing restrictions immediately below the 10 dams the agency operates on the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The ban applies for the next two years. U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander clashed with the Corps over the issue and pushed the agency for months to back off from its plan, before sponsoring the legislation. The bill, known as the "Freedom to Fish Act," passed the House and Senate. The bill delegates enforcement below the dams to state agencies and would ensure that boaters and anglers still have some access — when conditions are safest — to the tailwaters of the dams.

### TN residents to share in \$27 million mortgage settlement

Tennessee residents who submitted a valid foreclosure claim through the National Mortgage Settlement will share in \$27 million to those hurt by abusive mortgage servicing activities during the Great Recession. The average recipient will receive \$1,480, according to the Tennessee Attorney General's office. Eligible borrowers include those who lost their home to foreclosure between Jan. 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2011, and had their mortgage serviced by one of the settlement's five participating mortgage servicers. The participating servicers include Ally (formerly GMAC), Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo.

### State's colleges see lower tuition increases

Tennessee college students will see a lower increase in tuition thanks to improved state funding. The Tennessee Board of Regents Committee on Finance and Business Operations recommended increases of 3 percent for each of the state's 13 community colleges and 1.4 to 6 percent for the Regents' six universities. The recommendations are lower than recent years because of budget allocations recommended by Gov. Haslam and approved by the General Assembly that provided increased general operating dollars for higher education for the first time in more than a decade.

### Gov. signs Epi-bill

Gov. Haslam signed a bill into law that requires all schools to stock epinephrine auto injectors. Epi-pens, as they're commonly called, can provide life-saving relief to a child who goes into shock after an allergic reaction to food or something else. The new law tells each school to keep epi-pens on hand in case a student forgets one, or in case a child is having a reaction for the first time.

### Wetlands/ bird habitat protected

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved \$28 million in funding for wetlands in Tennessee and four other states. The commission said it plans to acquire more than 9,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who chairs the commission, says the goal is to strengthen wetlands that are habitats for hundreds

of species. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency plans to permanently protect 200 acres in the Bark Camp Barrens area, which contains unique wetlands, upland forest and grasslands.

### State reducing backlog of unemployment claims

The new head of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Commissioner Burns Phillips, said that his agency will have eliminated a backlog in processing unemployment claims by the end of July. Phillips told a panel of state lawmakers that the number of claims in adjudication has been cut nearly in half to 15,000, mainly through a change in management and greater use of self-service machines. Nearly topping 30,000 in September, the backlog had caused long delays for thousands of people who applied for unemployment benefits. The average wait time for a first check in 2013 has been as high as six weeks, but that number is steadily improving. Phillips, a former corporate executive who moved into his position from the Department of Finance and Administration, said he has taken steps to improve morale and communication, such as creating employee newsletters, allowing complaints directly to the commissioner's office and increasing the frequency of press releases. Phillips also said the department has renewed its efforts to match job seekers with employers through job fairs, that it is working with local affiliates to train people with skills that are in demand, and that it is coordinating its work with the Department of Economic and Community Development.

### TN joins national effort against deceptive travel promoters

Tennessee is participating in a national law enforcement initiative to warn consumers about deceptive travel promoters and timeshare resellers. The initiative is coordinated by the Federal Trade Commission. Among the allegations: some timeshare and vacation club companies are using misleading sales tactics to induce consumers into purchasing programs that have high maintenance fees, poor travel dates and destination selections, and hidden costs. Other abuses include cancellation issues, difficulty contacting customer service, and misleading or deceptive high pressure sales presentations.

State Briefs are comprised from media reports and press releases from across the state.



Photo: Dyersburg State Gazette

The Port of Cates Landing received its first paying customer; 45,000 pounds of steel unloaded from a shipment that originated in Houston, Texas and now headed for Kentucky. The shipment officially declares the port open for business, even though the ceremonial grand opening hasn't taken place. In the early 1990s, the idea of building a port in northwest Tennessee was only a dream. But after countless road blocks, the Northwest Regional Port Authority Board was awarded \$20 million in federal and state grant money in the spring of 2011. Now the board is engaged in the initial stages of making the port a well-oiled machine with an extra focus on long-term planning.

### Historic downtowns spotlight special events, music, and farmers' markets

Summertime is almost here, which means it's the perfect opportunity for Tennessee Main Street communities to take center stage and welcome both locals and visitors alike. Tennessee Main Street Programs are hosting multiple summer events and farmers' markets to support historic downtown business districts across the state.

"Historic downtown districts are an important part of what makes Tennessee truly unique," Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty said. "These communities highlight the significant role vibrant commercial districts play in creating jobs, attracting visitors and keeping our economy strong."

"Our historic downtowns make great venues for a variety of activities," Tennessee Main Street Director Todd Morgan said. "Tennessee Main Street communities especially know how to connect people with places through events. This results in experiences that are unique, fun and memorable for everyone."

A complete listing of Main Street summer events can be found at: <http://www.tn.gov/ecd/pdf/NewsReleases/SummerEvents2013.pdf>.

Tennessee Main Street provides technical assistance and guidance for communities in developing common sense solutions to make downtowns safe, appealing, vibrant



places where folks want to shop, live and make memories.

In 2012, certified Main Street communities generated more than \$82 million of public/private investment and created 604 new jobs.

There are currently 25 certified Main Street communities across Tennessee: Bristol, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Jonesborough, Leiper's Fork, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, McMinnville, Murfreesboro, Morristown, Ripley, Rogersville, Tiptonville, Savannah, and Union City.

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### July 2: Munford

*Celebrate Independence*  
Held at City Park on College St., a Navy band performance at 7:30 pm followed by fireworks display. For more information, visit the website [www.munford.com](http://www.munford.com) or call 901-837-5972.

### July 3 - 4: Gatlinburg

*Midnight Independence Day Parade*  
The First Independence Day Parade in the Nation kicks off at midnight July 3. Floats, balloons and marching bands pay tribute to our country. For more information, call 865-436-4178, or visit [www.gatlinburg.com](http://www.gatlinburg.com).

### July 4: Nashville

*Music City July 4<sup>th</sup> Spectacular*  
Nashville's largest one-day party features live music, family activities, food and one of the nation's best fireworks displays. For more information, call 800-657-6910, or visit [www.visitmusiccity.com](http://www.visitmusiccity.com).

### July 4: Knoxville

*Independence Day Parade*  
Floats, animals and antique cars will parade down Kingston Pike, Concord Road to Boring Road at 9:30 am [www.knoxville.org/events](http://www.knoxville.org/events).

### July 4: Knoxville

*Festival on the Fourth*  
World's Fair Park. Featuring live entertainment, family fun beginning at 4:30 pm. For more information, call 865-215-4248, or visit [www.cityofknoxville.org](http://www.cityofknoxville.org).

### July 4: Chattanooga

*Fireworks Show*  
Held at Lake Winnepesaukah. Fireworks, food, games and rides. For more information, call 877-525-3946 or visit [www.lakewinnie.com](http://www.lakewinnie.com).

### July 4: Sweetwater

*Independence Day Celebration*  
Parade, kids zone, live music, fireworks, vendors.

### July 5-7: Jonesborough

*43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jonesborough Days*  
Downtown merchants and crafters highlight the heritage of Jonesborough with demonstrations and festivities. Crafters Village will be located on Main Street, a parade, children's area, music and of course fireworks. For more information, call 423-791-3819.

### July 5-6: Smithville

*Fiddler's Jamboree & Crafts Festival*  
Features various state and national championships, jam sessions and juried craft exhibitors. For more information, call 615-597-4163, or visit [www.smithvillejamboree.com](http://www.smithvillejamboree.com)

### July 11-27: Elizabethton

*"Liberty! The Saga of Sycamore Shoals"*  
Tennessee's official outdoor drama three-weekend run, Thursdays through Saturdays — beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Fort Watauga Amphitheater. For more information, visit [www.sycamoreshoalstn.org](http://www.sycamoreshoalstn.org).

### July 12-14: Murfreesboro

*36<sup>th</sup> Annual Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival*  
Honors the memory of Uncle Dave Macon, one of the first Grand Ole Opry superstars, and features music, arts and crafts, food, storytelling and competitions. For more information, call 800-716-7560, or visit [www.uncledavemacondays.com](http://www.uncledavemacondays.com).

### July 12 - 20: Kingsport

*Kingsport Fun Fest*  
Live concerts, children's activities and hot air balloons fill this family-friendly festival. For more information, call 800-743-5282, or visit [www.funfest.net](http://www.funfest.net).

### Aug. 3-Sept. 14: Chattanooga

*2013 Riverfront Nights*  
Friends of the Festival is pleased to announce the return of Riverfront Nights for its 8th season. The free series kicks off on Aug. 3, and will run weekly with the exception of Aug. 24. This year's shows feature an eclectic, electrifying lineup. To see a listing of artists, sponsors and events, visit the website [www.riverfrontnights.com](http://www.riverfrontnights.com)

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**ASSOCIATE PROFILE**

Waste Management – the leading waste and environmental services company – is embracing clean fuel technology and today boasts the largest CNG fleet in the North American waste industry.

With more than 32,000 collection and support vehicles on the road daily, WM is committed to reducing our environmental impact with 80 percent of our new fleet purchases being CNG vehicles. In 2007, as part of our sustainability goals, WM committed to increase our fleet's fuel efficiency by 15 percent and reduce our fleet's emissions by 15 percent by 2020. We accomplished a 20 percent reduction by the end of 2011. Achieving this goal yielded significant benefits including savings of 350 million gallons of fuel, about 3.5 million metric tons of CO2 emissions and \$1 billion in operational costs. In addition to our fleet conversion, WM has been constructing CNG public fueling stations; benefitting the communities we service by providing businesses and consumers a local outlet to fuel CNG vehicles.

In TN, during the summer of 2013, WM will begin a \$30 million investment for the conversion of the Nashville, TN fleet. There are more than 90 vehicles in this fleet that service Davidson, Rutherford, Williamson, Wilson, Sumner, Cheatham, Dickson and Robertson Counties. We will begin construction

**Waste Management's Use of CNG Vehicles and WM Logistics Provides Environmental and Operational Savings**



at our hauling site to retrofit our facility and construct a public CNG fueling station as well. We expect our first 25 trucks to be on the road by the end of the year. By continuing to convert our fleets throughout North America, CNG vehicles will provide WM a bridge to future zero tailpipe emissions.

Another tool Waste Management has utilized to increase efficiencies and provide improvements to our operations has been WM Logistics. WM Logistics provides route optimization software and consulting services to manage daily fleet operations. This solution, now available to governments and municipalities, maximizes asset utilization and vehicle efficiency by improving driver productivity, reducing mileage, reducing overtime cost and improving customer service. Our technology is a web-based suite of solutions that include territory planning, route planning and scheduling, dynamic dispatching, onboard communication and GPS tracking. The WM Logistics product

suite was designed to help cities and counties manage multiple operations with routing problems such as waste collections, public works (street sweeping, snow plowing, road maintenance), building inspections, public safety (police & fire) utility (maintenance & meter reading) and school bus transportation. Our end-to-end solutions generate proven savings and efficiency gains while improving service levels for more than 50,000 vehicles across North America. The WML products are currently used by WM for residential collections and roll off services across North America. Municipal clients realizing the benefits of WM Logistics include the cities of Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; Santa Monica, CA; Burbank, CA; Tallahassee, FL; Gadsden, AL; Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio; City of Largo, FL; Hartford, CT; and Woburn, MA.

For more information about our CNG fleet conversion or WM Logistics, please stop by Booth 513 to speak with a WM representative.



**TN Fire Chiefs Association Annual Meeting.** July 14 - 17, Airport Marriott, Nashville. Don't miss this great training opportunity at the TFCA 2013 Conference. This year's program will help today's fire chiefs and tomorrow's leaders and their agencies prepare for progressive leadership. For more information and to register for the meeting, visit: [www.tnfirechiefs.com](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) Full Conference \$150; Single day: \$50 For hotel reservations: 1-800-228-9290 or 1-615-889-9300

**Basic Clandestine Lab Recertification classes:** The Tennessee Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Task Force will hold two Basic Clandestine Lab Recertification classes in each of the three regions in Tennessee (east, middle and west). Classes will be held July 16 in Shelby County, July 17 in Putnam County, Aug. 7 in Gibson County, Aug. 8 in Giles County, Sept. 24 in Hamilton County and Sept. 26 in Washington County. Times are 8 am to 5 pm on each date. These are the only recertification classes that will be conducted this year by the Tennessee Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Task Force. The classes will include updates on methamphetamine trends and statistics, the Authorized Central Storage container program, legislative issues, the Tennessee Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Task Force status report, the Tennessee Methamphetamine Intelligence System and recertification. Law enforcement officers who plan to attend are asked to try to RSVP two weeks before the meeting date to Debbie Maberry at [debbie.maberry@13thdtf.com](mailto:debbie.maberry@13thdtf.com) or 931-260-9510.

**MTAS July 2013 MAP Classes**

**Privacy and CyberRisk Exposures**

Cyber threat is one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation. This course will include a discussion on the computer threats that can occur to municipalities, how they possibly happen, and minimum standards to reduce the threat of breaches to a computer network security. This class is designed for municipal managers – this is not a technical IT class. Will qualify for four hours of CMFO continuing education hours (financial).

**Who should attend:** Elected officials, city managers, city administrators, information technology directors, municipal clerks and recorders, police chiefs, and those responsible for the security of municipal transactions and records.

**Time:** All classes are from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm

- Schedule of sessions**  
 July 10—Nashville  
 July 11—Collegedale  
 July 15—Jackson  
 July 16—Bartlett  
 July 30—Knoxville  
 July 31—Morristown

- Locations:**  
**Nashville,** TBI Headquarters, 901 R.S. Gass Blvd.  
**Bartlett,** Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road  
**Collegedale,** Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Dr.  
**Jackson,** West TN Research & Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd.  
**Knoxville,** The University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley St., 4th floor  
**Morristown,** Tusculum College, 420 W. Morris Blvd.



**Cost:** Municipal Employees – \$50/person/class All Other Participants – \$65/person/class

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](http://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](mailto:kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu)

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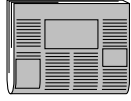
The city of Trenton closed a \$2.5 million loan to be used for various public works projects.



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



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### BUILDING OFFICIAL

**GALLATIN.** The city is seeking applicants for the position of Building Official. The position reports to the mayor, and is responsible to the city council. The Building Official manages the codes department; supervises staff; performs field inspections; interprets various codes and ordinances; acts as the appeal step when there are issues between customers and inspectors; works closely with local contractors and builders in enforcing building ordinances; interfaces daily with planning and engineering departments. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university in a relevant area coupled with significant supervisory experience. Considerable related leadership experience (5-10 years or more preferred), and preferably five (5) of these years in the public sector. Certification as a building official through a recognized certification program required, or the ability to become certified within 18 months. At a minimum, must be a certified building inspector. Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee. Current salary range is \$53,145 to \$84,960 with excellent benefits. To apply, please submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, a detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Mail Resumes to City of Gallatin, 132 W. Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066, Attn: Amy Summers, Interim Personnel Official. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, July 10, 2013. EOE.

### CITY MANAGER

**EAST RIDGE:** The city is accepting qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. Required qualifications are a bachelor degree in Public Administration and a minimum of three years municipal government experience. If applicants do not have the degree and municipal experience, they need not apply, as this is a city charter requirement and cannot be waived. Proven management and leadership, team building, communications skills, municipal finance and economic development experience preferred. City offers competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Closing date is July 1, 2013. Send resume to: City Attorney Hal North, Chambliss, Bahner, & Stophel, P.C., Liberty Tower, 605 Chestnut Street, Suite 1700, Chattanooga, TN 37450 or hnorth@cbslawfirm.com. EOE and TN Drug Free Workplace. The city website is www.eastridgetn.org.

### CITY PLANNER

**GALLATIN.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Planner. The position reports to the mayor, and is responsible to the city council. The city planner manages the planning department; supervises staff; is responsible for current and long-range planning; coordinates and takes part in plans review processes; prepares elements of the Comprehensive Plan related to a variety of elements; makes presentations to boards and commissions; works closely with other city departments and interfaces daily with the Codes and Engineering departments. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in urban planning coupled with significant supervisory experience. Considerable professional planning experience (5-10 years or more preferred). Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee and AICP professional planner certification. Current salary range is \$53,145 to \$84,960 with excellent benefits. To apply, please submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, a detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Mail Resumes to City of Gallatin, 132 W. Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066, Attn: Amy Summers, Interim Personnel Official. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, July 10, 2013. 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](http://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.

### CITY RECORDER

**MARTIN.** The city is accepting resumes

for the position of City Recorder. This position performs duties required in the city charter and municipal code. Working under the general direction of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the recorder performs all administrative duties for the municipality not expressly assigned by charter or code to another corporate officer. The recorder shall also have custody of, and be responsible for maintaining all corporate bonds, records, and papers. Duties include: keeps full and complete records/minutes of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings. Is present at all meetings of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and maintains and preserves a full and accurate account of all business transactions by the Board; keeps an "Ordinance and Resolution book" in which is recorded and indexed all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the board of mayor and aldermen; countersigns all contracts entered into by the city after authority given by ordinance or resolution; serves as treasurer of the city and makes payments to each officer and employee of the city such salary as has been prescribed in addition to all current operating expenses upon the authorization of the board of mayor and aldermen. Receives and accounts for all revenues of the city; custodian of the official seal of the city, the public records, the original ordinance, all contracts, deeds, and certificates relative to the title of any property of the city, all official indemnity or security bonds, and all other such records, documents and papers as are not required to be deposited with some other official; certifies all copies of such original documents, records and papers in the recorder's office as may be required by any officer or person for the use of the city. Requirements include: three years or more of experience and knowledge of the application of accounting principles to municipal finance; knowledge of modern office practices, procedures and equipment, including computers and computer applications; knowledge of modern management practices and techniques; knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the office of recorder; ability to carry out the instructions of the board of mayor and aldermen; ability to plan, organize, assign, supervise, inspect, and direct the overall work of the city; ability to work effectively under pressure; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public, the legislative body, department heads, and other employees; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the public, the legislative body, department heads, and other employees. Experience and training includes: any combination of training and experience equivalent to a degree in business administration, accounting, finance or CMFO, related field or combination of education and experience; at least three (3) years of responsible experience in accounting and clerical work including municipal finance systems and modern office practices along with training or experience in responsible administrative or legal capacity; must be bondable as provided by the City Charter; and must obtain CMFO within two (2) years; Salary will commensurate with experience. Benefit Package includes: BlueCross BlueShield Health Insurance, TCRS Retirement. Submit resumes by July 15, 2013 for consideration to: City of Martin, Human Resources Dept., 109 University Street, Martin, TN 38237

### PERSONNEL OFFICIAL

**GALLATIN.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Personnel Official. The city employs approximately 350 full-time and an additional 150 seasonal and part-time employees. Reporting to the mayor, the Personnel Official oversees the city's personnel management programs including classification and pay, employee relations, affirmative action, recruitment and selection, performance appraisal, and benefits administration; should be proficient in developing policy and procedures; does related work as required; attends all City Council meetings. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university. Applicant must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee. Current salary range is \$53,145 - \$84,960 with excellent benefits. A detailed job description can be obtained by emailing [rosemary\\_bates@gallatin-tn.gov](mailto:rosemary_bates@gallatin-tn.gov). To apply, please submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Applications will be received through June 26, 2013. Send applications to: Rosemary Bates, Special Projects Director, Mayor's Office, 132 West Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066 or [rosemary\\_bates@gallatin-tn.gov](mailto:rosemary_bates@gallatin-tn.gov). Phone: 615-230-7953. The City of Gallatin is an EOE, drug-free employer with policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service.

### POLICE CHIEF

**NEWBERN.** The town is accepting resumes for the position of Police Chief. Applicants should have a minimum of eight (8) years police experience, with a minimum of three (3) additional years of command experience. The applicant must be POST certified, possessing a degree in criminal justice, or a related field, preferable but not required. Successful applicant must satisfy all the requirements of the Charter of the city of Newbern. Salary range \$45,000-\$50,000, depending on experience and qualifications. Applications accepted until July 1, 2013. No phone calls please. Only successful candidates will be notified on or before July 15, 2013. Resumes should be sent to: "Resume" — Mayor Olen Parker, Town of Newbern, P.O. Box 460, Newbern, TN. 38059. EOE

## Disparity exists in condition of local vs. state bridges

BRIDGE from Page 1

pare to major state highways.

Still, local bridges often do carry several thousand vehicles on a typical day. Fogel further emphasized less-traveled locally-owned bridges serve as vital links in regional economies, supporting supply chains and transportation of farm equipment.

Despite fears some citizens may hold, bridges deemed structurally deficient don't pose an immediate safety risk.

However, a sizable number of the nation's bridges are more than a half-century old, nearing the end of their lifespan. It's no surprise then that federal inspection data indicates states where structurally-deficient bridges are most prevalent also tend to close them more often.

The state with the highest number of bridge closures last year was Nebraska, where 18 percent of all bridges are structurally deficient. A total of 319 of its bridges were closed, followed by Pennsylvania (312), Iowa (303) and Oklahoma (245).

Far more bridges—many of which are already in poor shape—posted restrictions. About 11 percent of all bridges posted restrictions last year, according to federal data.

The bridge that collapsed in Washington state last month wasn't structurally deficient. Rather, inspectors considered its outdated design features functionally obsolete, making it vulnerable to the oversized truck load that smashed into an upper span and set off a chain reaction, knocking a section into the Skagit River.

Much like the deadly 2007 bridge collapse in Minneapolis, transportation advocates view the recent incident as another wake-up call.

"We have to recognize the problem of bridges in this country 24/7, not just when we have a problem," Fogel said.

The total number of structurally-deficient bridges, as measured in federal data, dropped the past few years, but the decline has been slow. The American Society of Civil Engi-



Photo by Frank Varga/Skagit Valley Herald/AP

The bridge that collapsed in Washington state last month wasn't structurally deficient. Rather, inspectors considered its outdated design features functionally obsolete, making it vulnerable to the oversized truck load that smashed into an upper span and set off a chain reaction, knocking a section into the Skagit River.

neers graded the nation's bridges a "C+" in its recent infrastructure report card, up from a "C" in 2009.

Oklahoma and other states stepped up their investments in local bridges, but officials don't expect to see the problem go away overnight. Projects take a while to get off the ground—often a few years before construction ever begins—so the number of structurally deficient crossings remains high in those states.

Colorado is one of only a handful of states with roughly the same share of structurally-deficient bridges as its localities. Amy Cole, spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation, cited the approximately \$3.2 million the agency awarded local bridge improvements on top of \$6.3 million in federal dollars. Still, the amount isn't much considering the cost of a typical bridge replacement.

Some groups fear the condition of local bridges could further deteriorate with changes Congress approved in the transportation reauthorization bill last year.

The legislation eliminated the

Highway Bridge Program and consolidated it with other programs into the much broader National Highway Performance Program (NHPP). Only roads part of the federal highway system are NHPP-eligible, leaving about three-quarters of bridges without a dedicated federal funding source. Off-system bridges, the bulk of which localities own, still receive grants via the Surface Transportation Program, but they're now competing with more projects.

"There's less funding available to many local communities who take care of their bridges and build new infrastructure to accommodate growth," said Nick Donohue, Transportation for America's policy director.

The bill does give states the option to shift up to half of NHPP funding to other programs. It's too early to tell, though, the extent to which they'll redirect funds to fix locally-owned bridges.

"States do have flexibility to address this change," Donohue said. "It will be interesting to see if they use that flexibility to help these local communities."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs in May, a gain that shows hiring is improving at a still-modest but steady pace.** The Labor Department said that the unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent from 7.5 percent in April, because more people began looking for work. About three-quarters found jobs. The rest added to the ranks of the unemployed. The government revised the job figures for the previous two months. April's gains were lowered to 149,000 from 165,000. March's figure was increased slightly to 142,000 from 138,000. The net loss was 12,000 jobs. Employers have added an average of 155,000 jobs in the past three months, below the average of 237,000 created from November through February. The less-than-robust job growth might lead the Federal Reserve to maintain the pace of its monthly bond purchases. The Fed has said it will keep buying bonds at the same rate until the job market improves substantially. The purchases have helped drive down interest rates and boost stock prices. Job growth has been steady this year, despite higher taxes and federal spending cuts. The economy grew at a solid annual rate of 2.4 percent in the first three months of the year. Consumer spending rose at the fastest pace in more than two years. Steady gains in home sales and construction are providing support for the economy even as manufacturing weakens.

all. But too little could expose guests to dangerous situations and create unfair competition in the tourism industry. The political dynamics around the issue are shifting as the sector grows and the hotel and bed-and-breakfast industries grow more concerned about these rentals cutting into their business. Many states and cities already have laws on the books that could spell trouble for casual short-term rental owners if enforced, from zoning laws and building codes to laws governing hotels and bed-and-breakfasts. Many lease agreements and condo associations also ban such arrangements. "Any state law or regulation that applies to a hotel could be interpreted to apply to a short-term rental depending on how the definitions are written," said Janelle Orsi, director of the Sustainable Economics Law Center. Meanwhile, the industry is putting forward its own ideas for regulation through a new Short Term Rental Advocacy Center created by Airbnb, HomeAway, TripAdvisor and FlipKey in February. The goal is "smart short-term rental regulation that safeguards travelers, alleviates neighborhood concerns and provides a framework for ensuring compliance." But passing a local ordi-

nance can be easier said than done, even when the industry itself is asking to be regulated. The city of Ocean Springs, Miss., has been debating an ordinance that would require registration and basic inspections, but appears stalled because of disagreements about possible additional requirements.

**The New York Times reports the number of Americans receiving college degrees has surged in recent years.** The surge follows more than two decades of slow growth in college completion, which caused the United States to fall behind other countries. Last year, 33.5 percent of Americans ages 25 to 29 had at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 24.7 percent in 1995, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The number of two-year college degrees, master's degrees and doctorates has also risen recently. The increases appear to be driven both by a sharp rise in college enrollment and by an improvement among colleges in graduating students.

**National Briefs are comprised from media reports and press releases from across the nation.**



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# Partnership equals economic solutions with environmental gains in West Tennessee

**BY MARK PENLAND**  
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Lean and green is the order of the day for municipalities striving to provide valued services for their residents. A cluster of West Tennessee communities have collaborated to increase their efficiencies and promote recycling through an arrangement known as the West Tennessee Regional Recycling Hub and Spoke program.

In 2006, Chester County Solid Waste Director, Danny Benard, began working with neighboring Hardin County in an effort to maximize waste collection and recycling operations in the region. As all Class I landfills in both counties, along with the landfill in neighboring McNairy County, were closed, identifying a way to increase recycling became paramount.

Transporting waste materials along with valuable recyclables to nearby Decatur County, required a nearly 80 mile roundtrip, which was very expensive when hauling large amounts of materials. A solution was needed to recover valuable recyclables and reduce the amount of waste materials requiring transportation.

In response to a request for proposals from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the west Tennessee counties of Chester, Hardin and McNairy partnered to write and submit a grant proposal in 2011 to establish a regional recycling program. In 2012, the partnership received a grant in the amount of \$282,500 from the TDEC's Division of Solid and Hazardous Management to support a pilot hub and spoke project.

Also included in the regional service area were the cities of Henderson, Selmer and Savannah. The total population of the three partnering counties is approximately 50,000 residents.

The grant was authorized by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 and supported by the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Fund. The Recycling Hub and Spoke Grant program assists in the development and expansion of a regional facility to collect, transport and process recyclable material for multi-county areas or municipalities. Counties or multi-county areas in partnership with cities, solid waste authorities and nonprofit recycling organizations chartered in the state of Tennessee are eligible for the Recycling Hub and Spoke Grants.

Chester County served as the grant administrator with assistance from Hardin and McNairy counties and serves as the hub county for the program. The goal of the program is to promote and increase recycling in the three county region to provide residents and businesses an alternative method to properly dispose of their solid waste and keep it out of area landfills.

According to Benard, even though the population of the three counties continues to grow, the amount of materials going to area landfills has not increased due to the

effectiveness of the spoke and hub system.

In 2012, the recycling hub processed approximately 1,300 tons of recyclable materials. While the operating budget of the recycling hub is \$220,000 a year, the sale of the recycled materials brought in \$180,000 and helps offset the cost of two full time employees, two part-time employees and some hub operating expenses. Additionally, the tipping fee of \$27.31 per ton and hauling fee of \$13.00 per ton are avoided, as well, through the diversion of this material from the landfill.

In addition to the efforts put forth by the partnering counties, the cities of Henderson and Selmer have implemented curbside recycling programs that feed into the spoke and hub system. The city of Henderson's recycling program collects a variety of materials through the blue bag curbside recycling program initiated in 2011. With 350 households currently participating, they have recycled 110 tons of materials resulting in an additional \$11,000 for the city, which translates into a \$5000 savings. Henderson Mayor Robert "Bobby" King is pleased with the new service and noted that it has been especially popular with seniors who want to participate in recycling.

According to Cindy Kennedy, McNairy County Solid Waste Department, Selmer's recycling program currently has 331 residential customers and 25 business customers participating and collects newspaper, magazines, cardboard, office paper, aluminum cans, tin cans, glass, plastics 1 & 2 and small e-waste items.

In April 2013, Chester and McNairy counties received a special Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) litter grant in the amount of \$60,000 for the purpose of purchasing a recycling trailer for use at various events around the region and to assist with the development of a recycling newsletter to be distributed in both counties promoting recycling.

In 2012, the West Tennessee Regional Recycling Hub and Spoke program received an additional \$300,000 from the Tennessee Solid Waste Management Fund for the purpose of purchasing scales, a conveyor, glass crusher and containers as well as providing for building



State officials, legislators, and local officials from Chester County celebrate the opening of a regional recycling hub that serves a three-county region – Chester, Hardin and McNairy. Included in the regional service area are the cities of Henderson, Selmer and Savannah.

demolition, advertising and promotional materials.

Benard said that once all of the recently purchased equipment is in place, the hub and spoke program would be considering possible expansion to include other counties in an effort to further increase efficiencies and increase recycling in the region.

Currently, the recycling center has a footprint of 18,000 square feet and processes 7,000 tons per day of recyclables with a maximum daily capacity of 15,000 tons per day during an eight hour shift.

Many grant programs prioritize collaborations to increase success by covering a wider geographical area and population. Partnerships can be a useful tool when developing solutions for more effective use of assets. Nurturing new opportunities can result in economic gain with shared resources for implementation.

The West Tennessee Spoke and Hub program is a great example of municipalities working together to achieve a common goal.



Office paper (above) and aluminum cans (below) are among the many items collected through the West Tennessee Spoke and Hub program. Currently, the center processes 7,000 tons per day of recyclable waste.



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# TML presents 2013 Municipal Achievement Awards in Memphis

## Goodlettsville: Excellence in Public Works

A top notch Public Works Department doesn't happen by accident. It's a municipal priority. Starting with reorganizing the department from top to bottom, and hiring only the most qualified applicants for leadership positions, the city of Goodlettsville has worked hard to provide the best public works team in Tennessee.

From award winning Stormwater compliance methods to top-of-the-line sewer rehabilitation and fleet maintenance projects, the city's professionally trained staff receives added support from other departments, as well as city council members, to provide a variety of quality public works services to the community.

In recognition of the city's efforts to offer only the best in public works services to their community, The Tennessee Municipal League presents Goodlettsville with an Excellence in Public Works Award.

The Goodlettsville Public Services Department provides administration, engineering, street construction and maintenance, sanitation services, including curbside recycling, and fleet maintenance. It is also responsible for the city's wastewater collection system and for storm water compliance.

The reorganization process began with the hiring of the department's new director, Guy Patterson, an experienced public works professional and Middle Branch president for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association. Patterson's "right hand person" Public Works Superintendent Amy Murray, is current Middle Tennessee chapter president for the Tennessee Stormwater Association, which cor-

relates well with the city's image as a regional leader in stormwater compliance.

The city's staff serves on regional planning groups to promote, educate and implement runoff reduction, maintenance guidelines and green infrastructure practices. The city also began a stormwater utility and secured the services of AMEC to finalize set-up and implementation of the utility.

In 2012, Goodlettsville was awarded the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Aquatic Resource Preservation for its accomplishments on Stream Watch – a program composed of community volunteers. Department staff provides opportunity for teachers and students to become involved with stream monitoring and assessments on a volunteer basis. They partner with stormwater programs in Sumner and Wilson counties. The city is also part of the Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative – an effort supported by the TVA and Nature Conservancy.

The department efficiently repairs drainage infrastructure, cleans storm drains/debris which help to mitigate flooding/high water issues and comply with state and federal permitting, water testing and assessment requirements.

During the past year, the department issued a RFP which resulted in selecting Waste Industries to provide weekly curbside collection of refuse and bi-weekly curbside single stream collection for recyclables. As a result, the department was able to increase services to the residents without increasing costs – in fact, rates dropped \$2 per month. The department opted for hybrid technology collection vehicles which

use about 50 percent less diesel fuel than standard trucks and are quite a bit easier on the environment in terms of hydrocarbon emissions. The vehicles are also much quieter than standard diesel powered vehicles. Eight to 10 tons of recyclables are collected curbside every other week thus diverting material from the landfill. Recycling items – metal cans, paper products, and plastic containers are commingled into a 95 gallon container.

The sewer department completed construction of an 8.5 million gallon equalization basin at the Mansker Creek Pumping Station. This basin intercepts wastewater and prevents it from flowing into Mansker Creek when flows are high. Also, the city completed a sewer line rehabilitation project and is working to continue to provide excellent service to the citizens of Goodlettsville through various inspections the department performs on a routine basis.

In the last two years, the department purchased a street sweeper (assisting with storm water BMPs, storm drain cleaning/lessen nuisance flooding, etc.), a backhoe, Gradall, boom mower, and a swaploader. The swaploader (utilizes multiple beds) allows the department to operate a brine tank to help reduce costs during winter storm events. It's a versatile piece of



Goodlettsville's Sewer Department completed construction of an 8.5 million gallon equalization basin at the Mansker Creek Pumping Station and a sewer line rehabilitation project.

equipment that can be used for various jobs and allows the city to avoid purchasing duplicate individual trucks.

Also, streets crews have been trained by industry professionals on operation of various equipment and on concrete and pavement maintenance to help crews become proficient in routine right-of-way repairs.

The city recently purchased Fleet Management Software from RTA Fleet Management Solutions. This will allow the shop that's "full of paper in a filing cabinet" to become a paperless shop. This fleet management software system will

allow mechanics and staff to have up-to-the-minute maintenance costs on equipment, assist with the annual budgeting process to better understand true vehicle maintenance and fueling expenses, and help city departments improve preventive maintenance schedules to help extend the life and quality of the city's fleet.

"The Goodlettsville Public Services Department is an outstanding example of a well-managed, productive, high morale team serving the citizens who depend on the services they provide," said Sharon Rollins, Municipal Technical Advisory Service program manager.

## Covington: Excellence in Green Leadership

## Kingston: Small City Progress



Photo by Adam Parsons

Trails A and B opened in May at Kingston's new greenway project at Ladd Park. There are also plans to add a convenient parking area at the park abutting the new greenway.

Big projects in small communities are often a sign that determination and teamwork are at play and the city of Kingston is a shining example. As good stewards of grant funding, the city is advancing toward economically sound development in the areas of energy, the environment, water source delivery, recreation and services, ensuring citizens reap the savings and benefits for years to come. The city's forethought and drive to move forward with quality projects for the community has garnered Kingston the Tennessee Municipal League's Small City Progress Award.

Setting its sights on a future renewable energy source, Kingston announced in May the first of two planned "solar farms," as part of a solar energy agreement with Energy Source Partners LLC. The Nashville company will install and maintain 200 solar panels behind the Kingston Water Treatment Plant on Highway 58 South, generating a capacity rate of 50kw, and another 800 panels on a 1.38-acre tract of city-owned land off James Ferry Road near the plant, generating 200kw. The panels and associated gear will enable electrical power to flow into the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) power grid, generating the equivalent of enough electrical power to operate the water treatment plant.

Revenue from TVA for the power will be divided between the company and the city, where, in around seven to eight years, the city should be the recipient of most of the revenue. After five years of operation, the city will have the option of buying the solar farm outright.

Part of being a progressive community is forging good partnerships. As a member of the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council (TREEDC), Kingston's work with TREEDC, along with the Rockwood Electric Company and the Tennessee Valley Authority, will help the city stay on track with the project.

In 2010, Kingston received word from the U.S. Rural Development Administration that it would receive a series of low interest loans and grants totaling \$1.44 million for various infrastructure projects. Since then, all projects have been successfully completed or are in the stages of additional development.

Projects on the grant list included: The Rockwood Water Line Interconnect Project: to connect Rockwood, Roane Central Utility District and Kingston with a 16-inch water transmission main and enable Kingston to purchase water from Rockwood for the next 20 years; and the Gallaher Road Phase 2 Sewer Project: to accommodate commercial development in the Gallaher Road Corridor. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TDEC) has approved engineering for additional Gallaher Road collection lines along with a force main from pump station No. 7, as well as an additional sewer line, to begin this summer.

Kingston's automated meter reading project has replaced existing water meters with automated units, allowing the city to operate more efficiently, with less error and less personnel. The city was also the recipient of TDEC's competitive grant, the Used Oil and Equipment Grant, for Fiscal Year 2013.

As the summer season beckons citizens of all ages to get out and enjoy the great outdoors, the city's new greenway project at Ladd Park is ready and waiting for them. Trails A and B opened in May, and there are also plans to add a convenient parking area at the park abutting the greenway.

"Kingston had a most productive year in bringing achievements to its citizens," said Warren Nevad, Municipal Technical Advisory Service municipal management consultant. "As you can see, the city is very deserving of the award for Small City Progress."



Covington's \$2.5 million waste-to-energy plant, now under construction, will use wood waste collected by the city, combined with biosolids sewage sludge from the treatment plant to produce electricity.

A strong investment in a \$2.5 million waste-to-energy project has made Covington a green leader among cities. As the city's leaders build economical solutions through renewable technologies, the result will be a cleaner environment with built-in savings for the community. The Tennessee Municipal League recognizes Covington's dedication to green living with the 2013 Excellence in Green Leadership Award.

Sometimes, one of the best solutions to an ongoing problem is an open mind. That's what Covington Mayor David Gordon discovered when he set out to find an environmentally friendly and financially positive way to dispose of waste in his city. As West Tennessee Coordinator for the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC), Gordon learned about the gasification technology process at a 2009 TREEDC forum and then set his sights on a win/win solution from PHG Energy.

The results is Covington's \$2.5 million waste-to-energy plant, currently under construction, which will use wood waste collected by the city, combined with biosolids sewage sludge from the treatment plant, to produce electricity.

Financed with a \$250,000 TDEC Clean Energy Grant and 20-year low interest loan from the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, about 12 tons per day, 360 tons per month, of material will be diverted from area landfills resulting in substantial savings in tipping fees and transportation costs. Since there is no incineration stage in the gasification process, no emissions are produced as the material is converted to a fuel gas. "Syngas" is then used to power a system that drives a generator producing about 125 Kw of electrical power to offset most of the cost of operating the city's waste water treatment plant pumps.

With positive cash flow from day one, the project will free up several thousand dollars monthly for the city's other needs. Thanks to the new project, more than 4,000 tons of waste will be put to work for the community each year.

"Thanks to the city's visionary leadership, many more communities in Tennessee and the rest of the world, will benefit from Covington's innovative role in promoting waste to energy development," said Warren Nevad, MTAS consultant and TREEDC executive director. "It's easy to see why Covington is deserving of TML's 2013 Green Leadership Award."

**TML Achievement Awards will be presented June 25, 2013, at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis**



# TML presents 2013 Municipal Achievement Awards in Memphis

## Johnson City: Excellence in Community Progress

Many places become cities; it takes a special place to forge a community. That's what Johnson City has done, where citizens enjoy the perks of outstanding services and projects at nearly every municipal level. The city's professional staff and commission have worked together to streamline the strategic planning process, eliminating duplicate departments in order to narrow its focus in customer service and major project delivery from downtown revitalization and waste water management, to new schools, civic centers and recreational facilities. For the city's continuous investment in providing community oriented development and services, the Tennessee Municipal League is proud to present Johnson City with an Excellence in Community Progress Award.

Johnson City is truly a "city on the move," observes Pat Hardy, UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service consultant. "The city's staff, along with a top-notch city commission, has worked together as a team to achieve many things. And much of this has occurred during a time of limited or constrained resources." According to Hardy, strategic planning, hiring and retaining top staff, while embracing a customer-oriented focus has catapulted Johnson City to the top.

The process began with the consolidation of five major divisions into one department. Development Services, in order to improve customer service and better coordinate all development-related functions. The new department encompasses planning, GIS, code enforcement, building inspection, zoning, community development, Metro Transportation Planning Organization, and housing. Angie Carrier, former city manager of White House, was selected to oversee the new department, which has held two strategic planning retreats and established a number of goals to guide its efforts over the next few years.

When the city undertook a massive downtown revitalization project, the process provided new infrastructure and a new economic development organization designed to combine the efforts of a variety of previous organizations.

The city's school children are



Photo courtesy of Fresh Air Photography  
Students and the extended community are enjoying the perks of having a brand new football stadium in Johnson City, the Kermit Tipton Football Stadium.

attending classes with added comfort and convenience, since the city completed a \$70 million school building and remodeling project. The project included the building of a new high school on the same site as the old building; replacing an elementary school with a new 700 pupil facility; renovations to the middle school and vocational school; and the construction of a new central energy plant on the Liberty Bell/Science Hill campus, which should greatly reduce heating and cooling costs. Eight new classrooms were added at the Indian Trail Middle School. The city continued its investment by constructing a new, state-of-the-art football stadium and athletic complex.

For citizens of all ages, a \$2.2 million renovation to the Freedom Hall Civic Center, provides a comfortable venue for community concerts and other entertaining events. And the new 67,000 square foot Memorial Park Community Center, houses a new aquatic facility, Senior Center, meeting spaces, walking facilities, exercise rooms and more. And an expansion of pedestrian walkways, bikeways and trails through the State of Franklin, Rail to Trail project, provides ample opportunities for citizens to get up and move.

With new electronic utility billing for water and sewer services, the city has also expanded its Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Like the modern community it is, Johnson City's new Intelligent Transportation System, includes transit-oriented computer-aided dispatching and automatic vehicle location segments. Automated vehicle locators on the city's mass transit buses provide real-time information to the office and riders. Users can access information about the location and arrival time of a bus from their smart phone thru an app, or via

the internet.

The city's Public Works department has interconnected all traffic signals to a central office, with video cameras, battery back-up system and installation of advanced travel warning devices. GPS automated vehicle locators have been placed on all solid waste trucks, resulting in more efficient routing, and the ability for the drivers to create work orders from the trucks for such things as overgrown lots, potholes, litter, etc. On the safety front, the city has just purchased two new 100 ft. ladder trucks for the Fire Department at a cost of \$2 million. Police officers have been issued "smart phones" that allow them to write citations and do records checks from the field, which results in reduced response time for the officers, and reduced operating costs for the city, while improving officer safety.

The Johnson City Neighborhood Partnerships Program, which has been supported by a U.S. Justice Department grant for the past four years, is transitioning to a local program due to the end of federal funding for programs across the country. This innovative neighborhood empowerment program works through four program areas: Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention Intervention and Treatment and Neighborhood Restoration. The program currently operates and is under the direction of the City's Police Department and the Development Services Department's Community Development Division.

With thriving businesses and citizens, *Forbes* Magazine, 2012 ranked Johnson City, under Small Metros, as 14th Best Places for Business and Careers.

"Johnson City has made enormous progress in the past few years," said Hardy. "They are an excellent choice for the TML Community Progress Award."

## Martin: Excellence in Police Services

Partnership, learning, it's a way of life for the Martin Police Department. Working alongside the University of Tennessee, Martin not only presents the force with an interesting work load, it's created special opportunities in education and training through the years that many police forces never experience.

A group of city-sanctioned officers comprise the university's small police department, offering a friendly



The Martin Police Department's patrol includes a K-9 unit with drug dogs and explosives detection dog.

presence and added security to neighborhoods surrounding the campus. The Martin Police Department routinely participates in university training projects toward innovative practices in law enforcement, and extends that professionalism into the community through advanced citizen academy programs, school security, K-9 unit and bike patrol. Even in the face of national attention, the Martin Police Department remained professional at all times.

For its history of pursuing innovative training opportunities and efforts to build stronger relationships and safety within the community, the Tennessee Municipal League recognizes the Martin Police Department with an Excellence in Police Services Award.

Some 11,400 residents live in Martin, as well as 8,000 plus students at the University of Tennessee. The university, with its own small police department comprised of officers commissioned by the city, work closely to patrol the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. Several officers are also graduates of the university. Through the years, the campus has been a great source of learning for the Martin police, which most recently became a "beta test site" for on-line training programs. The officers receive high-quality training in a cost-effective on-line format and the training originators receive valuable feedback from real world law enforcement practitioners.

The department has a long history of conducting a citizen's police academy, but wanted to demonstrate its continued interest in the graduates of the program through an academy alumni association. Through the association, the department established a multi-layer "Volunteer in Police Service" program where volunteers provide ancillary support services to the community and the department. The volunteers perform activities such as property checks for vacationers and assisting with community events and parades.

Before School Resource Officer

(SRO) programs were prevalent around the country, the department partnered with the Weakley County Board of Education to place an SRO in one school. Years later, the department has been instrumental in placing SROs in other county schools throughout the city, building on a strong partnership format. When an existing SRO leaves a school, the new one is selected through a process that involves the Martin Police Department, the principals of all county schools inside the city, members of the community, and a member of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. While time intensive, the quality of individual selected and the impact the person has on the schools and children's lives has made the effort worthwhile.

In addition to its own emergency dispatch center, and traditional patrol and investigative functions, the Martin Police Department has a bicycle unit and K-9 drug dog unit along with a K-9 explosives detection dog.

In 2009, the department exhibited extreme professionalism under fire. A serial rapist was terrorizing the community and Memphis/Shelby County area at large and Martin police worked with other affected agencies to form a task force. The suspect was ultimately identified through evidence discovered by Martin's officers. Inundated with local and national media pressure throughout the long investigation, the professionalism of the Martin Police Department was recognized by many peer law enforcement agencies.

"In its relationship with UT, Martin, the Martin Police Department has achieved a level of sophistication that could not have been accomplished without the local government/institute of higher education cooperation," said Rex Barton, Municipal Technical Advisory Service Police Management consultant. "The citizens of Martin have reason to be proud of their police department, which is very deserving of the Excellence in Police Services Award."

## Medina: Small City Progress

Rising from a small community to one of the fastest growing cities in the state, Medina has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade and why it is being recognized with a Small City Progress Award from the Tennessee Municipal League.

In 2000, the US census counted 969 citizens living in Medina. Today, that figure has grown to 3,496, a 260 percent increase.

To channel its amazing growth, visionary city leaders set forth a strategic goal for Medina that included high-quality programs and services for its citizens. From ramped up fire and police protection to new schools, housing, and parks programs, Medina offers the quality of living everyone enjoys coupled with small town community charm.

Evidence of a successful community is often reflected in its public facilities and utilities. Medina's new 15,000 square foot city hall, built for comfort and convenience, provides ample space for a variety of services. The \$2.3 million building houses municipal operations, including police and fire departments, along with the county ambulance service, which houses an ambulance there. Gibson Electric Cooperative also bases its office in the new city hall, while the old city hall building will be redeveloped into a community theater.

In 2001, the city's water and wastewater facilities were undersized and rapidly deteriorating. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the city's board of Mayor and Aldermen made arrangements to sell these utilities to the nearby

Jackson Energy Authority (JEA). JEA invested in the community by rebuilding or replacing the utilities, providing residents with high-quality services at reasonable rates.

Ten years ago, Medina's students were bussed as far away as 25 miles to attend school. In the midst of the city's explosive growth, providing ample and convenient educational facilities for the area's children took front and center. In addition to an existing elementary school, the Gibson County School District constructed new middle and high schools where students can now attend modern public schools within minutes of their homes.

"In 10 short years, Medina has grown from a small rural village to a modern American community," said David Angerer, MTAS municipal management consultant "The city's long-range investments in creating quality services have begun to pay substantial benefits to its residents."

With some \$720,000 in grants and donations, citizens of all ages have plenty of resources to play at a new 300-acre park adjacent to the new schools. The facility includes four ball fields, two soccer fields, a playground, walking trails, a pavilion and a concession stand. The schools use the park's athletic fields for many of their sporting events.

The influx of new citizens also means an influx in housing, approximately 863 new homes since 2003, and Medina places a priority on homes that are properly planned and built. The city's new building inspection program, managed by the professional, highly trained staff of the city's Planning Department, currently oversees the development of

six new subdivisions, along with all new construction throughout the community. Real estate taxes received by the city in 2002, amounted to \$189,000; but in 2013, tax receipts are a stunning \$940,000. The expansion of property tax base has



Medina's new 15,000 square foot city hall provides ample space for a variety of services.

allowed Medina to cut property tax rates by 9 percent since 2004.

For increased citizen protection, Medina's volunteer fire department replaced three aging trucks and is stocked with \$700,000 in equipment. Also, the city's five-officer police department has increased its force, growing to 11 full-time officers who offer 24/7 protection services. All police shifts are covered by at least two officers for added safety.

In 2007, the city's local sales tax collections were \$51,000. This year, the figure is \$140,000, a 174 percent increase. Where they once were vacant, every store front in Medina is freshly painted and occupied with quality businesses such as a pharmacy, bank, karate studio, florist, ladies boutique, and a cable TV service. A farmer's market is a main attraction downtown this summer for citizens seeking fresh, healthy produce.

"No public funds were used in the renovation of downtown," said Angerer. "It is clear that the city's government has created a commercial environment which attracted these new stores. Visionary city leaders have fashioned this growth to achieve a culture in the community that is readily apparent when visiting the city. Medina deserves this award and recognition."

## Healthy Tennessee to launch in September – get your walking shoes on!

# Creating, connecting and rewarding healthy communities

BY LINDA BRYANT

Tennesseans are known for being generous, industrious and always willing to roll up their sleeves and help their neighbors, families and friends. Unfortunately, we are also known for struggling to stay healthy, active and fit.

A recent report by the Center for Disease Control estimated that 67 percent of Tennesseans over 18 are overweight and 40 percent of those are obese. Sadly, the rate of the morbidly obese—those in need of losing 100 pounds or more—are among the very highest in the nation.

The Tennessee Municipal League wants to help our municipalities play a larger role in creating healthier communities. To that end, TML is in the process of launching a new initiative aimed at providing residents of our cities and towns with motivating, inspiring and uniquely structuring ways to get active, healthy and fit. Details of the project will be presented at the annual conference to be held June 22-25 at the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

TML's new health and wellness push, called *Healthy Tennessee*, calls on the leaders of Tennessee's cities and towns to help create and champion ongoing fitness challenges that are fun, easy to join, and available to citizens of all ages.

*Healthy Tennessee* comes with a secret weapon, an Internet-accessible program that enables community members to 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. This new technology has been a key factor in motivating hundreds of participants in the Atlanta Beltline Running Series, a year-long program of running events, races, and fitness challenges centered around a 22-mile loop of former railroad yards that is now a multi-use hiking, running and recreational area.

Dan Popovic, the software entrepreneur and endurance athlete who developed the technology platform that made the Atlanta Beltline Running Series so successful, will speak at this year's conference. Popovic is a passionate believer in the power—and responsibility—of local government to promote good public health. He says technology can fill in a missing piece of the puzzle for public servants and community activists who want to promote healthy lifestyles.

"Many communities are already trying to do their part because we're seeing a lot more emphasis on running, walking and walkable communities," Popovic said. "But what I noticed in Atlanta is that those of us running, walking, or participating in community recreational events, we didn't have much of a social outlet that connected us or a fun way to engage with one another online. There wasn't a place (online) where individuals could interact with each other to set goals for themselves, or challenge their friends."

That's when Popovic decided to provide Atlanta Beltline participants with a community space online that was customized to their needs. The results were dramatic. Participation spiked and more people reached their goals. Eventually, local businesses got involved by rewarding incentives to athletes for reaching goals.

Nashville resident Richard Anton is in the process of introducing Popovic's technology tool—called cMEcompete—to about 13,000 triathletes who are members of USA Triathlon.

"It provides a unique way to create connections in a niche community," Anton said. "From my standpoint, I've seen the greatest outcomes when people are able to form their own communities. I think this is a brilliant method for doing that."

Anton, a longtime triathlete, will also speak at TML's annual conference in Memphis as part of a workshop on *Building Healthy Communities*.

Carlos Zometa, a government worker in Atlanta, got involved with the Atlanta Beltline Running Series via Popovic's online social networking platform. The results, he says were "pretty amazing."

"Because of the opportunity on the website to form and track your own team, I decided to get people from work involved," Zometa said. "We used the website to register, to challenge each other and to log in

our running times. From an organizational standpoint it was really, really good to have a place where you can go and monitor everything.

"Initially, I just started out wanting to be healthier, but I ended up running faster than I thought I could," Zometa added. "And in the end my team won our competition."

TML believes that its heightened focus on health and fitness has the potential for innumerable ripple effects—increased physical exercise for youth and family members, renewed attention to park systems and vibrant downtowns, reduced obesity rates, and an added way for communities to highlight their healthy communities and recreational events.

There's also an opportunity to engage local businesses with sponsorships and rewards programs. This type of positive effect took off like wildfire in Atlanta. Local businesses in search of new customers were willing to offer free incentives for participants in hopes of snagging them as permanent customers.

"Having access to an online community is not just great for the athletes it can be very good for business," said personal trainer and running coach Sherry Oswald. "I ended up getting clients because of it."

One of Oswald's private clients is at the top of the leaderboard for the Atlanta Beltline Running Series Active Lifestyle Challenge.

"It's really nice to see what happens when people start to get more active, reach their fitness goals and begin to reach out to others and form communities," Oswald said. "You see them moving better and losing weight. You see them get more self-confidence and gain a better attitude. Sometimes they completely transform."

Popovic wants to make it clear that most participants in *Healthy Tennessee* won't likely be star athletes, but simply everyday people who need a little extra support and motivation. Some may be scared or intimidated, but that kind of reaction often disappears when online support teams form, start posting goals, and accomplishments and see themselves as succeeding one step at a time.

"We want to motivate those who are sitting on the couch and watching TV," he said. "They know they need to do something but they don't know how to do it and they might be intimidated. They don't necessarily have the support structure they need. We want to change that."

Ken Wilber, Portland mayor and TML president, says he used to be a sedentary person, who often plopped on the couch after work and rarely got enough physical activity.

After deciding he'd like to increase his chances of long-term survival to enjoy his grandchildren, Wilber embarked on a 16-month-long weight loss and fitness regime that yielded a loss of 170 pounds.

"I knew if I didn't do something to help myself along I might not make it," Wilber said.

He ended up spearheading some local fitness-related events; including a 10-week walking challenge called Strawberry Stroll and a 5K run entitled Strawberry Stride. He's ready to get involved in *Healthy Tennessee* and take the city's fitness challenges to a new level.

Having a community leader act as a cheerleader for a healthy lifestyle can make a big difference, according to Wilber.

"I actually do think it has an

effect when residents see the mayor—others in the mayor's office—endorsing healthy habits," he said. "It's not uncommon for people to tell me they've been inspired by my weight loss, and I can support them since I've been there."

"What's amazing about the whole process, is how much better I feel," Wilber added. "I have more energy, and I feel a lot more like moving my body. My wife and I walk together and ride bikes."

Popovic agrees that having strong involvement from a community advocate is key to the success of a fitness challenge.

"You definitely want to have a community advocate who can act as a cheerleader," he said. "I'm a cheerleader for the Atlanta Beltline running community, and I think it really helps get people fired up."

"Of course your cheerleader is important, but just as important is your team," Popovic added. "When you are a part of a team, you feel a lot more connected and motivated. It's just a huge factor."

Mayor Wilber agrees. "I believe human beings often do better and get more done in groups," he said. "We usually need each other in order to truly succeed."



An avid endurance athlete and an obesity prevention leader, Dan Popovic has created a fun way to empower municipalities to create healthy sustainable communities through a city to city mayor's challenge.

The screenshot shows the 'Healthy Tennessee' website. At the top left is the TML logo. The main heading is 'Healthy Tennessee'. Below this are several sections: 'Upcoming Races' (12-01-2012 Atlanta BeltLine Eastside 10k), 'Top Runners' (listing Lisa Popovic with 1300 points, Bob Smith with 1250, Michael Michaelide, Dan Povic, and David Duff), 'Top Teams' (listing Atlanta BeltLine Run Club with 5750 points, BGR, Old Fourth Ward, Team St. Anthony, and McCarthy Building Co.), and an 'Activity' feed on the right showing various user registrations and challenges for the Atlanta BeltLine Eastside 10k. A 'Miles Tracked' counter shows 2,493.05 miles.

*Healthy Tennessee* comes with a secret weapon, an Internet-accessible program that enables community members to 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.

The screenshot shows the 'Atlanta BeltLine Running Series Community' website. It features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'About', 'Participants', 'Event organizers', 'Contact us', and 'How it Works'. A user profile for Steve Shaffer is displayed, showing he is a participant from Atlanta, Georgia, with 570 points and 0/3 challenges won. Below this are sections for 'Upcoming Events' (listing ACP MidSummer Festival 5K Run/Walk, Atlanta BeltLine Southwest 5k, Atlanta BeltLine Southeast 8k, and Atlanta BeltLine Eastside 10k), 'Top Participants' (listing Steve Shaffer with 570 points, Katie Ollif, Julie Pryor, Bobby Kircher, and Paul Brown), 'Top Teams' (listing APD with 10750 points, AFD, Morris and Raper Real Estate Consultants, Atlanta BeltLine Run Club, and Sherpa Centurions), and an 'Activity' feed on the right showing user registrations and challenges for the Atlanta BeltLine Southwest 5k. A 'Miles Tracked' counter shows 2,299.35 miles.

Participants can view their profiles and see accomplishments.

## How *Healthy Tennessee* will Work

### Healthy Tennessee Details

1. The challenge will focus on the most active city.
2. The team with the most points wins.
3. Points are derived from team participation. So when you set up a walk club, invite as many people as possible. But, make sure they create a profile and register for the events.

### Getting Started

Visit [www.cmecompete.com/healthytennessee](http://www.cmecompete.com/healthytennessee)

1. Log-In and create your profile.
2. If you are the team leader, set up your team and name it.
3. Be sure to recruit members to join your team. (Hint: The more members, the better!)
4. Everybody must create a profile.
5. Set up weekly or monthly walks.
6. Add events occurring in your community.

If you have questions, contact Dan at [info@cmecompete.com](mailto:info@cmecompete.com)

Good luck and have fun!

Let's keep Tennessee moving!