



Guns in parking lots bill signed into law

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

As of July 1, 2013 Tennessee municipalities will no longer have the authority to prohibit a handgun carry permit holder from storing a firearm in a vehicle parked in a city parking lot.

This change is due to the passage of House Bill 118/Senate Bill 142, commonly referred to as the "guns in parking lots bill," that has now been signed by the Governor.

This legislation allows a Tennessee handgun carry permit holder to transport and store a firearm and ammunition in the permit holder's privately-owned vehicle while on a public or private parking area under certain circumstances. First, the permit holder's vehicle must be in a location where it is legally permitted to be. Second, the firearm or ammunition must be out of view and locked in a trunk, glove box, interior of the vehicle, or in a container securely affixed to the vehicle.

These provisions clearly apply to public lots at city halls, schools and other municipal buildings, as well as private businesses. Single-

family detached residences, however, are excluded, whether occupied by the owner or a tenant. All property owners may still post signage to prohibit firearms on the property; however, such prohibitions would not apply to handgun carry permit holders.

A property owner, including an employer, is provided civil immunity for any injury or death arising out of a firearm in the parking lot pursuant to the bill. Likewise, the property owner cannot be held responsible for the theft of a firearm or ammunition in the parking lot.

In addition to civil liability, employers expressed concerns as to whether this law will affect Tennessee's employment-at-will status. While claims to the contrary were made during legislative hearings, the sponsors of the bill have submitted a letter of intent stating that an employer who fires an employee solely for possessing a handgun pursuant to this bill may be subject to a claim for retaliatory discharge. Furthermore, the sponsors claim this does not impact the employment-at-will doctrine in Tennessee.

State Senate approves public notice bill, awaits House vote

The Tennessee Senate approved legislation requiring newspapers that print public notices to post them on their websites.

Senate Bill 461, sponsored by Sen. Ken Yager, requires legal and public notices that are currently required to be published in newspaper of general circulation to also be posted on newspaper's website and on statewide website maintained by the Tennessee Press Association.

Its companion bill, HB1001 by Rep. Ryan Hayes, still awaits a floor vote.

Yager said the legislation recognizes the growing use of the Internet as a source of information, while preserving the integrity of using an independent agency for public notice by newspapers of general circulation.

Current law requires public notices be given on a variety of matters of importance to the public, including government meetings, bid announcements, notice of parental termination, foreclosure notices, pub-

lic sale of private property, back tax notices, estate notices and zoning changes, to name a few. Local governments, looking for ways to reduce expenditures have suggested they can save money by posting notices on their websites rather than posting them in a local newspaper.

In addition, the legislation calls for the newspapers to post public notices on a central statewide website. Every newspaper that publishes public notices must post on their website homepage a link to the public notice section and another link to the Tennessee Press Association's statewide repository website.

"This bill combines the best of both worlds. It keeps public notices in places where more people can find them by ensuring the widest distribution," said Sen. Yager. "This measure comes with no extra costs to taxpayers, and promotes government transparency, efficiency and public trust. I am pleased that it has been approved by the full Senate."

U.S. House passes Workforce Development Bill opposed by NLC, Conference of Mayors

BY NEIL BOMBERG
National League of Cities

A bill that would seriously undermine several key aspects of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), passed the House on March 15 over strong objections from NLC, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Workforce Boards, the National Skills Coalition and numerous other stakeholder organizations.

H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills or SKILLS Act, would grant governors and state workforce boards total authority over workforce development funds; allow governors and state workforce boards to eliminate local workforce development areas without consulting local elected officials; establish new workforce development areas or single state workforce development areas without consulting local elected officials; eliminate any role for local elected officials and business leaders (while requiring that local elected officials are fiscally liable for funds spent in their local areas); eliminate or allow governors to consolidate many targeted programs, without providing the critical assistance needed by vulnerable populations such as migrant workers, veterans, low income adults and

youth, adults with literacy and language needs, people with disabilities, ex-offenders, and others with significant barriers to employment; eliminate all youth program funding; and allow governors to direct all SKILLS Act funds to any activities they wish so long as they can nominally be described as workforce related. In addition, the bill would freeze funding for the next seven years, making it impossible for the federal government to adjust funding based on changing economic circumstances.

On March 7, NLC President Marie Lopez Rogers wrote in a joint letter with the presidents of the U. S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties, and the board chair of the National Association of Workforce Boards, that:

"We cannot . . . support reauthorization [of the Workforce Investment Act] that fails to secure the delicate governing balance currently crafted in WIA. Furthermore, we cannot support efforts which may reduce access to education and training for our nation's most vulnerable workers by eliminating designated funding for disconnected youth, and permitting the use of critical WIA funding for purposes other than workforce development activities." The letter, which was read into the record by John Tierney (D-MA), and See **WORKFORCE** on Page 6

Author, city advisor to speak at June TML Annual Conference in Memphis

There's a gap between the city people desire and the city taxpayers can afford. And solutions may not always come in a predictable package, according to Peter Kageyama, internationally recognized expert on community development and grassroots engagement.

Kageyama will share his insights during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference, slated for June 22 – 25 in Memphis, on what motivates citizens to connect with their cities and how to use that excitement and energy and turn it into tangible actions.

According to Kageyama, nearly every city or town has something that local residents can connect with on an emotional level. Tapping into your citizens' emotional attachment to their city can be a powerful tool and open up new possibilities in community, social and economic development.

"You need to unleash the creative potential of your citizens," explains Kageyama.

As the co-founder and producer of the Creative Cities Summit, an interdisciplinary event that brings together citizens, thought leaders and practitioners around the big idea of the city, Kageyama has been a central connector in the field of place and community making. He is the former president of Creative

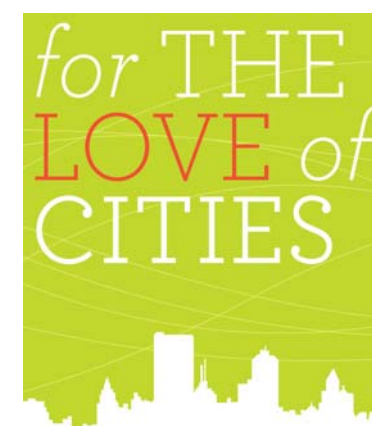
Tampa Bay, a grassroots community change organization. He has spoken all over the world about bottom up community development and the amazing people that are making change happen.

His book, *For the Love of Cities*, was recognized by Planetizen as a Top 10 Book for 2012 in urban planning, design and development.

The challenges facing local governments have never been greater. The issues of limited funding, growing public demand, aging infrastructure, and competing interests require local governments to do more with less. With that as a backdrop, many of the conference sessions and speakers will include strategies for addressing the many issues facing cities within today's constrained fiscal environment.

Other conference sessions will focus on performance based budgeting, honing effective communications skills, the "dos and don'ts" of grant writing, and how to successfully recruit retail to your community.

The conference kicks off Saturday evening, June 22, with a Vendor Extravaganza in the exhibit hall. Sunday, June 23, will feature the opening General Session, along with district meetings, workshops, and the Host City Reception. Monday, June 24, will be a day filled with educational workshops, TML's annual business meeting, and will wrap up with The Pool's fun-filled party complete with food and music. The



TML Annual Conference
June 22-25, 2013
Memphis, TN



Peter Kageyama

Tuesday morning Awards Breakfast will bring the conference to a close.

To registration for the conference and to obtain more information about the various workshops and speakers, go to TML's website at www.TML1.org.

Chattanooga prepares for baby boomers; embarks on neighborhoods for aging plan

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

In the same spirit of "you can't go home again," scores of older Americans are opting never to leave home in the first place, presenting quality-of-life quandaries towns and cities will increasingly face in the future—specifically, "what factors are needed to constitute livability of communities for persons of all ages?"

The more than 35 million Americans age 65 or above will reach 71.5 million in the next 25 years, placing new demands, opportunities and challenges square on the shoulders of Tennessee's communities. Statistics provided by The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), indicate today's Americans are enjoying longer, healthier, more fulfilling lives.

As opposed to previous generations, only five percent of older people are entering nursing homes for long periods of time. In response, communities, according to n4a, need to re-examine existing policies with fresh eyes to determine if the programs and services currently in place will adequately meet the needs of today's aging population.

The city of Chattanooga is studying the topic of Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging, as one of only 43 communities selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive individual technical assistance through a series of workshops. The discussions will cover sustainable growth and local economical development, while safeguarding health and the environment.

Chattanooga's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development (DNSCD), Choose Chattanooga, and the Southeast Tennessee Area on Aging and Disability requested assistance from the EPA Building Blocks program to explore the role of supportive neighborhood design in creating great places for aging residents.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities is a project of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities that includes the EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Department of Transportation

(DOT). The collaboration coordinates federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently.

The partnership is helping communities across the nation create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses.

The EPA-funded private-sector experts will be focusing on Chattanooga's Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging sustainability goal, as one of nine tools the EPA offered the selected applicants to choose from.

"This technical assistance is an opportunity for Chattanooga to evaluate our current neighborhoods and take assessment of what is needed in our neighborhoods to have residents successfully age in place," explains Beverly Johnson, DNSCD administrator.

The project also coincides with past efforts to add Chattanooga as a destination point for persons looking to retire," Johnson adds. "The thought is, if we look at our demographics and partner with Choose Chattanooga, and their efforts as a whole destination location for retirees, we need to see whether or not we are in step with providing amenities for a different-aged population."

According to the most current statistics, Chattanooga's population 40 years old and older represents 41 percent of the total population in the 2010 U.S. Census, according to DNSCD's Lauren Lowery, the EPA project lead.

An additional 2010 regional report by the Ochs Center for Metro-



The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging notes only five percent of older people enter nursing homes for long periods of time, as today's Americans enjoy longer, healthier, more fulfilling lives. Chattanooga will be studying the topic of Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging, as one of 43 communities selected by the Environmental Protection Agency to receive technical assistance.

politan Studies, an organization in the region that provides research and data analysis services for local non-profits and local government, found senior citizens 65 years or older account for 14.3 percent of the city's population, which is 47,224 residents, or a 10.9 increase in the last year.

As part of the EPA study, the city will focus on a particular neighborhood in order to develop a pilot project for aging in place, guided by EPA contractors for urban design for health. The study will look at amenities such as: transportation, walkability, accessibility, transportation for a non-driving population, the variety of housing stocks and service delivery along with additional elements such as pedestrian safety and senior citizen isolation.

The city of Kingsport launched See **EPA STUDY** on Page 3



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CALHOUN

The new owner of the paper mill is shutting down its newsprint machine and laying off 150 employees. Resolute Forest Products, which merged with the former AbitibiBowater Inc. in 2007, announced the shut down. The company cites the idling as a result of a decrease in demand for newsprint, coupled with high operating costs for the machine. The mill produced 215,000 metric tons per year and supplied newsprint for newspapers across the South. A plant in Augusta, Ga., will now supply the newsprint. The Calhoun mill will continue to operate two specialty paper machines and the pulp dryer.

CHATTANOOGA

Global Green Lighting plans to hire up to 250 people in Chattanooga to build the company's innovative street lighting system. The move is creating jobs locally by bringing production back from China, said Don Lepard, the company's chief executive. Lepard said the company has moved into about 180,000 square feet of space in Hixson, a site that formerly held the Chattanooga Group. Plans are to ramp up the assembly line and have about 100 people on board by mid-summer.

CLARKSVILLE

From 2011 to 2012, the Clarksville area ranked as the second-fastest growing metropolitan statistical area in the nation with 3.7 percent growth. Military retirees and lots of babies helped make Middle Tennessee one of the nation's hotbeds of growth, as the area emerged from the recession, new Census Bureau estimates show. Four Middle Tennessee counties — Montgomery, Williamson, Wilson and Rutherford — were among the nation's top 100 for population growth from 2010 to 2012.

CLARKSVILLE

The city's Rivers & Spires Festival received two Gold Awards at the Southeast Festivals and Events Association Conference in Auburn, Ala. for being the "Best Festival With A Budget Over \$75,000" and "Best Creative Idea." The awards were based on multiple criteria, including: community impact, marketing and promotional efforts, community involvement and 2012 budget. The free festival has five stages of entertainment with more than 100 entertainers all three days. The 11th annual event will be held April 18-20 in Historic Downtown.

CLEVELAND

Renfro Corp. announced it will create 168 new jobs in the next five years, as it spends \$17.5 million on equipment and construction to renovate its Cleveland plant. The Mount Airy, N.C.-based socks and legwear company anticipates the project will be completed in January 2016. The company now employs more than 250. Renfro is the licensee for leading brands including Fruit of the Loom, Dr. Scholl's, Ralph Lauren/Lauren Polo, Copper Sole, Wran-

gler, Sperry, Russell, Jerzees, Spalding, Bike and Carhartt.

COLUMBIA

A \$1.8 million price tag has been placed on renovations to the former city hall building, as a project manager presented the city council with an outline of construction that would make the 23,000-square-foot building also work for the police department. The city will save money by not completely restructuring the building, but replacing the mechanical and electrical systems. To pay for the renovations, the city will have to take out a loan, according to finance director Patti Amorello. If the city pays \$1.8 million for the renovations, the annual debt payment for the loan could be about \$250,000 each year for 10 years. The city can also decide to remodel an empty building next to the former city hall and include those costs in the loan. If the city chooses that option, it would pay about \$325,000 a year for 10 years. City officials previously budgeted \$1.5 million for the renovations.

JONESBOROUGH

The community's Farmers Market may soon grace the gateway of the historic downtown district. Town and market officials are considering negotiations to use a former gas station as a daily extension of the market. Operations could be expanded up to six days a week in the building, which the town purchased in October 2012 with the intent of enhancing the entrance to the downtown area. Farmers Market leaders approached the town with a proposal to turn the former gas station into a not-for-profit retail space in order to increase sales and income for local farmers, and to offer residents and visitors better access to goods produced in the area.

JOHNSON CITY

Alta/Greenways, based in Durham, N.C., unveiled its first draft of a master plan for East Tennessee's first "Rails-to-Trails" project, which will serve as a guide for the successful completion of a 10-mile pedestrian-friendly path from Johnson City to Elizabethton. For now, it has been dubbed the Johnson City Rail Trail, and its estimated price tag is about \$5.2 million. Johnson City commissioners and Elizabethton City Council members met together to view the plan. Details in the draft include: pedestrian-scale lighting, bicycle parking and water fountains, maps and signage with kiosks at trail heads, art, rest areas with benches.

KINGSPORT

Leclerc Foods is investing \$15.7 million to expand its operations in Kingsport, adding 40 jobs. The company makes granola bars, crackers and cookies. In addition to the plant in Kingsport, Leclerc operates in the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario and in Montgomery, Pa.

MEMPHIS

The Memphis Fire Department is getting a federal grant for about \$1.6 million to buy its first firefighting boat. The funding of \$1,607,178

will come from the Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals 2011 Port Security Grant Program. The federal dollars are being passed to the fire department to buy a fire boat capable of attacking fires from the water at the city's ports, said Alvin Benson, the city's director of Fire Services. Benson said Memphis does not have a fire boat. With the federal grant, the fire department is expected to purchase one within a year-and-a-half. Because the grant is funded with federal dollars from 2011, Benson said it isn't expected to be caught up in automatic federal budget cuts.

PIGEON FORGE

Pigeon Forge voters, by a total margin of 952 to 798 votes, agreed to allow the sale of mixed drinks, something its neighbor cities of Gatlinburg and Sevierville have had for years. Early voting was the key to the win for Forging Ahead, an organization that campaigned and spent heavily to persuade voters that the city would have multiple benefits from liquor-by-the-drink.

THOMPSON STATION

The only thing separating Spring Hill and Thompson's Station is an invisible boundary line. Both towns see the need to widen the two-lane U.S. 31, the main drag through both cities, and to add an additional Interstate 65 interchange. Officials from both municipalities agree that it makes sense to work together on solutions and have approved resolutions to create a Joint Transportation Task Force. The task force would identify important projects to both municipalities and come to each Board of Mayor and Aldermen for action. In February 2010, the two boards adopted a joint resolution affirming a shared commitment to coordinate land use and transportation planning. The task force concept was recommended to solidify that effort into a collective working body. The mayor of each town will appoint three of the six members of the task force, and at least one staff member from each municipality would serve the group, who have a demonstrated familiarity or experience with transportation or civil planning. The group will meet at least monthly and is charged with not only identifying joint transportation needs, but prioritizing how they can be addressed.

UNICOI

Town officials held a ground-breaking ceremony for a covered pavilion that will be constructed at the popular Pinnacle Fire Tower Trail trailhead. The pavilion will be constructed around 80 to 90 feet up from the trail's current parking area, and will initially be large enough to house two picnic tables and restrooms, providing hikers and bikers with access to hot and cold water. The structure, which can be expanded as needed, is being funded through a state Recreational Trails Program grant for \$150,000. The town is responsible for a 20 percent match on the grant, which was to be used for the establishment of a trailhead.

Bristol, Germantown, Nashville honored with TNCPE Awards



Pictured at the recent TNCPE award ceremony are: Bristol Mayor Joel Staton, BTES Board Chairman Pat Hickie, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, BTES CEO Mike Browder, Rep. Jon Lundberg and Rep. Timothy Hill

Bristol Essential Services and the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority recently received the prestigious Excellence Award administered by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) at the TNCPE conference in Franklin.

Other award recipients include the city of Germantown, which received the Achievement Award, accepted by Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy and City Administrator Patrick Lawton.

In addition, four agencies of the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS) were also recognized with Commitment Awards: The Municipal Technical Advisory Service, the Center for Industrial Services, the County Technical Assistance Service and the Law Enforcement Innovation Center.

TNCPE is Tennessee's only

state-wide quality program patterned on the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, the national standard for recognizing organizational excellence. Achievement Awards are presented to organizations that have demonstrated significant progress in building systematic processes that effectively address the overall requirements of each criteria item.

These processes are deployed and aligned throughout the organization appropriately to meet the key business needs of the organization.

Results for some key processes show improvement that is directly attributable to a systematic improvement approach, a robust management system, and performance management principles. These organizations have many practices from which other organizations can learn and grow.

Wacker large core equipment transforms Charleston skyline



Large core equipment is now in place upright at the Wacker polysilicon site in Charleston. Five structures—each measuring more than 200 feet tall—traveled to the site last year along I-75. Due to the delay in production startup to mid-2015, the company said it's investing the extra money into the Charleston project, boosting its investment in the Bradley County plant by \$2 million to a total of \$2 billion and growing its production capacity by 10 percent.

The site's total production capacity will grow at least 10 percent to more than 20,000 metric tons per year. Wacker is using the additional time to optimize production facili-

ties and improve manufacturing processes, so that yields are higher.

Late last year, Wacker said that amid the excess capacities currently facing polysilicon, it would slow down the pace of the construction project.

The company plans to employ about 650 people at the plant with about 1,000 people on site building the factory.

Dr. Martin Richtberg, vice president of engineering and head of the construction project said "Last year we saw the final phase of concrete pouring, the arrival of large core equipment, the beginning of steel erection and the start of interior work."

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Chattanooga embarks on neighborhoods for aging plan

EPA STUDY from Page 1

a similar fact finding mission in partnership with AARP, which identified the city as a pilot livable community project in 2009. The city, along with local residents, and volunteer focus groups, developed survey results assessing opinions and concerns of Greater Kingsport area residents in order to make the community more livable for persons of all ages. Kingsport citizens' top concerns relating to livable communities were: being independent during the aging process along with safety and security in homes, neighborhoods, and communities. One of the biggest gaps identified in neighborhoods is well maintained sidewalks and going where you want to go. Kingsport's report can be found at http://kingsporttn.gov/files/default/2009_KingsportTN_LC_Report_Final.pdf

"When someone ages in place, sometimes a community lacks these assets," explains Lowery. "If a community already has it, how can we build from it? And if it doesn't, what needs to take place to make sure people are successfully aging in place?"

During the EPA process, the focus group will conduct two meetings to discuss data related to the pilot community, holding a kick off event the first and second of May. "We will do a site visit of the neighborhood, then have sessions with community stake holders to discuss what will be the next step," said Lowery.

According to n4a, cities are discovering that older adults, especially larger populations, require a completely new comprehensive, approach to service delivery organization and management, land use, housing, parks & recreation, health and transportation.

But as older adults stay longer in the workforce or choose volunteerism during their retirement years, the ubiquitous nature of what

defines today's senior citizens begs for a holistic approach in planning and development, one that meets people's needs throughout various stages of life.

While attracting retirees and better serving relocation needs are top priorities for Choose Chattanooga, the agency also views ageless concepts as an obvious choice for all citizens.

"Choose Chattanooga's recruiting efforts to attract Baby Boomers as part of the Retire Tennessee Initiative is not the reason that our communities should address the issues of aging," notes board member Linda Bennett. "Without our program, we would be facing the same challenges, without the benefit of new talent and a growing tax base. We should be looking at 'ageless neighborhoods' to assure quality of life for today's residents with the intent of leaving behind a gift for future generations."

Statistics on aging indicate that only 46 percent, less than half, of America's communities, have even begun planning for the needs of aging populations. Just the provision of housing is not sufficient, if residents lack transportation to get to medical offices, the pharmacy or grocery store, notes n4a.

"Many older Americans associate the decision to stop driving with social isolation and a loss of independence," reports ICMA in the publication *Aging in Place and Smart Growth*. The agency notes that older people may be reluctant to stop driving if they live in neighborhoods that do not provide other transportation options for getting around.

As older adults stop driving, their ability to meet their critical daily needs is significantly reduced, placing more pressure on public services to meet the need, particularly for lower-income seniors. N4a recommendations such as large print

road signs, grooved lane dividers, dedicated left turn lanes and extended walk times at pedestrian crosswalks all can accommodate older drivers as well as pedestrians. And while seniors use public transit when it is available, only half of Americans aged 65 or older have access to public transportation for their daily use.

Planning officials are also urged to take under consideration that senior developments should be as close as possible to transportation links and/or a walkable distance from daily needs like medical services or shopping. Another part of the group's research is looking at assisted living facilities, access to medical services and basic services such as grocery stores and recreational facilities.

Currently, the Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability is working to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities and their families with programs such as CHOICES, which provides in home services for seniors 65 years of age and older or adults 21 years of age and older who have physical disabilities who would otherwise qualify for nursing home care. The program's Homemaking Service provides routine light housekeeping, laundry, preparing meals and education about the preparation of nutritious appetizing meals.

Currently, DNSCD receives funding through the HUD entitlement program, which is not associated with the EPA Building Blocks program. "If anything, we need to expand funding," Johnson said. "We're about to launch a larger housing study that the city is working on through our regional planning agency and one of the issues is what type of housing does Chattanooga need? If there is a larger percentage of the over 60-year-old population, they may not want to age in place in



the houses that they currently have; they might want to down size. Or we may want to look at building more assisted living facilities. Hopefully,

we will get some program direction out of this study that will guide the decision making as Chattanooga grows."

EPA Building Blocks Program

To date, EPA's assistance through the Building Blocks Program has reached 141 communities. EPA selected this year's recipients from 121 applicants through a competitive process in consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The agency offered nine tools for selected cities to choose from this year, including smart growth

to build economic and fiscal health, creating Green Streets Strategy and sustainable strategies for small cities and rural areas.

In addition to Chattanooga, selected communities for the Neighborhood Planning for Aging Tool are: Inyo County C.A., Pompano Beach Fla. and Seneca Nation, N.Y. For more information about partnerships for Sustainable Communities, visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/index.html>

Jonesborough arts program holds brighter story for at-risk youth

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Smack dab in the middle of Tennessee's Storytelling Capitol of the World, a tale is unfolding. It's about an old, dilapidated building, formerly used as a place of division, transformed into a place of healing, and youths once considered "at risk" crafting happier lives through telling their family's stories. As Tennessee's oldest town, historically rich Jonesborough will be the site of a new intervention program created through a two-year partnership between anti-bullying agency Epic Evolutions and Washington County Schools. The project incorporates the use of acting, storytelling, arts activities, training and counseling to facilitate positive culture changes in the lives of at-risk youths from both Jonesborough Elementary and Middle School.

Boosted by a \$17,000 grant from the East Tennessee Foundation, utilized for training and supplies, Epic is training the program's volunteer teachers, who were hand picked from among Jonesborough's many gifted story tellers, artists, teachers, and volunteers.

As the nation's best storytellers provide story collection and performance expertise to the core teams and students, the project team will also include an academic specialist with National Master Teacher certification, that also has expertise in storytelling. This specialist will be part of the school core team to help explore ways in which the project activities can also enhance learning and educational achievement, in addition to improved behavior. Another project member with testing and evaluation at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) will assist in evaluating success. The International Storytelling Center (ISC) will partner in the project by providing assistance from storytellers associated with ISC's Teller-In-Residence Program.

The stage is almost set as well, as renovations near completion at the old Booker T. Washington School, a former 1940's-era African American school serving students in first through eighth grade, idle for more than three decades. The building will become home to the future McKinney Cultural Arts Center, named for educator Ernest McKinney, the first African-American elected to the town's Board of Mayor and Alderman and his son,

Kevin, Jonesborough's first black mayor.

It all couldn't come too soon, according to town officials, as Washington County recently experienced serious instances of bullying in school facilities that caught the attention of the media, and raised concerns about prejudice and a lack of tolerance among students.

While Jonesborough doesn't directly operate its own schools, officials agree that strong education initiatives help enhance a community's economic stability and ensure a greater quality of life for its citizens.

"It's hard to hate somebody when you know their story," adds Town Administrator Bob Browning. "Research shows the importance of the arts in developing tolerance and understanding along with confidence building. Very often kids struggling in school may be more reachable through the arts than sports programs."

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Murphy, recently indicated that he considers half the students at the Jonesborough Elementary and Middle schools at-risk based on population, income, discipline, truancy and other factors.

"If the graduation rate is not as high as you need it to be, its not just up to the school system to fix that issue," Browning said. "From a community standpoint, we have a responsibility to work with the schools to enhance achievement and opportunities for kids in the community."

The center is close enough to the schools for students to be shuttled in for after-school programs, where renovations to the stage area and gymnasium will provide a venue for performances. As students gather stories from their family and friends, there should be no shortage of material. Set painting, script writing and memorization will all serve as part of the curriculum. "Imagine being a grandfather in attendance watching your grandson portray you," Browning said.

The town has already developed a strong theater education program through the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre, and is developing a comprehensive arts program being housed at the McKinney Center and operating as the Mary B. Martin Program For The Arts. There will be hand-on arts instruction for the town's residents and visitors along with exhibits that tell the story of

Jonesborough and its residents, with special emphasis on the town's African-American heritage.

"We are excited and appreciative of the East Tennessee Foundation for being supportive of the project and are working to get things started by the end of the school year, so that next year, we'll be in total operating mode," said Browning, noting the program's launch should be sometime in May.

"These students are collecting stories that used to be told around the family dinner table," he said. "And that just doesn't happen anymore."



The new McKinney Cultural Arts Center in Jonesborough will host theater and other arts activities for at-risk elementary and middle school students through a two-year partnership between Epic anti-bullying program and Washington Co. schools.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Lt. Governor **Ron Ramsey** was appointed to the the Republican Lieutenant Governors Association (RLGA) executive committee, a national organization devoted to recruiting and electing of Republican candidates for office committed to a conservative approach to governance. Ramsey is the first GOP Senate Speaker in Tennessee in 140 years and the first from Sullivan County in more than 100 years.



Ramsey

TN. Sen. **Mark Norris** of Collier-ville has been reappointed to the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) by Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey. The SSEB is a non-profit interstate compact organization created in 1960 to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs and technologies.



Norris

Jessie Halteman, age 97, the mother of House Speaker **Beth Harwell**, passed away recently. Rep. Curtis Johnson, speaker pro tempore, presided over the House while Harwell traveled to Spring City, Pa., to attend her mother's funeral services.



Kyle

Sara Kyle has resigned from the board of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Kyle was elected to the Public Service Commission in 1994, and appointed as one of three members of the agency when it was converted into the TRA two years later. Kyle is married to Democratic Senate Minority Leader Jim Kyle.

State Senator **Ken Yager**, of Harriman, was recently recognized by the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association with the "Outstanding Initiative Award" for his public safety efforts, particularly in helping to alleviate county jail overcrowding. Yager received the award at the group's winter Expo in Nashville.



Yager

Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner **Karla Davis** is resigning due to family reasons. Davis has served as commissioner since the beginning of the Haslam administration. The governor has named **Burns Phillips** as acting commissioner. Phillips currently serves as managing director in the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) overseeing customer-focused government initiatives. Phillips also worked in the Budget Office of F&A. In 2009, he served as transportation administrative director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Central Services Division.



Davis



Phillips

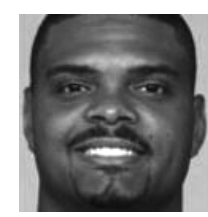
Retired Ashland City police Chief **Curtis Bennett** has passed away at 70. Bennett, a native of Cheatham County, retired as police chief in July 2006. He started with the Department in 1984 as an officer and was named police chief in 1988. Bennett also served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years.

Honna Rogers, town manager of Signal Mountain has announced her intent to resign her position as town manager to spend more time with her young son and family. Rogers will remain until the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget draft process is complete.



Rogers

Former Tennessee Titans tight end **Erron Kinney**, 35, of Franklin, has been selected as the new fire chief for Mount Juliet. City officials hired the first fire chief and captain to serve in the organization of the new fire department. Kinney played for the team in the early 2000s. He was a volunteer firefighter while on the roster and continued that career after he retired from the NFL. He'll assume his new role as chief within the next few weeks.



Kinney

Hendersonville school board member **Beth Cox** has been appointed to the Southern Regional Education Board. The appointment, made by Gov. Haslam, runs through 2016. SREB is an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization that works with 16 member states to improve and expand public education opportunities from pre-kindergarten through doctorate studies. The organization works directly with state leaders, schools and educators to improve teaching, learning and student achievement at every level of education. Cox will be working with other states to help shape policy, improve student achievement, increase graduation rates and boost college completion.



Cox

Macel Ely joins MTAS as training program manager

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is pleased to welcome Dr. Macel Ely, Ph.D. as its new Training Program Manager. Dr. Ely most recently served as the training specialist for the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS) leadership programs, managing and facilitating training for Tennessee's senior-level managers and executive leadership.



Dr. Macel Ely

Managing both the state's Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) and the Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI), Ely also successfully managed the Local Government Leadership Program and its alumni for several years, and currently serves as head of the IPS Continuing Education Units Committee, ensuring that all training courses properly meet the standards for the International Association for Continuing Education Training (IACET).

Ely holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Lee University and Kentucky Wesleyan College and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee. He earned his Ph.D. from UT.

"The ever increasing complexity of issues facing Tennessee towns and cities makes it constantly necessary for MTAS to anticipate those issues and plan its services accordingly," notes MTAS Executive Director Jim Thomas. "Municipal officials should expect MTAS to make the necessary technical training available that helps them manage those issues. Macel, with his exceptional skills and experience in developing and delivering training, will guide MTAS forward in meeting those expectations of our customers. I'm glad he has chosen to be an important part of the MTAS team." Before his work with IPS lead-

ership programs, Ely served as the program coordinator at the Center for Homeland Security, where he developed statewide curriculum training for law enforcement officers and other city officials in Tennessee, as well as planning, coordinating and hosting training activities in conjunction with the governor's own Office of Homeland Security. The purpose of these coordinated trainings was to educate and equip law enforcement officers to understand how to detect, deter, prevent and respond to acts of terrorism.

"Providing quality training that is applicable to people and the work they do is a long standing passion of mine," Ely said. "Coming to work as the training program manager for MTAS is a wonderful fit for me because I know MTAS shares that same passion. I am ecstatic about the future of MTAS training and what we will be able to offer our local towns and cities."

Ely, in his prior work experience, has also served as a school administrator in Kentucky and a news reporter on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Jamie, reside in Maryville with their son, Silas.

Todd Morgan named Tennessee Main Street Program Director

Morgan to assist communities in revitalizing downtowns, Central Business Districts

The Department of Economic and Community Development announced that Todd A. Morgan has been named Tennessee Main Street Program director, leading the initiative that provides assistance to communities in revitalizing their downtown and central business districts.

"Downtowns and central business districts often serve as the foundation for a strong and self-sustaining local economy," ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty said. "As a respected community development leader, Todd brings a wealth of experience to his new role and a network of relationships that will assist our Tennessee Main Street communities throughout the state."

Morgan brings more than 18 years of community and economic development, neighborhood revitalization, planning, project management and architectural services experience to ECD's Rural Development team. Most recently he was program director for the community development corporation managing the Morristown Main Street Program and facilitated comprehensive community development projects for the entire city of Morristown.

A graduate of Carson-Newman College with both a master's degree in Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in Business Economics, Todd has participated in



Todd Morgan

professional development through the International Economic Development Council, U.T. Institute for Public Service and Walters State Institute for Business Industry.

Morgan replaces Kimberly Franklin Nyberg, who is leaving state government to pursue her own business as a consultant specializing in community development, marketing, design and historic preservation.

For additional information about the Tennessee Main Street Program, please visit <http://www.tennesseebestmainstreet.org/>.

TML Risk Management Pool says goodbye to Scobee, welcomes Nelson

After 14 years, Lottie Scobee, executive assistant with the TML Risk Management Pool Loss Control Department, has announced plans to retire effective March 31. Scobee notes she will "deeply miss her many friends at The Pool," but also looks forward to traveling with her husband of 47 years, Jerry, playing golf, gardening and spending more time with her family.

"I have worked hard, but I have also been praised and honored for my professional work, which has made my job a pleasure and a position that I have loved so much," Scobee said. "The many Pool members that I have come in contact with over the years have been so kind to me. I am glad to have had the opportunity to assist them."

Vicki Nelson, a graduate of Golden Gate University in Sacramento, has been selected as her replacement. Nelson graduated with a



Scobee

bachelors degree in Business Administration. While attending school, she raised two young daughters on her own and worked full time as the executive assistant for the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation.

After graduating, she moved back to her home town of Virginia Beach, where her immediate family still lives. There, she worked for the



Nelson

city of Virginia Beach as the office assistant at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. She quickly moved up to become the business application specialist. She worked for the Convention Center for 13 years.

"I am very excited about working at The Pool and can't wait to learn new things and share some of my own personal experiences with everyone here," said Nelson.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



A spike in gas prices drove a measure of U.S. consumer costs up in February by the most in more than three years. But outside the gain in fuel costs, inflation was mostly modest. The consumer price index increased a seasonally adjusted 0.7 percent from January, according to the Labor Department. It was the biggest monthly rise since June 2009. Still, three-fourths of the increase in the index reflected a 9.1 percent surge in gas prices. That was also the largest monthly gain since June 2009. Gas prices had fallen in the previous four months. Since last month's increase, gas prices have started to decline again. For the 12 months that ended in February, prices increased 2.0 percent, in line with the Federal Reserve's inflation target. Low inflation leaves consumers with more money to spend, which benefits the economy. It also allows the Federal Reserve leeway to keep low to help spur economic growth. Gas prices rose sharply in February after falling at the end of 2012. The national average price for a gallon of gas jumped from \$3.42 on Jan. 31 to \$3.78 on Feb. 28. An increase in gas prices also drove a measure of wholesale prices up in February by the most in five months.

A strong increase in auto output

boosted U.S. factory production last month, the latest sign that manufacturing is helping drive economic growth after lagging for much of 2012. Factory output rose a seasonally adjusted 0.8 percent in February from January, after falling 0.3 percent in the previous month, the Federal Reserve said. The biggest gain was in autos and auto parts, where production increased 3.6 percent after falling 4.9 percent in January. Car sales have risen steadily this year after reaching a five year high in 2012. Overall industrial production, which includes mining and utilities, rose 0.7 percent in February. That is the most in three months. Utility output jumped 1.6 percent while mining output, which covers oil and gas drilling, fell 0.3 percent, the third straight decline. Still, economists were encouraged by the broad-based gains in factory output. New car and truck sales rose 4 percent in February from a year earlier to an annual pace of 15.4 million. That's a big improvement from sales of only 10.4 million in 2009. It's still short of the pre-recession peak of 17 million in 2005. Auto makers are expected to have boosted output last month to keep up with the sales.

The Wall Street Journal reports Congress may include a provision

in the next government spending bill forcing the Postal Service to scrap its plans to end Saturday delivery. The Postal Service said the change would save it \$2 billion a year but postal workers unions are vehemently opposed and they've gotten some in Congress to back them. Even if the provision survives, it may not actually prevent the end of Saturday delivery: The six-day-a-week service mandate, wrapped into a government spending bill on remaining fiscal 2013 spending, is the same one Congress has had for the past 30 years. The House has already passed the provision. The Senate is expected to follow suit. The message is being delivered as the Postal Service looks to stem mounting losses that last year neared \$16 billion. There is disagreement in Congress on whether legislation stops the Postal Service from cutting Saturday services. Rep. Darrell Issa, Calif. said he believes that as long as Postal Service delivers medicines, Internet orders and other packages on Saturday, it is meeting the mandate for six-day service. Other lawmakers said Saturday delivery must continue. "The language is clear," said Rep. Jose Serrano N.Y. "They can't put these changes to Saturday mail into effect."



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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

TN ranks 8th in capitol investment projects

Site Selection magazine announced its annual Governor's Cup awards and Tennessee was ranked 8th in the U.S. for the number of capital investment projects last year. The ranking is based on private-sector projects that meet one or more of these criteria: an investment of at least \$1 million, creation of 50 or more new jobs or construction of new space of at least 20,000 square feet. Jackson tied for seventh on the Top Metros list for the number of projects for populations of less than 200,000. Additionally, Tennessee ranked third for the number of Top Micropolitans, those cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover at least one county. Tennessee micropolitans and their rankings included Tullahoma (tied for 13th); Cookeville (tied for 23rd); Humboldt, Lewisburg, Shelbyville, and Union City (all tied for 30th); Athens, Greeneville, Lawrenceburg and Newport (tied for 45th); and Brownsville, Columbia, Crossville and Sevierville (tied for 86th).

State retirement plan ranks high

A money management publication has said the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, the state's retirement fund for state government, higher education and other public employees, manages its investments better than any other large public pension plan in the nation. The rating comes from *Money Management Intelligence*, a publication featuring news, trends and analysis about and for institutional investors. The retirement system, which is part of the Tennessee Treasury Department, was recognized as the Large Public Plan of the Year during *Money Management Intelligence's* 12th Annual Public Pension Plan Awards for Excellence banquet in Huntington Beach, Calif. Public pension plans were evaluated based on their innovativeness and investment performance, the release states.

Two state veterans homes among best in country

The Tennessee State Veterans Homes Board is celebrating the announcement from *U.S. News & World Report 2013* naming the Tennessee State Veterans Homes in Knoxville and Murfreesboro among the best in the country. U.S. News rated more than 15,000 nursing homes using data research on nursing home safety, health inspection and staffing. The source of the data originates from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Google reaches state settlement

The Tennessee Attorney General's Office announced it has received a \$133,528 payment from search engine giant Google in a court agreement stemming from alleged Tennessee Consumer Protection Act violations. Thirty-seven states, including Tennessee and the District of Columbia, were involved in the "voluntary assurance of compliance." Google agreed to pay a total of \$7 million to all the states. Google collected personal and private data while creating their "Street View" function on Google Maps from 2008 to 2010. According to the settlement, the vehicles tasked to create Street View picked up data from Wi-Fi networks in addition to the visual imagery associated with the feature. Google terminated the data upon discovery, never used it for a product service and didn't transmit the data to any third parties. As part of the settlement, Google has also agreed to enhance privacy training for employees and create a video for the public on how to protect Wi-Fi connections.

Four TN counties to benefit from Amazon books contribution

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer and a statewide partner of the Governor's Books from Birth Foundation (GBBF), recently contributed \$25,000 to GBBF and Tennessee's statewide Imagination Library. The money will be distributed evenly among the four counties where Amazon has fulfillment centers—Bradley, Hamilton, Rutherford and Wilson—and used to provide free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to preschool children (ages 0-5) living in those areas. The company known for shipping its iconic packages to consumers' doorsteps is helping the GBBF and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library put books in the mailboxes of Tennessee's youngest readers. Tennessee is the only state to have the Imagination Library program in every one of its counties.

Sequestration reduces emergency unemployment payments

The Budget Control Act of 2011, generally known as "sequestration," requires budget cuts to many federal programs including the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program. All payments of EUC on or after March 31 will be reduced by 10.7 percent through September 2013. The weekly benefits of approximately 30,000 Tennessee claimants currently receiving EUC or transitioning into EUC from Tennessee Unemployment Com-

pensation program will be affected. The state's unemployment compensation system, generally the first 26 weeks (maximum) of available unemployment benefits, will not be reduced. All affected claimants must continue their regular weekly certification to satisfy weekly work search requirements.

Made in TN Leaf hits dealerships

The first Tennessee-made Nissan Leafs are hitting dealerships, and changes in price, recharging, and range are expected to boost the all-electric's sales in 2013 over last year. Nissan's Smyrna facilities are producing the Leaf with the company's Decherd factory making the electric motor. Drawing a lot of attention is a new fast charger by Efaced, which can renew an electric car's batteries in 20 to 30 minutes. Nissan has announced the new Leaf S will start at \$28,800, which undercuts the previous least expensive Leaf by \$6,400. There's also a \$7,500 in federal tax credits available to buyers and people who lease the vehicle.

Property letters are possible scam

Nearly 30 home sales in Tennessee have been disrupted by letters making bogus claims on property titles. Tennessee's Secretary of State Tre Hargett says it's not clear what motivation is behind the letters, but his office is treating them as a possible new scam. At least eight real estate companies have reported receiving messages from an organization in Portland, Oregon, called the French Trust. All of them threaten legal action if the sale goes through. Hargett says the letters make a number of statements that are not true, including a reference to his own office.

Teen drivers getting fresh licenses

About 1,000 new teen drivers in Tennessee will be getting fresh driver's licenses after a printing error fouled up dates put on the cards. The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced the error Friday. Officials said the department's state identity card vendor, MorphoTrust USA, made the printing error on some cards manufactured in December 2012 and January 2013. The cards were issued only to new drivers under age 18 who visited the state driver service centers in Dickson, Gallatin and Springfield. The error affects the security of the cards. The department asks that the driver's licenses be returned in a self-addressed stamped envelope provided by MorphoTrust. The misprinted cards will be securely destroyed.

Permanent aviation support awarded to West Tennessee



Trooper Lee Russell has been assigned to pilot a THP helicopter to assist with aviation support of law enforcement in West Tennessee. The aircraft is a 206 B Bell Jet Ranger, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Bill Gibbons joined Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Colonel Tracy Trott to announce the permanent assignment of a THP helicopter and pilot to assist with aviation support of law enforcement in west Tennessee. This permanent aviation support will enhance public safety by increasing response time to incidents or missions in the western areas of the state.

Trooper Lee Russell, a West Tennessee native, has been assigned to pilot the helicopter. Russell has been assigned to the Aviation Section and has undergone advanced flight training focusing on airborne law enforcement techniques.

The aircraft is a 206 B Bell Jet Ranger, equipped with F.L.I.R.® (Forward-Looking Infra-Red that detects infrared energy that produces a thermal image. It is also equipped with a 20 million candle power Nightsun® searchlight and specialized radios that allow pilots to communicate with most emergency agencies.

THP pilots are equipped with Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) which offer the pilot a much better view during hours of darkness. Soon, the helicopter will be equipped with equipment which will aid in locating and recovering stolen vehicles.

The THP helicopter can be used in supporting efforts for vehicle surveillance; vehicle and foot pursuits; searches for criminal suspects; searches for missing, lost and/or endangered individuals which could include children, adults, and the mentally disabled. It can also provide air cover during critical incidents; photo flights for investigative purposes; post natural and manmade disaster missions; damage assessments; search and rescue of individuals in need of faster extraction for their wellbeing or situations that are impractical for ground personnel.

Other duties could include educational details; and support for high-risk situations such as executing a search warrant or other unstable scenarios.

Feb. revenue \$5M more than budgeted

Tennessee tax collections continued their upward trend in February. Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes announced that overall February revenues were \$744.3 million, which is \$5.0 million more than the state budgeted.

"Total collections in February marked the seventh consecutive positive growth month this year," Emkes said. "Sales tax collections, reflecting January spending, recorded modest growth as did several of the smaller tax categories."

"While we continue to believe the modest growth rate in sales tax collections is indicative of a very slow but improving economy in Tennessee, we are concerned that escalating gasoline prices and the failure of Congress to enact a budget will soon begin to erode the positive growth trend we are now enjoying. We'll monitor collections and spending and work with the General Assembly to end the fiscal year in June with a balanced budget."

On an accrual basis, February is the seventh month in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$12.0 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$7.0 million.

Sales tax collections were \$3.0 million more than the estimate for February. The February growth rate was positive 2.42 percent. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is positive 2.00 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$0.2 million above the budgeted estimate of \$37.7 million. For seven months revenues were over collected by \$113.8 million. The year-to-date growth rate for seven months is 8.88 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for February decreased by 3.26 percent, and were \$6.1 million below the budgeted estimate of \$70.7

million. For seven months revenues were under collected by \$15.4 million.

Tobacco tax collections were \$3.7 million over the budgeted estimate of \$20.4 million. For seven months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$4.8 million.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$3.5 million for the month. Year to date collections for seven months are \$10.6 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$2.0 million more than the February estimate, and on a year to date basis, August through February, collections are \$15.6 million above the estimate.

All other taxes were under collected by a net of \$1.3 million. Year-to-date collections for seven months were \$94.0 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$106.2 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$12.2 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2012-2013 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation of December 19th, 2011 and adopted by the second session of the 107th General Assembly in April 2012. They are available on the state's website at <http://www.tn.gov/finance/bud/budget.html>.

The State Funding Board met on Dec. 14, 2012 to hear updated revenue projections from the state's various economists. The board met again on Dec. 19th and adopted revised revenue ranges for 2012-2013.

The revised ranges assume an over collection from the July 2012 budgeted estimate in the amount of \$203.0 million to \$287.3 million in total taxes and in the amount of \$224.2 million to \$305.9 million in general fund taxes for the current fiscal year.

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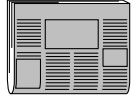
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Pool Board to meet March 27

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. local time in the Board Room at The Pool, 5100 Maryland Way, Brentwood, Tennessee, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.



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.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FAYETTEVILLE. The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Administrator. The city administrator reports directly to the mayor and six (6) alderman and is responsible for the oversight of all departments. Candidates must be proven managers with excellent communication and team building skills. Requirements include demonstrated success in public/business administration, budgeting and finance, intergovernmental relations, leadership and strategic planning; at least seven (7) years of experience as a city administrator or equivalent position. A bachelor's degree is required, (Public Administration or Business). Salary is competitive and negotiable, plus benefits. Deadline for the submission of resumes for this position is April 5 2013. Resumes should be submitted to: Dana Deem, Municipal Management Consultant, University of Tennessee, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 606 Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1804, dana.deem@tennessee.edu

CITY MANAGER

LEWISBURG. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. The position is responsible to the mayor and a five (5) member council for the administration of all city services and departments, including but not limited to administration, personnel, finance and budgeting, code enforcement, public works, sanitation, streets, public safety, industrial development, recreation, planning and zoning. A bachelor's degree and ten (10) years of experience in city management in a similar sized city is preferred. Experience in budgeting, control of revenues and expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, economic development, storm water operations and planning are high priorities. Must be capable of learning any computer applications deemed necessary or applicable to the position. The successful candidate must reside within five (5) miles of the corporate limits of Lewisburg, in Marshall County, within 90 days from date of hire. The city has an annual budget of \$10,000,000 with 105 full time employees and 60 part time employees. The position has an excellent benefit package. Salary DOQ. EOE. An application, resume and salary demand should be submitted by April 19, 2013 to: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville TN, 37219-1804, Attn: Dana Deem, or by email to: dana.deem@tennessee.edu.

CITY MANAGER

EAST RIDGE. The city is accepting qualified applicants for the position of City Manager. A full service city with a council-manager form of government and total of all budgets of approximately \$15 million. A bachelor degree in Public Administration and a minimum of three to five years municipal government experience required. Proven management and leadership, team building, communications skills, municipal finance and economic development experience preferred. The city offers competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Closing date is April 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. The city website is www.eastridgetn.org. EOE/ TN Drug Free Workplace.

CITY MANAGER

Forest Hills. The city, located within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, is seeking applicants for City Manager. The current city manager has announced his pending retirement. Experience in budgeting and budget management, legislative issues, planning and zoning, historic preservation and storm water management are high priorities. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of achievement and innovation that will allow the city to build upon its strong tradition of providing superior services to its residents and customers. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Management or a related field; a master's degree is preferred. Candidates will have substantial experi-

ence as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similarly sized community, with preference given to applicants with five years of municipal experience with broad and complex management responsibility. Candidates must be certified, or be willing and able to become certified, as a certified municipal finance officer and city recorder. Resumes, along with a cover letter and three professional references will be received at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville TN, 37219-1804, Attn: Dana Deem. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. This position will remain open until filled.

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced professional for the position of Director of Community & Economic Development. The successful candidate will possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration or a related field and 10 years of progressively responsible leadership experience in the field of economic development, management, planning, etc. including at least five years in a senior level management position; or any combination of education, training and experience, which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. The position reports directly to the city manager and is responsible for management of the economic development, planning, codes and sustainability functions of the city. The director will serve as the lead economic development officer for the city. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$61,185 to \$74,163, depending on the experience and qualifications, plus an above average comprehensive benefits package. City of Goodlettsville compensation plan range for this position is \$61,185 to \$92,704. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072, or dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org. To view a full recruitment brochure, visit www.cityofgoodlettsville.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) is seeking applicants for Executive Director. The position inspires a vision and provides leadership that will help create a respect for the environment, social responsibility, and lead community improvement in all 95 counties of the state. Monitors legislation, agency partnerships, and state and local activity that affect the environment and quality of life in communities; develops sponsor and funding sources for academic and professional research and operations to support the mission of KTnB. Maintains good standing with Tennessee and local affiliates and KTnB; ensures that state and affiliate programs adhere to the policies and mission of KTnB. Ensures that KTnB implements and satisfies the requirements of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) contract. Maintains statewide community involvement through volunteer action in affiliate communities and provide assistance and support to those communities. Provide leadership to the KTnB State Leaders Council, composed of community leaders from across the state. Plans conferences and events including the State Conference, National Planting Day for Tennessee, Tennessee Recycles, Great American Clean-Up, and other events held in urban and rural areas. Develops and implements behavioral and project training for affiliates, staff, and board members. Provides direction, management, and supervision for KTnB staff. Minimum Qualifications: Requires a Master's degree and five years of relevant experience in non-profit management, marketing, fundraising, or advocacy training experience. Relevant experience may substitute for required education. It is expected that the successful candidate will reside in the Memphis area within six months of employment. Both in-state and some out-of state travel is required. The position is grant funded, continuation is contingent upon continued funding. Applications must be submitted through the University's WorkForum website at <https://workforum.memphis.edu>. Applicants must complete all applicable sections of the online application in order to be considered for this position. Please upload a cover letter, resume, and reference list after completing your application, if required by the system.

POLICE CHIEF

MCKENZIE. The city is taking resumes for the position of Police Chief until April 15, 2013. Applicants should have a minimum of eight (8) years police experience, a minimum of three (3) years of command experience, and be Post Certified or able to be Post Certified. Salary is determined by experience and qualifications. McKenzie is located in Carroll County in Northwest Tennessee. The population within the corporate city limits is 5,310. For information about the City of McKenzie, visit www.mckenziectn.gov. Resumes should be sent to: Attention: Mayor Jill Holland, City of McKenzie, 2470 Cedar St., P.O. Box 160, McKenzie, TN 38201. EOE.

TOWN MANAGER

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN. A bedroom community of Chattanooga, is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of town manager. The town manager serves as the chief administrative officer in a full service community of 8,000 citizens with a council-manager form of government and a 10.3m budget. The town manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the town and abiding by the ordinances and policies of the 5-member elected council. The town's administrative structure includes eight departments, 90 permanent employees, and 14 volunteer boards. Minimum qualifications include a BS/BA in public administration or related field with a minimum of 3 years experience as a town manager, MS/MA in public administration or a related field with experience in local government, or seven years experience as a department head with management experience as a town manager or assistant manager. Applicants must possess proven management, leadership, team building, communication, and municipal finance skills. For community information, visit www.signalmountaintn.gov. Letters of interest with resumes, salary expectations and references will be accepted until April 12. Applicants should submit information to Margaret Norris, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or emai@margaret.norris@tennessee.edu.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT MANAGER

WAYNESBORO. The city is accepting applications for the position of Water Treatment Plant Manager. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, Tennessee Grade 3 Water Treatment License, be in good standing with the state, and have a minimum of three years in water plant operation experience. The employee is responsible for the supervision of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant and staff. Salary is negotiable. Application and/or resumes should be submitted detailing experience and training to: Waynesboro City Hall, P.O. Box 471, Waynesboro, TN 38485, or send by e-mail to jhickman@cityofwaynesboro.org by April 15, 2013. Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance, paid vacation and holidays, retirement and deferred compensation plan. The city reserves the right to reject any/or all applications. EOE.

TDOT creates Office of Community Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is announcing the creation of the Office of Community Transportation (OCT). The mission of the OCT is to coordinate transportation planning and local land use decisions to guide the development of a safe and efficient statewide transportation system.

"We really want to increase the level of collaboration between TDOT and municipalities across the state," said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer. "The Office of Community Transportation will work with these local entities to make sure our transportation planning efforts and project development plans coincide with future growth and help us meet the needs of communities."

The OCT will collaborate with local partners to establish a regional presence that will aid communities when developing and implementing their future visions as they pertain to state routes. The Office of Community Transportation will provide resources dedicated to ensuring the successful preparation and execution of community growth as it relates with state transportation.

The OCT is a statewide initiative led by the newly appointed Assistant Director of Long Range Planning, Brenda Bernards. Once fully



implemented, the OCT will have regional staff in Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga and Memphis who will be committed to working specifically with the communities within their region. They will also work closely with Tennessee's Metropolitan Planning Organizations to coordinate regional transportation priorities.

By working directly with community partners, the OCT will be capable of eliminating potential transportation difficulties with future local projects such as new schools, subdivisions, and major activity centers like shopping centers and industrial parks. The OCT can have a positive impact on economic development efforts by working with local partners to identify necessary improvements to the State Route system.

For more information on the Office of Community Transportation, please visit <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/longrange/oct.htm>.

TDOT announces Aeronautics grants for 15 local airports

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announced today that state aeronautics grants totaling \$4,413,873 have been approved for fifteen Tennessee airports.

Airports receiving grants include:

Athens—McMinn County Airport—Exhibit "A" Property Map—state: \$14,013/local match: \$737 total: \$14,750
Bolivar—William L. Whitehurst Field— Video Security System—state: \$47,500/local match: \$2,500 total: \$50,000
Clarksville—Outlaw Field—state: \$85,500/local match: \$4,500/total: \$90,000
Cleveland—Cleveland Regional Jetport—Grounds Maintenance Equipment—state: \$60,000/local match \$20,000/ total: \$80,000
Cleveland—South Side Corporate Area Development—state: \$712,500/ local match: \$37,500/ total: \$750,000
Cleveland—Approach Clearing—state: \$33,250/ local match: \$1,750 total: \$35,000
Greeneville—Greeneville/Greene County Municipal Airport—Relocating Airport Access Road Including Utilities—state: \$1,019,052/ local match \$53,634/total: \$1,072,686
Jacksboro—Campbell County Airport—Obstruction Clearing in Object Free Area (OFA) North of R/W—state: \$19,000/ local match \$1,000/total: \$20,000
Knoxville—McGhee Tyson Airport—Terminal Building External Envelope Study state: \$65,075/ local match \$3,425/total: \$68,500
Knoxville—Terminal Lighting Upgrades-Phase 3 state: \$226,083/ local match 11,899/total: \$237,982
Knoxville—Passenger Boarding Bridge Interiors Rehabilitation

state: \$213,750/ local match \$11,250/total: \$225,000
Lafayette—Lafayette Municipal Airport—Emergency Building and Sinkhole Repairs state: \$9,500/ local match \$500/total: \$10,000
Lebanon—Lebanon Municipal Airport— East Apron Drainage Improvements state: \$114,000/ local match \$6,000/total: \$120,000
Morristown—Moore-Murrell Field—ALP Update/Exhibit A Property Map state: \$90,250/ local match \$4,750/total: \$95,000
Murfreesboro—Murfreesboro Municipal Airport—Tree Trimming Under Approach to R/W 36 state: \$19,000/ local match \$1,000/ total: \$20,000
Murfreesboro—Grounds Maintenance Equipment state: \$12,750/ local match \$4,250/total: \$17,000
Nashville—Nashville International Airport—Reconstruction of Taxi Ways Bravo & T-3 Federal: \$6,199,166/ state: \$575,000/ local match \$1,491,388/ Total: \$575,000
Rockwood—Rockwood Municipal Airport Community Hangar Upgrades—Federal: \$54,900/ state: \$3,050/ local match: \$3,050/ total: \$61,000
Rockwood—Exhibit A Property Map—state: \$14,250/ local match: \$750/total: \$15,000
Sparta—Upper Cumberland Regional Airport— Airside Payment Rehabilitation—state: \$69,825/ local match: \$3,675/total: \$73,500
Sparta—Design Construction for T-Hangar—Federal: \$568,800/ state: \$31,600/ local match: \$31,600/ total: \$632,000
Sparta—Apron for New Hangar—state: \$150,100/ local match: \$7,900/ total: \$158,000
Union City—Everett-Stewart Regional Airport—Exit A Property Map—state \$11,875/ local match \$625/total: \$12,500




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Alternative fuels, sustainable communities, community gardens, energy independence, among topics discussed at TN Environmental Conference

BY JAN COMPTON
TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

In conjunction with the 12th annual Tennessee Environmental Conference, recently held at Meadowview Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, the Alternative Fueled Vehicle Road Show, presented the first of five Tennessee events.

The Road Show, in partnership with the Clean Cities Coalitions in the Southeast, featured an array of vehicles on display and included a series of educational workshops with experts on the topics of electric vehicles, propane, natural gas, and biofuels.

The Alternative Fueled Vehicle Roadshow, is a nationwide series of educational events designed to equip fleet managers, city leaders and state legislators with the information they need to make informed decisions about transitioning to domestic, clean fuels.

Nissan also participated in the Kingsport event offering a "ride and drive" experience with the fully electric Nissan Leaf.

The Environmental Conference, hosted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), also included a wide range of topics in the areas of health, environment, economic development and energy efficiency.

"Sustaining a strong community, state and nation requires smart choices and teamwork, along with a multi-faceted approach to strategic planning and design," said Mark Braswell, regional director for TDEC's Office of External Affairs.

The conference began with a plenary presentation by Ted Wampler Jr., president and chief operating officer of Wampler's Farm Sausage Company. He presented information on the sustainability initiatives of his family-owned business and their lofty goal to not only become carbon neutral but carbon negative.

Guests were also treated to a session by

David Haggard, TDEC interpretive specialist at Reelfoot Lake State Park. Haggard offered an exceptional learning experience about birds of prey featuring our national bird the Bald Eagle.

Other presentations included the latest air, solid waste and water regulatory updates; industrial environmental choices; viable and sustainable communities; energy independence; community gardens; public health response to flooding; TDEC's lean program implementation; community assessment for public health emergency response; ozone trends in Tennessee; and many others that were presented in concurrent sessions throughout the two-day conference.

In addition to the concurrent sessions, an energy workshop was also held that included a case study with Eastman Chemical Company, making a business case for energy related investments, identifying opportunities for energy efficiency, and the challenges and opportunities associated with electrification.

This event was organized and planned by various state departments working together. Among those departments participating included Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Health, who joined the Department of Environment and Conservation on this project.

Next year's event is scheduled for March 18-19, 2014. For more information about the conference and to see past presentations, please visit www.TNenvironment.com.



Efacec Electric Vehicle DC Quick Charger on display as part of the Alternative Fueled Vehicle Road Show. The Road Show, in partnership with the East, Middle and West TN Clean Cities Coalitions, was also held in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis.



David Haggard, TDEC interpretive specialist from Reelfoot Lake State Park, presented the Birds of Prey.



NASCAR legend, Jack Roush, founded Roush Clean Tech to promote use of propane as a choice for alternative fuel technology in fleets

EcoCar2 Team Tennessee builds hybrid electric vehicle

The University of Tennessee's EcoCAR 2 team has been working to build a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle which reduces greenhouse gas and tailpipe emissions and also petroleum usage through the implementation of cleaner energy and renewable resources.

While building the vehicle, Team Tennessee also participates in community outreach events, forums and discussions on sustainable energy. By attending a TREEDC forum at Hiwassee College, Team Tennessee has ensured connections with members of TREEDC to exemplify research in sustainable transportation, while also learning alternative ways to benefit the environment.

TREEDC consists of 92 city and county mayors throughout Tennessee along with several businesses who promote renewable energy to enhance the economy for all Tennessee communities. Warren Nevad, Director of TREEDC states, "We have a very diverse group of memberships. Our foundations are 92 local governments, and then we have state agencies and a host of small businesses and about 23 colleges and universities." This diversity makes TREEDC a prime partner for the EcoCAR 2 team, and the benefits of this partnership are mutual.

TREEDC utilizes the numerous memberships and influencers to expand clean energy throughout the state with various projects which include Statewide Renewable Energy Forums, Biofuels, Legislative Outreach as well as financing for these. Although alternative fuels and transportation is only part of TREEDC's clean energy initiative, many Tennessee communities have benefited from these efforts. Nevad states, "We have these forums all over the state to let people know the developments in alternative fuels and the success stories. Then we help cities to look at alternative fuels as saving money for the community." The biofuels project encompasses Team

Tennessee's mission, and through these efforts, more Tennessee communities will become acquainted with biofuels and have direct access to refueling vehicles.

TREEDC has been successful because of the members who have taken the necessary strides towards cleaner energy and more economic efficiency. Mayor James Talley of Ducktown and President of TREEDC states, "I got involved in 2008 when we started TREEDC probably because of the passion we have for our community. We try to go all the way from Memphis to Mountain city and provide educational forums to the communities, local governments, colleges and the residents on what is available."

TREEDC's desire and motivation has led many Tennessee communities and businesses to implement clean energy projects.

Former Congressman Zach Wamp also discussed the importance of STEM education with Communications Manager, Katelynn Routh at the forum. He states, "I am an owner in a STEM curriculum company for STEM education nationwide, and it's really amazing in middle school classrooms how our technology and curriculum can encourage mostly women, minorities



The University of Tennessee's EcoCAR 2 team has been working to build a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle which reduces greenhouse gas and tailpipe emissions.

and under privileged children." This STEM curriculum builds enthusiasm for STEM education at the middle school level through hands-

on activities.

Team Tennessee has a similar goal to create events for middle school students which are both en-

gaging and exciting because these students can potentially have future careers in promoting or developing clean energy.

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First Lady Crissy Haslam welcomes HGTV; promotes landscape renovation project at Governor's residence

Cutting garden will promote local agriculture and farm-to-table sustainability



First Lady Crissy Haslam hosted HGTV at the Tennessee Residence to film the building of the kitchen and cutting garden, Phase II of the landscape renovation project.

Earlier this month, First Lady Crissy Haslam hosted HGTV at the Tennessee Residence to film the building of the kitchen and cutting garden, kicking off Phase II of the Tennessee Residence Foundation's project to help renovate and restore the Tennessee Residence grounds.

The kitchen and cutting garden will promote local agriculture and farm-to-table sustainability at the state's executive residence. HGTV filmed the groundbreaking of the garden, as well as interviews with Governor and First Lady Haslam, the Tennessee Residence chef, the project's landscape architect, and other special guests. The garden will be featured on HGTVgardens.com and in a special, "HGTV Yard Takeover," to air in May 2013.

"Tennessee has unique traditions in agriculture and home gardening," Mrs. Haslam said. "Phase II of the landscape renovation project, which includes the addition of a kitchen and cutting garden, will provide an exciting opportunity to highlight these special traditions with visitors from across the state and country."

As chair of the Tennessee Executive Residence and Preservation Foundation, Mrs. Haslam has been helping to generate private funds for the landscape renovation project. Phase I of the project was completed in fall of 2012, which included the restoration of the historic lily pond garden, the entrance to Conservation Hall, and the Great Lawn.

Tennessee companies Nissan North America and Scripps Networks Interactive, HGTV's parent company, will partner to assist with Phase II of the project, donating funds towards the building of the kitchen and cutting garden.

"We are very grateful for Nissan and Scripps' help in building a kitchen and cutting garden at the Tennessee Residence," Mrs. Haslam said. "I have been so proud of the support generously given by a host of Tennessee businesses, organizations, family foundations and individuals who have contributed toward this next phase of the project to restore the grounds of an important landmark for our state."

Headquartered in Knoxville, Scripps Networks Interactive's me-



Phase I of the project was completed in fall of 2012, which included the restoration of the historic lily pond garden, the entrance to Conservation Hall, and the Great Lawn.

dia portfolio includes popular lifestyle brands HGTV, DIY Network, Food Network, Cooking Channel, Travel Channel and coun-

try music network Great American Country (GAC).

Scripps' financial contribution to the landscape project will be

supplemented with social media and on-air TV promotion, including the special ground-breaking feature filmed at the Tennessee Residence.

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Mar. 28-30: Sewanee, Monteagle, Tracy City

Taste of the Mountain...on the Move
A food festival showcasing restaurants across the Cumberland Plateau. Visit area restaurants and try their signature foods from 4-7 CST. Tickets \$25 for five. One ticket required at each restaurant. Tickets \$5 each, available at each participating restaurant. For more information, call 931-924-5353 or visit www.monteaglechamber.com.

Mar. 30: Monterey

2nd Annual Easter Celebration
Join the Easter EGGstravaganza. Kicks off at 10 am with a children's Easter egg hunt at Whittaker Park for toddlers and kids up to 12 years. Food, fun and live music, Easter Bonnet Parade at noon at the Standing Stone, next to the Monterey Branch Library. Hunt for adults includes a \$500 grand prize. Enjoy music and food at the farmers market from Noon until 3 pm. Egg treasure hunt for all ages across the city. Kid's Play Zone at the Monterey United Methodist Church on the corner of North Chestnut Street and East Crawford Avenue. Inflatables, kids games and free mule wagon rides.

Apr. 5-7: Knoxville

Rhythm N' Blooms Music Festival
Downtown. The Dogwood Arts Festival celebrates east Tennessee's musical heritage. Musical performances by locally-revered and nationally-renowned artists in country, blues, jazz, rock, bluegrass, and folk. For more information, visit <http://rhythmbloomsfest.com>.

Apr. 12-14: Chattanooga

4 Bridges Arts Festival
Supports the advancement of original visual art and artists. Art booths, music, food, children's art tent, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.4bridgesartsfestival.org/>

Apr. 20: Nashville

Earth Day Festival
A free, family friendly event with live entertainment throughout the day celebrated each year in April. This year's festival will help the community take another step toward Mayor Karl Dean's goal of making Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast. The event will feature exhibits and activities aimed at educating Nashvillians about protecting the environment. With nearly a hundred family-friendly booths, hosted by community groups, environmental organizations and government agencies, will offer fun and exciting hands-on activities for all ages.

Apr. 27-28: South Pittsburg

National Cornbread Festival
Cornbread cook-offs, arts & crafts, 5-K Road Race, Children's Corner, Classic Car Show, beauty contest, Corn Bread Alley, concessions, exhibits, cornbread eating contests, Jam tent, bring your own fiddles, guitars, banjos, mandolins and harmonicas, and much more. For a complete schedule and information, visit the festival website <http://www.nationalcornbread.com/>.

Apr. 27: Lynchburg

Annual Spring Day in the Hollow
Juried craft, plant and art fair held at Lynchburg Town Square and Wiseman Park, rain or shine, from 8 am-5 pm. Plant and garden auction, food, music, clogging, Parasol Contest and parade, Quilt Show and more.

Apr. 27-28: Franklin

29th Main Street Festival
More than 200 artisans and crafters, three stages, two carnivals and an international food court. Free street festival hours are 10 am to 7 pm Sat. with the Fourth Avenue Street Dance continuing until 10 pm, and noon to 6 pm Sun. Original oil and watercolor paintings, pottery, jewelry, furniture, woodworking, ornamental iron, stained glass, photography, home and garden accents, birdhouses, leatherwork, etc. Juried arts and crafts show with more than 200 entries, children's area on Third Avenue South, three stages. For more information, visit <http://www.historicfranklin.com/events/main-street-festival>.

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TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
(ISSN.No. 0040-3415) Publication No. 539420
— Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to *TT&C*: Attention Mona Lawrence at 615-255-4752, or e-mail mlawrence@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML. *Tennessee Town & City* is published, semi-monthly, 20 times per year at 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. **Postmaster:** Send changes of address to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219-1894.

Consensus builder Dean takes on transportation committee role

BY LINDA BRYANT

State Rep. Vince Dean (R-East Ridge) prides himself on bringing people together. He's a self-described "consensus builder" who's committed to including all voices in a debate.

Dean has a reputation for being fair and inclusive, but he's also known for being tough. It's an attribute he likely developed in spades during his 25 years as a policeman with the Chattanooga Police Department. He wore many hats during his long tenure—midnight beat cop, mounted patrol, robbery and burglary patrol, administrative aide, internal affairs specialist and dispatcher.

In 1996, Dean won his first election when he ran for a city council seat in East Ridge, a city of about 21,000 just south of Chattanooga. He won reelection for that seat in 2000 as the top vote-getter. In 2004, he ran for the council seat again and won by a 74 percent landslide. He was appointed mayor of East Ridge in 2005 after Mayor Fred Pruett passed away. Not long afterward, in 2006 he was appointed to the Tennessee State House of Representatives when Rep. Jack Sharpe died after a long illness.

To describe Dean as a family man is a bit of an understatement. He loves bragging about his wife, Debbie, 30-year-old son Justin, and two teenaged daughters Olivia, 17, and Sallie Kate, 14. Debbie, a registered nurse, has been the main force behind homeschooling the girls. Olivia is a high achiever and dual-enrolled in homeschool and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Sallie recently published a book, "Bleeding Blue," and Justin is an investment banker with Edward Jones in Washington, D.C.

Dean and his family have had some tough issues to face. For example, Dean's biological parents were unable to take care of him when he was young. He was separated from his siblings and adopted by Billy and Jo Whitmire Dean. "I was three years old before I ever even had a haircut," Dean said. Luckily, Billy and Jo provided him with the nurturing and support a growing boy needs to thrive. Even on their modest salaries, they made sure their son attended top-notch private schools that included Senter Grade School and Baylor High School.

Another tough thing to face was when Olivia was treated for large-cell lymphoma when she was three. Olivia became a patient at St. Jude. "We went through the whole ball of wax, including chemotherapy," Dean said. "I can tell you to this day I love St. Jude."

Dean has a long history of being active in the Baptist church and has served in a variety of roles, including associate pastor, deacon and choir member. Many friends know him for his beautiful singing voice. In fact, in 2012, he was named Alumnus of the Year by the Chattanooga Boys Choir.

In the Tennessee Legislature, he serves on several committees that affect local governments. He is a member of the House Local Government Committee and this session, he was appointed for the first time chair of the House Transportation Committee. He also serves as member of the House Calendar and Rules, a member of the Transportation Subcommittee, and serves on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR).

During his tenure on the East Ridge City Council as a council member, vice mayor, and mayor of the city, he also served two terms on the Tennessee Municipal League Board. As a member of the TML board, he was actively involved in the legislative policy process and served as a member of the TML Public Safety Policy Committee. He is also a former member of National League of Cities Public Safety Advisory Committee.

TT&C: How does your history in law enforcement as a policeman impact your life as a legislator?

Dean: For years, as a police officer, I'd be frustrated when laws were passed with no forethought about how they were going to be enforced. Now I have a voice. Sometimes, but not all times, I'm able to use my voice effectively when legislation regarding law enforcement comes forward. There are those up here who feel like police officers shouldn't be given any tools for their tool box because they feel like they sometimes misuse those tools.



"I drive the bus. The committee members tell me where they want that bus to go. I work hard not to use my position to influence the outcome of any legislation. I don't think it's proper to do that." - Rep. Vince Dean, chairman, House Transportation Committee

It can be a frustration when people think like that, but at least I have a voice up here now.

TT&C: You are currently in your ninth year in the Tennessee General Assembly. When you first ran to represent District 30, why were you interested in serving in the Tennessee House?

Dean: I had been interested in the seat for some time, but I always felt that Rep. Jack Sharp was doing an excellent job representing us. I would have never run against him. I knew he was not in the best of health, so I talked to him about his intentions about running. He told me he was feeling good and was planning to run again. I gave him my 100 percent support. Then, his health started to go downhill, and little to my knowledge, he'd gone to the chairman of the Republican Party and the commissioner over that district, to talk about me. He told them that if something happened, he'd like for them to support me for the seat. I didn't realize it at the time, but my candidacy was already in the works.

TT&C: Were there particular issues that sparked your interest?

Dean: I was the former mayor of East Ridge, and also was in law enforcement for years. I saw how many bills were passed without any thought process whatsoever about how they were going to affect law enforcement. For example, when the texting while driving bill was presented, I actually opposed it in committee. The reason was twofold. First, I knew as a police officer it would be very difficult to enforce. The other reason is that we already had a law on the books that would cover texting while driving and that law wasn't being enforced.

Of course, I'm not in favor of texting while driving; only pointing out that it's hard to enforce the texting law. The distracted driving law says anything you do while driving that distracts you from driving is reason enough for a violation. It doesn't spell out texting, applying makeup, or adjusting cargo, but just says that whatever you do that distracts your driving is illegal.

TT&C: How are you approaching your role as chairman of the Transportation Committee, your first chairmanship of a full committee?

Dean: I drive the bus. The committee members tell me where they want that bus to go. I strive very hard to be fair whether I personally like or dislike a bill. I work hard not to use my position to influence the outcome of any legislation. I don't think it's proper to do that. I have seen some chairmen behave in this manner, and I don't think it's right.

I was influenced by our previous chairman Rep. Phillip Johnson, who worked to find common ground. I see my role as a consensus builder, someone who can use the art of compromise. Bills aren't always black and white; there's room for improvement. I like to say, "This bill may make everybody a little bit angry and a little bit happy at the same time." If we do that, we've done our job.

TT&C: What are some of the key bills being heard before the committee this year?

Dean: I don't see any landmark legislation this year like we've had in the past. Three years ago, I sponsored the traffic camera bill. This was during a time when if you said

the words "traffic cameras" in the legislature, somebody would jump up and say we should outlaw them. And it's not that I'm a big proponent of traffic cameras, but my goal was to standardize the camera system, keep the integrity of the good ones and weed out some of the components of the bad ones.

I based a lot of that bill on what I learned from the city of Chattanooga. The city runs a very effective traffic camera system. We have a section of road in Chattanooga on Hixson Pike called the S-Curves. I literally wrote 2,000 tickets the month prior to four teenagers being killed on the S-Curves because of speeding. Since the cameras were installed, there have been no traffic fatalities and very few crashes.

TT&C: What other interesting bills have been heard in the transportation committee?

Dean: Last year we had a scrap metal bill. We were having issues with wreckers snatching cars off the side of the Interstate and having them crushed before the owners even knew they were stolen. Two years ago, we passed a bill that said anytime a wrecker company picks up a vehicle without the owner present, they have to notify local law enforcement. That didn't quite get the job done so we upped it. At the time, the law said you had to have a title, if the car was 10 years old or newer. We increased the number to 12 years. Law enforcement wanted it to go to 25 years.

Here's a good example of where I play "in-between." You would think, since I come from a law enforcement background, I'd agree with the law enforcement side. However, I also included the scrap metal dealers in the conversation. They pointed out—and rightly so—that if we upped the number to 25 years, the thieves would just take them across the state line into Georgia, where the law for the titles is 10 years. I brought the people together. We sat down and had some heated arguments and some good conversation. I think we came out with a good bill.

TT&C: On the Federal level, Congress finally adopted a federal transportation reauthorization bill, providing funding through Sept. 2014 – however it still doesn't provide a comprehensive plan for long-term, sustainable, transportation funding. Most studies tell us that current revenue at all levels of government – federal, state, and local – devoted to transportation investments are not sufficient to maintain or improve the nation's highways and transit systems. What are your thoughts on some of the alternative funding ideas being discussed? What do you think needs to be done to better meet current and future needs?

Dean: I think that in this and many other instances, the federal government needs to start looking at alternative ways of funding. We have gone from a department of transportation to a department of maintenance. With funding not getting any better, we're soon going to be a department of emergency repairs. Here's part of the reason why: over the past 10-20 years we have been trying and trying to conserve fuel. They want to put caps on vehicles and say all vehicles must get a certain level of gas mileage. When we do that, we lose money in Tennessee because of the system we're on.

Back in the 1970s, when we had those big gas guzzlers, the state was doing pretty well with what we were sending to the federal government for the gas tax. Right now Tennessee has one of the lowest gas taxes.

We need to go to a mileage based system. Electric cars use the highways. They are putting the same amount of wear and tear on the highways as the gas cars, but they aren't paying one dime for it. That change needs to be made at the federal level. To do it at the state level wouldn't do a bit of good because we're bordered by eight states. If Tennessee were the only one, what good would it do?

Ten years ago, the Tennessee General Assembly should have looked at indexing the gas tax. If we had, we might not be in the shape we're in now. But now's not the time to change it. People are taxed enough.

TT&C: Do you think the best solution is the mileage based; the vehicle miles traveled fee or VMT?

Dean: I think that would help a lot, but it has to be done at the federal level.

TT&C: What about tolling?

Dean: We passed the Tennessee Tollway Act, which allows for two tolling bridges. It said we could have one toll bridge and one toll road in the state. Well, we weren't finding any road projects that met the criteria because one of the requirements is that a toll road cannot be the only route to a destination. You have to have a way for drivers to avoid a toll road if they need to. We changed the criteria to two bridges.

There's one possible toll bridge in the planning and evaluation process and one in Hamilton County north of Chickamauga Dam. So, that's one that is being considered; and I'm actually on the committee that's looking at it. I don't know if it will fly because it's got to be done by a private company, and they aren't going to do it unless they can make money. I just don't know if it's possible.

TT&C: You are sponsoring several pieces of legislation that TML has an interest in – most importantly HB1022 that pertains to unfunded mandates. Any legislation enacted that has an estimated cost to local government in excess of \$100,000 or that causes the combined estimated costs of the laws enacted affecting local government to exceed \$1 million shall not be mandatory, unless it is fully funded. Why is it important to you to sponsor this legislation?

Dean: States all over the United States are so fed up with the federal government saying, "You're going to do this. We're not going to give you the money to do it, but you're going to do it." Tennessee cities are tired of it also – when the State hands down this kind of unfunded mandate to them. Coming from local government, I have firsthand knowledge about the impact. I remember back in the late 1990s when they took away our state shared revenue and local governments were scrambling trying to make ends meet. It hit us hard. Local governments are struggling and up here at the State Capitol we're very eager to tell them how to do their business and to tell them how to spend their money.

TT&C: Other legislation that you are sponsoring that cities have an interest in pertains to gang-re-

lated crimes. Please explain HB 1025 and HB 1024. What do you hope to accomplish with both pieces of legislation.

Dean: Last year I passed the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) bill that puts gang activity into the RICO statute. It allows known and proven gang members to be charged with RICO, which is what brought the Mob down years ago. This year I'm going back and tweaking last year's RICO bill (HB 1025). There's a part of it that says that you can go back two years on a defendant's gang activity. I'm changing it to five years to allow them to go back even further.

I've also got the Gang Free School Zone Act (HB 1024) that makes it a class E felony for a person who participates in a criminal gang activity to knowingly promote, further or assist in any criminal conduct by members of that gang within 1,000 feet of a school. It's important to note that Chattanooga had a young man who was shot on school grounds just last week. The bill also makes it a Class D Felony for the possession of a firearm by a criminal gang member and specifies that the person commits such an offense when they knowingly carry the gun anywhere near a school. There's a provision to enhance sentencing, but I'm not sure how far it's going to go. It carries a \$2,294,400 fiscal note. The reason it's got such a high fiscal note is because there have been an average of 159 incidents per year on school grounds in Tennessee – that's according to the TBI. What does that tell me? It tells me we need it. The numbers related to gang activity are alarming.

TT&C: You are also sponsoring a bill for the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition that would require more coordination of information with the TBI from psychiatric hospitals or other facilities handling involuntary commitments, as well as information from court clerks about felony indictments and domestic abuse. Please tell us more about what this piece of legislation will accomplish and why it was important to you to sponsor.

Dean: It closes a loophole in the current law. This will help to prevent those who have shown a history of violence, while not necessarily being classified as criminal, or due to mental health issues, from getting a handgun carry permit from the state of Tennessee.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with the city officials in your district?

Dean: Very good. In fact, I'd say I have a pretty doggone good relationship with everyone. They all know how to get in touch with me and they do. I'm also chairman of the Hamilton County Republican Party delegation. In that role I have to facilitate meetings with local governments. I also carry a lot of legislation for the city of Chattanooga.

TT&C: Do you have any parting comments or concerns?

Dean: I was initially concerned about the 15 bill limit, but it's turned out to be a good thing. I'm sponsoring 13 bills filed, and I'm carrying one for the administration (HB 181). The bill allows local governments to enter into an interoperate agreement with the Tennessee Highway Patrol to access their radio frequencies in the event of an emergency.