



# TENNESSEE Town & City

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## Legislative policy process underway

The TML policy process is open and proposed legislative initiatives for the second session of the 108th General Assembly are being accepted through Sept. 30. All ideas are welcome and TML encourages member-municipalities to submit any initiative(s) of interest that benefits municipalities. Municipalities are reminded that only fully completed submissions will be considered.

A proposed initiative will be considered “fully completed” only when the following four requirements have been satisfied:

1. The proposed initiative must be submitted on a Proposed Legislative Initiative Form, provided by TML.
2. All sections of the Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be completed, including: summary of the problem, description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities. In addition, municipalities are encouraged to submit, either by reference or by separate copy, background or supplemental information in support of their submission. A member-municipality may submit more than one proposed initiative; however, a separate form must be completed for each submission.
3. The Proposed Legislative Initiative Form must be signed by at least three eligible local officials of the sponsoring municipality. However, if the municipality's governing body is comprised of four or fewer members, then only two signatures are required. An “eligible local official” means any member of the governing body of the sponsoring city and the city/town manager or administrator.
4. A completed and signed Proposed Legislative Initiative Form **must be received by TML no later than 6 p.m. CST on Sept. 30, 2013.**

Legislative Initiative Forms may be

submitted by the following methods: by email to [mlawrence@tml1.org](mailto:mlawrence@tml1.org); by fax to (615) 255-4752; or, mailed to 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 710, Nashville, TN 37219.

### TML Policy Committee

Any municipality submitting a proposed legislative initiative must attend the meeting and present its initiative to the TML Policy Committee.

The TML Policy Committee will meet Oct. 30, in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville.

The TML Policy Committee is comprised of nine members: the eight elected district directors and the current 2nd vice president of the TML Board of Directors. The 2nd vice president will chair the committee. All nine members of the committee have voting privileges.

The committee will meet to consider and rank only those legislative initiatives that have been fully completed and presented to the committee for consideration in addition to hold overs from the first session of the 108th General Assembly. Any initiative that lacks the required signatures or, otherwise, fails to meet the requirements will not be considered by the committee. If a municipality submits a fully completed proposed initiative but is unable to send a representative to present the submission to the committee, then the committee will send that municipality's proposal to the TML Legislative Committee without recommendation.

The committee will rank all of the qualifying proposed initiatives in order of preference, as determined by a vote of the committee. The committee's final ranking of proposed initiatives will be submitted to the TML Legislative Committee for consideration and eventually approved by the full TML Board of Directors.

Should you have questions about the Policy Process, contact a member of the TML lobby team at 615-255-6416.

## Corker unites foreign policy, fiscal responsibility at Nashville event

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

Steak salad with a side of power capped the menu at a Nashville luncheon August 22 at the Renaissance Hotel featuring U.S. Sen. Bob Corker and hosted by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC). Addressing more than 300 top leaders across state and local government, military, business, academic and faith-based communities, Corker, the former Chattanooga Mayor, credited a mission trip to Haiti at the age of 28 as the defining experience that led to his stellar career in public service.

Marrying U.S. foreign policy with America's fiscal issues, likewise, Corker emphasized the country's need to employ a combination of force and diplomacy in its global strategies in an initiative known as Smart Power.

“Our inability to have the discipline and courage to deal with the fiscal issues that our nation is dealing with right now is by far the greatest threat to our nation,” he stressed at the standing-room-only gathering. “Nothing compares—nothing.”

In the shadow of the burgeoning civil war crisis in Syria, Corker highlighted his recent trips to Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, the neighboring regions affected by the Syrian unrest, as well as his recent trips to South Korea and Japan, where he met with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

As the ranking Republican on the U.S. Foreign Relations Commit-



Photos by Victoria South

tee, Corker served as guest speaker at an August U.S. Global Leadership Coalition luncheon in Nashville to discuss America's global leadership impact on Tennessee.

tee, Corker said he is routinely questioned by world leaders as to whether the United States will be able to honor its foreign aid agreements. In that vein, Corker also described a demagogue-laden debate taking place across the nation today, spawned by the financial crises of 2008.

“A lot about the United States has been questioned by our citizenry—and in that type of atmosphere—a vacuum is created and

people begin to say things...” he ventured. “What's happened in our nation is we've become more nativist in our views and inward looking because we're concerned about how our economy is—as we should be.”

Prior to Corker's presentation, Liz Schrayner, USGLC executive director, emphasized that the nation only spends one percent of its budget on foreign aid, yet many Americans, according to polls, believe that figure. **See CORKER on Page 9**

## Columbia hits home run, will host MTSU/UT Softball Classic

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Widely known for its Mule Day activities, Columbia is also becoming a stubborn contender when it comes to attracting league and tournament games to the city. Now, the community is preparing to hit it big as host to the inaugural Mid-State College Softball Classic on March 18, where the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders will square off against the legendary University of Tennessee Lady Vols. The idea is the brainchild of Columbia City Manager Tony Massey.

“It was always in the back of my mind,” said Massey, who has experience coordinating similar ball games in Bristol, where he was city manager from 1996 to 2004. “We put together a game between UT and Virginia Tech, a girl's softball game, called the State-line Classics,” he said. “Before that, I put together a baseball game between UT and Virginia Tech in Kingsport.”

After a few calls between the city and the two coaches, MTSU's Jeff Breeden—and UT's co-head coach Ralph Weekly—the game was on.

At a recent press conference, Columbia's Mayor, Dean Dickey, tossed a coin at city hall to determine which school would be called the home team. Coach Weekly called “heads” via internet web conferencing. As the coin landed heads up, UT won the title outright.

The game will be played at the city's \$4.5 million, state-of-the-art facility Ridley Park. As one of the premier ballparks in the state, Ridley Park was built in a flood plain area of the city, opening in April 2011. Since then, the park has hosted more than 3,000 league and tournament guests. In October 2011, the park was named Project of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of American Public Works Association.

“This is going to take, not only Ridley Park, but our community to the next level as a destination for events and programs,” said Columbia Parks and Recreation Director Brian Borden. A friend of Breeden, who is in his second year as coach at MTSU, Borden notes how MTSU is



Photo/The Columbia Daily Herald

MTSU softball coach Jeff Breeden chats with Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey at the city's announcement of a softball classic between the Blue Raiders and the UT Lady Vols at Columbia's Ridley Park.

in the process of rebuilding its softball program toward national status.

“Anything Coach Breeden's been the head of, he's been a winner,” said Borden.

As for Coach Weekly, he looks forward to bringing the event to Southern Middle Tennessee, according to Massey. Weekly, whose **See SOFTBALL on Page 6**

## HUD proposes new rule, new resources for fair housing

BY MICHAEL WALLACE  
National League of Cities

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed a new rule to encourage greater compliance with the agency's goal of “affirmatively furthering fair housing” as required under the Fair Housing Act. Local governments and states receiving HUD grants would all be subject to the proposed rule, which is open for comments until Tuesday, September 17th, 2013.

Although local governments have always been subject to federal fair housing rules, they have been unevenly enforced by successive Administrations. Currently, local governments receiving HUD funds are responsible for collecting and analyzing their own housing assistance data, and identifying any impediments to fair housing. For many cities, the process of collecting and analyzing data is costly and staff-intensive, and as a result is often contracted out to third parties. In some cities, the data is a source of litigation when local officials and housing advocates disagree over the analysis and what qualifies as an “impediment” to fair housing.

Under the proposed rule, rather than require local governments to collect and analyze data, HUD

would perform the collection and analysis of local data, and then provide local governments an analysis of economic and racial disparities in neighborhoods through an assessment template. HUD would also be authorized to provide guidance on overcoming any impediments revealed in their assessment template. Local governments would be encouraged (but not required) to address any impediments to fair housing in their HUD planning documents including, Consolidated Plans, PHA Plans, and Capital Fund Plans.

HUD's analysis of fair housing data would be based on meeting four primary goals:

- Overcoming historic patterns of segregation;
- Reducing racial and ethnic concentrations of poverty;
- Reducing disparities by race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, or disability in access to community assets such as education, transit access, and employment, as well as exposure to environmental health hazards and other stressors that harm a person's quality of life; and
- Responding to disproportionate housing needs by protected class.

**See HUD on Page 4**

*It's not too late to sign your city up!*

## Official launch of Walk Tennessee set for Sept. 30

Walk Tennessee, is set to launch Sept. 30. It's not too late to sign your city up and be a part of this city-to-city initiative for better health.

The program is designed to be a fun, social challenge to determine the most active city in Tennessee while highlighting all the great events in various communities.

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

Launched by the Tennessee Municipal League, the six-month challenge is set to kick off Sept. 30 and continue through Feb. 28.



To get your city team set up and events loaded on the Walk Tennessee community page, email [info@cmecompete.com](mailto:info@cmecompete.com).

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





**ALCOA**  
Alcoa Tennessee operations broke ground on a \$275 million expansion that will enable the plant to produce aluminum for automobiles. Automakers plan to use more aluminum in order to improve safety, fuel efficiency and the overall performance of cars and light trucks. The addition to the plant is expected to be finished by the middle of 2015. Alcoa says the addition will generate more than 400 construction jobs. The company will also hire an additional 200 full-time employees to operate the expansion.

**BRENTWOOD**  
Residents can keep up with what's coming up in governmental meetings simply by checking their email inboxes. The city has set up a new notification system that lets residents know when an agenda for public meetings, such as the city and planning commission, are available online. Residents may sign up for the service at the city's website.

**CHATTANOOGA**  
Chattanooga has been chosen as the premier Southeast destination to host the eleventh full race in the IRONMAN® U.S. Series. Athletes will compete Sept. 28, 2014, and then annually through September 2018. One of more than 30 events in the global IRONMAN Series, IRONMAN Chattanooga, leads athletes through a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and 26.2-mile run on a course that utilizes a variety of scenic areas. The race will start with a single loop 2.4-mile swim through the Tennessee River with ample spectator vantage points alongside the Riverwalk. The bike will be a two-loop 56-mile course with scenic farmland and mountain views. The two and a half loop 26.2-mile run course will showcase downtown, the South Side, Riverview and the North Shore.

**DIYERSBURG**  
Dot Foods Inc. plans to build a \$24 million food distribution center that will employ about 157 people after it starts operations in September 2014. The new 166,500 square-foot facility in Northwest Tennessee will include frozen and refrigerated storage, a warehouse and a truck and tractor garage. It will serve Dot Foods distributor customers in West and Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. The company, based in Mt. Sterling, Ill., is the nation's largest food products distributor. Customers include Colgate Palmolive, Farmland Foods, General Mills and Tyson Foods. The new plant will be built in the Dyersburg Industrial Park on Tennessee 211. The new facility represents a boost for the area. About 2,500 industrial and warehouse jobs have disappeared in Dyer County over the last decade, bringing the number of factory and distribution workers employed to about 4,000.

**FAYETTEVILLE**  
Fayetteville Public Utilities has recently installed devices at seven locations to automatically flush local fire hydrants to assist with the utility's routine inspection for water quality. The flushing devices have been installed at dead-end lines. "The purpose of flushing the water lines is to maintain the quality of the water supply where stationary water has the potential to cause quality issues," said Fayetteville Public Utilities CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "Flushing the lines keeps the chlorine residual up to meet water quality standards." Until recently, FPU employees have manually flushed the lines to keep the water supply in check. The automatic flushing system will increase the frequency of when the lines are flushed. Previously, lines were flushed once or twice a month depending on the area. Now lines will be flushed on a weekly schedule. Each of the devices is programmed to operate at midnight on its scheduled night of the week. FPU says that the automatic flushing system should reduce labor costs associated with the process. Water lines and flushing devices will continue to be inspected by FPU employees monthly to guarantee proper operation of the devices and to test water quality.

**FRANKLIN**  
The Board of Mayor and Alderman voted to support an initiative by the Williamson County Trustee by approving an interlocal agreement for the Trustee to bill and collect the city's municipal property tax. In the past, property owners received bills from both the county and the city, often confusing citizens with multiple statements. The Williamson County Trustee will begin to issue bills starting Oct. 1, for 2013 taxes. Property owners can pay their bill by mail at the Williamson County Trustee's Office, and participating local banks, or on-line. To avoid penalty and interest, 2013 taxes must be paid by Feb. 28, 2014.

**FRANKLIN**  
Developers announced plans to build a \$700 million mixed-use office park and shopping center on 145 acres southeast of Nissan's headquarters. The partnership between SouthStar LLC and Highwoods Properties wants to build 1.4 million square feet of offices, 350,000 square feet of retail stores and restaurants, and a 300-room hotel at the intersection of Carothers Parkway and McEwen Drive. The project, which is being called Ovation, will also include a mix of apartments and other housing. Developers plan to begin initial site development by next summer with construction on the first office building to follow in the fall. That would put the firms on track to open the first offices by the middle of 2016.

**GALLATIN**  
Servpro Industries, a major provider of fire and water damage restoration services, recently completed construction on their Gallatin-based headquarters. The expansion represents a \$6.7 million investment by Servpro and will create 90 new, full-time jobs in Sumner County over the next three years. The almost 60,000 square foot expansion was completed over four years, and features a new entrance, cafeteria, conference space, a fitness center, training areas, and auditorium. According to the company, Servpro should exceed 400 employees by the end of the year. A Servpro museum celebrating the company's 40 year history is also coming to the new space. The Gallatin campus includes the corporate team, national call center, warehouse, manufacturing facility and franchisee training center. The company first moved to Gallatin in 1988, and moved to their current location in 2004.

**KNOXVILLE**  
The Henley Bridge in Knoxville will reopen to traffic before the Thanksgiving holiday this fall. Based on the added repairs, TDOT did not anticipate opening the bridge to traffic until late Feb. 2014. The major rehabilitation project began in January 2011 and was delayed upon the discovery of further deterioration within the bridge's concrete piers. The bridge will have a number of new features, including wider sidewalks for pedestrians and bike lanes in each direction. The entire project is expected to be complete by June 3, 2014.

**LEWISBURG/SHELBYVILLE/SMYRNA**  
Calsonic Kansei North America, Nissan's largest North American parts supplier, is rolling out a \$109 million expansion that will bring 1,200 new jobs to the region. The expansion will occur at the company's three Middle Tennessee locations in Lewisburg, Shelbyville and Smyrna. The company expects the expansion to be completed by the end of 2015. Calsonic's products include automotive climate control, electronics, cooling and exhaust systems. The company will invest an additional \$49.8 million in the Lewisburg location adding 526 new jobs. As part of the expansion, the company will be building a new 300,000-square-foot warehouse facility. The company will also invest \$57.6 million at its Shelbyville facility, which manufactures exhaust units, catalytic converters and manifolds. A total of 489 new jobs will be created at this site over the next three years. The firm will invest \$2.1 million at its Smyrna facility, which is located within the Nissan plant and places Calsonic products into the Nissan vehicles. A total of 183 new

jobs will be created there over the next three years.

**LYNCHBURG**  
One of the world's most famous whiskey-makers is getting a \$100 million shot in the arm. The parent company of Jack Daniel's announced a \$100 million-plus expansion of its Tennessee distillery, which is about 60 miles northwest of Chattanooga. The investment by Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp. is the largest single production expansion in the 147-year history of Jack Daniel's. It will add stills and barrel warehouses and about 90 jobs at the distillery in Lynchburg. Expansion work will begin this fall and is expected to wrap up within two years. Jack Daniel's sales have soared in the past decade as the venerable brand spreads to more countries.

**MARYVILLE**  
Surface Igniter LLC will move its headquarters and manufacturing operations to the city's Blount County Industrial Park bringing more than 100 new jobs. The company is a manufacturer of hot surface igniters for the heating, cooking, clothes dryer and barbecue grill industries. Surface Igniter will invest \$3.8 million, moving into a 55,000-square foot industrial building formerly known as the Klote International Facility.

**NASHVILLE**  
Financial services firm UBS AG announced it will consolidate office functions in Nashville, creating 1,000 jobs in the city over the next five years. A company spokesperson said the Swiss bank is investing more than \$36 million in the city, where it already employs more than 200 people. The center will include positions specializing in information technology, legal compliance and finance.

**NASHVILLE**  
The city announced a pair of major park projects that will transform Nashville's riverfront including a 2,500-seat "summer amphitheater" that will serve as an outdoor home for the Nashville Symphony and other events. On the Cumberland River's east bank, near the newly renovated bridge building, a boating dock will be developed and other amenities and about 10.5 acres of new park land. Meanwhile, on the west bank, the city will install a promenade/floodway to help mitigate future flooding concerns. The 12-acre site will feature trails, a dog park and other outdoor spaces.

**OAK RIDGE**  
City leaders and Kroger supporters pushed shovels in the ground for the "official" ground-breaking of the city's new \$30 million marketplace, Westcott Center. The 25-acre site will be located at the corner of one of Anderson County's busiest intersections. Outside, the Marketplace will feature a nine-dispenser Kroger Fuel Center and the center offers five one-acre outparcels for future retail development. The 123,000 square-foot Kroger store will provide 165 new jobs and will host specialty shops from Starbucks to a sushi bar. It also will be the first Kroger in Tennessee where high-end clothing and shoes will be sold.

**OAK RIDGE**  
The Oak Ridge Public Library is joining libraries across the country as the starting point for people who will be participating in the Affordable Care Act. The "Marketplace" opens Oct. 1, and can be accessed through www.healthcare.gov. Reference staff will be on hand to help the public get to the "Marketplace" using the library's public internet computers. Wireless access is also available for those who have laptops but do not have internet at home. Staff will be able to make referrals to people and resources. The library will also be offering two programs on the Affordable Care Act. Both programs are free to the public. For more information, visit www.oakridgetn.gov.

## Cookeville – Putnam County GIS Council receives Achievement Award



The Cookeville-Putnam County GIS Council received the Special Achievement in GIS Award at the ESRI International GIS User Conference in San Diego. City staff pictured front row left to right : Katherine Phipps, Planning Dept.; Steve Smith, Water Quality Control Dept.; Shelia Julian, Police Dept.; and Darlene League, Gas Dept. Back row left to right: Bruce Womack, Fire Dept.; Corey Albers, Electric Dept.; Steve Corder, Computer Operations; Randy Porter, Putnam County EMS director; Tom Romaine, Putnam County Assessor's Office; and Terry Clark, Planning Dept. Not pictured is Nick Glover, Electric Dept.

The Cookeville/Putnam County GIS Council, made up of the city of Cookeville E-911 team and Putnam County, received the Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award recently at the ESRI International GIS User Conference at the San Diego Convention Center. The award recognizes organizations that have created innovative uses of GIS mapping in their communities. The Cookeville-Putnam County council was chosen from more than 100,000 other applicants worldwide.

GIS, the Geographical Information System, is a technology used across the world to reveal relation-

ships, patterns, or trends and place them onto maps where they can be easily seen and understood by the user.

"We have been working on this project for the past several years. It involves all the agencies sharing data and creating backup servers at the city and the 911 Center to allow all the agencies and offices to access the data in real-time," said Randy Porter, Putnam County 911/EMS director.

"Many applications and web maps have also been created to allow the general public to access the work of the council."

## Jackson installs outdoor public fitness machines downtown

Oddly-shaped outdoor furniture has cropped up around parts of downtown Jackson, as city officials and people dedicated to improving the community's health and fitness, unveiled seven outdoor exercise machines dispersed along the mile-and-a-half Downtown Fitness Connection Trail. The trail was officially introduced to the community during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the plaza, which organizers said will mark the trail head.

That funny seat you climb into, near the LIFT Wellness Center, is a "self-weighted rower" which provides an upper-body workout, while the tall and short pedestals near the Jackson Farmers Market Plaza comprise the two-sided rotator machine for standing or sitting stretch exercises.

"The trail is just one result of the effort by many people to make downtown a destination and fitness a priority," said Mayor Jerry Gist.

A map of the trail can be found at <http://downtownfitnesstrail.net>. Walkers can check in with the



Photo: KENNETH CUMMINGS/The Jackson Sun

Citizens try out the elliptical machine at Jackson's new Downtown Fitness Connection Trail.

website and track their progress on their walks, which also allows the city to keep track of how much the trail is being used.

## Tennessee Municipalities receive funds for kids to walk, bike to school

Fifteen municipalities in Tennessee are receiving funds to encourage elementary and middle school students to walk and bike. TDOT announced the awarding of \$2.1 million in Safe Routes to School grants.

The Safe Routes to School program is a statewide initiative designed to make bicycling and walking to school a more appealing and healthier alternative for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

"The Safe Routes to School program integrates health, safety, traffic relief, and environmental awareness, all under one umbrella," said Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner John Schroer. "Funds may be used for infrastructure projects and non-infrastructure activities that directly support increased safety and conveniences for students to walk and bike to and from school."

The awarded funds will be used to make improvements to sidewalks,

crosswalks and signs, as well as safe walking and biking educational activities.

Made possible through a federally funded program administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, since 2005, the Safe Routes to School grants have funded improvement projects at 138 schools across Tennessee. The grants are

Safe Routes to School Grants were awarded to the following communities:

Alcoa—\$22,425  
Athens—\$170,446  
Bristol—109,813  
Brownsville—\$188,323  
Collingwood—\$223,344  
Hohenwald—\$249,158  
Medina—\$113,320  
Nolensville—\$120,250  
Pleasant View—\$23,623  
Portland—\$232,179  
Ridgetop—\$22,270  
Trimble—\$126,478  
Tullahoma—\$167,436  
Winchester—\$90,324



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



State Senator **Charlotte Burks** of Monterey has announced that she will retire at the end of her current term and will not seek re-election to serve the



Burks

15th District, which includes Cumberland, Jackson, Overton, Bledsoe, Putnam and White counties. Burks is a native of Jackson County and owns a farm in Monterey. She has served in the State Legislature since 1998. The people of the 15th District made her a part of Tennessee history by electing her as the first ever "write-in" candidate to the State Senate after the tragic death of her husband, State Sen. Tommy Burks. During her tenure, Burks has served on numerous committees, including ethics, commerce, labor, agriculture, education, and government operations.

State Rep. **Brenda Gilmore** was elected to serve as Vice President of the Women's Legislative Network at the National Conference of State Legislatures' annual Legislative Summit in Atlanta. The Women's Legislative Network focuses on issues unique to women, as well as trainings to help women legislators better communicate with their constituents. Rep. Gilmore will serve in this role until the next NCSL Legislative Summit in 2014.



Gilmore

**Libby Sykes**, the director of the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, is retiring by the end of the year. Sykes has held the court position for seven years, and spent 27 years in state government. Joining the AOC in 1995, Sykes was appointed deputy director in 1999. The Tennessee Supreme Court named her administrative director in 2006. The AOC provides administrative and technical support as well as training to judges throughout Tennessee.



Sykes

State Rep. **Kent Williams** says he won't seek a fifth term. Williams announced that he will instead run for Carter County mayor next year. He was first elected to the General Assembly in 2006 and served as Speaker of the House for one term.



Williams

**Charlie Morrow**, commander of the Goodlettsville Police Department, has been appointed as deputy chief of police. Moving through the ranks, Morrow has 34 years of experience, beginning his career in public safety working part-time for the city's fire and police departments and serving as dispatcher. He has also served previously in the positions of patrol officer, corporal and sergeant.



Morrow

Smyrna Mayor **Tony Dover** has stepped down from the position, citing a conflict with his full-time job. Vice Mayor **Mary Esther Reed** was sworn in as mayor. Dover had been mayor for four years and served on the council for 12 years overall, including four as vice mayor.



Dover



Reed

In light of **George Hayfield's** resignation as Dover city administrator, Police Chief **Kim Wallace** has been appointed to the position as interim.

**David Rutherford** is Crossville's new city manager. A Tennessee licensed attorney, he most recently served as city administrator of McMinnville and is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association.

**Dennis Dycus**, CPA, CFE, CGFM has joined Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs as a consultant with the firm's Governmental Audit Team. Dycus recently retired after 39 years as the director of the Division of Municipal Audit with the Tennessee Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury. As a governmental consultant with ATA, he will be using his experience to continue helping governmental organizations throughout the Southeast reduce fraud and eliminate waste. His experience includes the oversight of the financial audits of local governments and conducting investigations related to fraud, waste, and abuse in local governments.



Dycus

In the middle of his second term, Milan Mayor **Chris Crider** has decided it will be his last. Crider announced he will not seek re-election in 2015. Crider served six years — three terms — as state representative in the 79th District, which included Gibson and Carroll counties, before he became mayor in November 2007. He earned a second term in December 2011.



Crider

Erwin City Recorder **Randy Trivette** has decided to leave the post he has held for nearly a decade. Serving as town recorder since 2004, Trivette has accepted a position with Greeneville-based Free Will Baptist Family Ministries to serve as the nonprofit organization's facilities and construction manager. Trivette, who described the new position as his "dream job," will help with the organization's new construction projects.



Trivette

## Expansion plans in the works at Dollywood



Entertainment icon Dolly Parton is joined by TN Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Dollywood CEO Craig Ross, Gov. Bill Haslam and Pigeon Forge City Manager Earlene Teaster at the announcement of Dollywood's \$300 million expansion. Parton announced a commitment to fund the expansion, which should take place over the next 10 years. According to a TN Tourism spokesperson, the shovel Parton is holding was used at the Dollywood groundbreaking 30 years ago.

Country music legend and Sevier County native Dolly Parton announced a commitment to invest \$300 million over the next 10 years in her hometown, where she plans to expand her Dollywood properties.

The capital investments include a 300-room resort that will be located on 100 acres adjacent to her namesake parks and a dual-launch coaster currently under construction in Dollywood. The investment is projected to create 2,500 jobs and generate an additional \$150 million annually to the local economy.

The news comes nearly a year after Parton ended plans for a Nashville water and snow park at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention

Center.

The DreamMore Resort, slated to open in summer 2015, will have a variety of accommodations including a 2,200-square-foot Dolly's Suite Dreams celebrity suite. There will be an indoor and outdoor pool complex, a spa and a full-service farmhouse-style restaurant that features a wraparound veranda with views of the pool and surrounding mountains. An amphitheater is planned as well as outdoor areas complete with fire pits, swings and hammocks.

Parton also highlighted plans for the nation's first dual-launch family coaster, the FireChaser Express, set to open in March 2014

## Haslam announces Governor's Fellowship program for graduates

Gov. Haslam announced the Tennessee Governor's Management Fellowship program for exceptional applicants who wish to serve and learn under Tennessee state government's top leaders.

The nonpartisan program offers a competitive salary and is open to recent graduates demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, a passion for serving their communities and outstanding character and leadership abilities.

"This is a chance to identify and nurture some of our finest recent graduates and team them with executive leadership in state government," Haslam said. "We have many talented potential leaders, and this will help them gain valuable experience that will create many long-term benefits."

Five fellows will be chosen by an executive committee of some of the state's foremost leaders. Fellows will be given the opportunity to spend two years working full-time for senior and top-ranking govern-

ment officials beginning Aug. 11, 2014.

After spending six months on statewide projects, fellows will be assigned to one of state government's 22 departments. They will then serve directly under the commissioner of that department.

Fellows will participate in an 18-month leadership development program, attend events with the state's top public and private sector leaders and assume responsibility on important statewide and departmental initiatives.

Applicants must have graduated from an undergraduate institution or graduate program between Dec. 2011 and Aug. 2014. They must prove excellence in academics, exhibit leadership ability and show involvement in extracurricular, community and/or civic activities.

The fellowship application can be completed through the website [www.tn.gov/governor/fellowship](http://www.tn.gov/governor/fellowship). Applications will be open until Oct. 30.

## TDEC hosts Brownfields grant-writing workshops

Hosted by The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this series of statewide workshops are designed to assist local governments and communities in understanding the grant application process for a variety of Brownfields funding opportunities offered by EPA. Free and open to the public, the secondary goal is to encourage community stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to assess, safely clean up and reuse Brownfields sites in a sustainable manner.

Brownfields sites are real property and can include the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of areas where a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant may be present due to previous industry or commercial use. EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund program provides the financial and technical assistance for Brownfields revitalization, including grants for environmental assessments, cleanups and job train-

ing. Ranging from \$200,000 to \$1 million, these re-development grants will help assess and cleanup properties throughout the country.

TDEC's Division of Remediation will host four free application workshops (local times apply). Workshop locations are:

**Jackson:** Sept. 24 – 1 to 4 pm  
Southwest Tennessee Development District Office, 102 East College St.  
**Memphis:** Sept. 25 – 1 to 4:30 pm  
Memphis BioWorks Foundation, 20 North Dudley St.

**Knoxville:** Oct. 1 – 2 to 5 pm  
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, Markethouse Room, 17 Market Square

**Nashville:** Oct. 2 - 1:30 to 4:30 pm  
Nashville Public Main Library, Conference Room 2, 615 Church St.

Registration recommended by Sept. 20. For more information about the upcoming workshops, or to register, contact Paula Larson at [Paula.Larson@tn.gov](mailto:Paula.Larson@tn.gov) or call 615-532-0926. Please provide your name, contact information and the workshop location you'd like to attend.

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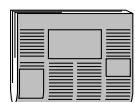
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WATER/WASTEWATER

**JOHNSON CITY.** The city is looking for an innovative and committed professional with proven technical and leadership skills to serve as the Assistant Director of Water/Wastewater. The position is under administrative direction and performs professional and administrative work with responsibility for coordinating the activities of the Water/Wastewater Department. Involves complex planning and supervision of subordinate supervisory personnel in coordinating various projects and functions of facilities. Work is performed according to directives from the Water/Wastewater director, but with considerable latitude for independent initiative and judgment. Position acts for Director of Water/Wastewater, when necessary. Requirements include: Graduation from a college or university of recognized standing with a degree in Engineering or closely related field and considerable experience of a progressively responsible nature in administering large scale, diverse water/wastewater projects or like programs; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. Possession of Professional Engineering licensure in the State of Tennessee or the ability to procure within 90 days required. Salary \$60,503.33 annually. Deadline for applying: Open until filled. Apply online at [www.johnsoncitytn.org](http://www.johnsoncitytn.org). EEO/AA

### DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

**GOODLETTSVILLE** The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced fire protection professional to serve as Deputy Fire Chief for the city's full-service fire department. The deputy fire chief reports directly to the fire chief and assists in the planning, organizing, and administering a comprehensive program to provide leadership and direction to the fire department's operations and departmental staff. Qualifications include: A minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major in Fire Science, Public Administration, or a related field, certified as a Fire Fighter II, eight years of progressively responsible leadership experience in the field of fire prevention preferably in a command level 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; valid Tennessee driver's license, pass a medical examination by licensed physician; pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Salary and benefits include: group medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and voluntary deferred compensation plan. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. Job open until filled. 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. Email: [dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org](mailto:dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org) Information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The City of Goodlettsville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. [www.cityofgoodlettsville.org](http://www.cityofgoodlettsville.org).

### DIRECTOR PARKS & RECREATION

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

TN 37072. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Millersville is EOE.

### DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/CITY CLERK

**CLEVELAND.** The city is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Finance/City Clerk. Qualified applicants will possess a BS Degree in Accounting, and will be a Certified Public Accountant with more than ten years related experience preferably in the field of governmental accounting. Major duties of the position include: assist the city manager and other department heads with the development and implementation of financial policies, procedures and controls; supervise the preparation of financial statements and related reports; supervise disbursement of city funds; coordinate development of the annual budget with the city manager, assistant city manager, department heads, city council and outside agencies; update statistical tables and schedules and complete an application and grading sheet for a government sponsored budget recognition program; manage preparation of city council agendas and review minutes of council meetings; coordinate city code updates; maintain official city files, records, minutes, leases, deeds, contracts and other financial records; assist the public with requests for information and attest official records; supervise staff and participate in various personnel functions including hiring, training employees, planning, assigning and directing work, appraising performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, addressing complaints and resolving problems; other duties as assigned by the city manager. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest and resume by mail to the city of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department, or by email to [jdavis@clevelandtn.gov](mailto:jdavis@clevelandtn.gov). Salary range entry level is \$76,664. EOE.

### ENGINEER

**GOODLETTSVILLE.** The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced Engineering Professional to serve as engineer for the city's Public Services Department. The engineer reports directly to the Public Services director and assists with development, review, and oversight of plans, specifications, construction and cost estimates for projects occurring within the city. Qualifications include: a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college or university and two (2) years post-degree full-time engineering experience, preferably within a municipal or government setting. Must hold active engineering license and possess a valid "Class D" driver's license. Obtain TDEC Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications; pass a medical examination by licensed physician; and pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Salary and benefits include: Group medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave; Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and voluntary deferred compensation plan. The starting salary will be market competitive in a range of \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. Job open until filled. 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. Email: [dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org](mailto:dfreeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org) Information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The City of Goodlettsville does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities, nor does it discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. [www.cityofgoodlettsville.org](http://www.cityofgoodlettsville.org).

### UTILITIES MANAGER

**LA VERGNE.** The city of La Vergne is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Utilities Operations Manager. The position reports to the City Administrator and will plan, organize, direct and review the activities of the water and sewer operations for the Public Works Department. This individual will manage, supervise and participate in a wide range of maintenance and repair related projects involving public infrastructure for water and sewer public utility operations in compliance with all

applicable regulatory operational, procedural and budget guidelines. The Utilities Operations Manager is an advanced level supervisory management position with significant field and administrative responsibilities for planning and delivering program services, responding to emergency situations, and supervising personnel. Requirements include evening and weekend hours and response to emergency situations. This position is classified as an exempt position under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at the city website [www.lavergnetn.gov](http://www.lavergnetn.gov).

### UTILITY/GAS MANAGER

**RIDGETOP.** The city will be accepting applications for a full time Utility Manager/Gas Manager position. Salary based on experience starting rate \$50,000. Must be self-motivated and possess gas line operator's certification. Job description may be picked up at city hall. Applications will be available at Ridgetop City Hall, 1730 Hwy 41, Ridgetop and will be due by Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. EOE/Drug-free Workplace

### UTILITY SYSTEMS

#### SUPERVISOR

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

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR III

**KINGSTON.** The Kingston Water Department will be accepting applications for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator class III. Excellent benefits package and salary ranges offered. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications are available at Kingston City Hall, 900 Waterford Place, Kingston, TN 37763. A resume does not substitute for an application. Passing a physical, drug/alcohol test and background check are conditions of employment. This position is primarily day shift, but may require rotating shifts, including weekends and weekdays. Only applicants with a Water Treatment Plant Operator Class III License or above should apply. Send applications to: Mike Jolly, Water Superintendent, City of Kingston, 900 Waterford Place, Kingston, TN 37763.

## TAMCAR caps off fall conference with 25th anniversary celebration



TAMCAR members enjoy an educational session at an International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference.

Twenty five years ago, the Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders (TAMCAR) conducted its first Annual Conference, September 1988, at Nashville's Historic Hermitage Hotel. Today, at TAMCAR's 25th anniversary, the organization is still going strong and gearing up for its 2013 Annual Fall Conference set for September 25-27 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Murfreesboro.

"I hope everyone can attend the fall conference to celebrate this milestone," said TAMCAR President Lynn Carmack. "April's spring conference attendance was record-setting from years past. More classes were offered with financial backgrounds to help those delegates who were working on their Certified Municipal Officers certification or earning their continuing education hours for CMFO."

In addition to quality keynote speakers and educational break-out sessions, a 25th anniversary celebration dinner will be held Wednesday

evening hosted at Murfreesboro's quaint Carriage Lane Inn.

This light-hearted, fun evening holds cherished memories of TAMCAR's first 25 years, a murder mystery play where you can help solve the crime, door prizes and a silent auction. And there's sure to be a few surprises for everyone.

Transportation to the Carriage Lane Inn, dinner and entertainment are all included in the conference registration. Seating in the main dining room area is limited to the first 100 people who sign up. View the Carriage Lane Inn on the web at: [carriagelaneinn.com](http://carriagelaneinn.com).

Conference registration, sign up sheet for the anniversary dinner and complete conference information is available online at [http://tamcar.org/upcoming\\_events/index.htm](http://tamcar.org/upcoming_events/index.htm).

For more information regarding the TAMCAR program, please contact Dana Deem, TAMCAR Institute director and MTAS Management consultant, at 731-425-4782 or email [dana.deem@tennessee.edu](mailto:dana.deem@tennessee.edu).

## HUD proposes new rule, new resources for fair housing

### HUD from Page 1

The cost of complying with the new rule is unlikely to be uniform across local governments. According to HUD, the transfer of responsibility for data collection and analysis from local government grantees to HUD will result in a cost savings for local governments. Moreover, the standardization of "impediments to fair housing" as captured in the new

assessment template may ultimately reduce fair housing litigation against cities. Conversely, a renewed emphasis on affirmatively furthering fair housing may require costly and time-consuming alterations in local development projects supported by HUD funding.

HUD has posted the new rule and other documents explaining the proposal on their website.

# NLC

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## STATE BRIEFS



**State forms Task Force on Aging** Gov. Haslam announced the formation of the Task Force on Aging, a group charged with creating a plan to improve the lives and care of older Tennesseans and their families through a collaboration of public, private and nonprofit leaders. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 14 percent of Tennesseans are 65 years of age or older, and the national average is 13.7 percent. Tennessee's number is expected to grow to more than 22 percent by 2020.Haslam has asked the task force to focus on three areas: promoting healthy aging; creating livable communities; and supporting family caregivers. Lipscomb University's Charla Long, Dean of the College of Professional Studies and The School of TransformAging, will chair the 11-member task force.

**TN has highest combined tax rate** Tennessee has the highest combined state and local sales tax rate in the country at 9.44 percent and Alaska the lowest at 1.69 percent, according to a new report from the Tax Foundation, a conservative think tank. The combined sales tax rates were calculated by combining the state sales tax rate with an average of local sales taxes, adjusted for population. Five states tie for second place at seven percent each: Indiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Tennessee. As a way to ease the burden on consumers, 18 states scheduled sales tax holidays this year, including Tennessee.Tennessee does not have an income tax.

**TDEC introduces second GIS site for water permitting** The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation announced the launch of its second publicly accessible Geographic Information System (GIS)-based site. The new site provides up-to-date interactive maps and information about state water permits. The GIS map application represents TDEC's first step toward providing the public a resource to see permits based on

their location. The permits map offers an easily navigable way to explore the location and detailed information on active permits issued by the Division of Water Resources. Within the map, permits are symbolized by type for easy viewing. Clicking on a permit site will open an information pop-up, which will give the user access to specific permit information. In addition to viewing the default streets background layer, imagery and topographical layers are also available. In January, TDEC announced another GIS-based site that provides up-to-date interactive maps and information about recreational opportunities at Tennessee State Parks and natural areas. Plans also are under way to incorporate GIS information about state historical and archaeological sites in the future. The GIS-based water permits application is available at <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/tdecwaterpermits>.

**State's website named best in country** Tennessee's official website, TN.gov, has been named the best state website in the country in the annual "Best of the Web" competition sponsored by the Center for Digital Government. Recently redesigned, TN.gov was optimized for a range of screen sizes – from monitors to tablets to phones – to provide easy reading and navigation with a minimum of resizing, panning, and scrolling. Support for retina displays, swipe gestures on rotators and collapsing menus are just a few of the ways the site has been enhanced to improve the user experience and better interact with visitors. The TN.gov redesign was completed through a partnership with Nashville-based NICUSA Tennessee, part of the eGovernment firm NIC's family of companies.

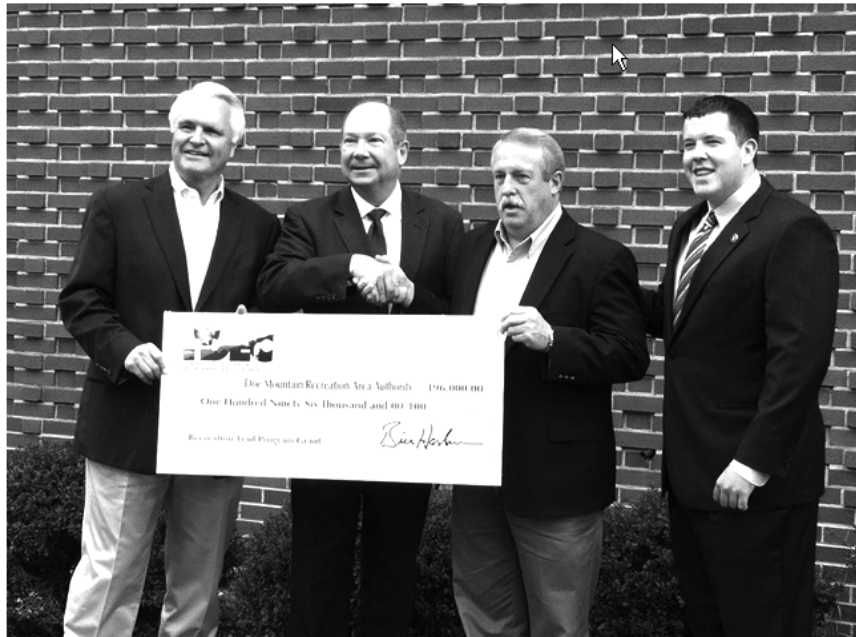
**TN to reduce test fees with grant** Tennessee will be able to reduce the costs of advanced placement test fees for low-income students with a U.S. Education Department grant of more than \$340,000. A total of 42

states are receiving \$28.8 million for the effort. The grants are based on the expected number of students who will take the tests and other factors. The department says it expects the grants will pay all but \$10 of the cost of each test. States may require students to pay part of the costs. According to The Education Department, the program is meant to encourage students to take the exams and gather college credit while they're in high school, cutting down the time needed to finish a college degree later.

**United Health Care pledges Healthier Tennessee support** UnitedHealthcare announced it is providing \$600,000 in support of Healthier Tennessee, the inaugural initiative of the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, a nonprofit corporation created to improve the health of Tennesseans over the long-term. Healthier Tennessee is a statewide coalition of major employers, hospital systems, health insurers, YMCAs, local government, school systems and several health care-focused foundations and civic organizations. The initiative will encourage support of common goals; consistent measurement and reporting of results; and the use of proven, best-practice programs and tools in workplaces, schools, places of worship, and neighborhoods throughout the state. Healthier Tennessee will enable and encourage more Tennesseans to lead healthier lives through increased physical activity, healthier diets, and reducing tobacco use.

**Fund established to protect victims of unscrupulous lawyers** A fund established more than 30 years ago to protect the victims of unscrupulous lawyers is being revised to offer even more protections. The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection is supported by annual fees paid by Tennessee attorneys. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the fund has always collected a fee from attorneys licensed by the state of Tennessee, but beginning in October, the fee will be collected from every attorney practicing in Tennessee, regardless of where they are licensed.

## \$1.6M in parks grants awarded to TN cities



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill presented a \$196,000 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant to the Doe Mountain Recreation Area Authority in Mountain City for trail improvements and restoration. Pictured L to R: Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, TDEC Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, Johnson County Mayor Larry Potter and State Representative Timothy Hill.

More than \$1,694,000 in Recreational Trails Program grants were awarded to recipients across Tennessee. The Recreational Trails Program is a federally-funded program established to distribute funding for diverse recreation trail projects. The funds are available to federal, state and local government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that have obtained IRS 501 (c) (3) status and have a written trail management agreement with the agency that owns the property where the trail project is located. Recreational Trails Program grants may be used for non-routine maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation, trailside or trailhead facilities such as restrooms, kiosks and parking lots, construction of new trails and land acquisition for recreational trails or for corridors. Funding for RTP grants is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation administers this grant program for the state. The maximum federal share for each project is 80 percent, with RTP grant recipients providing a 20 percent match. Grant recipients were selected through a scoring process with careful consideration given to the projects that met the selection criteria and expressed the greatest local recreation need. To learn more about the RTP grant program and other recreation or conservation-based grant programs available in the future, please visit <http://tn.gov/environment/recreation/grants.shtml>. For more information about the RTP grant program, contact Gerald Parish at 615-532-0538 or [Gerald.Parish@tn.gov](mailto:Gerald.Parish@tn.gov). Among the Tennessee municipi-

palities receiving the funding are:

- Rossville, Fayette County, \$200,000-- to connect Rossville City Park to the 12-acre lake and partial nature trail by installing a pedestrian bridge and extending the nature trail around the lake, providing a continuous loop of an ADA-accessible nature trail for various non-motorized uses.
- Kenton, Gibson / Obion County, \$160,000-- To renovate approximately 5,400 linear feet of existing trail at the Kenton City Park, including drainage improvements and repaving.
- Surgoinsville, Hawkins County, \$120,000-- To construct a paved trail from an existing pavilion at Creekside Park to connect to Riverfront Park and build a restroom facility at Riverfront Park.
- Selmer, McNairy County, \$52,000-- To widen the walking trail that surrounds the Selmer City Park and McNairy County School soccer field.
- Martin, Weakley County, \$200,000-- To construct a multi-use trail to extend the current Brian Moore Greenway to downtown Martin.
- Mountain City at Doe Mountain Recreation Area Authority, \$196,000-- To develop trailhead parking and restoration of one mile of multi-use trail at Morefield Creek, ADA-accessible restrooms and improvements of existing subsurface drainage system at Harbin Hill and restoration of sections along eight miles of multi-use trails that extends from Harbin Hill to Morefield Creek.
- Sparta, White County-- \$176,000-- To build a bridge and concrete walking trail in Cemetery Park to connect two city parks separated by Calfkiller River, completing a final link in a community walking trail started in 1998.

## Cities issues heard by U.S. Supreme Court

BY LISA SORONEN  
State and Local Legal Center

The Supreme Court's October Term 2013 is shaping up to be a big one for cities, even though the Court has 30 or so more cases to accept. Here is a brief overview of a few of the cases the Court has agreed to hear so far that could affect cities.

*Town of Greece v. Galloway* involves the question of whether a town board's practice of beginning board meetings with a prayer violates the U.S. Constitution's Establishment Clause because Christians almost always led the prayers.

In Mount Holly Gardens Citizens in *Action v. Township of Mount Holly*, the Court will decide whether disparate impact claims can be brought under the Fair Housing Act (FHA). Cities across the country have been sued under the FHA

where redevelopment plans and other housing-related decisions have disproportionately affected minorities.

A Massachusetts statute created a 35-foot "buffer zone" around reproductive healthcare facilities that demonstrators are not allowed to enter. In *McCullen v. Coalkey*, the constitutionality of this statute is challenged. Many cities have adopted similar ordinances around funerals, political events, schools, and other venues that may be affected by the Court's ruling in this case.

In *Madigan v. Levin*, the Supreme Court will decide whether employees with age discrimination claims can go directly to court by suing under the Fourteenth Amendment instead of suing under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which requires employees to first try



to informally resolve their claim, saving cities and other government employers time and money.

The State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) will file an amicus curiae brief in *McCullen v. Coalkey*, which NLC is likely to sign onto.

The State and Local Legal Center files Supreme Court amicus briefs on behalf of the Big Seven national organizations representing state and local governments.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**The Associated Press notes, U.S. health care spending reached \$2.7 trillion in 2011, or \$8,700 per person, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.** The agency says those numbers are climbing and predicts spending will reach \$14,000 per person by 2021.The higher costs mean higher premiums for businesses, which are passing on more of those expenses to their employees, and for individuals, who are seeing a rise in out-of-pocket costs. Health care costs now account for nearly 18 percent of U.S. economic activity, up from 5 percent in 1960. Annual premiums for employer-sponsored family coverage jumped nearly 4 percent this year, and single coverage rose almost 5 percent, according to a report released last week by the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation. The foundation expects prices will begin rising faster as the economy improves. Much of the experimentation on reducing costs is driven by state governments and private businesses. It's too early to tell what will work and what won't, but states, insurers and medical groups are experimenting with a variety of programs to contain costs without undermining care. These test runs

come as millions of new patients will gain eligibility for health insurance under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, putting additional pressure on the system. Economists say soaring health care costs are driven primarily by industry consolidation and expensive new medical technologies and prescription drugs. The Affordable Care Act's cost-containment section reduces Medicare reimbursements to providers and requires commercial insurance companies to issue refunds if more than 20 percent of their revenue goes to profits, salaries and overhead. Hospitals will face penalties when patients develop conditions while in their care. The federal law also promotes "accountable care organizations" within Medicare, which are charged with improving coordination to reduce wasteful spending.

**The income gap between the richest 1 percent and the rest of America last year reached the widest point since the Roaring Twenties.** The top 1 percent of U.S. earners collected 19.3 percent of household income in 2012, their largest share since 1928. And the share held by the top 10 percent of

earners last year reached a record 48.2 percent. U.S. income inequality has been growing for almost three decades. But it grew again last year, according to an analysis of IRS figures dating to 1913 by economists at the University of California, Berkeley, the Paris School of Economics and Oxford University. One from the University of California, Berkeley, said the incomes of the richest Americans might have surged last year in part because they cashed in stock holdings to avoid higher capital gains taxes that took effect in January. Last year, the incomes of the top 1 percent rose nearly 20 percent compared with a 1 percent increase for the remaining 99 percent. The richest Americans were hit hard by the financial crisis. Their incomes fell more than 36 percent in the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 as stock prices plummeted. Incomes for the bottom 99 percent fell just 11.6 percent, according to the analysis. But since the recession officially ended in June 2009, the top 1 percent have enjoyed the benefits of rising corporate profits and stock prices: 95 percent of the income gains reported since 2009 have gone to the top 1 percent.

## Middle TN has lowest July unemployment rates

Unemployment fell in most Tennessee counties, including Davidson County, in July, as announced by the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Employment decreased in 79 counties, increased in 12 and remained flat in four.

Middle Tennessee counties ranked among the lowest in the state. Williamson County again posted the state's lowest unemployment rate, at 5.8 percent, down from 6.1 percent in June. The unemploy-

ment rate was 6.7 percent for Davidson County, down from 7.1 percent in June. The rate also was 6.7 percent for Sumner, Wilson, Cheatham and Robertson counties.Rutherford County was also in the 10 lowest counties, with 7.2 percent, flat from June.Tennessee's unemployment rate for June was 8.5 percent, unchanged from June. The national unemployment rate for July stood at 7.6 percent, also unchanged from the previous month.



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**Sept. 21: Goodlettsville Fenway Dog Park Ribbon Cutting/“Yappy Hour” event**

Come help celebrate Goodlettsville Parks and Recreation’s recent expansion of Fenway dog park. Held at 10:30 am at the dog park, located inside Moss-Wright Park at 745 Caldwell Drive in Goodlettsville. The dog park is on the “soccer field side” of the park. Use the entrance entering the upper parking lot (referred to as the 2nd entrance) rather than the main entrance, for quicker arrival. The 20,350 square foot addition will allow the separation of large and small dogs and will provide needed space for the park patrons. New fountains and benches have also been installed.

**Sept. 26-28: Lewisburg Goats, Music and More Festival**

The famous fainting goats of Marshall County return for an 11th year at Rock Creek Park. Music Legend Charlie Daniels performs live on the Rock Creek Park stage along with other free musical entertainment, goat shows, food, arts & crafts, kid’s area, inflatables, games petting zoo, and more. Register to walk or run in the 5th Annual 5K Goat Gallop Sat. morning at 7 am. For more information, visit [www.goatsmusicandmore.com](http://www.goatsmusicandmore.com).

**Sept. 28: Thompson’s Station Annual Fall Festival** –“The Dog & Pony Show” is this year’s theme, held at Thompson’s Station Park. Vendor space still available. Check the website at [www.thompsonstation.com](http://www.thompsonstation.com) or call Town Hall at 794-4333.

**Sept. 28: Covington Heritage Day.** Admission is free for this fun all ages event on the Historic Square at 106 West Liberty from 9 am- 4 pm . More than 100 booths with arts & crafts, antiques, food, demonstrations, music, kids area, rock wall, re-enactments, paint the Derby Car, and more. Kid’s Parade kick-off at 9 am. Parking is free and handicap parking is available. For more information, call 901-476-9727.

**Sept. 28:Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival**  
Held in historic downtown on the shores of Lake Douglas. Concert and all events are free. At 10 am, Street Festival opens with vendors selling Scottish and Irish merchandise and a variety of food. Demonstrations include: bagpipe and snare drum, Highland athletics and dance. A children’s play area, fun dog parade, and many Clans with booths. At noon, a dual pipe bands parade and continuous stage entertainment, featuring musical headliner Mudmen. At 6:30 pm, Scottish, Irish and Appalachian Celtic performers: Mudmen, Highland Reign, the Knoxville Pipes and Drums, The Celtic Martins, Champion Highland Dancer Claire Macmillan, and Champion Irish Step Dancer Katie Carver. The evening ends with the Lone Piper playing bagpipes at the top of the Town dike. For more information, visit the website at [www.Scots-Irish.org](http://www.Scots-Irish.org) or call 865-397-7420 ext.17.

**Sept. 28: Dandridge 2nd Annual Douglas Dash**  
Runners of all ages invited to participate in this one-mile race, co-sponsored by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dumplin Valley and the Dandridge Community Trust (Main Street Dandridge). Features beautiful views of Douglas Lake, English Mountain, and historic downtown. Race day schedule: registration from 7:30am – 8:45am, followed by the race at 9am, and concluding with the awards ceremony at 10am. Cash awards presented to the top male and female finishers. Additional awards will be given to the top three finishers in each of 18 age/gender divisions. Pre-registration on line at [www.mainstreetdandridge.com/DouglasDash2013.html](http://www.mainstreetdandridge.com/DouglasDash2013.html) or by mail. For complete details, visit [www.mainstreetdandridge.com/DouglasDash2013.html](http://www.mainstreetdandridge.com/DouglasDash2013.html) or call 865-397-7420 extension 17.

**Sept. 28-29-Chattanooga 2013 Hyperflite Skyhoundz Championship-** Held at Coolidge Park, 150 River St. beginning at 9 am. The premier event in canine sports features top teams from around the world competing in a menu of disciplines designed to showcase the talents of these amazing canine ath-

letes. Includes more than 120 teams from the U.S. and more than a dozen other countries including Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain. For more information, contact Nancy Noel at 770-751-3882 or visit the website <http://skyhoundz.com/>.

**Oct. 3-5: Covington 41st Annual World’s Oldest Barbeque Cooking Contest-**Cobb Parr Park. Bring the entire family and enjoy live music, carnival; tractor pulls, demolition derby, mechanical bull riding, lots of barbeque cooking and much more. For more information, visit <http://www.covingtontn.com/bbq.htm>.

**Oct. 5-6: Centerville National Banana Pudding Festival**  
Held at the River Park & Jerry Dixon Walking Trail near the historic Grinder’s Switch Railroad station. \$5 admission school age and up. Parking free. Puddin’ Path \$3 per person. Two entertainment stages, kids activities, arts & crafts, live National Banana Pudding Cook-Off, National Banana Pudding Cook Off Auction, Puddin’ Path – sample eight different puddings and vote for the best. For more information, contact John Blackburn at 931-994-NBPF ext. 6273 or e-mail [bananapuddingfest@gmail.com](mailto:bananapuddingfest@gmail.com)

**Oct. 11-12: Hohenwald Oktober Heritage Festival and 20th Annual Fall Classics Car and Truck Show** – Held in the downtown parking lot, corner of North Maple St. and East Linden Ave. Entertainment, arts & crafts, food, Kids’Corner, inflatables, games and booths from 9 am until close. On Sat., at 7 am, the Pilot Club’s annual pancake breakfast followed by the Hohenwald Lions Club Annual BBQ cook-off that evening. Car show on the courthouse lawn, 110 Park Ave. across from festival area. Enter cars from 8 am until noon. First, second, and third place trophies awarded in more than 50 classes plus seven top honor awards. For more information, call the Hohenwald/Lewis County Chamber of Commerce at 931-796-4084 or [director@hohenwaldlewischamber.com](mailto:director@hohenwaldlewischamber.com).

**Oct. 12: Byrdstown 11th Annual Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival.** Festivities begin with 5K Run/Walk at 9am, gates open at 12:30. Car, truck, and motorcycle cruise-in at 1:30 with proceeds benefiting “Homes for our Troops.” Performances at 1:30 featuring Cody Hull & Vertical Limit, Cumberland River, Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers and Sierra Hull. Food, arts & crafts. For more information, call 931-864-6215 or visit [www.sierrahullfestival.com](http://www.sierrahullfestival.com).

**Oct. 2-13: Chattanooga RiverRocks**—Ten Adventure Sports games, with some of the nation’s most elite athletes. Opening ceremonies at Center Park. An urban rappelling fund-raiser, “Over the Edge,” held Oct. 3 at Center Park, along with the Three Sisters Bluegrass Festival Oct. 4-5 at Ross’ Landing. Closing ceremonies include a preview of a new urban outdoor climbing wall “The Block.” For more information, visit [www.RiverRocksChattanooga.com](http://www.RiverRocksChattanooga.com).

**Oct. 12: Franklin 2013 Celebration of Nations**  
Franklin and Williamson County team up to host this celebration in Downtown Franklin from 3-8 pm. Held on Fourth Ave. from the parking garage to Main Street and the alley from Fourth to the Historic Williamson County Courthouse. International beer tasting from 5 to 8 pm in the alley features 20 beers from 10 countries. Tickets at [www.sistercitytstn.org](http://www.sistercitytstn.org). or at the door. Two stages on Fourth Ave., and in front of the courthouse. Main Street features music and dance from India, Mexico, Ireland, Canada, Persia, France, Americana and West Africa.

**Oct. 19-20: Bell Buckle 37th Annual Webb School Art and Craft Show.** The Webb School campus on Maple Street at 10 am. Premier art show featuring more than 100 artists with high quality, hand crafted work in clay, wood, baskets, metal, botanicals, iron works, jewelry, paintings, glass, fiber, sculpture and photography.

# Columbia hits home run as MTSU/UT softball classic host

**SOFTBALL** from Page 1  
wife Karen Weekly serves as assistant coach to the Team USA Women’s softball team, currently has eight to ten Tennessee players on the roster, who are equally excited about playing in Columbia. In his 12th season at UT, Weekly will be the featured speaker in October at the Columbia Kiwanis Club meeting, according to Dickey.

Decked out in a bright orange tie, Dickey notes how it’s an exciting time for his community, especially for alumni of both schools living in the area.

“We plan to do this the right way, and think this will be just the beginning of more events between the two schools,” Dickey said.

“We started to see this park develop into a destination,” explains Bordon. “Tournament directors were telling us we had the best park in Tennessee, or the Midstate area, and that they wanted to come here. We’ve had tournaments with people coming from all over the southeast and Midwest because they’ve heard what a great facility Ridley Park is.”

“We hope this is just the beginning of many exciting tournaments and games here,” Massey added. “The sky’s the limit for us because we have one of the top facilities in



Photo/The Columbia Daily Herald

Columbia City Manager Tony Massey speaks to UT Softball Coach Ralph Weekly by internet web conferencing, as the city announces the first Mid-State College Softball Classic between Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders and the University of Tennessee Lady Vols. At the city’s press conference, Mayor Dean Dickey tossed the coin, where Weekly called heads, making UT the home team.

the state, if not the southeastern United States for softball.”

The local high schools and Columbia State are wiping the slate clean from ball games and activities, so that students may attend the game.

“The two teams are preaching about Columbia too,” Massey ex-

pressed. “They say we tend to make them feel like this is a special event and they can’t wait to come back in 2015.”

The Mid-State College Softball Classic will be held March 18 at 6 pm at Ridley Park, located at 6148 Trotwood Ave., Columbia.

## Tennessee law enforcement agencies earn statewide, national honors

The Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Governor’s Highway Safety Office announced the winners of the 9th Annual Law Enforcement Challenge on Sept. 6. The awards are presented annually by the Governor’s Highway Safety Office. Designed to recognize and reward the best overall traffic safety programs across the state and nation, the competition is judged by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). A total of 62 awards were presented, including four law enforcement vehicles.

The winning safety programs combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within their jurisdictions.

Challenge winners include:

**National Winners**

Municipal 1-10 Officers  
Benton Police Dept. -2nd Place  
Municipal 26-45 Officers  
Brownsville Police Dept.-3rd Place

Municipal 76-100 Officers  
Collierville Police Dept.- 3rd Place  
Municipal 101-200 Officers  
Franklin Police Dept. 3rd Place  
Municipal 201-500 Officers  
Jackson Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Municipal 1001 or more Officers  
Metro Nashville Police Dept.-1st  
State Police / Highway Patrol Tennessee Highway Patrol-2nd Place  
College Law Enforcement  
East Tennessee Law Enforcement Network-1st Place; East Tennessee State University-3rd Place  
Special Category Technology  
Tennessee Highway Patrol; Jackson Police Department

**State Winners**

Category 1-10 Officers  
Benton Police Dept.-1st Place  
Wartburg Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Dover Police Dept.-3rd Place  
Category 11-25  
Bolivar Police Dept.-1st Place  
White House Police Dept.-2nd

Category 26-45 Officers  
Brownsville Police Dept.-1st Place  
Martin Police Dept.-1st Place  
Paris Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Lexington Police Dept.-3rd Place  
Category 46-75 Officers  
Maryville Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Pigeon Forge Police Dept.-3rd Place  
Category 76-100 Officers  
Collierville Police Dept.-1st Place  
Gallatin Police Dept.-2nd Place;  
Category 101-200 Officers  
Franklin Police Dept.-1st Place  
Kingsport Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Johnson City Police Dept.-3rd Place  
Category 201-500 Officers  
Jackson Police Dept.-1st Place  
Knoxville Police Dept.-3rd Place  
Category 1,001 or more officers  
Metro-Nashville Police Dept.-1st  
Memphis Police Dept.-2nd Place  
Category Highway Patrol Districts  
Jackson District 8-1st Place  
Knoxville District 1-2nd Place  
Category University Police  
East TN State University-1st Place  
University of TN Police Dept.-2nd

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# States brace for new round of Sequester cuts

BY ELAINE S. POVICH  
Staff Writer, *Stateline.org*

States have been forced to gear up for a potential second round of across-the-board federal spending cuts after Congress left for its summer recess without a budget deal. Another round of sequestration would reduce federal spending on everything from Meals on Wheels to Head Start, leaving states with approximately \$4.2 billion less in federal dollars for the 2014 fiscal year starting Oct. 1, according to Federal Funds Information for States. FFIS is a Washington group that helps states manage their federal money. On average, the federal budget accounts for about 30 percent of state revenues, making it the largest single source of money for many states. About 90 percent of the federal dollars come in the form of grants. About three-quarters of that money would be subject to sequestration, according to an FFIS report. Preliminary estimates by FFIS are that if Congress fails to pass appropriations bills and the government is run on the same budget levels as the year before, states will face about \$4.2 billion in federal funding cuts. Federal Grants to States

**Congressional Research Service**  
Some of the areas to be cut include: Public housing assistance, money for schools with low-income students, food inspection, scientific research grants, and environmental protection programs.

The total amount of the fiscal year 2014 cuts would be less than the \$4.6 billion reduction states experienced in fiscal year 2013. However, this round may be more painful because it comes on top of the earlier cuts. Many states say there's not much left to trim.

Furthermore, because states have already enacted their fiscal year 2014 budgets, a second round of sequestration would force them to make changes on the fly.

"Remember, states already have their fiscal year 2014 budgets in place, so almost anything that happens is likely to upend their spending

plans in some way, shape or form," said Marcia Howard, executive director of FFIS.

Congress went on its summer recess in August with the budget situation unresolved. The House and Senate were unable to pass spending bills that would either conform to across-the-board sequester cuts or at higher numbers set by the 2011 Budget Control Act. The two chambers can't even agree on what the total spending amount for fiscal 2014 should be. The House uses \$967 billion while the Senate budget allots \$1.058 trillion.

If the impasse is not settled by Oct. 1, the start of the fiscal year, the federal government could shut down, adding to the fiscal bedlam. Without a budget, Congress might have to pass a so-called "continuing resolution," funding the government at last year's levels, that would allow the sequester cuts to take effect.

Federal government officials acknowledge that states are having a difficult time navigating the uncertain budgetary waters.

"They (states and localities) have a further level of uncertainty," White House budget director Sylvia Mathews Burwell told a Wall Street Journal breakfast roundtable this month. "Especially because much of their money is in the (federal) grant space." Uncertainty "is one of the most damaging things we have right now," she said.

**States in a Bind**  
Michael Leachman, director of state fiscal research for the progressive Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said if the sequestration ax falls again, most state legislatures would come back into session early next year facing shortfalls.

"They are already in a difficult spot because they already have imposed major cuts to their schools and other public services," Leachman said. "If they enter those legislative sessions having to deal with additional cuts in federal funding for schools or law enforcement or clean water or programs that help low-income families, that makes their

job even more difficult."

Pennsylvania budget secretary Charles Zogby said his state managed to get through the first round of sequestration budget cuts without massive cuts in personnel—but that may change. "Thus far, that hasn't been part of the challenge. It may be in round two," he said.

Pennsylvania and many other states are on a firmer financial footing now than they have been since the recession, but they don't have enough money to compensate for additional federal cuts.

Hawaii, which has a two-year budgeting cycle, set aside a small pot of money in anticipation of possible sequestration in fiscal 2014. Gov. Neil Abercrombie, a Democrat, said the continuing uncertainty is the toughest part. "I don't want to throw darts or rocks at anybody, I just want to know what the hell the numbers are," he said at the National Governors Association meeting in Milwaukee earlier this month.

Hawaii officials have set aside \$15 million to plug sequester holes. Kalbert Young, the state's budget chief, said his department is taking applications from state agencies and departments for the extra cash. But they shouldn't count on being made whole, Young said.

"The anticipation is that there will not be enough funds to meet all requests, so the state will have to make a decision on priority as to which programs are going to be supported and at what levels," he said. "We have already told departments and the public that the expectation is NOT to assume that the state will automatically support programs at their pre-sequestration levels." The same situation exists in Ohio, according to budget chief Timothy Keen. Keen said his state is anxiously monitoring the situation in Congress, and meeting with agencies to discuss what the impact of sequestration might be. "We don't contemplate making up with state dollars whatever the federal cuts might be," he said. "Might there be some cases (where we will add funds), yes. But it's not our policy to backfill with state dollars."

## UT MTAS October MAP Classes

### Internal Control: Identifying and Minimizing Risks for Governmental Entities

Does your city know what to do to offset risks that minimize impact to your finances and physical property? This course will use the framework of the updated Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) model for risk management.

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

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

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

**Schedule of sessions**  
Oct. 9 - Morristown  
Oct.10- Collegedale  
Oct. 15- Bartlett  
Oct.16 - Jackson  
Oct. 21- Franklin

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



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

**Sept. 17-19: 2013 Governor's Conference on Tourism:** the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Two seminars. "From Eyesore To Attraction: Reclaiming Historic Assets for Tourism" and "How to Market to People Who Are Not Like You." Tennessee Tourism's Strategic Marketing Plan presented; luncheon speaker Gov. Bill Haslam. The "State of the Industry" address delivered by Commissioner Susan Whitaker. For information and schedule of events, visit the Tennessee Tourism Roundtable's website [www.tenntourismroundtable.com](http://www.tenntourismroundtable.com) or call 615-734-9380.

**Oct. 23-25: TCMA 2013 Fall Conference.** Sessions held at the Chattanooga Doubletree Hotel, 407 Chestnut Street. Accommodations available across the street at the Hampton Inn & Suites. Sessions include: a review of the state annexation law, maintaining effective working relationships with your police chief, the TCMA Knowledge Network Group, The Leadership Toolbox, The Affordable Health Care Act, and updates on TML and MTAS programs. For complete information and registration, visit <http://www.tncma.org/>.

**Oct. 24-25: Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association Fall Conference.** Held at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro-Hotel and Conference Center Among the topics: GASB update, Tennessee ethics, tax increment financing, tax exempt financing, economic outlook, 2013 Labor and Employment Law update, property assessment issues and Affordable Health Care Act. Certificates will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting. The program counts toward Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) and Municipal Clerk Certification. For complete information and registration, visit <http://www.tngfoa.org/>

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# No loan is too large or too small



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



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



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# Germantown finds a unique way to promote sustainable living

BY MARK PENLAND & JAN COMPTON, TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

Today, there are many approaches to promote sustainability, but the city of Germantown has developed a unique and fun opportunity for residents to learn using both hands-on and demonstration style experiences. The Bobby Lanier Farm Park mission is simple- serve as a demonstration and educational site for sustainable living. The specific goals are to promote healthier living, support the local economy, and protect the environment.

The Bobby Lanier Farm Park was designed and developed to support rural opportunities in a developed community. For example, the Future Farmers of America clubs at Houston and Collierville High Schools use the farm as a playground for learning. These students live in suburban settings, which would otherwise limit their ability to participate in state competitions. Obviously, most zoning ordinances would not allow sheep, goats and other farm animals to be kept on residential sites. The Farm Park opens new doors of learning for them to explore and acquire skills at a facility which provides the open space required. Both a horse and hay barn existed onsite when the farm was purchased making it very convenient for the students.

The city selected Michelle Johns to serve as program and devel-

opment coordinator for the 10-acre suburban farm which was required by the city to be a self-sustaining entity. According to Mary Ann Gibson, chair of the farm advisory council, "The vision of the farm park advisory council is to continue to grow key partnerships with local businesses and community organizations, such as the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, as we go forward to help us achieve our goal of being self-sustaining. These public-private partnerships are key factors to the future success of the farm park."

Food is essential for everyday life and is a central component at the Bobby Lanier Farm Park including the community garden. The goal is to teach participants how to garden so they can use their skills and knowledge to create their own gardens at home. The fee-based program welcomes 60 members annually as part of the community garden association. The participants are educated through informative workshops and mentoring as they volunteer in the garden a minimum of two hours per week, while in return, they reap a portion of the organically grown harvest. The garden is maintained without the use of herbicides or pesticides by using companion plants and beneficial insects to control garden pests. In an effort to save water, otherwise wasted through the use of irrigation sprayers, a drip irrigation system is used.

Another popular food component is the Farm Park Market, which

has brought excitement to the farm each Thursday evening since the inaugural event last June. This family friendly event promotes sustainable agriculture and is open only to local vendors who are producers, those who are directly involved in the growing or making of a product.

Surpassing normal market expectations, the Farm Park Market offers so much more than just locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Residents of all ages are finding Thursday evenings to be a time of social networking and interaction, whether they opt to play with hula hoops or just sit in a chair on the lawn. Themed "garden talks" are held in conjunction with the event to enhance gardening skills and update the latest trends in earth friendly living. Live music, cooking demonstrations, recipes and farm fresh dining are also part of the experience during the seasonal events.

The Bobby Lanier Farm Park also serves as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages. Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital sponsors the educational component for the facility with direct input and guidance from area faculty. With increasing challenges to meet testing needs, teachers from kindergarten through fifth grade write the curriculum for the park to be an extension of their classroom learning. Students welcome the outdoor setting and creative learning experience often without realizing it also fits into their standardized requirements.

"The project offered an opportunity to create a unique partnership between the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the city of Germantown by establishing the first Local Parks and Recreation Fund community garden site," according to Gerald Parish, director of TDEC's Recreation Educational Services. "The Bobby Lanier Farm Park focuses on an established type of recreation with an updated form and purpose. The park has many benefits that support current national and state programs, including Gov. Haslam's "Healthier Tennessee" initiative by providing access to nutritious foods like vegetables. TDEC is pleased to be a partner in a project that creates positive impacts and benefits to the citizens and visitors of Germantown and our state."

Just 14 months following the grand opening, Johns and the supportive farm advisory council are thrilled with the partnerships and accomplishments which have been achieved. They have exceeded expectations with progressive thinking and intuitive planning for supporting their mission and meeting the needs of the community. Through partnerships, participants are discovering that learning to garden, sharing crops, preserving the land and promoting local vendors are enhancing resources for current and future generations. Johns sums it up, "We are achieving our goal to show suburban residents how to live and maintain a healthier lifestyle while conserving an ecological balance through urban agriculture, composting, energy conservation and recycling."



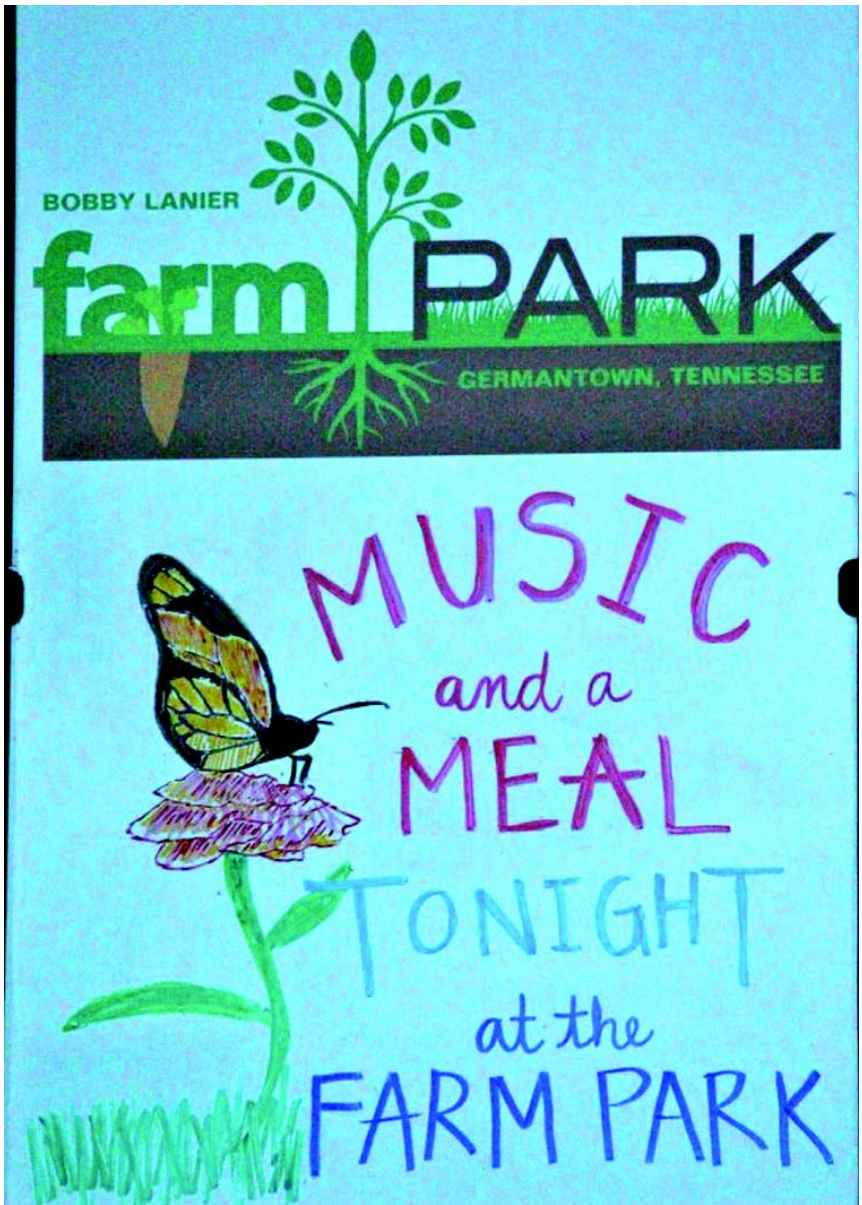
The Bobby Lanier Farm Park is a working model of a community based suburban farm park which demonstrates, promotes, educates and advocates for a sustainable, healthy and supportive community. The mission of the farm park is accomplished through agriculture and stewardship. The 10 acre working farm features a community garden, children's programming, a farmers' market, live music, cooking demonstrations, garden talks, visiting farm animals, garden tours and storybook walks on a weekly basis. The public is also invited for special events offered at the Farm Park. Programs and events are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation office at (901)757-7375.



The Bobby Lanier Farm Park was designed and developed to support rural opportunities in a developed community. Most zoning ordinances would not allow sheep, goats and other farm animals to be kept on residential sites. The Farm Park opens new doors of learning for students attending nearby schools.



A central component of the Farm Park includes the community garden. The goal is to teach participants how to garden so they can use their skills and knowledge to create their own gardens at home. The participants are educated through informative workshops and mentoring as they volunteer in the garden a minimum of two hours per week, while in return, they reap a portion of the organically grown harvest.



Live music, cooking demonstrations, recipes and farm fresh dining are also part of the experience. Held on Thursday evenings, this family friendly event turns the Farm Park Market into so much more than just locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

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# Corker melds foreign policy, fiscal issues at Nashville event

**Corker from Page 1**  
ure to be closer to 25 percent.  
Expounding upon that information, Corker added that the U.S. comprises 4 ½ percent of the world’s population and produces 22 percent of the world’s economic output. The statistics are a reflection of a country far more focused on its own standard of living than other countries are,” he said.  
As an example, Corker maintained that the nation should continue its aid relationship with Egypt, a country rife with political unrest and a subsequent presidential ouster recently.

Spotlighting America’s priority access to the Suez Canal, part of an ongoing peace treaty agreement the U.S. helped broker between Israel and Egypt 35 years ago, Corker expressed how the canal is a critical artery for commerce, as well as oil shipments, that if threatened, would lead to skyrocketing energy prices.  
“Sometimes people in Tennessee who are focused on raising their families and going to work, they don’t think about how important that is to the economy,” he added.

Noting that the relationship extends to matters of security and cooperation on counterterrorism, Corker focused on the Sinai region, the source of recent attacks on Israel.  
“Having jihadists in the northeastern part of the Sinai Desert is something that, over time, breeds a situation that can create insecurities here in our country,” he said.

“We’re now in what I would call the cycle of revenge,” he explained. “where one group kills another group and another group rises up. It’s standard operating procedure in many places in the Middle East.”

Yet, Corker said he considers the nation’s arrangement with Egypt an opportunity to recalibrate the relationship. “We need to have a relationship with the military. We need to have a relationship through soft power, which is the citizens of Egypt,” he said.

“One of my friends in the Senate was saying, ‘Why do we give aid to these people? They don’t even like us?’ he queried. “Well, you know, I wish they liked us—but candidly, we do it because it’s in our national interests. I think we will move ahead in that way.”

Corker credited U.S. federal aid with improving the lives of people immediately, while improving governance, democracy, transparency and corruption.

In a recent op-ed published over the Labor Day weekend, Corker stood his ground that it would be “a mistake for America to “turn away from the world at a time when lead-

ership and engagement are especially necessary.”  
Amid reports that the Syrian regime had turned chemical weapons upon its own people, sobering images of dead children and an estimated 100,000 killed by all sides in the civil war, along with millions of displaced citizens, Corker predicted the sectarian violence will only work to destabilize neighboring countries and embolden U.S. enemies, such as al-Qaida.

“While I am strongly opposed to American boots on the ground in Syria, we have significant security interests to protect that are threatened by this worsening conflict,” he said. “To create the chance for a better outcome, the U.S. should continue to support vetted, moderate elements within Syria’s opposition through equipping and training so they can hopefully help lead Syria after the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad.”

Corker, in recent reports, said that he supports the pause to consider the diplomatic initiative Russia has put forward to have Syria surrender its chemical stockpile to an international body and hopes the diplomatic effort succeeds.

In his live interview with David Brody of the Christian Broadcasting Network, Corker championed the U.S. as the voice of reason.

“Our way of responding should be that we are mature,” he said. “We are the greatest nation on earth—it is our role to create calmness in a situation like we have.”

On a brighter economic note, Corker said all eyes were focused on Tennessee at a security conference he attended in Munich, where he met with top German business leaders.

“People in Europe have realized that Tennessee is a great place to do business,” he beamed. “They understand the relationship that we have developed with Volkswagen and other companies, and more and more German businesses want to be a part of that.”

Corker also paid notice to energy advances made across the nation, and stated that tremendous opportunities are in store through a Trans-Atlantic trade agreement that the United States and the European Union began talks on in 2013.

“We’re doing everything we can in our office to make this happen, and also, the Trans-Pacific partnership, both of which could come to fruition over the next two years,” Corker said.

To view the U.S. Global Leadership luncheon featuring Sen. Bob Corker in its entirety, visit <http://www.usglc.org/events/nashville-tn-corker/>



Photo by Victoria South

David Brody, Christian Broadcasting Network, interviews U.S. Sen. Bob Corker live at an Aug. 22 luncheon in Nashville hosted by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. Corker was also presented a globe-shaped award, by the U.S. World Leadership Coalition in recognition of his outspoken and effective leadership.

## U.S. Global Leadership Coalition

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) announced that former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen and former U.S. Sen. Bill Frist will co-chair the USGLC Tennessee State Advisory Committee to raise awareness of the important role U.S. foreign policy plays in Tennessee’s economic growth and security.

A broadbased network of 400 business and NGOs; national security and foreign policy experts; and business, faith-based, academic and community leaders in all 50 states, the USGLC supports smart power approach of elevating development and diplomacy alongside defense in order to build a better safer world.

Bredesen and Frist join a distinguished group of bipartisan national leaders, including former Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton, former Defense Secretary Bob Gates, and former U.S. Sen. Jim Sasser, in an effort to educate Americans about how critical U.S. leadership in the world is to creating jobs here at home and protecting national security.

According to USGLC, America’s civilian tools of global development and diplomacy make up just one percent of the federal budget, but provide a powerful return on investment for taxpayers. As 95 percent of the world’s consumers live outside the U.S., these tools funded through the International Affairs Budget help to open and build markets for American businesses. Tennessee is a national leader in foreign investment, and in 2011 alone the state exported \$30 billion in goods and services.

“We live in a global economy, and with one in five Tennessee jobs tied to trade, we have no choice but to be engaged in the world,” said Bredesen. “Countries in the developing world represent the fastest growing markets for U.S. goods and services, and our nation’s investments on the ground pay dividends right here in Tennessee.”

“I have seen how important it is to create opportunities and hope for people around the world,” said Frist. “This is not simply the right thing to do, but it’s the smart thing to do, as



Bredesen



Frist

our top military leaders tell us time and again how essential our diplomatic and foreign assistance programs are to preventing conflicts and providing stability in a very dangerous world.”



## SMART POWER 2.0 Development—Diplomacy—Defense

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) takes the stance that extraordinary global challenges, from terrorism to weak and fragile states to enduring poverty, demand strong U.S. leadership and a new vision for American engagement in the world. Over the past decade, the USGLC stresses, the importance of using all the tools of foreign policy to shore up national security—development and diplomacy—alongside defense—has had strong bipartisan support. But today, the U.S. position in the world is being challenged economically as well.

Advocating Smart Power 2.0 as a strategic investment in effective development and diplomacy, USGLC advocates that smart power is geared to enable the country to advance national security interests abroad, as well as, better compete in the global marketplace, according to Liz Schrayner, USGLC executive director.

“What we mean by smartpower, is the use of development and diplomacy alongside defense, the use of a range of tools to advance our security and economic interests,” she said.

“We were called years ago by the *Washington Post*, the strange

bedfellow coalition,” she said. “In Washington, not enough of different types of people talk with one another.”

As a result, USGLC brought together more than 400 business and non-profits, groups from CARE to Caterpillar from Walmart to World Vision, from American Red Cross, FedEx, APAC along with an advisory council of the who’s who of national foreign policy and national security expertise, chaired by General Colin Powell.

Schrayner spoke of “a ring of success stories, such as Tanzanian citizens unable to make ends meet, whose lives have been changed for the better through non-profit “Feed the Future,” and from American companies such as Ekiti, FedEx and Caterpillar.

Ekiti, a Nashville-based energy company, is partnering with the U.S. to help bring power and electricity to the Tanzanian people and in Kenya, where 85 percent of citizens have no access to power. “I think Americans understand that we can help people overseas, and can create stability and jobs right here at home,” Shrayner said. “I think American’s really get it.”





# Jill Holland—small town mayor with a big vision for McKenzie

BY LINDA BRYANT

When Jill Holland was elected mayor of McKenzie in 2010, she was determined to help the city of 5,300 recover from the Great Recession. Although Holland was dedicated to creating a better future for her hometown, she knew that her constituents didn't need added extra economic burdens such as tax hikes. She was faced with the difficult task of finding innovative ways to stimulate small business growth without raising taxes.

"We lost five factories in two years from 2007-2008," Holland said. "I focused on bringing the community back together again. McKenzie is not ever going to be the way it was, but I think it can be even better."

"We've been working hard to bring people back to our downtown," Holland added. "We have a new master plan in the works, and we're applying for important grants to help with restoration and infrastructure projects. We are thinking outside the box and beginning to see great results."

These days, new businesses are continuously popping up in McKenzie, including a computer store, florist, gift shop, a coffee shop and a pizza restaurant. Holland recently talked with the owner of the coffee shop and found out she has brought in four times the revenue she'd estimated in her business plan.

Community events and festivals are also flourishing. A well-attended Farmers Market is held on Saturdays and during the summer, there's a popular "Nights on Broadway" music series held downtown. There are classic car and motorcycle shows and BBQ contests. In 2013, the city held its first annual Southern Fried Food and Sweet Tea Festival.

Although the mayoral salary in McKenzie is part-time, Holland decided early on in her tenure to work full-time hours.

"There's no such thing as a part-time mayor if you want your city to move forward," Holland said. "It is very competitive out there, and if you don't put in the time, your city can really slide backward. I easily work 40-60 hours a week, depending on the week. More money would not make me work any harder."

McKenzie also has an innovative economic development task force that combines the energies and talents of local business leaders and students from Bethel University. Leaders and students reach out to industry and potential business owners by making proactive phone calls and spreading the good news about what the city has to offer.

"People are realizing there's a lot of opportunity in McKenzie," Holland said. "We are right on the verge of 'happening'."

**TT&C: Tell us about your background and family. How long have you lived in McKenzie and what were you doing before you were mayor?**

**JH:** McKenzie is my home. I live on a 200-acre family farm that goes back to 1829. Our farm was the first farm in West Tennessee to join the Land Trust for Tennessee. My children are the sixth generation to live on the farm. The farm has a very colorful history. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate troops stayed on the farm.

We moved back with our two children in 1998 when my husband retired from the Hillsborough County school system in Tampa. One son was going into second grade and the oldest son was going into fifth grade. I really wanted to get them back to a small town. I wanted to bring them up with small town values. I wanted them to grow up next to their grandparents. My father passed away, but my stepmother lives on the farm in the family home. My brother lives on the farm, too.

**TT&C: How and when did you get involved in politics? How long have you been mayor?**

**JH:** I have always been very interested in politics, but I had no inclination to run for office until my mother urged me to run for the school board in the 1990s. She was on the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education for 18 years. When I was growing up, my parents stressed giving back to the community. I was taught that we are here on earth to make the world a better place. I was a school board member for eight years and also served as vice chairman. About eight years ago, I decided to run for city council. I beat an incumbent in my ward. I enjoyed my time on the school board, and I felt like we were making strides in our city. I also sensed that there was a lot more I could do for our community if I ran for mayor. I was on the council for six years and then decided to run for mayor in 2010.

**TT&C: As a woman leader in a small town have you faced any barriers or obstacles based on your gender? Do you feel like you are a role model for young women in your community?**

**JH:** This is my hometown and people know me. In that respect, I think it might be a little easier for me. On the other hand, there are still some men who think that women don't belong in politics. There are a few barriers, but I'm happy to say most people in McKenzie don't think that way anymore. There is still somewhat of a glass ceiling. I feel like I always have to do the very, very best that I can and give 100 percent to show I can do this. I want to show other women can do the same thing and better.

I try to be a good role model. I speak to groups of young women and bring them on as interns. I hope they can see that when you set your mind to it and you have that passion for

what you are doing, you can do anything. Don't let it hold you back!

**TT&C: What are some of the most important lessons you learned as a mayor?**

**JH:** I've learned I have to take baby steps. When I was campaigning people would say, "We want change." I learned that they wanted me to change everybody else but them. I had to slow down. It's hard for people to adjust to change.



McKenzie Mayor Jill Holland

with the federal government and goes all the way down. But attitudes can change. When people can see that what they are doing is making a difference, they have a tendency to become more involved. We are lucky in McKenzie. There's a tremendous sense of community spirit and pride here. Our civic organizations are noted for

regional economic development officials. They are excited about it and recognize that we are thinking outside the box.

**TT&C: What are some signs of your economic recovery?**

**JH:** Our codes officer tells me there's more building going on here than he can keep up with. Our partnership with Bethel University is another indicator. Bethel is the fastest growing private university in the state, and I understand it's the third fastest in the nation. It's taken some time and coaxing, but we've got new businesses coming into our downtown area because they realize Bethel University students are good potential customers.

Small businesses are really bouncing back, and I'm really happy about it. They are the heart of a successful economy. We have entrepreneurs who are setting up shop. We have various restaurants, a new coffee shop, several new pizza places and a Family Dollar.

A few years ago someone wanted to raze our historic downtown theater and replace it with a parking lot. Thank heavens our industrial board had the foresight not to let that happen. They bought the theater and deeded it to us earlier this year. We have received a grant for the façade that will bring it back to what it looked like in the 1940s. We want to make it into a multi-use building that can be used to show movies, small community performances and a meeting place. We also plan to use it as a place to train workers for industry.

**TT&C: Are you offering incentives to businesses?**

**JH:** When a business locates downtown and puts in a sprinkler system, we will provide the hook-up. If they want to remodel a building, we offer them a chance to work with our building inspector. He is capable of doing the designs for them. It eliminates the cost of them having to hire an architect or engineer.

We also received a Tennessee Downtowns Grant a few years ago. Instead of buying seats for the park or signage, we actually gave it back to the business community to help with facades of their buildings. We conducted a series of small business classes as a part of the grant. Interested business owners had to agree to stay open when we have downtown events and they had to attend these classes. They pay 30 percent and we paid 70 percent of the costs. Business owners took advantage in various ways by re-glazing windows, getting new front doors, awnings, signage and painting.

**TT&C: What are your biggest municipal challenges and how do you think you can meet them in the future?**

**JH:** Our budget is one of the biggest challenges every year, and we just finished ours. So far, we've managed not to raise taxes. Dealing with the ever-increasing fixed expenses such as insurance, fuel, and employee benefits is a big challenge. Our sewer system is dated and some of our sewer lines are the old clay lines. We have to make sure our water pressure measures up to what it needs to be. There's a lot underground that needs to be taken care of. It's tough to spend money in areas that you don't see, but sometimes you have to.

We have received some grants for our sewers, but we are also looking at some loans to help with updating. We've received close to \$1 million in sidewalk grants. We will probably do a lot more with paving next year. We have a lot of streets that are in need of paving.

**TT&C: How have you managed not to raise taxes?**

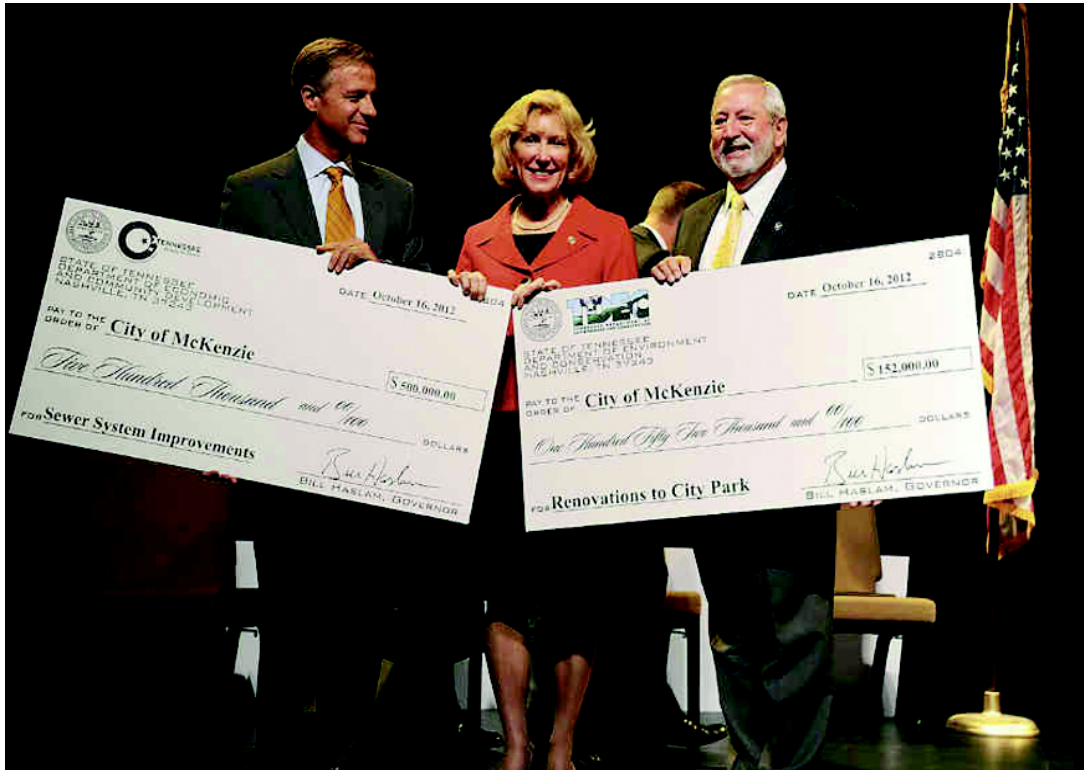
**JH:** We've really tightened our belts. We have redone a lot of our contracts with local governments and computer systems that we use. We decided not to use a middle man for our insurance. We decided we could do that in house. I think we were spending \$20,000 a year to have an outside agency deal with claims. It requires a little bit longer for our clerk, but she does it.

We get grants when we can. We use a lot of seasonal workers in our parks and recreation department, and the rest of the year we manage with three full-time workers. We are still looking to cut insurance costs – that has us worried.

**TT&C: What issues and/or causes are you passionate about as an individual?**

**JH:** Preservation is very close to my heart. We are working on becoming a Main Street Community. We realize that preserving our heritage is so important to industries coming into our town. It also means a lot to the children growing up here. They have a sense of who they are. If we mow everything down and replace it with buildings that look like Legos, what do we have? We need to preserve our past to have some grasp on where we want to go in the future.

Education has always been very important to me. I think Gov. Haslam is on the right track with the core curriculum. I have a real concern that standards throughout our country don't measure up to what students are doing all over the world. I have a tremendous concern about our workforce. We have all the incentives in place to attract these industries; however, we don't have the trained workforce. The manufacturing jobs are never going to come back to the extent they were. If we want to prepare our kids for good jobs—and if we want them to stay in our communities—we have to provide them with the computer and technological skills required for these jobs. Here in McKenzie, we are trying to figure out what we can do to keep our university students here once they graduate. What can we do to attract industry?



Mayor Holland at a grant awarding ceremony with Gov. Bill Haslam and Rep. Curtis Halford.



Mayor Holland with the McKenzie City Council members Dianna Lankford, Billy Barksdale, Charles Pruneau, Gene Hale, Raymond Glisson, City Recorder Charlie Beal and Jesse Townes.

I've learned to get back with people as soon as possible. A problem that may seem like a very minor problem in the whole scope of things is still very important to the person making a complaint. It's on their front burner. I've tried to bring that home to our staff, too. I'll be the first to admit that I'm still working on this issue. Sometimes things get in my way, and I may not call that person back until the next day. I've learned to get ideas from other towns and mayors. There's a whole network of support out there that includes many mayors, legislators and groups such as TML. Most people out there would like to share and help you any way that they can. I've also learned that sometimes you're asked to do so many things that you don't do anything great. I've had to pull back from a few things.

**TT&C: We live in a cynical age with a lot of skepticism about politics and government. Why do you think public service is still important and relevant? What keeps you motivated engaged and focused during a time when funds are scarce and many citizens are distrustful of public servants?**

**JH:** I think that everyone needs to do some type of public service. When I look at McKenzie today, compared to the way it was when I was growing up, I see that there were a larger group of people—mainly a group of men—working to move the town forward. They died and their children moved away. Now we have new people. Sometimes it's hard for younger people to give back because they are raising children. There's just a lot of inward focus. It's perhaps easier for them to ask, "What can my community do for me?" instead of "What can I do to make this a better place?"

I think people are disenchanted. It starts

giving back to the community.

**TT&C: How did the Great Recession impact your community?**

**JH:** We had so many people who lost jobs and many had to go other places to find jobs. We have worked hard on the revitalization of our downtown, and we've attracted several new businesses that are doing very well. We are focusing right now on retail. We also have an economic development task force. We have identified at least 50,000 industries we felt would do well in locating to McKenzie. We have a lot we can tout to business and industry. We're a mecca for soybean and corn. We are within 10 miles of one of the largest ball clay mining locations in the world.

We are very grateful for whatever the state can do for us, but we realize that it's very competitive out there. We can't sit back and just wait for these industries to come to us. We decided to go to them. We met with Bethel University and developed an intern program where students get intern credit for working in our call center. We also work with the Tennessee Career Center. They pay students to work in our call center. We have a task force made up of real estate developers, the owner of the lumber store and an investment banker and others who come in on a regular basis and make these phone calls along with the student interns. They will spend up to eight hours a day making calls. Some say they aren't interested, but many listen. Some have never thought about relocating or expanding their business, but it's something they are starting to think about. Others have asked for more information. We have some really good leads.

We have a holistic approach in trying to recruit industry. I've shown it to TVA and our