



Legislative Conference March 2-3

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For information regarding registration and hotel reservations, visit www.TML1.org

TOGETHER FOR TENNESSEE

Governor Bill Haslam's Second-Term Inauguration



Photos by Carole Graves

Gov. Bill Haslam delivers his inaugural speech after taking the oath of office at Legislative Plaza on Jan. 17. Pledging that there is more work to be done, he said he will continue to focus on improving education and implementing sound fiscal policies during his second term. See Pages 8 & 9 for photos of the inauguration.

Insure Tennessee defeated in Senate committee

After 21 months of intense negotiations and traversing across the state, Gov. Haslam's plan to extend health coverage to 280,000 low-income Tennesseans, died by a 7-4 vote in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee during a special-called legislative session.

The two-year pilot program, Insure Tennessee, would have provided health coverage to Tennesseans who do not currently have access to health insurance or have limited options and included market-based elements, such as vouchers to buy private insurance, co-pays and assurances that the state could pull out

of the deal if it ended up being more expensive than expected.

Hospitals pledged to cover the \$74 million state share, meaning taxpayers wouldn't have been responsible for extra health insurance costs. However, opponents of the proposal objected to adding to the federal debt by having the state draw down \$2.8 billion in federal money under President Barack Obama's health care law.

"Insure Tennessee is not 'Obamacare'," Haslam assured listeners repeatedly, but as much as he tried to show the difference of why it was not, "some people just couldn't

get past that hurdle," the governor told reporters at a press conference.

"We made a decision today, but we didn't do anything to answer the problem," a disappointed Haslam said.

Seven members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, created specifically for the special session, who opposed the plan were: Sens. Mike Bell, Janice Bowling, Rusty Crowe, Todd Gardenhire, Brian Kelsey, Frank Niceley and Kerry Roberts. Those who supported the plan were: Sens. Richard Briggs, Ed Jackson, Becky Massey and Jeff Yarbrow.

"There are hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans who need health care, who could get that in a way that doesn't cost the state anything," Haslam explained. "We have health care costs that are out of control in both our state and our country. And we haven't done anything to address those two issues."

The plan was designed to provide coverage for Tennesseans earning less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level, valued at more than \$16,000 a year for an individual and \$27,000 for a family of three.

"You're going to see us continue See **INSURE TN** on Page 5

Comptroller study finds gas tax insufficient

The Comptroller's Offices of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has completed a study focusing on the funding of Tennessee's highways and bridges.

The study finds that Tennessee's fuel taxes have stagnated and are not expected to be sufficient to maintain existing infrastructure and meet long-term transportation demands.

Tennessee relies heavily on fuel taxes to fund its highways and does not use debt financing, tolls, or general fund revenues.

Tennessee does not hold any highway debt. Tennessee's gasoline tax rate (21.4 cents per gallon) was last raised in 1989; its diesel fuel tax rate (18.4 cents per gallon) was last raised in 1990.

The report, which was requested by the General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee, outlines challenges to the existing system, and reviews alternative funding methods.

The report is intended to provide objective analysis for state

legislators to consider. It does not make recommendations, address the level of funding needed, or propose how funds should be spent.

Several transportation funding and financing options are examined in the report, including strengths and concerns for each option. Possible revenue options include:

- Motor Fuel Tax Rates
- Debt Financing
- Variable Rate and Indexed Fuel Tax Rates
- Alternative Fuel Vehicles
- Vehicle Registration Fees
- Local Funding Options
- Weight-Distance Tax
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Tax
- Tolls
- Public-Private Partnerships
- General Funds

Tennessee's per capita revenue for highways in 2010 was the lowest of the 50 states; however, its roads are generally rated as being of good quality. Tennessee

GAS TAX on Page 5

Report confirms community based supervision equals best outcome for incarcerated youth

Findings have far reaching implications for justice systems across the country



A groundbreaking new study by the Council of State Governments indicates that juveniles under community-based supervision are far less likely to reoffend than those placed in state-run facilities.

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

Tennessee is a national leader in decreasing its juvenile population in state correctional facilities—around 70 percent between 1997 and 2011. Now, a Texas-based report by the Council of State Governments (CSG) affirms that Tennessee is on the right track in the quest for better outcomes for incarcerated youth.

The study of Texas youth with nearly identical characteristics, finds juveniles under community-based supervision are far less likely to reoffend than those incarcerated in state-run facilities. Juveniles leaving state-run facilities, on the other hand, are 21 percent more likely to be arrested again than those leaving community-based supervision. And those that do recidivate, are nearly three times more likely to commit a felony, according to the report *Closer to Home: An Analysis of the State and Local Impact of the Texas*

Juvenile System.

Texas lawmakers responded with a chain of reforms between 2007 and 2013, when a number of abuses suffered by youth in state correctional facilities were uncovered. The reforms provided more supervision and treatment options for incarcerated juveniles—closer to home—rather than transporting young people far away to state-run correctional facilities.

The dramatic decrease in youths incarcerated in state facilities cut hundreds of millions in state spending in Texas, with a large portion of the savings reinvested into county-administered juvenile probation departments. During the same time period, juvenile arrests also declined by 33 percent, a significant drop compared to the 2-percent decline over the four years prior to 2007 reforms, according to a press release from State Majority Leader Sen. Mark Norris, immediate past CSG See **YOUTH** on Page 3

Coalition to focus on transportation funding

Revenue sought to improve transportation systems and boost economic competitiveness

The Transportation Coalition of Tennessee was recently created to seek stability in funding the construction and maintenance of our state's vital transportation infrastructures for the purpose of increasing mobility and safety while people and goods are moved throughout Tennessee.

The aim of the Coalition is to highlight the need for action and to build support for increased transportation funding -- to grow the entire pie. As such, the Coalition is encouraging exploration of any and all options and has not championed any specific legislative action or remedy.

TML has joined the coalition as a steering committee member along with other governmental, business and industry associations, including representatives from the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance, Auto Club Group/AAA Tennessee, Tennessee Public Transportation Association, Tennessee Trucking Association, Tennessee County Highway Officials Association, American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee, and Tennessee Road Builders Association.

The Coalition will add other business, citizens, community leaders, public officials and organiza-



tions to its ranks throughout the year. Tennessee is a pay-as-you-go state, with transportation projects funded primarily by state and federal fuel tax revenues. The dollars are apportioned for state and local projects, which include maintenance, repair and new construction.

Increases in fuel efficiency combined with gasoline and diesel taxes' not being increased for 25 years have led to a massive backlog of planned improvements, including work on deficient bridges and roads. Tennessee levies a state tax of 21.4 cents per gallon on gasoline and 18.4 cents on diesel fuel, which is combined with federal fuel taxes of 18.4 cents and 24.4 cents, respectively. Vehicle registration fees also contribute to the transportation fund.

Transportation experts estimate it would take an additional \$800 million annually to begin to seriously address some of the backlog of badly needed road projects across the state.

Tennessee Department of Trans-

portation officials warned late last year that the state is in increasing danger of being able to provide only basic maintenance on roads and bridges, leaving many projects aimed at keeping up with population growth and addressing needed safety improvements on the drawing board.

"Business leaders, economic development professionals and elected officials see the growing shortfall as a potential hindrance to future economic development in Tennessee," said Susie Alcorn, executive director of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance. "We hope interested parties will join the Transportation Coalition to add their expertise and insights as to the best way to move forward to address this issue."

The coalition will work throughout 2015 to build support and awareness for the issue, says Bill Moore, chairman of the Tennessee Infrastructure Alliance.

"A maintenance-only budget means no new roads and no new transportation options," said Moore. "That will hamper economic development efforts. It will make our highways and roads less safe. It will mean increased traffic congestion and more inconvenience for motorists."

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE

ATHENS
A leading global automotive supplier plans to build a new facility that’s expected to create as many as 400 new jobs. DENSO Manufacturing will build the new 224,000-square-foot facility at its existing location. The Japan-based company is a leading supplier of advanced technology, systems and components in the areas of thermal, powertrain control, electronics and information and safety. The company’s investment will be more than \$85 million. Production at the new facility is scheduled for July 2016.

BARTLETT
The Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a \$196,000 bid for the design and construction of the suburb’s new splash park. The 2,870-square-foot, zero-depth pool will be attached to the Bartlett Recreation Center. The park is expected to take about 90 days to build. Funding is in this year’s budget, and the city would like to open the park by Memorial Day. The water attraction has been part of the suburb’s capital improvements plan for about a decade. Mayor Keith McDonald said young families have requested the park.

CARYVILLE
A metal building manufacturing facility is being closed, and will result in the loss of 164 jobs. Houston, Tex.-based NCI Building Systems said it is closing its Caryville operation, as part of an effort to consolidate its Tennessee facilities. The company said its facilities in Lexington and Elizabethton will remain open, and that they will continue to serve NCI’s A&S Building Systems brand.

CHARLESTON
The Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee Historical Society was awarded a \$2,000 grant through the Tenn-Green Connections, a small grants program funded in East Tennessee by the Robert McCaleb family, and administered by the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. The grant will fund materials for a Native Plantings Garden located adjacent to an observation deck walkway being constructed by the Tennessee Valley Authority along the edge of Charleston’s cypress grove. The garden will serve as a teaching tool for residents, visitors and school groups regarding plants native to the area. The cypress grove, in the heart of the city, northeast of the new Heritage Center, was planted by TVA in the 1930s, burned and replanted in the 1960s. The deck walkway is designed and planned to eventually connect to the Charleston Public Park about two blocks to the south of the grove. This project is part of a larger heritage development project to interpret the Cherokee Heritage in the present-day Charleston.

CLEVELAND
The city has received its 17th consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The award was presented to the budget officers from all departments during the regular meeting of the city council. The award, from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, an association of professional budget preparers, is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

COLUMBIA
The city’s Police Department has

moved into its new location at 707 North Main St. The department was separated into two different buildings, with the patrol office on Westover Drive and the investigations division located on Pillow Drive. Upgrades to the office include a new HVAC system, carpet and paint, as well as some redesign in the structure to make it more suitable for its use. “Moving back downtown into city hall has allowed me to get everybody under one roof,” Chief Tim Potts said. “That makes for more efficient operations. We’ve got a renovated building now that will suit our needs for the next 20 or 30 years.”

DYERSBURG
The city has launched a feature rich smartphone/tablet APP called DGOV, and is available in both the Apple and Google Play store. The application provides users with current weather conditions, local community emergency alerts, local, regional, state and national news, local disaster preparedness tips, contact information for city departments and elected officials. Users can also view the City’s YouTube channels which contain Board meetings and educational videos. Users are allowed to connect to 311 center, either by voice, or web, to create their own service tickets for non-emergency request for police, fire, ems, and public works issues. According to Dyersburg Emergency Operations Director Mark Grant, the city is currently enhancing the APP with new features such as crime mapping and feeds from the 911 center. “The city has leveraged numerous channels to connect to the community; Facebook, Twitter, a joint 311/911 call center, smartphone APP, and the cities’ website are all channels used extensively by the community,” Grant said.

JACKSON
The city and JEA has added alternative fuel vehicles to the fleet. The additions include three police cruisers fueled by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), or propane, and two trucks utilized in the city’s Health and Sanitation Department for debris collection, an F250 and an F450, fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG). The alternative fuel model is a partnership between the city and JEA, and also CNG-fueled trucks to the Waste Management of Jackson’s fleet for garbage collection.

KNOXVILLE
The city has been selected as one of 50 communities to advance to the semifinal round of the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a national competition that challenges small- and medium-sized communities to develop and implement creative, sustainable, and replicable strategies to save energy. Knoxville will work with utility and community leaders to reduce energy consumption in homes, schools and municipal buildings. The community that reduces energy consumption the most over a two-year period has a chance to win up to \$5 million to fund local energy and sustainability programs. The city’s Office of Sustainability partnered with Knoxville Utilities Board, the University of Tennessee’s Office of Sustainability, Knox County Schools, and multiple nonprofit organizations to submit a community energy plan and other requirements for Knoxville to compete in the competition.

KNOXVILLE
Downtown dogs and their owners can now enjoy extended hours at the city’s PetSafe® Downtown Dog Park, thanks to lighting in the park supported by three new solar panel stations. The lighting will enable park users to enjoy summer park hours despite earlier sunsets in the winter. Typically, city parks are open dawn to dusk. Using money remaining from the original capital funds for the Downtown Dog Park (opened in June 2010), the \$42,000 project features three light posts with two solar panels each. The park’s new light posts adhere to the style of downtown pedestrian infrastructure utilities. The city Parks and Greenways coordinator oversaw the purchase and installation of the lights. In addition to reducing energy use, the solar panels proved to be the more cost-effective choice as opposed to installing underground wiring. The solar panels are expected to produce approximately \$17,000 in annual energy savings.

LA VERGNE
La Vergne was ranked as the 17th best place for young families to live in Tennessee by *NerdWallet*, a consumer-advocacy website. The study was conducted to help young families with tighter finances find good homes that allow a good quality of life. The city joined eight other cities in Middle Tennessee to make the Top 20 list, including Mt. Juliet, Nolensville, and Spring Hill. Smyrna came in at 26 and Murfreesboro was rated at 36. *NerdWallet* based its ranking on home affordability, prosperity and growth, quality of education, and family friendliness. According to a *NerdWallet* spokesperson. “La Vergne’s strong performance was bolstered by its affordability and quality schools. Additionally, more than a third of the city’s households are home to a child under 18, making this one of the state’s most family-friendly communities.”

NASHVILLE
Google announced it’s expanding its ultra-fast fiber optic Internet service to Nashville. The company said it will work with city leaders to create a details map of where the fiber lines can go, using existing infrastructure such as utility poles and underground conduit, as well as making sure to avoid things like gas and water lines. A network will be designed over the next few months and construction can begin. At speeds of more than 50 times the national broadband average, gigabit service can download an entire movie in less than two minutes. Prices for Google Fiber are comparable to or below what most households already pay. For example, in the two Kansas City markets, Google Fiber charges about \$70 per month for just high-speed Internet service, or \$120 for an Internet and TV package. Along with Nashville, other cities to get the service will be Atlanta, Charlotte, and Raleigh-Durham.

NASHVILLE
In the *Brookings Global MetroMonitor* 2014 report, the city ranks 86th globally for economic performance out of the world’s 300 largest metropolitan economies. The reports, produced as part of a 5-year joint project between Brookings and JPMorgan Chase, aim to give metropolitan leaders hard data on what policies and innovations are working. When the study was published in 2013, the city ranked 89. Nashville has improved its employment rate by 2.3 percent since the last report.

Westmoreland receives state Disaster Recovery Grant



Westmoreland was awarded the Tennessee Disaster Recovery Grant from the Tennessee Community Development Block Grant Program, which began in 2010. The city has just recently completed all phases of the program, which was administered by the Greater Nashville Regional Council. The grant was administered in two phases. Phase I, \$388,100, funded new roofs, a tornado siren, sewer pumps, utility/salt shed and culvert repairs. Phase II, in the amount of \$1,185,000, funded a new backhoe, backhoe trailer, ladder fire truck and equipment, extension to fire hall, maintenance building and emergency response vehicle. Pictured left to right are: Adam Herald, Public Works supervisor, Mayor Michael Carter, Matt Von Lunen, GNRC economic development specialist, Fire Chief Mark Jenkins, and Tim Farley, codes/building inspector/Police Dept.

Daddies, daughters dance the night away at Athens’ 30th Anniversary event



Back in 1986, Athens Parks Director Austin Fesmire decided to revitalize a failing dance program. Bringing his own stereo and records from home, Fesmire and the parks staff hosted the first Daddy Daughter Dance attended by 100 dads and daughters at a cost of \$2 per person. Games, professional photos, and amusing activities were added to the event, which expanded, as attendance soared. Designed for dads and daughters of all ages, from young fathers with infant daughters, to fathers with teenage daughters, to dads with daughters that have families of their own, the dance has proven to be the hottest ticket in town through the years for more than 30,000 attendees. In 2015, \$12 dance tickets for Feb. 6 and 7 moved quickly— with Saturday night completely sold out on-line within hours. One grand prize winner from each of the four dance events received a free dinner from Western Sizzlin for the dad and daughter, one free hair styling courtesy of Rhonda Price at The Hair Place, one studio photo package courtesy of Burleson Brown Photography and a special spotlight dance.

Sweetwater to build replica depot



The town of Sweetwater is planning to build a \$500,000 replica of its former depot, torn down after passenger service ended. According to *The Chattanooga.com*, a \$335,000 state grant was secured to build the depot, which will serve as a visitor center and includes restrooms. The new depot will be just across the tracks from where the original depot stood. Located near the original depot site is a Southern Railway dining car with a Sweetwater sign on the side. Visitors were once allowed inside, and it may again be open for guests to explore. According to the mayor’s office, the total cost will be about \$500,000. Commemorative bricks are being sold for \$100 each to help raise the local cost. The East Tennessee line coming down from Knoxville was built through Sweetwater in 1852.

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Farragut seals environmental future through stormwater education

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Just as stormwater management has evolved to become common practice in cities across Tennessee, community education initiatives about proper water mitigation and quality can become ingrained into our cultural landscape for future generations.

In Farragut, learning about stormwater can be as simple as a day at the park, where citizens, schools and non-profit groups come together to work on interactive projects at the town’s outdoor classroom and water quality demonstration site. Conveniently located near the west entrance of Farragut High School, the site features permeable pavers, permeable concrete, as well as a rainwater harvesting system funded by a \$19,300 grant from the Tennessee Stormwater Association.

Community projects already completed at the site include the creation of a rain garden sign by Greenway School and the construction of eight raised bed planters and picnic tables done by two separate Eagle Scouts with Boy Scout Troop 444.

Urbanization—the clearing of trees and grass to be replaced with hard or impervious surfaces such as concrete, brick, asphalt, and rooftops doesn’t allow rain water to seep into the ground as fast as it used to. Stormwater management controls the quantity of rainwater runoff, and the subsequent flooding, while maintaining the quality of water in rivers, lakes and streams which receive the runoff.

“From a stormwater manager perspective, I looked for an opportunity to integrate demonstration elements into it to educate the community,” said Farragut’s Stormwater Coordinator Jason Scott, who was inspired to develop the site after attending a community celebration at Halls Outdoor Classroom in north Knoxville. “There were different learning opportunities there, activities and pie eating contests. I thought ‘what a remarkable way to rally people around something positive,’” he said. Working with Alyssa Watson and Amy Scheuer in 2010, Scott conducted a survey at Farragut High School identifying amenities that would be useful to educators in the space. “With this information and support from our leadership, we applied for a 319(h) Non-Point source pollution grant with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture,” said Scott.

Sites such as Farragut’s are being built across the state as part of the Tennessee Stormwater Association’s (TNSA) Green Development Grant Program. The program provides funding through a competitive process for projects such as rain gardens, green roofs, pervious concrete applications, trees and tree boxes, in addition to outreach and education efforts designed to promote green development in Tennessee communities.

“We handed out grants with money from TVA, TDEC and TDOT for public outreach and education about stormwater,” said John Chlarson, MTAS public works consultant and ad-hoc secretary for TNSA. “It’s been a very useful tool for educating young people.”

And as it wasn’t too long ago that stormwater management wasn’t even a blip on most cities’ radar screens—it was the early 90’s when the first permits for larger cities were



Jake Greear with McGill Associates and his family work with Hanna Jackson, an AmeriCorps service member, to move soil into planters built by Boy Scouts at Farragut’s outdoor classroom and water quality demonstration site.

issued across Tennessee—cities are discovering to be truly effective, the process requires public education initiatives and integrating sustainable practices into citizen’s everyday life

In Philadelphia, the city’s “Green City Clean Waters” plan is building layers of community engagement and partnerships over technical and governance systems, according to Greta Byrum, senior field analyst, Open Technology Institute. In her article “How Community Networks Could Show Us the Infrastructure of the Future,” Bynum notes that now and for the next 20 years, Philadelphia schools and libraries will teach kids about water with hands-on active learning projects like rain gardens, while the city enforces requirements for the replacement of non-porous surfaces, offers funding and support for neighborhood initiatives, and streamlines bureaucratic procedures to facilitate their approval and success.

By Sept. 28, 2014, Farragut held its first environmental shindig, the Green Earth Blue Skies Festival, in conjunction with “A National Public Lands Day” event at Founders Park at Campbell Station. Multiple vendors, including the city of Knoxville’s Tree Board, the Tennessee Clean Water Network and the Izaak Walton League helped provide demonstrations and information to the public. TDEC Division of Water Resources hosted “Kids in the Creek” at Founders Park to show how to identify biological indicators of water quality. Denis Rochat of Rainwater Resources, talked about rainwater harvesting, and the Izaak Walton League lead a guided trail walk through the park. Lauren George Smith taught one of her science classes about water resources in the Permeable Paver Parking Lot of the Outdoor Classroom.

Future community projects at the outdoor classroom include a partnership with Pellissippi State Community College to use several classes to design and install a rain garden, and work with Smith’s science classes and horticulture club to install a warm season grasses demonstration as well as food crops. “When we get to the point that we need to implement these technologies into regulatory requirements, these examples are on the ground to look at,” Scott said.

In Tennessee, TDEC has issued a best practices guidance manual developed by the University of Tennessee’s Stormwater Assistance Research and Training Center that

provides information for cities across the state about new regulations and how to incorporate them into development projects. The accompanying Tennessee Runoff Reduction Assessment tool helps designers calculate whether a project meets the requirements. The manual can be viewed at <http://tnpermanent-stormwater.org/manual>

Reviewed by the TNSA, every city in the state has the option to use the manual or another that meets the



Farragut’s outdoor classroom features picnic tables built by local scout troops, permeable pavers, permeable concrete, as well as a rainwater harvesting system funded by a \$19,300 grant from the Tennessee Stormwater Association.

state’s requirements. “If they pick UT’s manual with the accompanying software tool, they will have an extra year before they have to meet permit requirements,” Chlarson said.

“We’re really lucky as a community that there are a number of developments in Farragut that have already voluntarily developed a lot of these technologies,” said Scott. “Farragut’s development community has made significant progress. We’ve seen traction in the use of permeable

pavers as a way to reduce runoff and reduce detention requirements. For the most part, when you’re dealing with design and implementation of construction stormwater, there’s definitely a higher level of awareness and people understand how to use the tools and how to meet minimum requirements, applying them in such a way that they can save their clients money.”

The town’s formal ribbon cutting for the site was Nov. 13, 2014.

Texas report confirms community-based supervision best for incarcerated youth

YOUTH from Page 1
chair.

“The extraordinary data compiled for this study demonstrates convincingly how much better youth, who prior to the reforms would have been incarcerated, fare [better] instead under community supervision,” said Norris. “It also finds that, for those youth placed under community supervision, there is still considerable room for improvement.”

Tennessee’s Department of Children’s Services Juvenile Justice Division was one of only five states selected in 2014 to partner with CSG’s Justice Center and the National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) to test recommendations set forth in two studies on what state and local governments can do to improve outcomes for youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The other participating states are Utah, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Kansas.

The Texas report is expected to have significant implications on the operations of state juvenile justice systems across the country.

“These declines are not something unique to Texas,” said Michael Thompson, CSG Justice Center director. “In fact, when we look across the country you’ll see huge declines in the number of kids in state-run facilities, which is one of the reasons we think this report has such national significance. Forty-seven to 50 states have declines approaching 80 percent in some cases.”

“We’ve seen remarkable reductions in the number of youth confined to state-secure facilities,” Norris said. “But it’s important for us to understand why the decrease occurred and what is happening to those kids who have gone into community-based supervision.”



Texas lawmakers responded with sweeping reforms between 2007 and 2013, when a number of abuses suffered by youth in state correctional facilities were uncovered.

The report discovered in an examination of eight large Texas counties, 298 of the 300 programs mix youth of different risk levels. Between 34 percent and 90 percent of youth considered to have a low risk of reoffending were placed in one or more programs, despite only a small fraction of these youth having a high need for such programs.

“Neither poor matching of high risk youth with inappropriate programs, nor over-programming youth with minimal needs does much to reduce the likelihood of a young person reoffending, and could actually have the unintended consequence of increasing the likelihood of rearrest,” said Dr. Mark Lipsey, a national expert who directs the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University and advised the team on the study’s methodology, along with Dr. Edward P. Mulvey, professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.


Furthermore, Thompson notes that segregating offenders who commit misdemeanors from those who commit felonies can make a big difference.

“When you mix kids of different risk levels, you increase the likelihood that those medium and high-risk kids are going to be a negative influence on low-risk kids,” he said. “Texas still has a long way to go,” said Thompson. “partially because the changes haven’t been fully implemented.”

“The findings in this study and the extensive dialogue we’ve had with the CSG Justice Center will provide support and guidance as we look to further improve operations and outcomes for juvenile justice youth served in the community,” said Randy Turner, Director of Juvenile Services in Tarrant County.

To view a complete version of the report, visit <http://csgjusticecenter.org/>.

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STATE BRIEFS

911 charge takes effect

Tennesseans getting their first bills of 2015 will soon see new charges for 911 services. Under a new law that took effect on Jan. 1, the surcharge for all landlines and mobile phones was set at \$1.16 per month. That’s a 16-cent increase for mobile phone users, and a decrease in the fee for business landlines in all 100 emergency communications districts in Tennessee. For residential landlines, the universal \$1.16 fee marks an increase for subscribers in 45 districts, and a decrease for those in the remaining 55 where most people paid \$1.50 per month.

DUI arrests increase in 2014

More Tennesseans were arrested for driving under the influence in 2014 than 2013, according to a new annual report from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. Across the state, law enforcement agents arrested 29,544 people for DUI -- 639 more arrests than in 2013, according to the report, which must be submitted to the Tennessee House of Representatives and Senate each year by Feb. 1. DUI arrests also increased locally during 2014. Chattanooga Police said they ramped up their focus on bar owners during 2014 to encourage them to stop serving intoxicated customers and to help heavy drinkers get home safely. And the Tennessee Highway Patrol used analytic software to accurately predict when and where drunk drivers were most likely to crash while on the roads. While the number of statewide DUI arrests was higher in 2014 than 2013, both years still ended with fewer arrests than 2012, when 32,999 people were taken in for driving while intoxicated.

TN 6th highest in food stamp usage

More than 1 million people use food stamps in the state according to the USDA. A new report shows Tennessee has the sixth-highest number of people on food stamps in the country, or “SNAP” benefits. The USDA says a little more than 1.28 million Tennesseans receive the stamps. Food stamps cost the state around 160 million dollars a year. Individuals and families must go through a series of steps and meet certain qualifications to receive food stamps. A family of four must make less than \$31,000 a year, while a single adult must make less than \$15,000.

AT&T to hire 145 statewide

After creating more than 300 new jobs in Tennessee in 2014, AT&T is planning to hire 145 new employees in the state in 2015. The jobs, which will be for a newly created call center as well as retail and technical positions, will include 40 in Memphis. The company continues to invest in its network, and several of the jobs are because of AT&T’s Project Velocity IP project, which will expand the company’s IP broadband networks.

DIDD receives network accreditation

The Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities received official Person-Centered Excellence network accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). The Person-Centered Excellence accreditation process assesses the quality of services and supports delivered by the department and its contracted providers. The CQL deemed DIDD as an entity

that better understands how people using their services define quality of life. The council highlighted DIDD’s strengths as protection from harm, health support and safe environments.

Less fire related deaths across state

Fewer people died in Tennessee from accidental fire-related incidents in 2014 than any other year in recorded history, according to the State Fire Marshal’s Office. In 2014 state fire records show that 72 accidental fire deaths occurred in Tennessee, compared with 98 similar fire fatalities in 2013. The 2014 figure represents a 27 percent year-to-year decrease compared to 2013 and a 51 percent decrease compared to 2003’s 146 fire fatalities, which is the highest total for fire-related deaths in the previous 14-year sample period. At 17.7 deaths per million residents, Tennessee is ranked the sixth-worst state for fire-related deaths in the nation, according to the National Fire Protection Association’s 2006-2010 report. However, the state has tracked deaths from 2011-2014, and results show that the state stands at 13.7 deaths in that period. When the NFPA releases its next report in 2016, the state is predicted to show marked improvement. “Raising awareness of fire prevention and successfully working with homeowners and fire departments has been crucial to saving lives,” said Gary West, deputy commissioner for Fire Prevention.

TN receives “F” for smoking control

The American Lung Association’s annual “State of Tobacco Control” report gave Tennessee a failing grade. Not implementing proven policies to reduce tobacco use earned the state an F in three of the four categories: tobacco prevention and control program funding, tobacco taxes, smoke-free air and access to cessation services. The tax rate of 62 cents a pack, one of the lowest in the nation, and meeting less than 10 percent of the CDC’s recommended funding for tobacco control programs are listed as significant reasons for the failing grade. However, the state did slightly better in the smoke-free air category with a grade of C. No state earned an A in this year’s report, which recommends Tennessee’s tax be raised \$1 on all tobacco products, that the Non-Smokers Rights Law be strengthened and that funding be increased to better meet the guidelines.

AG deems beer sign ban unconstitutional

A little-known Tennessee law banning bars and stores from including beer brands or sales on outside signs could be unconstitutional. State Attorney General Herbert Slatery said in a legal opinion that it’s unlikely the law would survive a legal challenge on free speech grounds because it bans “truthful and non-misleading commercial messages about lawful products.”

Slatery notes that beer retailers are allowed to display information about available beer brands and drinks promotions in other ways such as window displays. He adds that exceptions for people with temporary beer permits, stadiums and entertainment complexes also raise questions about whether the state can make a consistent argument about promoting public health and safety.

Ag Dept. recruiting hemp growers

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is looking for a few farmers interested in growing industrial hemp. Applications are now open for farmers and producers to work with the department in the production of industrial hemp. The Tennessee General Assembly last year passed a law that legalized strains of low-THC varieties of cannabis, as well as the measure to start a licensing program. Currently, industrial hemp or Cannabis sativa L. is only allowed to be grown in Tennessee as part of a research or pilot project. Cannabis sativa L. is the same plant species as marijuana but has significantly lower tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content and is distinguished by its use and chemical makeup. The application and memorandum are available at www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/industrialhemp.shtml.

THDA creates award honoring longtime staff member

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency has created an award in honor of one of its longtime employees, who is retiring following 40 years of state service, 34 with the THDA. The Vicki George Award will be given annually to an educator or counseling agency that excels in providing professional homeowner education and counseling resulting in a significant improvement in housing opportunities for Tennessee families.

TN health officials not overly concerned about measles outbreak

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is already reporting more outbreaks of measles than typically seen in an entire year. Tennessee has had only 14 cases of the highly contagious virus since 1995 -- five of which were last year, according to a report in the *Times Free Press*. In 2000, the federal government announced that measles had been eliminated in the United States. But last year, there were 23 outbreaks resulting in 644 cases, the highest U.S. number in nearly a quarter of a century. Tennessee health officials say they are not too concerned about the spread of measles here, citing a high immunization rate of the combination vaccine known as MMR, which prevents against measles, mumps and rubella. In Tennessee more than 93.8 percent of children in private schools and 94.9 percent in public schools are fully vaccinated by kindergarten. The state does not track home-schooled students.

State unemployment rate for Dec. decreased to 6.6 percent

Tennessee Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips announced the Tennessee preliminary unemployment rate for December was 6.6 percent—two-tenths of one percentage point lower than the November revised rate of 6.8 percent. This is the fourth consecutive decrease of the state’s unemployment rate. The U.S. preliminary rate for December was 5.6 percent, also falling two-tenths of one percentage point from the prior month. The national rate for December was 5.6 percent.

The largest job gains were in the trade/transportation/utilities, manufacturing, and mining/logging/construction sectors. The one sector to post losses were in information

and financial activities.

Economic Summary

- Over the past year, Tennessee’s unemployment rate decreased from 7.7 percent to 6.6 percent while the national rate declined from 6.7 percent to 5.6 percent.
- Total nonfarm employment increased 12,500 jobs from November to December. The largest increases occurred in trade/transportation/utilities, manufacturing, and mining/logging/construction.
- Over the year, nonfarm employment increased 66,200 jobs. The largest increases occurred in professional/business services, trade/transportation/utilities, and mining/logging/construction.

TN State Parks hold annual Park Awards



Pictured: Johnsonville State Historic Park was awarded Park of the Year Jan. 21 during the 2015 TN State Park Manager Meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park. Pictured (l-r) Mike Robertson, TSP director of Operations; Brock Hill, TDEC deputy commissioner for Conservation; Jerry Wooten, Johnsonville State Historic Park manager; TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau; and Chris Padgett, TSP West Tennessee Area manager. Parks throughout the state were recognized and honored for their work in 2014. Other recipients include: Excellence in Innovation: Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Cumberland Mountain State Park; Excellence in Customer Service: Reelfoot Lake State Park and Fall Creek Falls State Park; Excellence in Interpretation: Mousetail Landing State Park and Norris Dam State Park; Excellence in Resource Management: Radnor Lake State Park and Standing Stone State Park.

Women in public service shine at 1st MTAS/CTAS symposium



More than 65 participants attended the first annual Women in Public Service Symposium in Murfreesboro. The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), presented the six-hour class that allowed women in public service to develop their professional expertise, enlarge their network of professional friends, and expand on their life goals. The class was a collaborative effort between MTAS and the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS). The participants got to listen and learn from several prominent women speakers, from various walks of life, who have dedicated their lives to public service. Pictured media spokesperson and national training and presentation coach Mimi Bliss (left) works with Mary Holder, Trousdale County Register of Deeds, who shares her personal public service story.

50K Tree Day: Statewide tree giveaway & planting event

Homeowners, businesses, and groups can now sign up to receive free trees for their property or community. The catch? The trees must be planted in one hour, at 10 am Central/11 am Eastern, Saturday February 21.

A team of non-profit organizations, state agencies and community groups seeks to plant 50,000 trees in one hour across Tennessee on "50K Tree Day," the first tree-planting undertaking of its size in Tennessee, according to event organizers. Organizers are currently recruiting interested groups and individuals to get involved.

“We’re putting the ‘tree’ in country,” says John McFadden, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council. “Our goal is to have fun while making a positive difference for our communities. Once these trees are in the ground, they will benefit our communities with cleaner air and water for decades to come.”

“TDEC is pleased to join so many organizations and individuals taking action to plant trees across Tennessee that will create a host of environmental benefits, from preventing soil erosion and water pollution while contributing to cleaner air for us all to breathe,” said Shari Meghreblian, deputy commissioner for Environment with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, one of the event partners. “These efforts will also



make real and lasting difference for communities across Tennessee.”

Event organizers are looking for individuals and groups to get involved. Sign up opportunities include:

- Volunteering at a site in your county
- Picking up four, eight or 12 free trees to plant at your home or business
- As a group hosting a planting event and assembling your own team of volunteers in the community
- Helping to identify a tree-planting location in your community

For more information, and to sign up in one of these ways, visit www.tectn.org/50ktreeday

50K Tree Day is being coordinated by the Tennessee Environmental Council, Cumberland River Compact, Tennessee Stormwater Association, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, TDEC, and the following partners: Harpeth River Watershed Association, Keep Tennessee Beautiful, Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the US Dept. of Agriculture-Forest Service.

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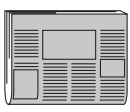
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AIRPORT DIRECTOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city is accepting applications for Director of Shelbyville Municipal Airport. This is a highly responsible, department director level, administrative position. This is a newly created city employee position. Shelbyville is a historic, economically and racially diverse community located in southern Middle Tennessee and is the county seat of Bedford County. The Airport Director is responsible for the administration of the City’s General Aviation Airport, including all personnel matters, budget, Airport operations, Airport marketing, and Airport property maintenance. Desired qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in Aviation, Political Science, Business or a related field from an accredited university; five to seven years relevant experience is required; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Salary range of \$49,000 to \$59,990, plus excellent benefits. Letters of interest and resumes should be submitted on or before Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, to the City of Shelbyville, Attention: City Manager, 201 N. Spring St. Shelbyville, TN 37160. Successful applicants will be required to pass a background check, physical, psychological and drug/alcohol test prior to final consideration for the position. The City of Shelbyville is a Drug Free / EOE Workplace. For more information, please visit our website: www.shelbyvilletn.org

ASSISTANT BUDGET OFFICER

COLLIERVILLE. The purpose of this classification is to perform professional financial work in the development and ongoing administration of the town of Collierville’s financial process and in the development and maintenance of Town finances and supporting systems. Requires a Bachelor’s degree with major course work in Finance, Economics, Accounting, Public or Business Administration, or a closely related field; supplemented by three years of job related experience in local government budget development and analysis, at least one of which must have been in a supervisory capacity; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator’s License required. Salary is \$48,311 to \$82,817 (DOQ) annually plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, M-F, 8-5. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER.

MURFREESBORO. The assistant city manager shall provide skilled administrative assistance to the city manager in all phases of city operations. The employee will respond to citizens’ complaints and concerns on behalf of the city manager; assist in the preparation and review of the city budget; be familiar with city policies; and, possess a working knowledge of employment and other laws applicable to local governments. This employee will be directly responsible to the city manager. The essential functions of the assistant city manager are: manages all defined functions in areas as assigned by the city manager; and confers, coordinates, plans, and negotiates on behalf of the city manager and department heads on various operational and administrative matters. Represents the city at various regional, state, and executive committee meetings of governmental entities. (Full job description on line). Requirements are a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university is required; undergraduate degree with a major emphasis in Public Administration or Business Administration is preferred. Master’s degree in relevant field is preferred and minimum of five years of work experience in government; municipal government preferred. The salary range is \$87,478 - \$98,084 DOQ. Those interested need to go to www.murfreesborotn.gov for full job description and to apply on-line. The City of Murfreesboro is a Drug Free/EOE workplace.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

UNION CITY. This is inspection work in building control and construction. The building inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the building code adopted by the city. Responsibilities include monitoring storm water control methods on construction sites and in new sub-division developments, flood

plain management and development in the city flood prone areas. Applicant must be graduate of a standard high school or GED equivalent, hold active State of Tennessee certifications in building, plumbing and mechanical. For a complete job description notify: Lisa Chambers – lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us or mail to resume to: City of Union City, PO Box 9, Union City, TN 38281

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPARTA. Qualified applicants are being sought by the city of Sparta, with a seven-member council and a population of 5,071, for the position of city administrator. The city has an annual budget of \$20,000,000 with approximately 80 full-time employees. The position oversees the day-to-day operations of the city and supervises all department heads, including police, parks, water, and sewer. The successful candidate must have a bachelor’s degree in public/business management or related field and three years of government management experience. A master’s degree and city management experience desired. Skills in budgeting, utility management, personnel issues, public safety, and long-range planning are essential. The successful candidate must have strong leadership, financial management, and interpersonal skills with experience in planning, land use, residential development, and infrastructure expansion. Salary: high \$70s to mid \$90s, DOQ. Resumes, along with a cover letter and three professional references must be received by March 2 at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 120 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105, Attn: Warren Nevad. Electronic submissions shall be received at armintha.loveday@tennessee.edu by March 2. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

CITY MANAGER

COOKEVILLE

The city of Cookeville is exception applications for city manager. Current manager retiring after 20 years. Salary range is \$102K - \$153,899K DOQ, plus excellent benefits. 425 employees and \$128 million budget. Position answers to five-member city council consisting of mayor, vice-mayor and three councilmen elected at large. Cookeville is conveniently located on I-40 between Nashville and Knoxville. Successful candidate chosen on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to actual experience. The ideal candidate will have previous city manager experience and should possess a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a major in public administration, business administration, finance, political science or a related field (a Master’s degree in public or business administration is preferred), or possess a combination of related experience and education. Application/resume is a public record. To view the position profile visit <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/EmploymentOpps> Send cover letter and resume by March 6, 2015 to Armintha Loveday, UT-MTAS, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105, phone: 865-974-0411, email: armintha.loveday@tennessee.edu

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

BRISTOL. Under the direction of the Director of Community Development, this position is to administer the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Grant the city receives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Employees in this job classification are responsible for process and compliance issues related to funding agency regulations and standards, and oversees adherence to administrative, fiscal and accounting policies and procedures related to grant funds. This position maintains detailed files for projects in connection with program funds, provides staff assistance to the Community Development Advisory Committee, conducts pre-bidding and bidding of rehabilitation/reconstruction projects, communicates with project applicants, coordinates with First Tennessee Development District regarding the administration of HOME funds, oversees and maintains financial records of the program, and researches to secure additional grant funds. This candidate must have a Bachelor’s Degree in Urban Planning, Development or related field; supplemented by two years responsible funds accounting experience in grants or funding within a similar government institution; or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Salary Range: \$37,400 annually. To download an application and review summary of benefits go to: www.bristoltn.org. Apply to Human Resources Department, P. O. Box

1189, 801 Anderson Street, Room 204, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. EOE/AA. Women/minorities encouraged to apply. The position will remain open until filled.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TENNESSEE STORMWATER ASSOCIATION. The Tennessee Stormwater Association is seeking an experienced and energetic leader to serve as executive director. Under minimal supervision, this person will be the primary public figure of TNSA and is responsible for association and program development, fundraising, budgeting and fiscal management, strategic planning, maintaining current relationships and developing new partnerships as well as promoting the organization’s achievements through public and media relations. Must be highly motivated, self-starter with the ability to take initiative, multitask and work well independently. Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in environmental science, biology, public or business administration, marketing, non-profit management, or engineering or a related field and three or more years of experience in coordination or oversight of a complex environmental program or non-profit organization. Must demonstrate experience with and knowledge of water quality and stormwater issues. Understanding of NPDES policy standards in the state of Tennessee, and grant writing experience preferred. Salary: \$30,000 per year plus up to \$20,000 in performance incentives; based on a 32 hour minimum work week. Incentives and/or raises driven by candidate’s ability to generate funding; evaluated annually. TNSA has limited funds and supporting a staff person will require quick implementation of a strong fundraising program. Ability to work from home. \$3600 personal benefit stipend. 10 days annual/personal leave plus federal holidays. A laptop and paid cell-phone. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please submit your resume and cover letter to tnstormwater@yahoo.com by 5pm Eastern Time Feb. 27.

RECRUITER

COLLIERVILLE. The Town of Collierville has an immediate opening for a recruiter. This position performs responsible administrative work in identifying and developing internal and external candidate pools for current and future position vacancies utilizing various resource tools, sourcing strategies and techniques. Requires a Bachelor’s degree in Human Resources, Communications, Marketing, or a related field; supplemented by 1 year of previous experience and/or training involving recruiting or human resources; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for this job. Valid driver’s license required. Salary is \$35,619 annually with excellent benefits package. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN, 38017, M-F. The official application of the Town of Collierville must be filled out and may be accompanied by a resume. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. Position will remain open until filled. EOE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHIEF OPERATOR

PORTLAND. The city is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator. Starting rate of pay is \$18.71 per hour DOE and qualifications. This position is full time, with full benefit package available including vacation, sick days, paid holidays; health, dental, vision, life/AD&D, TCRS retirement and supplemental voluntary benefits. Graduation from a standard high school or equivalent GED with additional formal training (post-secondary is preferred) in chemistry, biology, sanitary and/or environmental engineering or related fields as applicable to the wastewater treatment industry. At least 3 years’ experience in the operation of a water treatment facility. Strongly prefer minimum of one year experience in supervision at the wastewater treatment plant level. Must possess a valid, Tennessee driver’s license. Must possess a valid, State of Tennessee Class III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license. Must achieve State of Tennessee Class IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator license within 18 months of placement in position. An application and job description may be obtained from the receptionist at Portland City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm. A complete job description is posted on the city’s website, can www.cityofportlandtn.gov and by clicking the link: Portland Employment Opportunity. This position is open until filled. Applications must be returned to: Human Resources, Attn: John Grubbs, Portland City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, Tenn., 37148. Pre-employment drug screen and physical may be required. The city of Portland is EOE.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
CONGRESSIONAL
CITY CONFERENCE
MARCH 7-11, 2015 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National League of Cities (NLC) will host its annual Congressional City Conference March 7-11 in Washington, D.C. More than 1,000 elected and appointed city leaders from across the county will convene to focus on federal policy issues and share what is important to their community. The conference provides an opportunity to also learn about NLC priorities for federal action in 2015 and advocate on behalf of cities for those priorities.

NBC News’ political director and Meet the Press moderator Chuck Todd will be the opening session speaker, and the conference will feature a variety of workshops and topics important to cities. Attendees can also choose to receive additional training through the NLC University Seminars as well as participate in a number of engagement and networking opportunities where attendees can join NLC committee meetings,



Chuck Todd

discussions amongst members from shared community characteristics and constituency groups who share common interests.

More information and online registration is available on NLC’s Web site.

Farmers can learn about marketing products at February boot camps



Farmers who plan to sell products at farmers markets will have an opportunity to learn about regulations and more at six Farmers Market Boot Camp Workshops to be held across Tennessee in February. This will be the fourth consecutive year for these workshops, which will be taught by specialists from University of Tennessee Extension, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and USDA Risk Management Agency. The workshops are open to all farmers.

Those interested are encouraged to preregister early for the workshops online at tiny.utk.edu/fmbootcamp. There is a \$20 registration fee, and the fee includes lunch. Preregistration is required at least five days prior to the workshop. Space is limited.

The workshops will be held in Cookeville (Feb. 16), Alcoa (Feb. 17), Greeneville (Feb. 18), Covington (Feb. 24), Clarksville (Feb. 25) and Franklin (Feb. 26). Check-in begins at 9 am local time, and sessions run from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The workshops are intended for farmers who plan to sell at farmers markets and will cover the following topics:

- Understanding the Need for Regulations on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- Be Outstanding in Your Field with a Fabulous Farmers Market Display
- Are You Covered When Selling Fruits and Vegetables? Be Informed About Product Liability Risk
- Retail Meat Sales Guidelines
- Plant the Right Fruit and Vegetable Seeds to Grow Your Bank Account
- Resources for Specialty Crop Growers Through the Center for Profitable Agriculture
- Updates: Milk Sales and USDA Poultry Exemptions
- Introduction to Whole Farm Revenue Protection

Workshop attendance fulfills a Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) requirement in only the following sectors: Fruits and Vegetables and Value-Added Diversification sectors. For additional information regarding educational programs for TAEP credit, please contact Erica Alexander at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 615-837-5344.

For more information about the workshops, click the link listed under “Educational Events” at the Center for Profitable Agriculture’s website: ag.tennessee.edu/cpa or contact Hal Pepper at Hal Pepper, Center for Profitable Agriculture, 931-486-2777, hal.pepper@utk.edu

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

On issues ranging from the minimum wage to fracking to drones, a number of cities acted on their own in 2014, and the trend is expected to continue. Meanwhile, some states are pushing back by barring local governments from adopting such measures. As cities increasingly institute liberal laws, some state legislatures have been fighting back. They’ve passed their own laws barring local governments from enacting certain measures. These preemption laws limit or prohibit local action on everything from fracking to broadband network expansion to capping soda sizes. Michael Pagano, dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said that states are turning to preemption because legislators don’t trust the decisions made by local governments or appreciate their autonomy. “I think you’ll see more preemption in 2015 on different issues. It depends on who controls the legislature and what the issue is,” said Jon Russell, director of the American City County Exchange,

which is part of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a free-market think tank that drafts model legislation. “If a state looks at it as detrimental to its economic health – that it’s hurting business and job development – more preemption will take root.”

In Texas, Dallas County, the first U.S. locality to deal with the sudden challenge of an Ebola outbreak, the impact cost the county a quarter of a million dollars to gut and decontaminate the one small apartment of the nation’s first Ebola victim, part of the approximately \$1 million the county expended in the first weeks of the crisis. According to *Governing*, **Rating agencies have struggled to assess the potential credit rating impacts on state and local governments and agencies if the virus does reappear in this country, raising issues with regard to who will pay for what.** For instance, will Ebola-related costs be borne by each individual hospital -- public or private -- by the local government, volunteer fire and rescue depart-



ments and water and sewer agencies, or will federal dollars be available? Similarly, if hazardous waste disposal problems emerge, who pays for dealing with that? While the apparent success of state and local efforts to eradicate Ebola in the U.S. provides hope for limiting or even preventing future outbreaks, the task of paying for those millions of dollars of unbudgeted costs looms.

When it comes to asthma, the environment right outside your door doesn’t matter nearly as much as what life is like in your home. *Urbanful* reports Dr. Corrine Keet, a pediatric allergist at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center, studied the medical records of 23,000 children in 5,800 census tracts across the country discovering bad housing—bugs and mold, can increase the risk of asthma. Second-hand smoke is a problem as is stress, which can lower the immune system. Poor people tend to have more of both. By labeling asthma as mostly an inner-city problem, doctors may miss a diagnosis in a suburb or rural area.

TENNESSEE
FESTIVALS

Feb. 13-15: Monteagle Fog Festival
Treats for Valentines weekend, three days of activities, discounts and open houses. Fog Fest signs located outside of each participating business and a complete list of activities available at each location. Many activities free or at a discount. Performances at Jim Oliver’s Smoke House features music by David Pah-anish on the 13th and Travis Bowlin on the 14th, at no cover charge. Special displays, art exhibits arts & crafts, vendors, spa treatments at Soothing Souls Day Spa, discounts at Mountain Outfitters and Tullulah’s Wine Lounge and many more. Restaurants offering special dinners, wine tastings and food discounts. For more information, contact the Monteagle Mountain Chamber of Commerce at 931-924-5353, or e-mail mmtchamber@blomand.net for a schedule of events. Watch for updates on www.monteagle-chamber.com webpage and on our facebook page: Monteagle-Mountain-Chamber-of-Commerce.

Mar. 5-8: Nashville Nashville Lawn and Garden Show
The show partners with the Tennessee Farm Winegrowers Alliance for a one-day-only Wine Festival Mar. 7, at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Locally produced wine from more than a dozen of the state’s most celebrated wineries. Wine Festival wrist bands available at the Lawn & Garden Show for complimentary wine glass and wine tastings and the opportunity to purchase wine produced in the Volunteer State. Wine Festival wrist bands are \$12 each; admission to the show is \$10 for adults or \$9 for seniors ages 65 and older. For more details about the Wine Festival and the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, call 615-876-7680 or visit www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com.



Feb. 24: UT Institute for Public Service Panel Discussion on Local Governments’ Health Care Costs. Held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Murfreesboro from 10 am to 2 pm. In collaboration with the Center for State & Local Government Excellence, the UT Institute for Public Service has developed a summary of strategies to address rising health care costs. This work discusses some of the more important drivers of health care costs and provides six case studies highlighting solutions in use in local governments across the country. A block of rooms has been reserved for those planning to stay overnight on either Feb. 23 or Feb. 24. To receive the conference rate of \$102 (plus taxes), rooms must be reserved by Feb. 10 using the code UTH. Cost \$25 (includes lunch). Meeting agenda and details are available online at http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/content/join-us-panel-discussion-local-governments-health-care-costs, and registration is through CTAS/MTAS at http://bit.ly/1AHyeaL. Registration deadline is Feb. 17. This program does qualify for credits under the CMFO requirements for continuing education.

UT MTAS February MAP Class

Purchasing Updates

Instructor: Ralph Cross

Time: 8:30-12:30 CST/EST

Schedule of Sessions:

- Feb. 10 — Johnson City-EST
- Feb. 11 — Knoxville-EST
- Feb. 12 — Collegedale-EST
- Feb. 17 — Bartlett-CST
- Feb. 18— Jackson-CST
- Feb. 19— Franklin-CST

Locations:

Bartlett; Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road
Collegedale; Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Dr.
Franklin, Franklin Police Dept., 900 Columbia Ave.
Jackson; Jackson Energy Authority Training Center, 320 Hwy. 45 By-Pass
Johnson City;Memorial Park Community Center, 510 Bert St.
Knoxville; UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St.



Credit: CMFO 4CEU/4CPE
CMFO (Financial)
Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees—\$50/person/class. \$65 for non-municipal attendees.

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu. Or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS or by invoice. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance.

For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

UT MTAS March MAP Class

Planning and Zoning and Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings



This class will address how a planning and zoning board meeting is conducted, how a board of zoning appeals meeting is conducted and what each body is responsible for, as far as their scope of authority and purview. Also addressed in this session will be commonly addressed issues in each body

Instructor: Sharon Armstrong

Time: 8:30-12:30 CST/EST

Schedule of Sessions:

- Mar. 10 — Johnson City-EST
- Mar. 11— Knoxville-EST
- Mar. 12 — Red Bank-EST
- Mar. 24 — Franklin-CST
- Mar. 25— Jackson-CST
- Mar. 26— Bartlett-CST

Locations:

Bartlett; Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road
Franklin;Williamson Co. Ag. Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane
Jackson; Jackson Energy Authority Training Center, 320 Hwy. 45 By-Pass
Johnson City;Memorial Park Community Center, 510 Bert St.
Knoxville; UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St.
Red Bank; Red Bank Community Center; 3653 Tom Weathers Dr.

Credit: CMFO 4CEU/4CPE/CMFO (Other)

Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees—\$50/person/class. \$65 for non-municipal attendees.

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu. Or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS or by invoice.

MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm attendance.

For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Ripley closed a \$1 million loan for a new fire hall and equipment.

See us for your special projects needs.
(615) 255-1561



TOGETHER FOR TENNESSEE

Governor Bill Haslam's Second-Term Inauguration



Gov. Bill Haslam delivers his inaugural speech
At right: Gov. Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam



Country music star Trace Atkins performs the National Anthem



Members of Gov. Haslam's Cabinet are sworn into office. Pictured are (top row) Revenue Commissioner Richard Roberts, TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, and Corrections Commissioner Derrick Schofield. Bottom row: Safety Commissioner Bill Gibbons



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander

Top Right: U.S. Sen. Bob Corker

Bottom Right: Former Tennessee Gov. Winfield Dunn and Tennessee State Comptroller Justin P. Wilson

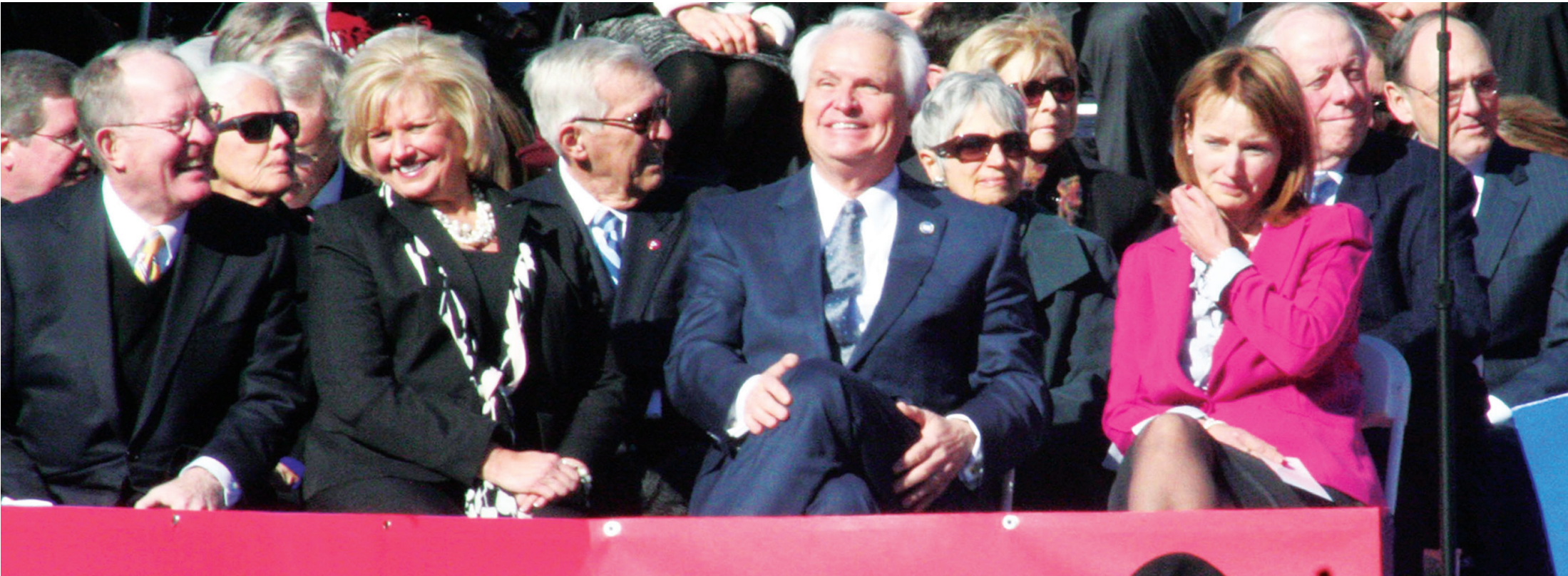




Gov. Bill Haslam arrives with his wife Crissy and family for his 2015 Inauguration at the legislative plaza.



The Tennessee National Guard lead a presentation of the colors.



Front row: Sen. Alexander, Sindy Ramsey, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, and House Speaker Beth Harwell. Back row: Martha Sundquist, former Gov. Don Sundquist, Andrea Conte, former Gov. Phil Bredesen, and U.S. Congressman Phil Roe



Lt. Gov. Ramsey, former ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty and Sen. Corker



Former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen



Above: Former U.S. Sen. Bill Frist



Middle: U.S. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann



Far right: The Haslams' daughter Leigh Avery and husband Matt Avery.

Legislative Leadership – 2015 - 2016

TENNESSEE SENATE



Speaker/Lt. Gov.
Ron Ramsey



Speaker Pro Tem
Bo Watson



Republican Leader
Mark Norris



Democratic Leader
Lee Harris

Senate Committee Officers and Members

COMMERCE, LABOR, AND AGRICULTURE: Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Green, Tracy, Gardenhire, Gresham, Southerland, Tate, Watson, and Yager

EDUCATION: Chairman Gresham, Vice Chair Tate, Gardenhire, Crowe, Dickerson, Haile, Hensley, Kelsey, and Tracy

ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Chairman Southerland, Vice Chair Niceley, Bailey, Bell, Green, Gresham, Harris, Roberts, and Yager

FINANCE, WAYS, AND MEANS: Chairman McNally, Vice Chair Watson, Overbey, Dickerson, Haile, Harper, Hensley, Ketron, Norris, Stevens, and Tate

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: Chairman Bell, Vice Chair Jackson, Roberts, Bailey, Beavers, Bowling, Crowe, Harris, and Kelsey

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Chairman Crowe, Vice Chair Watson, Hensley, Briggs, Jackson, Massey, McNally, Overbey, and Yarbrow



Republican Caucus
Chair Bill Ketron



Democratic Caucus Chair
Jeff Yarbrow

JUDICIARY: Chairman Kelsey, Vice Chair Overbey, Bowling, Bell, and Gardenhire, Harris, Kyle, Roberts, and Stevens

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Chairman Yager, Vice Chair Dickerson, Briggs, Green, Harper, Jackson, Johnson, Ketron, and Norris

TRANSPORTATION: Chairman Tracy, Vice Chair Beavers, Niceley, Bailey, Bowling, Kyle, Massey, Southerland, and Yarbrow

RULES: Chairman Norris, Vice Chair McNally, Watson, Overbey, and Yarbrow

CALENDAR: Chairman Massey, Vice Chair Norris, and Harris

ETHICS: Chairman Overbey, Vice Chair Ketron, Norris, Harper, and Tate

TENNESSEE HOUSE



Speaker
Beth Harwell



Speaker Pro Tem
Curtis Johnson



Majority Leader
Gerald McCormick



Democratic Leader
Craig Fitzhugh

Officers and Members of the Tennessee House of Representatives Committees

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Chairman Halford, Vice Chair Holt, Byrd, Hawk, Hardaway, Hulsey, Lollar, Marsh, McDaniel, Moody, Powers, Reedy Shaw, Swann, and Windle

BUSINESS AND UTILITIES: Chairman Marsh, Vice Chair Calfee, Daniel, Doss, Dunlap, Gilmore, Goins, Gravitt, Hazlewood, Holsclaw, Love, McCormick, Powell, Reedy, Sexton (Grainger), Sparks, Swann and Wirgau

CIVIL JUSTICE: Chairman Lundberg, Vice Chair Carter, Beck, Coley, Daniel, Forgety, Jones, Rogers, and Wilburn

CONSUMER & HUMAN RESOURCES: Chairman Eldridge, Vice Chair Pody, Hardaway, Casada, Lynn, Mitchell, Terry, Travis, Turner, White (Shelby), and Womick

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Chairman Lamberth, Vice Chair, Akbari, Butt, Farmer, Goins, Parkinson, Stewart, and Weaver

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING: Chairman Brooks (Knox), Vice Chair Moody, Brooks (Bradley), Calfee, DeBerry, Dunlap, Coley, Fitzhugh, Smith, Turner, White (Rutherford), White (Shelby), and Womick

EDUCATION INSTRUCTION & PROGRAMS: Chairman Forgety, Vice Chair Spivey, Akbari, Brooks (Knox), Butt, Byrd, Dunn, Kane, Kumar, Lollar, Love, Pitts, Towns, and Williams

FINANCE: Chairman Sargent, Vice Chair Alexander, Armstrong, Brooks (Bradley), Camper, Carter, Cooper, Dunn, Fitzhugh, Gilmore, Harrison, Hawk, Haynes, Hazlewood, Hill (Washington), Johnson, Lynn, McCormick, McDaniel, McManus, Miller, Mitchell, and Todd

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: Chairman Faison, Vice Chair Ragan, Casada, Clemmons, Fitzhugh, Halford, Howell, Johnson, McCormick, and Stewart

HEALTH: Chairman Sexton (Cumberland), Vice Chair Doss, Clemmons, DeBerry, Favors, Faison, Harrison, Holsclaw, Hill (Washington), Jernigan, Jones, Kumar, Littleton, Maltheny, Ramsey, Terry, Wilburn, and Williams

INSURANCE AND BANKING: Chairman McManus, Vice Chair Travis, Casada, Durham, Farmer, Favors, Hill (Sullivan), Johnson, Keisling, Kane, Lundberg, Matheny, Matlock, Pody, Pitts, Powers, Sargent, Shepard, Stewart, and Towns

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Chairman Wirgau, Vice Chair Sparks, Carr, Eldridge, Gravitt, Holt, Howell, Miller, Parkinson, Sexton (Cumberland), Shepard, Spivey, and VanHuss

STATE GOVERNMENT: Chairman Ramsey, Vice Chair Littleton, Durham, Haynes, Hulsey, Jernigan, Lamberth, Powell, Shaw, Sanderson, and Todd

TRANSPORTATION: Chairman Matlock, Vice Chair Rogers, Alexander, Armstrong, Beck, Camper, Carr, Cooper, Keisling, Hill (Sullivan), Ragan, Sanderson, Sexton (Grainger), Smith, Weaver, White (Rutherford), and Windle



Republican Caucus Chair
Glen Cassada



Democratic Caucus
Chair Mike Stewart

CALENDAR AND RULES: Chairman Dunn, Vice Chair Hill (Sullivan), Brooks (Knox), Brooks (Bradley), Casada, Eldridge, Fitzhugh, Faison, Forgety, Halford, Harwell, Johnson, Lamberth, Love, Lundberg, Marsh, Matlock, McCormick, McManus, Parkinson, Ramsey, Stewart, Sargent, Sexton (Cumberland), Sexton (Grainger), and Wirgau

ETHICS: Chairman McDaniel, Brooks (Bradley), Camper, Carter, Forgety, Haynes, Parkinson, Pitts, Shepard, and Stewart

SUBCOMMITTEES

AG AND NATURAL RES. SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Lollar, Hardaway Halford, Holt, Reedy, and Shaw

BUSINESS AND UTILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Swann, Calfee, Daniel, Hazlewood, Gilmore, Gravitt, Holsclaw, Marsh, and Powell

CIVIL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Coley, Beck, Carter, Jones, Lundberg, and Wilburn

CONSUMER & HUMAN RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Lynn, Casada, Eldridge, Mitchell, Pody, and Turner

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Farmer, Akbari, Goins, Lamberth, Stewart, and Van Huss

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION & PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman White (Shelby), Brooks (Knox), DeBerry, Dunlap, Moody, Smith, White (Rutherford), and Womick

EDUCATION INSTRUCTION & PROGRAMS SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Kane, Butt, Byrd, Dunn, Love, Forgety, Pitts, and Spivey

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Harrison, Alexander, Armstrong, Brooks (Bradley), Camper, Fitzhugh, Hawk, Haynes, McCormick, McDaniel, Sargent, and Todd

HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Williams, Clemmons, Doss, Faison, Favors, Hill (Washington), Kumar, Matheny, Sexton (Cumberland), Terry

INSURANCE AND BANKING SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Keisling, Durham, Johnson, McManus, Powers, Shepard, Towns, and Travis

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Carr, Howell, Miller, Parkinson, Sparks, and Wirgau

STATE GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Sanderson, Jernigan, Hulsey, Littleton, and Ramsey

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Chairman Weaver, Cooper, Hill (Sullivan), Matlock, Sexton (Grainger), Ragan, Rogers, and Windle

Tennessee Congressional Delegation

114th United States Congress convened in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 3, 2015, and will serve until Jan. 3, 2017. Listed below are the committee assignments for Tennessee members of the new Congress.

Sen. Lamar Alexander



- Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- Senate Committee on Rules and Administration (ranking member)

Sen. Bob Corker



- Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
- Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
- Senate Special Committee on Aging

Rep. Phil Roe (1st District)



- House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. (2nd)



- Vice Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (3rd)



- House Committee on Appropriations

Rep. Scott DesJarlais (4th)



- House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
- House Committee on Agriculture
- House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Rep. Jim Cooper (5th)



- House Committee on Armed Services
- House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Rep. Diane Black (6th)



- House Committee on Ways and Means
- House Committee on Budget

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (7th)



- House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- House Committee on the Budget

Rep. Stephen Fincher (8th)



- House Committee on Agriculture
- House Committee on Financial Services

Rep. Steve Cohen (9th)



- House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- House Committee on the Judiciary

Mobile app features legislators' contact information

The 109th Tennessee General Assembly app features a continually updated, searchable database of contact, staff and committee information as well as photos, leadership roles and social media profiles for members of the Tennessee House and Senate.

The app also contains information on the governor and his cabinet and the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

Developed by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, the 99-cent app is available for iPhone, iPad and Android devices and can be found by searching for "Tennessee General Assembly" in the Apple App Store or Google PLAY Marketplace.

"We have produced print directories of the General Assembly for more than 30 years, and this is our fourth year to release an app," says David Callis, executive vice president and general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "It is important for Tennesseans to be active and involved with their elected officials, and the app is a tool that makes it easy to speak up on issues that are important."

