

ECD launches statewide broadband assessment

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd has launched a statewide assessment of broadband access and usage in Tennessee.

The survey of businesses and households begins today and continues through March 15. Businesses and residents may take the online assessment at www.tn.gov/broadband.

Boyd said the department determined the need for a statewide assessment of broadband access and usage during his initial set of listening tours across the state in early 2015. Elected leaders, business executives and economic development professionals in all nine TNECD regions told Boyd and department officials that a lack of broadband access may hurt future economic development efforts in rural Tennessee.

"Tennessee's economic future is directly tied to our broadband access," Boyd said. "Broadband access impacts our quality of life, educational opportunities, health-care and our businesses' ability to compete. We must measure who has broadband Internet access and how they are using it. Help us make sure every Tennessee community has

access to broadband by taking this assessment."

Boyd said the department's assessment is an impartial survey of broadband access, adoption and usage in Tennessee's rural, suburban and urban communities. TNECD will then offer strategies to drive broadband utilization in the state.

In addition to the demand assessment, TNECD will partner with the telecommunications industry and other stakeholders to identify access gaps and evaluate options and costs to build out unserved and underserved areas of the state. TNECD will also offer recommendations for operational and funding models.

The department will deliver a full report and policy recommendations derived from the assessment to Governor Bill Haslam in June.

TNECD Assistant Commissioner for Rural Development Amy New said broadband access is crucial to driving workforce development and furthering entrepreneurship in rural areas.

New said the department will work with local governments, economic development organizations and the industry to drive participation in the assessment.

"High-speed Internet access has
See BROADBAND on Page 3



The Tech Goes Home program won Chattanooga a Digital Inclusion Leadership Award, which is presented by Next Century Cities, the National League of Cities, and Google Fiber. Next Century Cities Executive Director Deb Socia, left, presents Tech Goes Home Chattanooga Program Director Kelly McCarthy, center, and Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke during the NLC Conference in Nashville.

'Gig City' brings computer literacy lessons home to residents in need

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

The Gig City is finding new ways to bridge its digital divide and provide citizens with necessary skills as technology becomes more entrenched in every aspect of society.

The city of Chattanooga began participating in Tech Goes Home, a program that provides computer education and access to help underserved citizens develop the skill sets they need to succeed in the digital age. TGH was founded in Boston in 2000 and has since expanded into Las Cruces, N.M., and Litchfield, Conn. Chattanooga is the most recent city to begin participating in the program.

Chattanooga's involvement in

the program was recently honored with the 2015 Digital Inclusion Leadership Award, which is presented by Next Century Cities, the National League of Cities, and Google Fiber.

Ken Hayes, president and CEO of Chattanooga's Enterprise Center, said the city's emerging reputation as a technologically-oriented community spurred officials to look for programs to ensure all of its citizens had access to the Internet and other resources.

"We realized if we really wanted to be a leader in the innovation economy, we needed to do more than just talk about digital inclusion. We needed a program to really focus on it," Hayes said. "Both the public
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The gasoline tax in Tennessee is 9 cents per gallon lower than the national average. A 1-cent increase in gas taxes would cost an average of \$7.50 per year per user, but would bring almost \$31 million in revenue to the state, which is a 17.5 percent increase.

109th General Assembly back in session

Tennessee lawmakers returned to the state Capitol Jan. 12 to kick off the second session of the two-year 109th General Assembly.

This year's session is expected to wrap up mid- to late April. With all 99 House seats and 16 of 33 senators up for re-election in the fall, most lawmakers will be looking to conclude their business quickly so they can concentrate on their campaign.

A scheduling change in the Senate is also believed to expedite business more efficiently by allowing more time for committee meetings. On Mondays, the Senate will now meet earlier beginning at 1 p.m. to allow committee meetings to be held later in the day. In exchange, the Senate will not meet on Thursday mornings for much of the session.

Among some of the issues to be discussed by both chambers will include a possible fuel-tax increase, tax cuts, and how to spend an estimated \$500 million in surplus funding the state is expected to collect in state tax revenue collections.

Gov. Bill Haslam will present his spending plan to legislators in his annual State of State address scheduled for Feb. 1.



See Page 9 & 10 for pictures of the opening days.

2016 session starts with new House members

The Tennessee House of Representatives will start its second session of the 109th Tennessee General Assembly with three new members.

Rep. Jason Zachary, R-Knoxville, was elected to House District 14 in a special election Sept. 29 to replace Ryan Haynes, who is now chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party.

Zachary, 38, a small business owner, describes himself as a new generation of a conservative leader. He was backed in the campaign by Americans for Prosperity.

Rep. Gary Hicks, R-Rogersville, was selected by the Hawkins County Commission to fill the District 9 seat in the House of Representatives left vacant after the resignation of state Rep. Mike Harrison, R-Rogersville, in December. Prior to this appointment, Hicks was a member of the Hawkins County Commission.

The Commission voted 19-1 in favor of naming Hicks to complete the term.

Hicks currently resides in Rogersville, and served as chairman of the county commission's budget and personnel committees. He also served on the airport, beer board, insurance, audit, and industrial committees.

Harrison left his position with



Jason Zachary



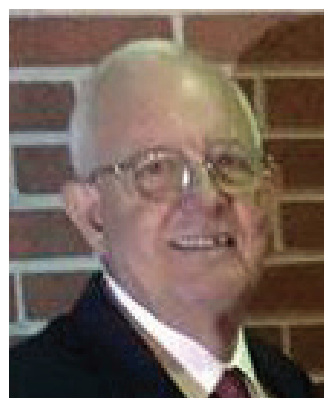
Gary Hicks

the House of Representatives after accepting the position of director of the Tennessee County Mayors' Association. Harrison had served in the House since 2002.

Rep. Jamison "Jamie" Jenkins, R-Somerville, was chosen by the Fayette County Commission to represent District 94. He replaces freshman representative Leigh Wilburn, who resigned on Dec. 31 for personal reasons.

Jenkins received 12 votes from the county commission to the five votes cast in favor of local attorney and conservative activist Hal Rounds.

A former UT agricultural extension agent, Jenkins also previously chaired the Fayette County Repub-



Jamie Jenkins

lican Party and served as the Fayette County Commissioner of Elections.

All of the seats will come up for election in the Aug. 4 state primary and the Nov. 1 state general election.

John Morgan to retire after 30 years of service

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor and longtime public servant John Morgan announced he will retire at the end of this month after previously indicating his intention to retire in January 2017.

Morgan said he had originally intended to allow enough time for the search for a new chancellor as well as "have some meaningful time with the new chancellor prior to leaving office," but decided to move up the date of his retirement after Gov. Bill Haslam announced plans to change the Tennessee Board of Regents' structure. In his resignation letter, Morgan said he did not agree with Haslam's proposal and "would not be in a position to help implement a proposal that, in my view, will do nothing to further TBR's work."

In the letter, Morgan said he is also thankful for the support he has been given while working with TBR and the innovations the system has undertaken to meet the challenges of the Drive to 55 program. He also lauded the "hard work of countless individuals" who helped Tennes-

see's community college system and TCAT serve as national models.

"God has blessed me by allowing me to serve the state of Tennessee for all these years," he said. "I am proud to be a career state employee."

As chancellor of the TBR, Morgan oversaw six universities, 13 community colleges and 27 technical colleges. During his tenure, the number of degrees and certificates awarded by community colleges increased 40 percent while the six state universities TBR oversees saw their numbers of degrees and certificates rise by 3.6 percent.

Morgan was appointed chancellor in 2010, having previously served chief deputy to former Gov. Phil Bredesen beginning in 2009. Before that, he served as Tennessee's state comptroller for 10 years and has a public service career dating back to 1976 with a brief stint with Third National Bank in the 1980s. Morgan holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Austin Peay State University.

Charles G. "Bones" Seivers, president and CEO of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, said he has been longtime friends with Morgan.



John Morgan

"I got to know John when we both were serving on the risk management pool board," Seivers said. "Later on, we served on several boards together. He helped us a great deal and gave us guidance on starting the bond fund. John is probably the most knowledgeable individual I've ever known in state and local government. I consider him a close personal friend."

Seivers said Morgan is always willing to help others out and is
See MORGAN on Page 2

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Two adjoining parks will be coming to Brentwood this year to serve as a buffer zone between a commercial area and local neighborhoods. The 15-acre tract will be dubbed Wikle Park while the 8.7-acre space will become Flagpole Park. Plans for Wikle Park include open space, picnic pavilions, paved trails, mowed paths and a playground, while Flagpole Park is planned to include two athletic fields, a half basketball court and a walking trail. The parkland is located between the CSX railroad and Interstate 65, and is expected to cost \$1.6 million. Of that funding, \$1.5 million has already been budgeted by the city and the remaining is coming from unassigned general funds. The city selected Division 2 Constructors to do the work, which is already working on another park in the city. Mallory Park is already under construction in the city and is expected to open in early summer.

CLARKSVILLE

Google has selected the TVA megasite that formerly housed the Hemlock Semiconductor in Clarksville to construct a data center, which will bring more than \$500 million and create 70 full-time jobs in the area. The Mountain View, Calif.-based company is acquiring the property to help expand its footprint in the greater Nashville region. The Clarksville location will be the 15th such data center for the company, which is used to power the Internet and where information is stored and accessed by Google's users. As more people use the Internet worldwide and more information is stored in the cloud, the company needs to expand its capacity. The design phase could take six months to a year, with construction lasting another 18 months to two years.

CLEVELAND

A ribbon cutting celebrated the completion of the Interstate 75/Exit 20 Interchange Modification Project in Cleveland. Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner John Schroer joined state and local officials to celebrate the completion of the 1.4-mile project, which began in August 2013. The \$12.9 million project replaced a narrow, two-lane bridge with a six-lane overpass providing two lanes in each direction and a double center turn lane. In addition, all entrance and exit ramps were improved and a new traffic signal system was installed. Drivers are benefiting from a new high-mast lighting system that was put in place at the interchange as part of the project. Simpson Construction Co., Inc. of Cleveland served as contractors for the project.

COLUMBIA

Global Manufacturing Services, Inc. (GMS) officials announced the company will invest \$620,000 in new equipment and create 43 new jobs as part of upgrades to its Columbia-based tire mold manufacturing facility. The company specializes in engineering, designing, manufacturing and repairing tire molds at its Columbia facility, which serves most of the North American tire market. The company has purchased new equipment, including cranes, and will make building modifications to accommodate the equipment. GMS has operated at its present location in Columbia since 2011.

FAYETTEVILLE

Nippon Steel and Sumikin Materials USA, Inc. officials announced they will be opening a new manufacturing facility in Fayetteville, investing \$5.7 million and creating 65 new jobs. Nippon Steel's new 62,000 square foot manufacturing facility

is located in the Fayetteville-Lincoln County Industrial Park. The company will be making modifications to the manufacturing space, installing equipment as well as building out the office space. Nippon Steel is a major subsidiary of Nippon Steel & Simitomo Metal Corporation, the second largest steel making company in the world, and manufactures a metal substrate for the automotive industry and is the only metal substrate manufacturer that produces the stainless foil raw material that is used in the final product. The metal substrate is distributed globally.

GREENEVILLE

The Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved construction of a new splash pad to replace the EastView Pool, which closed in 2012. The new splash pad facility will include water features like jets and sprayers and is expected to be completed by the Powell-based Howlett Equipment Company this spring. The company has previously installed similar splash pads in Clinton, Farragut, Morristown, White Pine, Kingsport, Knoxville and others. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$251,000. A Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant from the TN Department of Environment and Conservation will provide \$125,000 of that cost. The finished splash pad will be 3,200 square feet with a "wet zone" of about 2,900 square feet.

JACKSON

Berry Plastics officials announced the company will expand its manufacturing facility in Jackson, creating between 70 and 80 new jobs. The company will expand its current facility located at 1005 Lower Brownsville Road, incorporating about 40,000 square feet of current warehouse space of the 190,000-square-foot facility. Production is expected to begin in April. With this expansion, Berry Plastics will streamline its production and increase capacity. The company will add 18 additional manufacturing cells and produce a variety of plastic containers and bottles at the facility. The company has been located in Jackson since 1989 and manufactures bottles, vials and closures for the healthcare market.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville's finance department has been recognized with a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by a top professional association. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented the award to the finance department based on 14 mandatory criteria. Budget documents must be rated proficient on criteria such as satisfying nationally recognized guidelines and assessing how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and a means of communications.

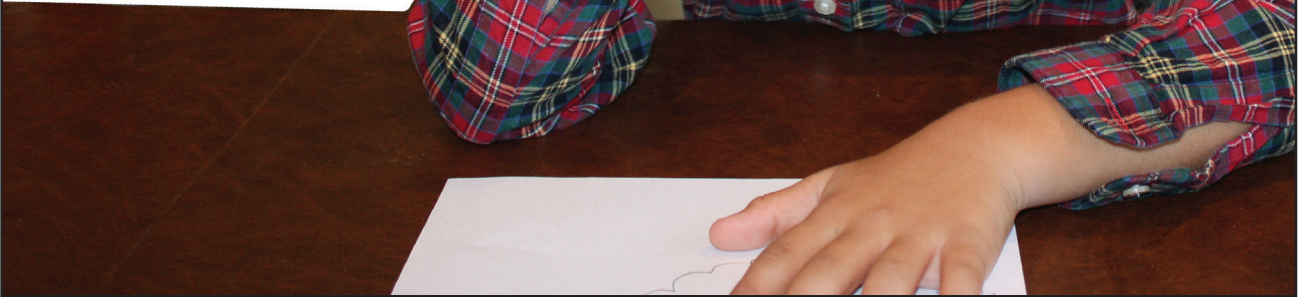
LA VERGNE

Advanced Auto Parts, Inc. has announced plans to add a new distribution center in La Vergne to support the company's continued growth in the region. The company will invest \$24.5 million and create more than 200 new jobs in the area to help supply automotive parts and services. Advanced Auto Parts' investment will be used on facility upgrades and equipment to create a world class parts distribution center. The 450,000-square-foot center will provide parts and products distribution and logistics services. Construction will begin during the first quarter of 2016, and the facility is expected to be operational by mid-2017. Headquartered in Roanoke, Va., Advance Auto Parts, Inc., serves both the professional installer and do-it-yourself customers.

I'm trying to decide if I should register early for the
TML Legislative Conference
scheduled for
March 14 & 15 in Nashville.

It's always packed full of good information with lots of updates from members of the
Tennessee General Assembly.

www.TML1.org



NASHVILLE

Roughly 3,194 residential properties changed hands in the Nashville area last month, a 12.5 percent year-to-year gain that marked the best December for home closings in nearly a decade. And with 2,678 sales pending at the end of December, also the best in nearly a decade, January should get 2016 off to a good start. "Staying on a sustainable growth track, coupled with continued good reports on the economy and job market should make this year another successful and favorable one for both current and potential homeowners," said Denise Creswell, president of the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors. Based on the trade group's tracking, roughly 36,873 homes were sold in the region last year, up 10.8 percent from 2014.

SPRING HILL

Spring Hill city officials held ribbon cuttings for the opening of two new walkway projects primarily funded through transportation grants. The Tanyard Springs Trail and Spring Station Trail were both funded through Active Transportation Program grants, federal money the city received through the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Tanyard Springs Trail is a 10-foot-wide boardwalk-style walkway spanning 230 feet over a small creek between the Tanyard Springs neighborhood and an existing walkway that connects to the town of Thompson's Station. Grants provided \$69,686 of the funds for the walkway while the city contributed the remaining \$30,000. The Spring Station Trail is an 8-foot-wide path spanning 1,800 feet and connects into two existing walkways, helping students travel to school. The second trail was funded through a \$56,158 grant with a \$32,842 contribution from the city.

WHITE HOUSE

The city of White House has launched a mobile app allowing residents to report issues, view public notices, pay their phone bills and other services from smartphones and tablets. Developed by New York-based startup Public Stuff, city officials, department heads and staff have been working with an early version of the program since Nov. 30. The app cost about \$5,000 to develop and was made available to the public on Jan. 11. In addition to allowing citizens to report issues to various city departments and keep up-to-date on city notices, the program will also allow city officials to keep track of department performance.

MWSD begins city-wide installation of Advanced Meter Infrastructure

The Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department (MWSD) is in the process of upgrading all water meters to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of accurate meter readings. The meter replacement program, known as Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI), utilizes radio frequency technology developed by Itron, a world-leading technology services company dedicated to the resourceful use of energy and water. The city-wide installation process will occur in cycles over an 18-month period and customers will be notified prior to the outdoor meters being installed.

"The city of Murfreesboro looks forward to benefiting from Itron's smart water solution, which will help enhance customer service with early leak notification and make water management more efficient through remote, rather than manual meter reading," said Darren Gore, director of Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department.

Among some of the AMI benefits:

- The radio-frequency (RF) transmitter device automatically sends a meter reading once an hour for real-time reading and data collection.
- The meter reading information will be delivered into the MWSD Customer Information System (CIS) for customer service and billing accuracy.
- The new, more accurate meter may detect small leaks that the previous meter missed.
- Customers will be able to catch



potential leaks through an online customer portal.

Once installed, the new water meters have electronic digital registers that wirelessly send a precise water usage meter reading signal to the fixed, low radio-frequency (RF) transmitter device. The new technology reduces human error of manually read water meters. The radio frequency does not interfere with other licensed frequencies used by radio, television, mobile and cordless phones, nor is the signal a health hazard. The device meets all FCC requirements.

For more information about the AMI program, visit www.murfreesborotn.gov/mwspd/ami.

TBR Chancellor Morgan to retire

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always honest when giving his opinion.

"He has always been of great assistance with everything he has done for us and the state of Tennessee," Seivers said. "He treats people fairly, but he tells them exactly like it is. John is one of the best individuals I have ever known. He performs his duties—whatever they might be—and always excels at them."

Members of the higher education community also expressed their sadness at seeing Morgan's departure. Sidney A. McPhee, president of Middle Tennessee State University, praised Morgan's "Signiant reforms

and improvements to our state's higher education system" as well as the "counsel and guidance" Morgan provided.

Glenda Glover, president of Tennessee State University, said Morgan's leadership was a tremendous benefit to the university.

"His absence will be a tremendous loss to the entire TBR System and State of Tennessee," Glover said in a prepared statement. "He had the ability to understand the needs of each university. This could not have been more evident than with his relationship with TSU. We will truly miss him as an advocate and true friend of our university."



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TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
Tennessee Town & City (ISSN 00403415, USPS 539420) is published semi-monthly except in the months of June and September, 20 times per year by Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894. Subscription rates: \$6 per year to members, \$15 to nonmembers, \$1 a copy. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Tennessee Town & City, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219-1894.
Official publication of the Tennessee Municipal League. **Publisher:** Margaret Mahery (mmahery@TML1.org); **Editor:** Carole Graves (cgraves@TML1.org); **Phone:** 615-255-6416. **Advertising:** Publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unacceptable. Fax classified ads to *TT&C*: Attention Mona Lawrence at 615-255-4752, or e-mail mlawrence@TML1.org. Fax advertising copy to *TT&C*: Attention Debbie Kluth at 615-255-4752, or e-mail to dkluth@TML1.org. Opinions expressed by non League officials or staff do not necessarily reflect policies of TML.

Cities finding innovative ways to bridge the digital divide

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and the private sector felt strongly about this. We looked at what was happening in our community so we wouldn't duplicate anything that already existed, and we also looked at programs across the country so we didn't reinvent the wheel."

Leaders in Chattanooga chose Boston's already successful Tech Goes Home program as a model.

Kelly McCarthy is the program director for TCH Chattanooga, and said the year-old program is already making strides.

"It has been nice to have help from the people of Boston. We can chat with them, and they have shared their curriculum with us," she said. "I spent a week there with the people who run their program, talking with instructors and going to some of their classes. We still had to create our own materials, launch a website, and recruit partners, but their model has already been so successful."

Chattanooga had its own set of challenges to meet when starting the program.

"Boston has to translate their materials into nine different languages, while we are only translating into Spanish at this time," she said. "However, transportation in Hamilton County is more of a challenge than in Boston. We also have areas that have no or few Internet options, which they don't have that issue in Boston."

Classes offered through Tech Goes Home are held at churches, schools and community centers throughout Chattanooga. Trainers are provided by the organization where classes are hosted and they participate in training sessions with TGH Chattanooga.

Organizations typically reach out to TGH Chattanooga and express an interest in offering programs to their local communities. McCarthy said most of these community centers, churches and schools already host activities that bring in citizens.

For the winter 2016 session, she said there are currently 17 sessions running but could be as many as 25 before the session ends. Of the sites, about 80 percent are within the city of Chattanooga while the rest are in Hamilton County. Some sites offer classes throughout the year while others offer courses only when they have room, she said.

Classes teach computer skills including using Skype, finding coupons, accessing city services, working with the local school system websites, and setting up social media accounts.

"We do basic online resources, but there isn't typically a set curriculum," McCarthy said. "We leave it relatively open so our trainers can customize it for the people they are working with. We have a broad group of participants from early childhood classes for preschoolers and their families to seniors, all of whom have different needs."

Though these skills might be simple, Hayes said they can be essential for those with no computer experience.

"If you don't have access to the Internet, you don't really know what it can do for you," he said. "People need access, they need education and they need a device. A lot of kids learn the Internet at school; but if their parents haven't been exposed

to it, there can be certain fears and concerns from their parents. A lot of times, the parents have heard bad things about the Internet versus the good things."

McCarthy said Chattanooga's growing community of English-language learners have taken to the program, particularly in the classes offered to preschoolers and K-12 students with their parents. Local schools are also seeing residual effects of the program.

"For 60 percent of our participants, it's the first time they've ever been in the doors of their child's school," she said. "It gives them an opportunity to meet the teachers and staff, and to participate in something in the school with their child."

There has also been a recent push for every child in the local school system to have some sort of device for educational purposes.

"Those devices are going to be a daily reality for both the child and the parent," McCarthy said. "We want the parents to feel empowered to help their child with homework or to troubleshoot. When they first rolled out these devices, they found out a lot of the parents didn't have the knowledge people assumed they would. Some parents overwhelmingly didn't want their child to bring the devices home."

Senior citizens have also benefited from the program.

"A lot of times we get people who are 70 or 80 years old participating in the program, and they get more excited than any of the others," Hayes said. "It opens up a whole new communication to their grandkids and great-grandkids."

After successfully completing 15 hours of classes, adults are given the option of purchasing a \$50 Chromebook or an iPod mini. Additionally, the program works with residents to find affordable Internet rates to provide them with home access.

So far, McCarthy said both program participants and trainers have been overwhelmingly supportive of the program.

"Our initial goal is to serve 2,000 over the first two years of the program," she said. "We have about 400 who have already graduated and another 300 or 400 will graduate by the end of this winter."

Other award winning programs

Chattanooga wasn't the only city that was lauded for its technological achievements. Other awards were presented to Philadelphia, Seattle, Davidson, N.C., and Austin, Texas.

The awards are presented for cities that put forth major efforts to close the digital divide between citizens and help everyone have access to the Internet and other technological capabilities.

Austin was lauded for its digital assessment in 2014 to determine residential technology and then using that data to find ways to bridge technological barriers. The city teamed up with local businesses and civic organizations to help provide computer access and training to residents in public housing, including underemployed adults, seniors, children and English-language learners.

Washington, D.C., was awarded for its mobile tech lab, which outfitted a former bookmobile with



Children and parents come together in the classroom to learn about basic Internet skills and computer technology as part of the Tech Goes Home Chattanooga curriculum. Parents are taught alongside children so they can better chaperone their children online as well as learn important skills for themselves. After a successful completion of the program, adults are given the option of purchasing a \$50 Chromebook laptop and are aided in finding a low-cost Internet service provider.

computers and WiFi. The traveling computer lab can then visit neighborhoods with limited access to broadband, allowing them to use computers for job training or educational attainment.

The KEYSPOt project in Philadelphia also received an award for providing 50 computer labs to residents as part of anti-poverty efforts. In four years, the computer labs have been used to help low-income, homeless and senior residents apply for government benefits, jobs, filing taxes and achieving educational credits.

Seattle's Technology Matching Fund was lauded for providing funding and technical resources to more than 150 local organizations and serving more than 43,000 residents since its inception in 1997.

Inspired by a 12-year-old who wanted to help more of her classmates have access the Internet, Davidson, N.C., has provided computer access and at-home Internet to school-aged children and started a yearly festival to help raise funds to provide computer access to children.



Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke makes a visit to one of the adult Tech Goes Home Chattanooga classes. While many classes are aimed at pre-schoolers and K-12 students and their parents, others are focused on adults and seniors. The program provides adults with the tools they need to perform online tasks like filling out job applications, paying bills online, creating email accounts, and accessing government websites and services.

ECD launches statewide broadband assessment

Survey continues through March 15

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become a standard need for businesses and educational institutions around the world, and rural Tennessee is no different. Help us make sure every Tennessean's voice is heard on this important topic by taking the survey," New said.

TNECD engaged Strategic Networks Groups (SNG) and NEO Fiber for this initiative. Both companies have extensive experience helping states form broadband Internet access plans.

About Strategic Networks Group (SNG)

SNG is a group of broadband economists developing strategies that maximize economic and social returns from broadband investments. SNG provides evidence-based recommendations to communities, regions, and States who are looking for proactive ways to protect and grow

local business profitability through broadband utilization. SNG's holistic approach looks at both the supply (availability) and demand (utilization) of broadband and how addressing each strategically drives economic development. Learn more about SNG at www.sngroup.com.

About NEO Fiber

At the forefront of broadband initiatives, from planning to execution, NEO is one of the nation's leaders in planning, engineering and developing strategies for community networks. With extensive experience in both the public and private sector, the NEO team is able to apply real-world business sense to every type of project. NEO has helped communities across the United States create successful and sustainable networks that meet each community's specific needs. Visit NEO online at www.neofiber.net.

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PEOPLE



Nikki Crutcher has been named as the new recreation superintendent for the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department, and will oversee all staff and operations at the city’s recreation centers, pools, and Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center. She has been with the department for nearly 13 years, starting as a recreation leader in 2003 at the Milton Roberts, New Hope, and Dr. E.V. Davidson centers. She was promoted to sports outreach coordinator in 2013 and has most recently served as the interim recreation superintendent. Recently, Crutcher earned the prestigious certification as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) by the National Certification Board and the National Recreation and Parks Association. Prior to working for the city of Knoxville, Crutcher worked for the YMCA of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation. She has a bachelor’s degree in recreation and tourism management from the University of Tennessee.



Nikki Crutcher

for five years as communications director of the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. She began serving under Nashville Director of Infrastructure Mark Sturtevant after joining the mayor’s staff in December. Ikard led the public involvement component of the MPO’s 2035 Regional Transportation plan in her role at the MPO. She will focus on public engagement with transportation projects. A graduate of Nashville’s Hume-Fogge Academic Magnet School, Ikard received her bachelor’s degree in public relations from Indiana University.



Mary Beth Ikard

Thomas “Tank” Strickland has announced his retirement as the community relations director for the city of Knoxville, effective Jan. 29. A former Knox County Commission chair, Strickland has served for nearly two decades and under four mayors during his tenure as the city’s community relations director. He served as a liaison between community organizations and the city as well as represented the city on several boards. A native of East Knoxville, Strickland has continued to serve as a community activist, coach, mentor and volunteer in his community.



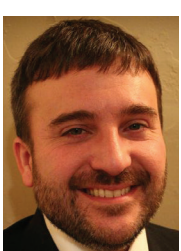
Thomas Strickland

Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris received the Distinguished Service to the States medal from the Council of State Governments during its 2015 National Conference in Nashville. The medal is the highest honor awarded by CSG for outstanding and sustained leadership on behalf of the states. Under Norris’ leadership, CSG advocated on behalf of the states in a successful effort to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which was signed into law in July 2014. Norris was the first Tennessean to serve as CSG national chair. He also served as the CSG Southern Legislative Conference chair in 2012.



Mark Norris

Grant Green has been selected as the new planning director for the city of Springfield, beginning his tenure with the city on Jan. 25. Before coming to Springfield, Green worked as the chief of research for the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC), serving as its manager of the Geographic Information System (GIS) program. He has previously served as the city planner for the city of La Vergne and as a regional planner for the Purchase Area Development District in Mayfield, Ky. He graduated from Murray State University in Kentucky in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in geoscience/geographic information systems.



Grant Green

Erin Hafkenschiel has been selected as the director of transportation and sustainability for Nashville Mayor Megan Barry’s office, a position newly created by the mayor. Before coming to Nashville, Hafkenschiel was a policy analyst for the San Francisco-based California Environmental Associates and will work under Director of Infrastructure Mark Sturtevant. She received a bachelor’s degree in political economy of industrialized societies (PIES) from the University of California at Berkeley and a master’s in public policy and urban planning from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.



Erin Hafkenschiel

Franklin Fire Captain **Anthony Pasley** has retired after more than 30 years with the department. A Franklin native, Pasley began as a volunteer for the department in 1983 and was hired full-time in 1985. He has served as a firefighter, engineer and lieutenant with the department before being promoted to captain in 2006. Pasley has worked at three of the department’s seven stations, serving his final years as captain at Station No. 1.



Anthony Pasley

Kenneth Reeves began work as new fire chief for the city of Goodlettsville on Dec. 28, bringing more than 25 years of experience to the position. Reeves previously served as a division fire chief for the city of Memphis and as the leader of Tennessee Task Force 1 FEMA Urban Search & Rescue. Reeves has a bachelor’s of science degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University as well as, associate degrees from both Northwest Mississippi Community College and Southwest Tennessee Community College.



Kenneth Reeves

Victor Williams has been selected as the new fire chief for the city of Gallatin by the city council and Mayor Paige Brown. Williams is a 23-year veteran of the Delray Beach, Fla. Fire-Rescue Department, where he presently serves as assistant fire chief. Williams is expected to start his tenure as Gallatin Fire Chief in March. From a pool of 130 applicants, Williams was selected as one of nine finalists, and was also one of four finalists recommended by an expert panel. Late Fire Chief William “Billy” Crook announced he would retire March 1, but died Dec. 4.



Victor Williams

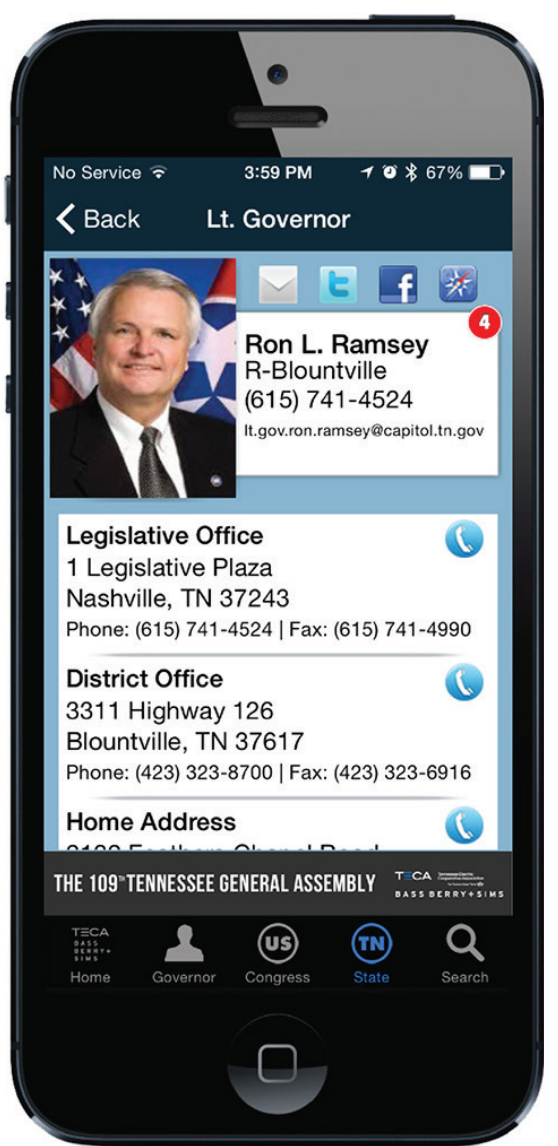
Connect with the TN General Assembly on your phone

Tennesseans interested in monitoring activities at the state Capitol are being reminded of a mobile app that was created to connect citizens with their elected representatives through their mobile devices.

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 fifth year to release an app,” said 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.

New Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland makes appointments to administration

Several new appointments by Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland will bring some new faces to city hall.

Strickland has appointed Doug McGowen as his chief operations officer. McGowen currently heads up the city’s Innovation Delivery Team and Office of Performance Management and the Memphis Sexual Assault Kit Task Force. A retired captain in the U.S. Navy, McGowen earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute and his master’s in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

Ursula Madden was appointed as the chief communications officer for the city. Madden formerly served as an anchor for WMC Action News 5 and has been with the Memphis-based news station for 17 years. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in broadcast journalism and worked in Eugene, Ore., before moving to Memphis.

Gina Sweat has been appointed the first female fire director for the city. Sweat joined the Memphis Fire Department 23 years ago and has served as a driver, lieutenant in charge of engine companies, battal-

ion chief and as the department’s first female deputy chief and acting deputy director.

Alexandria Smith was appointed as chief human resources officer for the city. Smith has served as the director of human resources at Brightstar Device Protection as well as in human resources roles at Target and Microsoft.

Bruce McMullen has been appointed as the city attorney and chief legal officer. A shareholder in the Memphis-based firm Baker Donelson, he has focused his practice on health care litigation, municipal law, tort liability, commercial litigation and class action defense among others. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia, his MBA from Georgia College and University and his juris doctorate from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Strickland also reappointed Antonio Adams as director of general services, Robert Knecht as director of public works, Keenon McCloy as director of libraries, Brent Nair as director of information services, and Kevin Woods as executive director of the Workforce Investment Network.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail. TML continues to update its elected officials and city staff contact information. Send your updates to Jackie Gupton, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to jgupton@TML1.org, or call 615-255-6416.

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STATE BRIEFS

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security announced the increase in seat belt fines as an effective additional tool to curb traffic fatalities in the state. The state Legislature approved a bill during the 2015 session. Effective Jan. 1, 2016, the fine for seat belt violations will more than double. The fine for a first offense seat belt violation will be raised to \$25 and the second and subsequent offense will be \$50. “So far this year, state troopers have issued more than 107,000 seat belt citations,” Commissioner Bill Gibbons said. “That is a 255 percent increase over the same time period in 2010. We will continue to make this a priority, but we hope the day will come when it is difficult for a state trooper to find a motorist not wearing a seat belt. We hope the tougher fines will encourage motorists to obey the law.”

Also from the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, effective Jan. 4, 2016, **Tenneseans will be able to renew their driver license every eight years instead of five years.** The change will include all classifications of driver licenses and identification licenses. The legislation to increase the renewal years was proposed during the 2015 legislative session. The new eight year license will include all forms of

driver licenses and identification licenses, including commercial driver license and motorcycle license.

Sen. Mike Bell and Rep. Jay Reedy have announced **the formation of the Tennessee Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus in the General Assembly.** The Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus is a bipartisan and bicameral caucus with a mission of protecting and advancing “the traditional right” of Volunteer State sportsmen to pursue outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, officials said. Additionally, the caucus will seek to ensure the state’s sportsmen and sportsmen have “reasonable access to public lands,” to safeguard the integrity of the American System of Conservation funding, and to support efforts to conserve and enhance fish and wild-life habitats and the maintenance and growth of outdoor industries and activities. The Tennessee Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus is a member of the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses, a bipartisan group. The NASC was developed in 2004 by the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, and is the only nationwide program uniting legislators interested in protecting and advancing their state’s traditions of hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping, according to the organization’s website.

State revenues exceed estimates again, up by \$373.5 M for five months

Tennessee revenue collections for December 2015 reflected growth more than the same period a year before.

Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that state revenue collections for December were \$1.1 billion, representing 8.95 percent growth and \$91.1 million more than December 2014. December sales tax collections represent consumer spending that occurred in November.

“Total revenues in December were higher than expected due to collections in the sales and corporate tax categories,” Martin said. “We believe the December sales tax growth rate, which includes ‘Black Friday’ and after-Thanksgiving sales, may have been influenced by lower gasoline prices and renewed consumer confidence. January’s report will give us a clearer picture with Christmas retail activity included. We are pleased with strong revenues but are concerned about the economic impact of the stock market and international issues as we begin to work with the Legislature on a responsible spending plan for the next fiscal year.”

Total collections in December were \$99.3 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded collections above the budgeted estimates in the amount of \$93 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$6.3 million more than the estimates.

Sales tax collections were \$23.9 million more than the estimate for December. The December growth rate was 6.21 percent. For five months revenues are \$159.4 million higher than estimated, and the year-to-date growth rate is 7.14 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$69.7 million more

than the budgeted estimate of \$200.8 million. For five months revenues exceeded estimates by \$157.9 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for December increased by 0.64 percent, which is \$2.8 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$71.8 million. For five months revenues are \$18.2 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax collections were \$1.6 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$20.3 million, but for five months they have recorded \$4.2 million more than estimated.

Privilege tax collections were \$0.3 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$18.9 million. Year-to-date collections for five months are \$10.2 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate taxes were above estimates by \$1 million for the month. For five months collections are \$8.5 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Business tax collections were \$1.0 million less than the December estimate. All other taxes for December recorded a net increase of \$4.2 million compared to estimates.

Year-to-date collections for five months were \$373.5 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$343.4 in collections above estimates and the four other funds \$30.1 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2015-16 are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of Dec. 16, 2014, and adopted by the first session of the 109th General Assembly in April 2015. Also incorporated in the estimates are any changes in revenue enacted during the 2015 session of the General Assembly.

TCAPWA honors members’ contributions

In November, the Tennessee Chapter of American Public Works Association (TCAPWA) held its annual conference in Chattanooga. During the conference, TCAPWA held an awards ceremony to recognize several outstanding public works professionals throughout the state.

A.C. Lock Public Works Leader of the Year Award

Ken Donaldson, Director of Public Works, Columbia

This year’s A.C. Lock Public Works Leader of the Year is Ken Donaldson from the city of Columbia. Donaldson truly exemplifies service to his community and to TCAPWA. He has been a member of APWA for 30 years, starting with the Kansas City Chapter, where he served on the board of directors. He has served TCAPWA since moving to Columbia and is well respected by members of the national APWA. Donaldson’s bar-b-que and bean dinners served to people in his department have become legendary. He has served on several committees and on the TCAPWA Board of Directors. He has worked to overcome personal adversity in the last few years and yet has continued to inspire others with his smile and encouraging words.



Ken Donaldson

W. Larry Eddins Award

David Brace, Public Service Director, Knoxville

This year’s W. Larry Eddins Award recipient is David Brace from the city of Knoxville. Brace has served for the last two years on the TCAPWA education committee. He has served as chairman of the committee and has worked hard to ensure that the organization offers great educational sessions at TCAPWA annual conference. He also encouraged his staff to get involved in the conference planning process and in TCAPWA.



David Brace

Tennessee Chapter – Award of Merit

Jennifer Ogden, CIVIC Engineering

The Award of Merit recipient is Jennifer Ogden of CIVIC Engineering. Ogden has volunteered time and resources of both herself and her firm to support TCAPWA for many years. She was one of the first members of the conference committee and has worked tirelessly to help ensure that the annual conference is a success.



Jennifer Ogden

Edward C. Archer Young Public Works Leader of the Year Award

Justin Holland, Deputy Administrator of PW, Chattanooga

This year’s Edward C. Archer Young Public Works Leader of the Year Award recipient is Justin Holland of the city of Chattanooga. Holland has worked hard to advance TCAPWA over the past years. He has served on several committees and has served as a member of the TCAPWA Board of Directors for the past three years. In addition, he has been instrumental in helping the young professionals group become involved in the organization. He also serves his community as a volunteer youth baseball, basketball and football coach.



Justin Holland

Frank Kirk Meritorious Service Award

Sharon Rollins, Consulting Program Manager, UT-MTAS

The Frank Kirk Meritorious Service Award recipient is Sharon Rollins with UT-MTAS. Rollins exemplifies what the Frank Kirk Award stands for. She has served the public works sector of the state of Tennessee for more than 30 years. In addition, she has served TCAPWA as a member of the board of directors for many years. She has helped countless Tennessee municipalities with various projects and the services that they provide, helped elected officials understand the responsibilities and services of a public works department, and generally help each department do their jobs better.



Sharon Rollins

Roger Clark Award

Manny Belen, Deputy City Engineer, Memphis

This year’s Roger Clark Award recipient is Manny Belen of the city of Memphis. Belen has provided great service to TCAPWA and to Memphis over the years. He is currently serving as vice president of TCAPWA and is chairman of several different committees including the diversity committee. He has been involved in the planning and coordination of the annual conferences, especially those held in West Tennessee. In addition, the branch meetings he helped set up while he was the West Tennessee Branch Director were superb and helped to increase the membership.



Manny Belen

Charles Walter Nichols Award

Bruce Curtis, Sanitation Services Supervisor, Alcoa

This year’s Charles Walter Nichols Award recipient is Bruce Curtis of the city of Alcoa. Curtis has a 30-year career with Alcoa. He started as a laborer in Alcoa’s Water Department. He has progressed up the ranks to his current position of sanitation services supervisor. He also started Alcoa’s Backflow and Cross Connection Program and the Public Works Safety Program. He has served as environmental and safety compliance officer.



Bruce Curtis

TCAPWA Project of the Year

The Pigeon Forge Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mark Miller, Public Works Director, Pigeon Forge

Kenny Diehl, Senior Vice President, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

This year’s recipient of the TCAPWA Project of the Year Award is Pigeon Forge Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is one of those projects that cities dream about – under budget and finished ahead of schedule. The estimated cost was approximately \$37 million and it came in at about \$31 million. Before construction, the planning team visited 15 wastewater treatment facilities and asked the operators what was good, bad and what they would like to change. Several features of this project are original, sustainable and innovative. It is the first wastewater treatment plant in the state to use drones for aerial inspection of processes. It has decreased the use of potable water by 96 percent from the old plant. Water coming from the plant is used for irrigation for several athletic complexes including the Pigeon Forge High School football field and the new Cal Ripken Baseball Experience, and for an aquatic feature in front of the plant. The team that accomplished this remarkable project is the city of Pigeon Forge, Smith Seckman Reid Inc. Engineering, and Judy Construction Company.



Mark Miller and Kenny Diehl

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Law enforcement agencies must comply by July 2016

POST Commission approves model policy on sexually oriented crimes

The Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Commission recently approved a model law enforcement policy on sexually oriented crimes to be in effect statewide by July 2016. The model policy outlines a protocol for all Tennessee law enforcement agencies when conducting preliminary and continued investigations of sexually oriented crimes and other related offenses.

As the primary regulatory body for law enforcement agencies statewide, the POST Commission approved the policy during its November meeting. The commission is composed of 18 members and includes local law enforcement personnel, legislators, and Tennessee citizens who are not connected with law enforcement.

“Having a statewide policy will provide greater efficiency and consistent oversight for the investigations of sexual assaults in our state,” POST Commission Executive Secretary Brian Grisham says. “All state and local law enforcement agencies that are likely to encounter reports of sexually oriented crimes, including campus police forces, are required to establish these standards.”

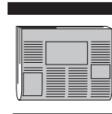
The policy was developed by the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council (DVSCC) in accordance with the State of Tennessee Public Chapter No. 253 Section 2. A survey of the amount of untested rape kits in Tennessee revealed the need to clarify proper procedure regarding sexual assault investigation and evidence collection.

“Tennessee is a leader in establishing a statewide policy for

investigating sexually oriented crimes,” said Kathy Walsh, executive director of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and Secretary of the DVSCC. “This model policy also includes guidelines for officers on providing victim assistance and properly managing evidence. These improvements should increase victim reporting and ultimately lead to more sexual predators being caught.”

Tennessee law enforcement agencies have until July 1, 2016, to either adopt the model policy as written, or create/adjust their own policy to meet the minimum standards outlined in the model policy.

For more information, including a copy of the model policy, visit www.tncoalition.org.



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ANIMAL SERVICES MANAGER
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JOHNSON CITY. Salary range \$40K - \$62K, DOQ plus benefits. 16 employees (full and part time). \$612K budget. 5K animals/yr. Past manager served until retirement. Position answers to a five-member board. New, full service shelter and control facility serving county-wide. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Demonstrated success in animal shelter and control operations, finance, community interface, and leadership. Bachelor's degree with 5 to 8 years of experience preferred. 8 to 10 years of experience and training in lieu of degree. Position profile and job description can be viewed at: [http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/1E62CF319C-225C9585257F160062C3C9/\\$FILE/JC_animalservicesdirector.pdf](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/CityAdminWeb/1E62CF319C-225C9585257F160062C3C9/$FILE/JC_animalservicesdirector.pdf). Send resume by Jan. 30, 2016, to: Steve Willis, HR Director, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City TN 37605 or e-mail to: swillis@johnsoncitytn.org. Application is a public record.

CITY ATTORNEY
MASON. The town of Mason is seeking individuals interested in the position of city attorney. Applicants must have municipal experience. Please send resume to: Town of Mason, Attn: Gwendolyn Kilpatrick, Mayor, 12157 Main Street, Mason, Tennessee 38049

CITY MANAGER
PRINCETON, WV. Progressive southern West Virginia city offering full range of services. Population 6,430. \$7 million budget and 65 employees. Appointed by 7 member council, elected on non-partisan basis for overlapping terms. Bachelor's degree in Public or Business Administration or related field preferred, but not required. Local government administration experience preferred. Grantsmanship experience preferred. Finance experience necessary. Salary negotiable. Resumes will be accepted until 12 noon, March 1, 2016, in the office of the Human Resources Director, Princeton Municipal Building, 100 Courthouse Road, Princeton, WV 24740, or by email to wandadonahue@hotmail.com or by fax (304) 487-5030. Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITY RECORDER / FINANCE DIRECTOR
DAYTON. The city of Dayton is accepting applications for the position of city recorder/finance director. This employee will be responsible for the oversight of a broad range of financial activities, including but not limited to: budgeting, tax collection, investment, local revenue collection and personnel management. This position requires a strong financial background, excellent verbal and written communication skills as well as excellent organizational skills. It is preferred that applicants have a four year degree in accounting, finance, business or related field and have experience in government accounting. Qualified applicants will have a CPA or have a CMFO certification or be able to obtain the CMFO certification within two years of hire. Salary determined on qualifications and experience. Applications are available on-line at www.daytontn.net. **Applications and resumes should be sent to: City of Dayton; Attn: Thomas W. Solomon, City Manager; P.O. Box 226; Dayton, TN 37321. Application deadline is Feb. 3, 2016. The city of Dayton is a Drug-Free workplace and an Equal Opportunity Employer. There shall also be required before employment a pre-employment physical and alcohol/drug screening.**

CODES INSPECTOR III
GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for Codes Inspector III. The purpose of this position is to perform intermedi-

ate technical work in the inspection of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facilities for compliance with mechanical codes, and other ordinances. May be assigned specific inspection areas, and other duties per position. This is a 40 hrs. per week, day shift position. The hourly rate is \$24.08 + excellent benefits. Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma/Equivalent. Must have five years recent construction related experience. Valid driver's license. Special Requirements: Must have six or more I.C.C. certifications as identified by and beneficial to the city. Must meet TN requirements for plumbing, mechanical, and/or building. For a more in-depth description summary and to apply, visit us on-line at www.gallatinonthemove.com. Click on the employment tab at the top and follow the instructions. Applications deadline is February 6. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF
LEBANON. The city of Lebanon is currently accepting applications for chief of police. This position is responsible for the overall strategic planning, direction, leadership and activities of the department. Minimum qualifications include graduation from an accredited institution with a bachelor's degree in criminology, criminal science, law enforcement, political science, criminal justice, public administration or related field; plus, 15 years law enforcement experience with 10 years recent managerial experience which shall include 5 years' experience at a rank level of captain or above. Must be currently Tennessee P.O.S.T. Certified or, if certified in another state, complete Tennessee P.O.S.T. transition academy within 6 months of hire date. Valid Tennessee Driver's License required with clean driving record. Successful report from physical examination including drug screening. Candidates interested in this position should present a completed employment application along with a detailed resume with cover letter and salary history to the Human Resources Director at Sylvia.Reichle@lebanontn.org. Applications may also be downloaded here <http://www.lebanontn.org/images/global/departments/personnel/application.pdf> and returned to Human Resources at City Hall, 200 North Castle Heights Avenue, Lebanon, TN, 37087 or by FAX 615-443-2844. The city of Lebanon does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in provision of employment opportunities and benefits.

POLICE OFFICER
WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for Police Officer. Please read the job description for the purpose, functions, responsibilities, and minimum qualifications, training, and experience. An application may be obtained by clicking here or at the Human Resources office located at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Applications should be returned to the Human Resources office or faxed to 615-616-1058 or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. Salary Range: \$14.50 - \$17.66 hourly (\$34,379.50 - \$41,871.86 annually) Application Deadline: Jan. 31, 2016. EOE.

PERMIT TECHNICIAN I
GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is currently accepting applications for a Temporary Permit Technician I in the Codes Department. This is a 40 hrs per week, day shift position with no weekend work required. Duties include assisting the public and providing technical office duties related to the processing and issuance of building permits. The successful candidates will possess: knowledge of internal and external public agency permitting requirements; knowledge of construction plans, construction terminology, construction practices, and basic math; ability to use and manipulate Microsoft Office; and ability to review, interpret, and explain written documents. Any combination of education and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree and at least 5 years of clerical experience is required. The starting rate is \$14.78 per hour. Interested persons

must apply on-line at www.gallatinonthemove.com under "Employment" at the top of the webpage and follow the instructions. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS CREW LEADER
PIPERTON. This position requires considerable independent judgment in supervising work crews in the maintenance, construction and repair of streets, water and sewer distribution/collection systems, buildings, rights-of-way, and other public works facilities. Work is performed under the general supervision of the public works director and is reviewed through results achieved. Minimum qualifications include: graduation from an accredited high school or equivalent GED supplemented by minimum five years of experience in water and sewer system operations. A combination of training and experience may qualify an applicant for consideration. Valid Tennessee driver's license, with an acceptable driving record. Water distribution and/or wastewater collection certification possession or obtain. Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of street maintenance and repair; considerable knowledge of water systems, including placement of service and distribution lines; considerable knowledge of sewage collection systems, including placement of lines; considerable knowledge of and the ability to make repairs to water/sewer systems under both emergency/non-emergency conditions. Knowledge of the occupational hazards associated with the work, safety precautions, and the ability to communicate such knowledge to those under his supervision. Ability to supervise work crews and assist in the installation, maintenance and repair of municipal water lines, water meters, hydrants, sewer lines, grounds and building maintenance, and street repairs; ability to plan, schedule and coordinate the activities of employees; ability to establish and maintain professional working relationships with the general public, fellow employees, and outside professional associates; ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions; ability to communicate effectively; ability to perform manual labor; ability and skill in operating a wide range of construction and maintenance equipment. The city of Piperton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace. Certain positions require pre-employment drug testing. Please e-mail resume to TPARKER@PIPERTONTN.COM

Join MTAS' Certified Municipal Finance Officer Program in 2016

The Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) Program will start new classes in January 2016. Classes will be taught in Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson. This program has graduated over 450 people across the state. During the life of the CMFO program, MTAS has received numerous accolades about the quality of the program.

Peter Colin, a CMFO graduate and City Manager of Munford says, "I thoroughly enjoyed the CMFO program. It focuses on the legal and financial "rules of the road" for Tennessee local government. The program provides an important foundation for municipal finance directors and administrators. The content is well structured and very "real world." The instructors brought their extensive experience in finance, audit and regulatory matters and kept the sessions lively and engaging."

Annie Hand is financial director/city recorder for the town of Bruceton and has this to say about the program. "As a recent graduate and a novice financial manager, I found the MTAS CMFO program an outstanding experience. The CMFO trainers, Sharee Brewer and

Kay Stegall as well as others, were able to impart a wealth of knowledge and information that I could directly apply to my everyday work with the financial management of the small city of Bruceton."

The program consists of topics as specified by the state Comptroller's office and MTAS delivers the topics in eleven classes. They are:

1. The Government Environment
2. Municipal Budgeting
3. Internal Controls and Auditing
4. Government Accounting I
5. Government Accounting II
6. Financial Reporting I
7. Financial Reporting II
8. Cash Management
9. Debt Management
10. Payroll, Personnel and Pensions
11. Purchasing Risk Management and Enterprise Resource Planning

For more information on this great program, contact Michelle Buckner at michelle.buckner@tennessee.edu, P.J. Snodgrass at pj@utk.edu or your MTAS finance consultant. There is also a wealth of information on the MTAS website at <http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012.nsf/Web/Certified+Municipal+Finance+Officer>



The ECRC training series provides two-day intensive workshops for elected officials. Two modules are offered: module A is a two-day course on economic development strategies; module B is a two-day course on disaster recovery and economic resilience.

Course content is designed for mayors, county executives, other local elected officials and economic development leadership. The material will help prepare community leaders to support economic development and recovery activities in their communities.

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Fixing sign codes after Reed: all is not lost

BY LISA SORONEN

State and Local Legal Center

Sign lawyers (yes there is such a thing) agree on one thing and disagree on another.

They agree that many sign codes in the United States had problems before the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, Arizona last summer. They disagree on how big of a deal the Reed decision is and more specifically on how much Reed changed sign laws.

Regardless of who is right, post-Reed your city’s sign code is still in trouble.

The good news is that many of the problems are fixable even if the solutions aren’t perfect.

The Supreme Court had been clear before Reed that content-based distinctions in sign codes could be unconstitutional. What the court wasn’t clear about was what exactly content-based distinctions are and how often, practically speaking, they are likely to be unconstitutional.

In Reed, the court adopted a broad definition of content-based and concluded that content-based distinctions will almost always be unconstitutional.

Gilbert’s sign code treated temporary directional signs less favorably (in terms of size, location, duration, etc.) than political signs and ideological signs. The Supreme Court held unanimously that Gilbert’s sign code violated the First Amendment because it made content-based distinctions that in Justice Kagan’s words would not even pass “the laugh test.”

To summarize the court’s opinion in 5 words: sign codes must be content-neutral.

Even if this sounds straightforward, it is much easier to understand what problems might exist

in your sign code—and how to fix them—using real world examples.

According to sign lawyers—before and after Reed—two of the most common problematic provisions in sign codes are special rules for political signs and real estate signs.

Take for example a sign code that says 30 days before an election and 5 days after an election no permit is required for signs that are 8 square feet or less that advocate for or oppose a particular candidate.

So why is this provision content-based? Well, only political messages are allowed on these signs.

To manage the clutter of too many yard signs while avoiding controlling the content of speech on signs many communities limit the square footage of signage in a yard. Instead of creating special rules for political signs, communities could allow any message on a certain square footage of signs which would, of course, include political messages.

But what about the fact that during silly season many people want to display multiple political signs which could exceed the normal sign allotment? One option would be to waive the square footage limitation for a time period that would just so happen to coincide with elections. But of course, yard signs with any non-commercial message would have to be allowed during this sign free-for-all period—not just additional political signs.

Now let’s look at real estate signs. It is not uncommon for sign codes to say that one real estate sign of a particular size and duration is permitted on each lot.

Why is this provision content-based? No other messages may be contained on such a sign.

What might be a solution that allows real estate signs? A sign code could say if a lot is for sale one additional sign of a particular size and duration is allowed on the lot. This



About the Author: Lisa Soronen is the executive director of the State and Local Legal Center. Contact Lisa at lsoronen@sso.org or (202) 434 – 4845.

provision would regulate signs based on location and activity, not content. But again, the home owner could put any message on this additional sign—but presumably would put up a message about the property being for sale.

These two examples illustrate the sense and the absurdity of Reed. On one hand, in a democracy where all ideas and opinions are allowed it seems only fair that political messages don’t get special treatment. On the other hand, having special rules for real estate signs makes good practical sense and hardly seems designed to limit the marketplace of ideas.

Cities can, should, and must revise their sign codes to comply with Reed. While it might not be easy and all the fixes won’t make perfect sense, Reed provides cities an opportunity to ask themselves what they want their communities to look like and how they can get there creatively and legally.

For further background on sign law, an overview of the Reed decision, and more solutions to problems with sign codes listen to a recording of the SLLC/NLC webinar on Reed. The Fourth Edition of Street Graphics and the Law also contains suggestions on modifying sign codes to comply with Reed.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Jan. 29-31: Townsend

Winter Heritage Festival in the Smokies. Celebrates the history, natural beauty, and cultural traditions of Townsend, Cades Cove, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Activities include tours, talks, music, storytelling, and exhibits. Programs Friday and Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday breakfast and country church service. \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior adults and students. Children under 6 free. Contact for details and times. Email: gsmhcevents@yahoo.com. or Phone: (865) 448-0044.

Feb. 21- Greenville

10th Annual Antique Appraisal Fair and Antique Show at Greenville High School on Tusculum Boulevard from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The event will feature certified appraisers that will assess the value of antique treasures brought in by the public. A small fee of \$5 per item will be charged for appraisals. Also featured at the event will be local and regional antique shops displaying and selling their wares throughout the day, as well as local museums and historical attractions. The fair will offer a Preview Party Feb. 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. and will feature live entertainment, light hors d’oeuvres, door prizes and the opportunity to shop early for that special item. Admission is \$10. Guests will also have an opportunity to meet the appraisers, as well as more than 40 antique dealers. For more information contact Tammy Kinser at 423-638-4111, email tkinser@greeneecop.com or visit www.GreenvilleAntiqueAppraisalFair.com.



March 14 - 15:

TML Legislative Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton Nashville Downtown, 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219. The special room rate of \$139 will be available until Wednesday, Feb. 17, or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. You may contact the Central Reservations Office at (800) 222-8733 or via the Internet using the group web page. (If you are calling the hotel to make your reservations, please use the group code – TML.) To register for the conference, download the form from www.TML1.org, and fax to Sylvia Harris at (615) 255-6488.

THE AGING DEMOGRAPHIC. WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN CITIES PREPARE?

This course will review the coming “age wave” demographic. Participants will learn what their city can do to engage this new demographic and to provide services and infrastructure which will meet their needs. Examples from both Tennessee and other states will be used to illustrate the sometimes imaginative ways cities are responding to this unprecedented shift.

Target Audience:

All Municipal Employees

Dates/Locations/Time:

Feb. 8: Jackson

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Feb. 9: Nashville

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Feb. 10: Knoxville

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Feb. 11: Kingsport

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST

Credits: 4 CPE/CMFO

(Other) (LM)



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. 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 town of Livingston closed a loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$1.1 million for a capital outlay note to finance parks and recreational facilities.



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The city of Jackson closed a variable rate loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$17.4 million to finance its three-year capital improvement plan.

House convenes for second session 109th Tennessee General Assembly



Republican Caucus Chair Glen Casada and House Majority Leader Gerald McCormick



House Speaker Beth Harwell



House Finance Chair Charles Sargent and Rep. Pat Marsh



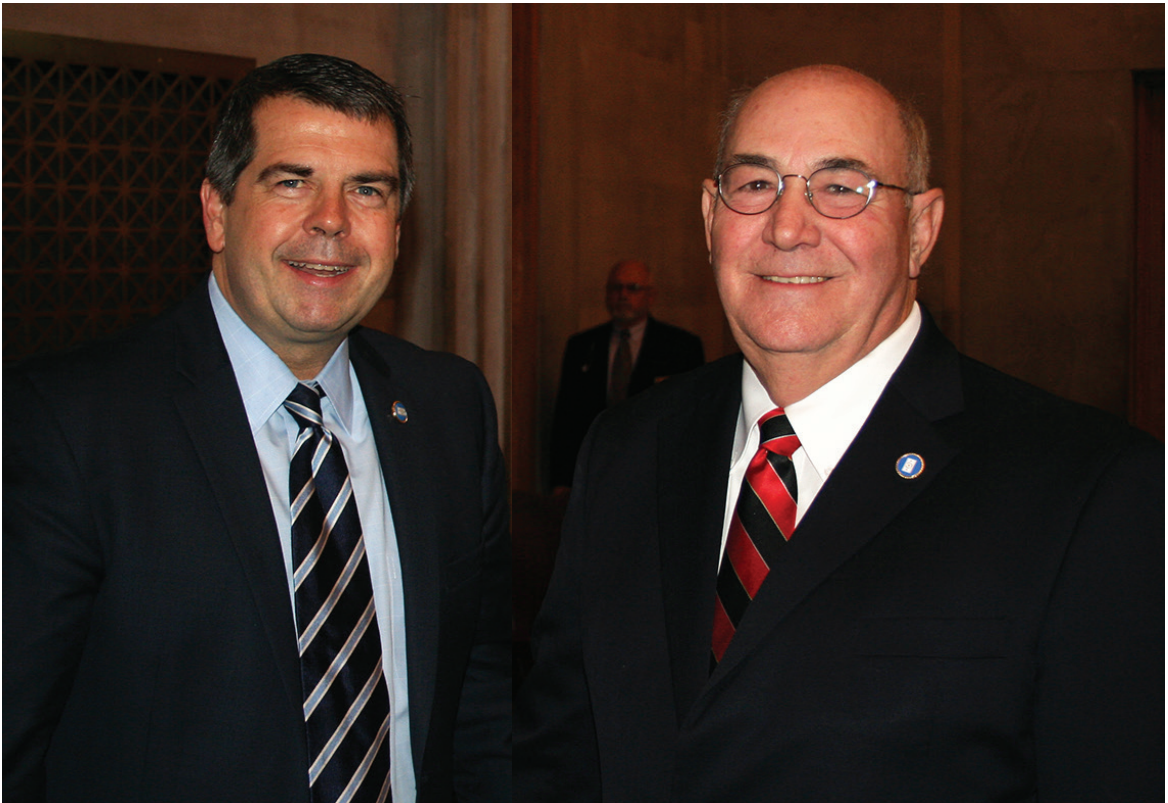
Democratic Leader Craig Fitzhugh, Democratic Caucus Chair Mike Stewart, and Leader Pro Tempore Joe Armstrong



House Local Government Chair Tim Wirgau and Rep. Patsy Hazlewood



Reps. David Alexander, Marc Gravitt, and Ryan Williams



Far Left:
Rep. John Mark Windell

Right: Reps. Bo Mitchell
and David Shepard

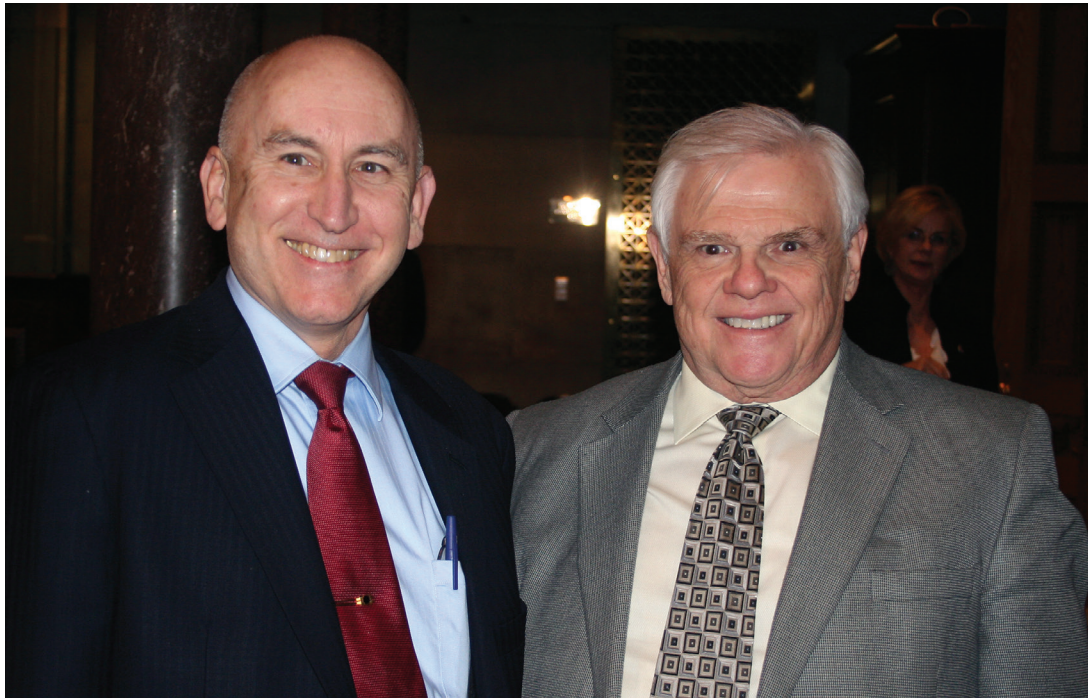
Senate convenes for second session of 109th General Assembly



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris and Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Jeff Bivins



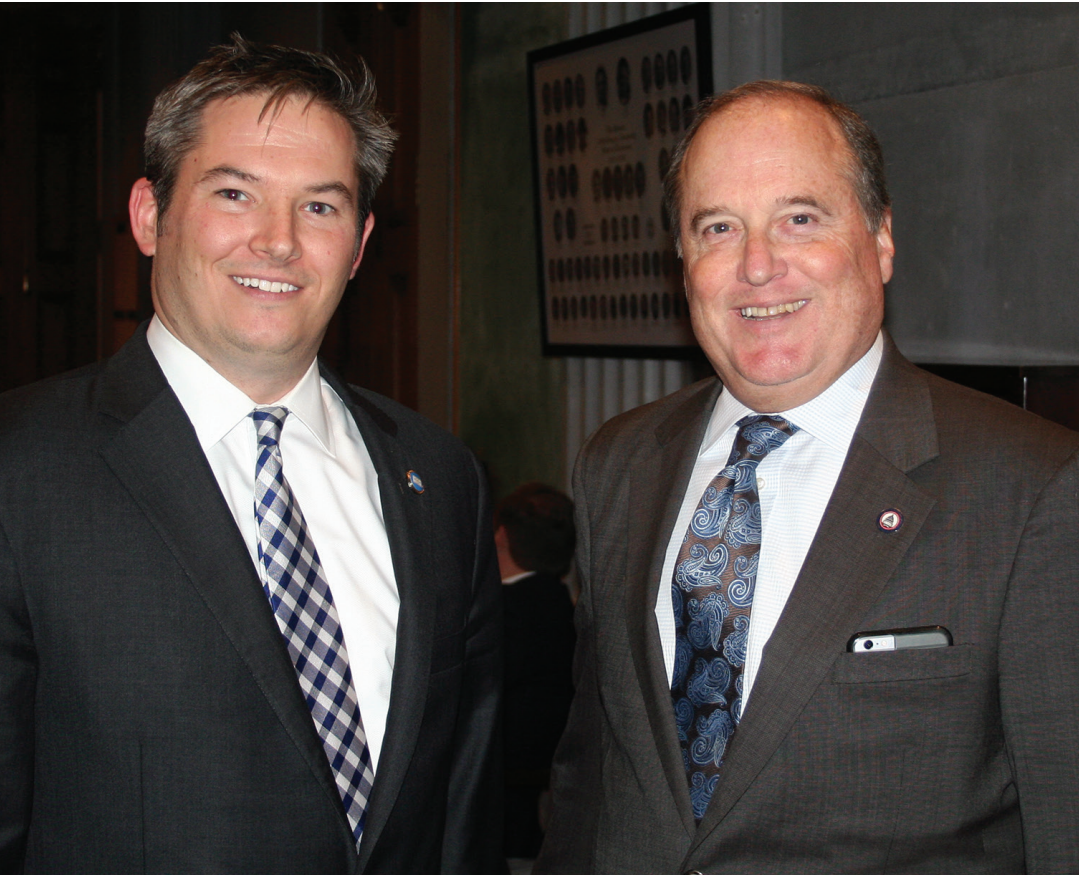
Sen. Richard Briggs and Senate State and Local Government Chair Ken Yager



Sens. Kerry Roberts and John Stevens



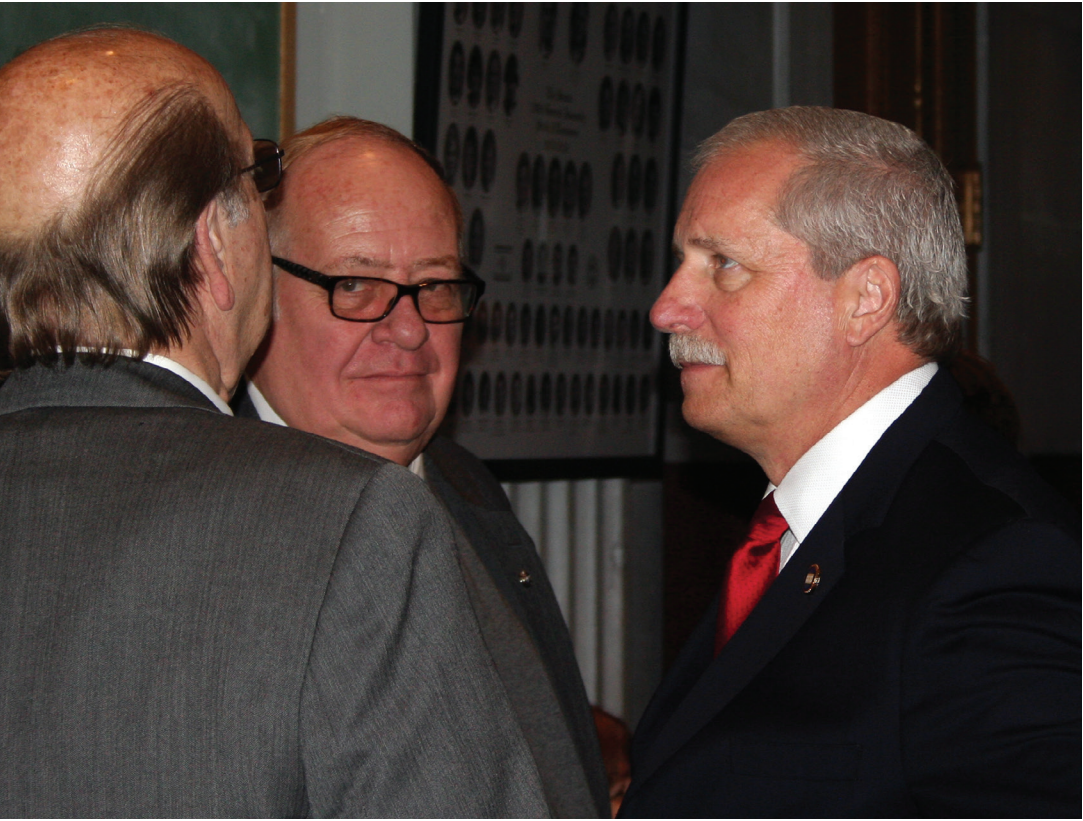
Sen. Rusty Crowe, Sen. Mark Norris & Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Bo Watson



Democratic Caucus Chair Jeff Yarbrow and Sen. Doug Overbey



Deputy Speaker Steve Southerland and Sen. Frank Niceley



Above: Republican Caucus Chair Bill Ketron (far right)

Left: Sen. Joey Hensley

Center: Sen. Janice Bowling