

TN Supreme Court rules on government compensation for regulatory takings

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that the State Constitution, like the United States Constitution, requires the government to compensate private property owners when governmental decisions, restrictions, or regulations take or interfere with private property interests.

The lawsuit was brought by Mack and Leann Phillips, who own more than 15 acres near Clarksville and who in 2010 sought permission to have the land subdivided. The Clarksville Montgomery Regional Planning Commission held a public hearing and then denied the request.

The property owners sought review of the Planning Commission's decision from the Chancery Court but also filed suit in Circuit Court against Montgomery County, claiming that the denial of their request to subdivide the property amounted to a taking of their property for which Montgomery County owed them compensation.

In legal terms, the property owners' claim is known as a "regulatory taking" of property.

The property owners asserted the denial of their request was based only upon the fact that their land lies in the path of a potential highway extension. The property owners based their claim on the Tennessee Constitution alone and did not rely upon the United States Constitution.

The property owners' Chancery Court appeal from the Planning Commission's decision remained unresolved, although such appeals should and normally do proceed quickly, but their state constitutional regulatory takings claim proceeded. The Circuit Court denied the county's request to dismiss the lawsuit, but the landowners then appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court reversed the dismissal. The Supreme Court explained that under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, property owners may seek compensation when government action results in a taking of property. Property may be taken, the Court explained, by an actual physical occupation or by government regulations or actions that interfere with a property owner's use of the property. This latter type of taking is known in legal terms as a regulatory taking.

Until now, no prior Tennessee court had decided whether the State Constitution, like the U.S. Constitution, requires the government to compensate property owners for regulatory takings claims.

Previously, Tennessee courts have addressed only physical occupation and nuisance-type takings

claims. In its decision, the Court discussed the similarities between article I, section 21 of the Tennessee Constitution and the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and held that the State Constitution protects the right of Tennessee property owners to receive compensation for a regulatory taking of property to the same extent as the United States Constitution.

The Court remanded the claim before it to the trial court to determine whether, on the facts of this case, the Commission's denial of the property owners' request to subdivide their land actually amounted to a regulatory taking of property under the Tennessee Constitution for which compensation is due.



It's that time of year again - Tennessee's fall festivals are awash with colorful pumpkins, corn mazes, and hayrides. It's estimated that agritourism contributes more than \$54 million annually into the state's economy. See Page 6 for a listing of upcoming Tennessee festivals. Or for a complete list of Tennessee events, visit www.tnvacation.com/calendar

Chattanooga receives \$400,000 TIGER Grant to study passenger train service

BY CAROLE GRAVES

TML Communications Director

Over the next year, Chattanooga will study whether a passenger train service is a feasible option for city commuters.

Chattanooga was just awarded a \$400,000 TIGER grant (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) by the U.S. Department of Transportation to study the potential use of existing railways for passenger rail service.

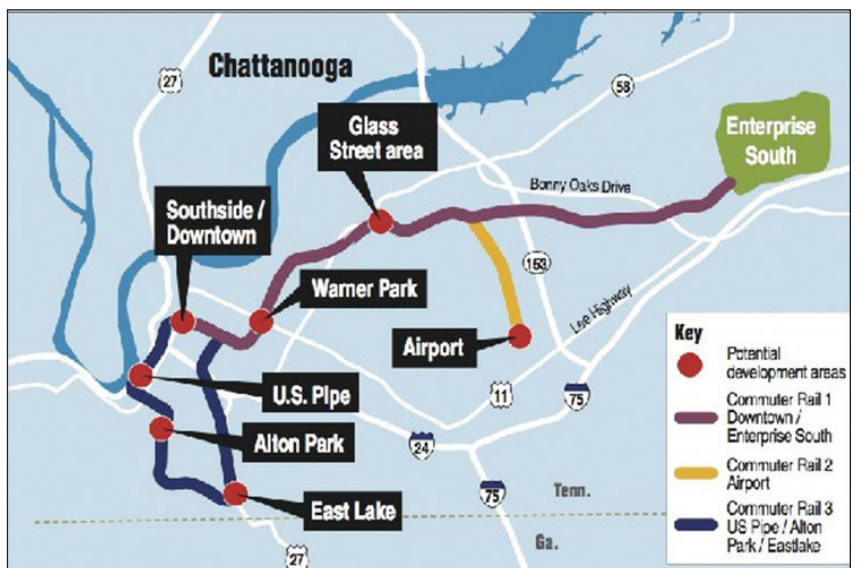
The city was the only TIGER awarded grant in the state, and one of 72 grants awarded nationwide. The grant requires a \$300,000 in local matching funds.

The study will evaluate the feasibility of using an existing 21-mile freight rail facility for passenger service, as well as look at an implementation strategy for a 23-mile long passenger rail system in the city.

In the grant application, city officials stated that repurposing this infrastructure for passenger rail would enhance rail and transit access in downtown Chattanooga and create more transportation options to the growing jobs centers.

The proposed routes would travel east from downtown in two directions. One spur would lead to the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. The second would travel to the Enterprise South Industrial Park, where Volkswagen's manufacturing headquarters and an Amazon distribution center are located. Combined, the two industries employ some 6,000 workers. Officials said that only about three and a half miles of new track would be needed for each of those routes.

"By studying the feasibility of a passenger rail project, we are



The proposed routes would travel east from downtown in two directions. One spur would lead to the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport. The second would travel to the Enterprise South Industrial Park.

taking an important first step," said Mayor Andy Berke. "Passenger rail service would make travel to the airport and Enterprise South more convenient as well as connect our most disadvantaged neighborhoods to jobs, classrooms, grocery stores and healthcare facilities. By putting our railroads back to use, we could create an incredible impact in our community and increase the quality of life of our citizens."

The study will also look at demand of ridership, route options, and fare structure.

City officials said that if the plan is implemented, the benefits of the project would not only expand transportation options, but improvements would be made to the existing freight rail infrastructure. As the federal government has eased up on regulations on passenger rail, railroad companies have become more cooperative about letting freight and light

rail share the same lines. The freight rail service provided in Chattanooga by CSX and Norfolk Southern would benefit from the proposed upgrades.

In addition, the project will enhance the city's efforts to improve air quality by helping to transform it into a more pedestrian-and transit-friendly community, as well as spur economic development with a proposed new station in downtown Chattanooga that features a vibrant station-area, integrated with nearby affordable housing, and bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Total cost of the rail project is estimated to cost \$35 - \$40 million.

For more than a decade, the city has been considering intercity rail service, connecting to Atlanta, but this study would be the first serious consideration of reviving intracity service, meant for commuters and those traveling relatively short distances within the city.

Slatery sworn in as new Tennessee attorney general



Photo by Allan Ramsaur/ TN Bar Assoc.

New Attorney General Herbert Slatery takes the oath of office from Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon Lee during ceremonies held in Nashville. His wife Cary Slatery holds the Bible while he is sworn in.

Herbert H. Slatery, III, was officially sworn into office Oct. 1, as the 27th Attorney General and Reporter of Tennessee.

Slatery, 62, of Nashville, has served as Gov. Bill Haslam's chief counsel since 2011. Prior to that, he was an attorney at a Knoxville law firm for 30 years with Egerton, McAfee, Armistead and Davis.

"He is an excellent lawyer with proven leadership ability and sound judgment," said Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee, who stood with the other justices in making the announcement that Slatery is their unanimous choice for this position.

He was one of eight Tennes-

see attorneys who applied for the eight-year position and is the first Republican to hold the office since Reconstruction.

He will supervise about 300 people in his office, which includes 175 attorneys

"This is an incredible honor and I am humbled by it," said Slatery. "I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity." He thanked his wife, Gov. Bill Haslam, and Attorney General Robert Cooper, Jr.

Slatery is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Tennessee College of Law. He and his wife, Cary, have two children who both live in Knoxville.

Congress passes short-term funding measure; adjourns until Nov. midterm elections

BY PRIYA GHOSH AHOLA and JULIA PULIDINDI
NLC Staff

Last month, Congress passed a short-term bill to fund the federal government through Dec. 11, allowing lawmakers to adjourn for the campaign season and to address longer-term spending measures when they return after the Nov. 4 midterm elections. The bill also included an extension until Dec. 11 of a moratorium on Internet access taxes, which was set to expire Nov. 1.

While the Senate did not consider the Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act (S.2609), a top legislative priority for the National League

of Cities, NLC will continue to push to see e-fairness become law in the lame duck session of Congress.

City officials can help by contacting your Senators and urging them to co-sponsor S. 2609. If they are already a co-sponsor, call and thank them for their support. Contact your House members and tell them how important it is for your community that they vote in favor of helping your Main Street retailer by passing e-fairness legislation this year.

For more information about the Marketplace Fairness Act, go to <http://www.nlc.org/influence-federal-policy/advocacy/federal-advocacy-priorities/support-marketplace-fairness>

Cleveland a center for hands on learning as UT's first SCI partner

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Cleveland, Tenn., will likely hold a special place in the hearts and memories of a number of University of Tennessee Knoxville students, as the city transforms into a place of hands-on learning through UTK's Smarter Communities Initiative (SCI). Each year, the SCI program pairs classes students normally would take, with needed projects within a select community.

The program submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) last year, as the faculty planning team helped recruit and select an inaugural partner. As the chosen city, Cleveland committed \$100,000 as an investment to the program, with most projects budgeted at around \$3,000 per semester.

"We ask cities to provide a sum of money, varying according to how many projects they do and how costly the projects are," said Kelly Ellenburg, campus coordinator for Service learning, who is responsible for program level operations. "We offer our faculty some course support dollars, some travel dollars and dollars that compensate the stu-

dents," she said.

Each Cleveland project, ranging from Brownfield redevelopment, historic preservation, community branding, to housing and sidewalk improvement, could have multiple courses involved, providing students across several disciplines opportunities to network together toward a common goal.

"We wanted to see the program become academically diverse from public health students, to architecture or communications," said Ellenburg. "Students take the course addressing actual problems with the partner city rather than an abstract problem."

Several external partnerships have developed as a result of the initiative. One of those partners is Lee University, which is teaching a course addressing a Cleveland



The old 90-acre Whirlpool site in Cleveland is on the list of Smart Community Initiative projects addressing Brownfield Revitalization.

project in capacity building. Bradley County has also become involved, addressing improvements to the local Health Department facility.

As part of the process, the city identified a project lead, who assumes the role of working with the See SCI CLEVELAND on Page 2

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CHATTANOOGA

The city unveiled a plan to offer free Wi-Fi across the city. Workers are in the process of rewiring the existing Wi-Fi in city-owned buildings, and in subsequent phases, will open up Wi-Fi in parks and other open spaces. In buildings where Wi-Fi is available only in some areas, workers are expanding the networks to cover the entire structures. The city kicked off a naming competition that will allow the public to vote on the best brand name for the new Wi-Fi.

DICKSON

Mohawk Industries recently celebrated the groundbreaking of its new 1.4 million-square-foot Dalton facility. In March, Mohawk announced the company would invest \$180 million to build a new ceramic tile production facility and distribution center in the Dickson County Industrial Park and create 320 jobs over the next four years. Mohawk Industries is the world's largest flooring manufacturer and the largest manufacturer of ceramic tile in North America, selling under well-known Dalton, Marazzi, American Olean, Mohawk and Ragno brands. The company plans to open the tile manufacturing plant in the fourth quarter of 2015.

FRANKLIN

Senior Services company Independent Healthcare Properties LLC (IHP) broke ground on a \$25 million Morning Pointe senior campus on 10 acres at Highway 96. The Morning Pointe of Franklin will be a two-phase project that company officials said should increase the county's assisted living and Alzheimer's memory care services. Morning Pointe has 16 other Tennessee locations and is based in Chattanooga. The second phase of the development project will be the construction of The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, with 44 apartments dedicated solely for caring for residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of memory loss. The company said the project, slated for completion by fall 2015, will mean the creation of 200 construction jobs and 125 permanent health-care positions.

FRANKLIN

The city is kicking off the process for its first comprehensive transportation plan that will include citizen input. Currently ranked as the 14th fastest growing American city, Franklin has seen a 3.9 percent population increase in the last year. This growth brings numerous opportunities and challenges to the city's transportation system. Franklin is seeking to take a comprehensive look at the community's transportation corridors. Titled "Connect Franklin" this initiative will outline transportation strategies and projects for the city to implement based on the policy and goal statements set forth in the city's Land Use Comprehensive Plan. The result will be a comprehensive, detailed transportation master plan that meets the specific needs of the city by making operational improvements, creating a community-wide bicycle and pedestrian network, increasing network connectivity, and preserving the current investment in transportation infrastructure. Citizens can become a part of the planning process online at the project website www.connectfranklin.com and can also stay informed during the process by following the city on Facebook or Twitter at www.facebook.com/cityoffranklin.

JOHNSON CITY

JD Squared, Inc., announced the company will expand its current operations. The family-owned business plans to invest \$6.5 million in order to relocate to a larger facility to accommodate the growth of new products, and create 50 new jobs over the next five years. A manufacturer of tubing benders and notchers, JD Squared, Inc., sells high-quality equipment that provides hobbyists and businesses alike with affordable products that are normally out of reach. The company is looking at creating two new product lines that will require more room to build, along with hiring new employees, and anticipate being operational in their new space by mid-2015.

JONESBOROUGH

The town increased its credit rating from an A+ to an AA- rating, which is among the top tier of credit grades, according to Standard & Poor's. The

rating is due to a number of areas, including the town's budgetary flexibility, adequate overall budgetary performance with a deficit, adequate debt and contingent liabilities profile, and an adequate economy.

KNOXVILLE

The Knoxville City Council approved an agreement between the city and TDOT that would fund upgrades to the city's traffic signals and improve traffic flow. The project will cost about \$7 million; \$1.4 million of that will come from the city. The funding will help replace the computer hardware in about half the city's traffic signals. Knoxville's director of engineering said the systems that run Knoxville's traffic lights are out of date. "We have a lot of really outdated equipment in some of those boxes. Some of it as old as 25 years old and if you have a computer at home that's 25 years old, you know what we're dealing with," said Jim Hagerman.

MCKENZIE

Swan Products announced it is shutting down, just as it was getting ready to expand. McKenzie Industrial Board Director Billy Barksdale said the closure is due to a lost share of the market in the northeast. Swan produces gardening and industrial hoses and employs around 40 workers. City officials were in the middle of negotiations with Swan to move from its current location to a new location within the city. That is now off the table.

MEMPHIS

Cargill Inc. stands to lose more than 400 jobs with the closing of a corn mill on Presidents Island. The overall facility employs about 440 people. The move was driven by underutilization of the Memphis plant and its location away from the Corn Belt, said a company spokeswoman. International demand for high-fructose corn syrup has been flat for a number of years, but the company said the closing is more about the plant's location. It is the southernmost of Cargill's corn mills, a disadvantage due to the location away from the Corn Belt. The company noted the closing will have no impact on Cargill's recently announced plans for a \$45 million barge hub in West Memphis to ship corn and soybeans for export markets.

NASHVILLE

Mayor Karl Dean signed an executive order to create the Mayor's Office of New Americans (MONA), a new Metro Government office focused on engaging and empowering immigrants living in the Nashville community. Existing Mayor's Office staff will lead MONA and the Mayor's New Americans Advisory Council will serve as advisers. The office will focus on four primary objectives: engaging and empowering immigrants to participate in their local government and in their communities; fostering a knowledgeable, safe, and connected community; expanding economic and educational opportunities for New Americans to the benefit of all Nashvillians; and working with community organizations and other Metro departments to empower and support New Americans.

NASHVILLE

The Nashville area's economy officially crossed the \$100 billion mark in 2013, marking a new benchmark for local growth. The new \$100 billion mark was measured by the region's gross domestic product, which is the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within the metro area in 2013. A new report, released by the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, ranks Nashville as the nation's 34th-largest economy, finishing just behind Columbus, Ohio (No. 30); Orlando, Fla. (No. 31); Sacramento, Calif. (No. 32); and Austin, Texas (No. 33).

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

Mayor Bill Lusk reported good financial news for the community recently. Moody's Investment Service has awarded the town a bond rating of AA3. This rating reduces current borrowing costs as well as costs for any future borrowing. The city also saved more than a \$1 million in interest by resolutely paying down a \$7.3 million loan to help fund the new middle/high school. The loan is on track now to be retired in 2016 rather than 2026.

Information is a snap in Lakesite with ClerkBase online program

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

In her last job, as town clerk in Charleston, RI., Jodie LaCroix cared for community records as primitive as 1738. But it wasn't as cumbersome as it might have been, thanks to ClerkBase, an online records management program that makes searching for minutes, ordinances or any other documents a breeze—fostering an enhanced level of transparency for Lakesite's staff and citizens. When she retired from Charleston in 2011 to become Lakesite's city recorder, LaCroix decided to introduce ClerkBase to the Tennessee community.

"It's so easy now to search minutes, the code and charter, it's phenomenal," she said. According to LaCroix, residents are commenting on Facebook about the ease of using the program.

"People want to know what's going on, and this makes it so much easier. If somebody wants to see something in the code on a Saturday night, they can just go look it up for themselves. That's what we're really trying to do; we want to be transparent," she said.

As the first Tennessee city to use the program, ClerkBase allows the public, as well as city hall, to access, search, retrieve and print public information quickly. The program has a Help button, for those who need assistance, and has telephone and email support for all users - including



Lakesite City Recorder Jodie LaCroix stands beside "the vault" containing the city's hard copy records. Today, the ClerkBase online records management system stores Lakesite's records, where city staff and citizens may download and print copies of minutes, council packets, ordinances and other documents quickly and easily.

the public—if further assistance is necessary, LaCroix also said she's happy to walk citizens through the experience by phone.

"Citizens no longer have to get up and get dressed to come to commission meetings. They can read the agenda and the minutes from home and determine if they want to attend to make their opinions known," she said.

ClerkBase' client base includes reputable organizations such as the International City/County Management Association, International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the New England Association of City and Town Clerks.

Based on the volume of information, the ClerkBase fee for each city will be different. Lakesite paid just under \$5,000, LaCroix said.

"Everything is stored on their server, and we have the hard copy backups here," she explained. The town also plans to add all its minutes dating back to Lakesite's 1972 incorporation, along with the town's Resolution and Ordinance books.

ClerkBase also handles agenda management, board and commission tracking and video streaming of meetings.

For more information, check out the ClerkBase website at www.clerkbase.com or call 866-676-9486.

Friendsville's new signs designed by students

In the words of Dr. Seuss, "A person's a person no matter how small." That's how it is in Friendsville—where children stepped up recently to create functional and historic artwork for the community.

When Vice Mayor Mike Bailey and other city officials realized last year, that the city limit signs no longer met state guidelines, they turned to Mrs. Talbott's art class at Friendsville Elementary to design new ones.

Students were asked to create a drawing based on the city's rich heritage. After the City Commission narrowed it down to 12 finalists, six drawings were selected by citizens as the winners. The signs will be seen by hundreds of motorists passing through the community.

The students are thrilled, according to Bailey, a father of three, who spearheaded the project.

Fifth grader Tyson Green's depiction of the city's old nickname, "The Town on Three Hills," was the first sign to be installed at the city limits. Other drawings depict



Photo by WATE.com

Friendsville Vice Mayor Mike Bailey turned to the elementary school art class, after realizing the city limit signs no longer met state guidelines.

Friendsville Academy, a college located in Friendsville, a Quaker church, a main link to the city's heritage, and the historic AME church, a predominantly black church in the 1800's.

In addition, around \$360 was raised by the community in the vot-

ing process, which was donated to the school's art department toward supplies, paints and oils.

"It's something that's original and beautiful in its own sense," Bailey said. "It shows where we've been and where we're going."

Cleveland inaugural partner of UT Smarter Communities initiative

SCI CLEVELAND from Page 1 course faculty member to design a scope of work that balances student learning outcomes with the results the city needs from each project. That person is Cleveland's Planning Director Greg Thomas.

"It's a lot of hard work but rewarding. We've already had a lot of faculty and student engagement across 18 projects," he said. "We have a couple of UT students who are from Cleveland, one is a grad student, Hunter McCracken, who is taking a leadership role in sidewalk planning. Another young lady, Taylor Dotson, is an architecture student who volunteered her assistance by producing some wonderful project boards."

Following an SCI kick-off celebration, landscape architecture students could be found touring the historic 90-acre Whirlpool factory site and the surrounding downtown area, preparing to create conceptual redevelopment proposals for a Central City Brownfield Redevelopment Plan.

"Change begins with a plan, which is why I'm so excited about the student involvement and their fresh ideas to supplement and enrich our downtown master plan," said Cleveland City Manager Janice Casteel. "We are also grateful that our own Lee University faculty and students will be partnering with the city offering their assistance with several of the SCI projects."

Casteel said she learned about the SCI program through Honna Rogers, Municipal Technical Advisory Service consultant, who encouraged Cleveland to apply.

"The city is grateful for the opportunity to partner with UT Knoxville in the pilot year of the SCI," she said.

"The revitalization of the former Whirlpool plant site along with the restoration of the historic Cherokee Hotel (Cleveland Summit) will breathe new, sustainable life into our downtown, while the construction of the Woolen Mill Branch Greenway Extension and community sidewalks will provide pedestrian access to services in our downtown area."

Cleveland made national headlines in 2010, when Whirlpool executives announced plans to expand their local plant, building a new one million-square-foot facility on a 120-acre site about seven miles from the 100-year-old factory. There have been several suggestions about what to do with the old site, which has been plagued by flooding issues throughout the years, due to a nearby creek, paved over a century ago.

"The company that owns the property and our posture is one of mutual cooperation," Thomas said. "The Brownfield area includes Whirlpool, but goes beyond. The students will be coming up with ideas for reuse and redevelopment for that area. The city is also committed to sustaining the neighborhood that was there and to the people who want to stay. The redevelopment will include affordable housing and possibly an employment center."

Cleveland's projects also include street improvements, bus shelter planning and an ethical needs analysis for collecting citizen input (CIDAS). There's even a temporary downtown ice skating rink proposal.

The SCI program allows opportunities for students to meet with staff members and other Cleveland stakeholders for feedback, as they develop the proposals.

During a city branding exercise,

12 Cleveland citizens and staff attended a day-long class on UTK's campus. Clevelanders were paired up and moved through eight student groups, who quizzed them about the community. Many students had already toured the city's downtown and will return, as they try to capture Cleveland's unique qualities and lay the groundwork for the development of the city's future marketing plan.

Each SCI faculty person identifies an exemplary student, advising the student while they author a final report, compiling all the resulting program proposals and the feedback that the community offered. This student is compensated hourly.

"It's a professional client sort of relationship giving them professional experience, particularly the students writing the report, who will have a contracted report written with a faculty person to their credit," said Ellenburg.

The SCI model was pioneered through the University of Oregon. "A couple of faculty members felt like students' work was based on hypothetical issues and students needed real world problems," said Ellenburg. "The University of Oregon is now training other universities to implement the program."

"Being able to interact with students from UTK and Lee University has brought renewed energy to my meetings with Cleveland Planning staff," said Casteel. "In fact, this is one of the most exciting times in my career with the city."

The projects are to be completed by Dec. 10, 2015. The SCI program will issue an RFP for its 2015-16 city partner in late October, as Ellenburg notes, "It takes a good nine months to get the partnership established."

Key stakeholders participate in Education Summit in Nashville

Gov. Bill Haslam, joined Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell in hosting an education summit in Nashville. Key stakeholders of K-12 education from across the state came together Sept. 18 for *Tennessee's Education Summit: Progress of the Past, Present and Future*.

Among the topics discussed were Common Core standards, accountability in education, and school choice.

"There is nothing more important to the future of our state than getting education right," Haslam said. "We are making historic progress in Tennessee, and as part of that progress, there has been a lot of change and discussion. This is a chance to review where we've been, take a look at where we are today, and make sure we're planning for where we want to go."

"The progress our state has made in education over the past few years has been nothing short of remarkable. As the cause of reform continues, it is important to take stock and reflect on our past successes with an eye towards mapping our future progress," Ramsey said. "It is now more important than ever to ensure we provide our students with a strong, world-class education rooted in Tennessee values. I look forward to this opportunity to listen, learn and discuss how Tennessee can build on its historic gains in education."

"We need to ensure that Tennessee students are getting the very best education possible, so that they can compete on the global stage," Harwell said. "One of the most important things we can do as policy-makers is facilitate discussions with those stakeholders who are working with our children every day, and determine what progress we have made, and where we can do better. We have made significant progress, but there is more that can be done."

Participants of the meeting were educators, administrators, elected officials, business leaders, higher education officials and representatives from advocacy groups including the following:

- Achievement School District
- Drive to 55 Alliance
- Professional Educators of Tennessee
- State Collaborative on Reforming Education
- Superintendent Study Council
- Teach Plus
- TN Association for Administrators in Special Education
- TN Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
- TN Board of Regents
- TN Business Roundtable
- TN Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- TN Charter School Center
- TN County Services Association
- TN Department of Education
- TN Education Association
- TN Higher Education Commission
- TN Independent Colleges and Universities Association
- TN Municipal League
- TN Organization of School Superintendents
- TN Parent-Teacher Association
- TN Principals Association
- TN School Boards Association
- TN State Board of Education
- University of Tennessee



Tom Rowland, Cleveland Mayor and TML president, and Gov. Bill Haslam



Jason Mumpower, chief of staff TN comptroller of the Treasury; Justin Wilson, State Comptroller; and Beth Harwell, Speaker of the House.



Dr. Richard Rhoda, executive director, Tennessee Higher Education Commission



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and Rep. Susan Lynn



State Sen. Mike Bell, Mayor Rowland, and State Sen. Todd Gardenhire



Chancellor John Morgan of Tennessee's Board of Regents

Pictured to the immediate right: Secretary of State Tre' Hargett

Far right: Ken Gough, Accurate Machine Products, representing Small Business.

Photos by: Victoria South



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry has awarded Lt. Gov. **Ron Ramsey** with the premiere "Champions of Commerce" award, a prestigious award which recognizes individuals that exemplify outstanding achievement promoting business, free enterprise and a 100 percent Chamber voting record during the 108th General Assembly. Ramsey was presented with the award Sept. 8 at the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce. The "Champions of Commerce" award will be awarded to 18 legislators for their commitment to growing business and free enterprise throughout the state. Also receiving the award was Rep. Jon Lundberg.



Ramsey

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner **Bob Martineau** was elected to serve as the president of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). He was selected by his peers at the organization's fall meeting in Santa Fe, N.M. His priorities will include advancing the joint U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) state E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative, building an enhanced relationship between state environmental agency attorneys and EPA's Office of General Counsel, and advocating for federal funding for state environmental agencies. Martineau has spent more than 25 years as an attorney in the field of environmental law, including seven years of service in EPA's Office of General Counsel.



Martineau

Eagleville has hired its first city manager, **Andrew Ellard**. Ellard previously served as project manager at the city of Hattiesburg, MS., in the division of Community Development, department of State & Federal programs.

Tennessee State Treasurer **David Lillard, Jr.** received the prestigious Jesse M. Unruh Award at the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) annual conference in Asheville, N.C. The award is given each year to a state treasurer who has demonstrated outstanding service to the association, the profession and his or her state. Members of NAST's executive committee select the winner. Lillard was selected to receive the award because of his commitment to NAST and the TN Treasury.



Lillard

Tennessee Democratic Chairman **Roy Herron** will not seek a second term after two years in the position. Herron, a Dresden attorney, retired from the Legislature in 2012, after a 25-year career in the Tenn. House and Senate.



Herron

Carol Berz, Chattanooga city councilwoman, was presented the Jocelyn D. Wurzburg Civil Rights Legacy award by The Tennessee Human Rights Commission. Berz is the chief executive director of Private Dispute Resolution Services, LLC, and the vice-chair of the Chattanooga city council. The award is presented to an individual who has been a life-long advocate of human rights, which includes a commitment to the elimination of discrimination, an equitable community, and leadership in resolving human rights issues.



Berz

Portland Alderman **Melvin Minnis** has resigned due to an ongoing illness. His seat will not be filled in the November election, but by Council action.

Deborah Faulkner is officially Franklin's Chief of Police. She formally served as a deputy police chief before being appointed as the interim chief in June upon the resignation of former Chief David Rahinsky. She is the first woman to serve as the department's chief. Previously, she served as the state inspector general and Metro Nashville's deputy chief.



Faulkner

Susan Emery McGannon, Murfreesboro city attorney, has been recertified as an International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) Local Government Fellow. McGannon was the first Tennessean to be designated a Local Government Fellow by IMLA, and she has now been recertified three times. The IMLA Local Government Fellows Program was established to recognize attorneys as legal specialists in the field of local government law and to encourage attorney proficiency and competency.



McGannon

Paul Montgomery, former member of the Tennessee Board of Regents, will join Northeast State Community College as its new vice president of Access and Development. Montgomery will also serve as the administrative liaison for the Johnson City, Gray/Washington County teaching sites. He will lead access and diversity planning, assist the president with annual and capital campaigns, and provide administrative leadership for the Washington County teaching sites. Montgomery served 22 years at Eastman Chemical Co.

Veteran reporter **Michael Cass** has been appointed as communications advisor/speechwriter in Nashville Mayor Karl Dean's office, where his responsibilities will include preparing and writing speeches. Cass has worked for 19 years as a reporter, including at *The Tennessean* since 1999, with the last nine years covering Metro government and politics. He will assume the post starting Oct. 20. **Janel Lacy**, who has served as Communications Director since 2011 and as Mayor Dean's primary speechwriter for the past seven years, is joining Metro Schools in early October as senior communications and outreach officer. **Bonna Johnson**, who currently serves as press secretary in the Mayor's Office, will take on the additional role of communications director, taking the lead on communications planning.



Cass



Johnson



Lacy

Elisha Hodge joins MTAS as legal consultant in Nashville

Elisha Hodge, the state's former open records counsel for the Office of Open Records, is joining the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) as its new legal consultant. Hodge will work in the Nashville office beginning Oct. 6.



Hodge

Based within the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury, Hodge was promoted in 2009, following two years as open records specialist.

In her previous role, she served as the primary contact for concerns on access to local government public records under the Tennessee Public Records Act. She also played a major role by offering sound legal opinions and advice on accessing government public records.

Prior to working for the Open Records Counsel, Hodge served as an assistant general counsel for the Tennessee Department of Health.

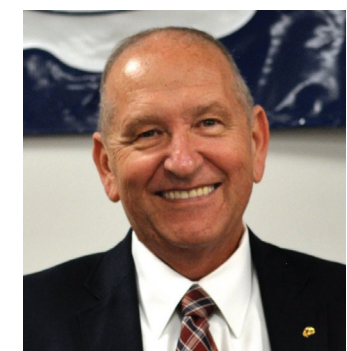
Hodge graduated from The University of the South (Seawanee) with a bachelor's degree in 2001 and

the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree in 2003.

"Many of us know Elisha and have had the opportunity to work with her in the role she is leaving as Open Records Counsel in the Comptroller of the Treasury office," said Jim Thomas, MTAS executive director. "Elisha will significantly add to the already strong legal consultancy service MTAS provides its town and city customers."

LGC's Mickey Wilson retires

July 1 of this year saw the end of one chapter and the start of another in the history of the Local Government Corporation (LGC). President Mickey Wilson retired after 37 years of service to local governments as an employee of LGC, the last nine years were as president. A reception was held in June in his honor at the corporate headquarters. The board, management, and staff at LGC wish him a long, and adventure filled life.



Wilson

As a result of his retirement, the LGC Board of Directors installed the following executive management team:

- Bruce Collier as president (former executive vice-president)
- David Thomas as executive vice-president, (former vice-president)
- Jim Gilbert as vice-president, (former customer service director)

Collier has been with LGC for 29 years, nine of which were as executive vice-president. Thomas has worked for LGC for 21 years and has served as vice-president for nine. Gilbert has been at LGC for 21 years.



Collier

Also, the executive management team promoted Lisa Carter as the new director of customer service. Prior to this, Carter had served as the county help desk manager.

Secret City celebrates National Anthem Bicentennial



Photo by S. Owens

A celebration of the National Anthem's Bicentennial was held in Oak Ridge on Sept. 14. Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller, initiated the celebration as a way for people to "pause and reflect on what the anthem means—not only to the nation—but to the world. The event was attended by Selena Owens, event director of Sing It America, an organization that has helped organize groups of Americans across the nation to come together to sing the Star Spangled Banner at 5 pm on Sept. 14. As part of the ceremony, State Sen. Randy McNally, Rep. Kent Calfee, and Rep. John Ragan read the State Senate Proclamation honoring the National Anthem and its anniversary. Pictured left to right: Sen. Randy McNally, Rep. Kent Calfee, Roane Co. Mayor Ron Woody, Oak Ridge Mayor Pro Tem Jane Miller, Selena Owens, and Anderson Co. Mayor Terry Frank.



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STATE BRIEFS

AG Cooper declares liquor license residency clause unconstitutional
Attorney General Robert Cooper has opined that a two-year Tennessee residency requirement for getting a liquor license is unconstitutional despite a provision included in the wine-in-grocery-stores bill that attempted to justify it. In a 2012 opinion, Cooper declared the liquor license residency requirement violated the U.S. Constitution's "commerce clause," citing a 2008 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that struck down a similar requirement for licensing of wineries in Tennessee. In section 27 of the 34-section wine-in-grocery-stores bill, enacted into law as Public Chapter 554 and encompassing many revisions to the state's alcoholic beverage statutes, legislators made an effort to get around the opinion.

State's Health centers receive \$5.5 M in grants

Community health centers in Tennessee will receive \$5.5 million in federal grants to add staff, stay open longer and expand services. The money comes from funds appropriated through the Affordable Care Act. Throughout the state, a total of 23 organizations that operate federally qualified community health centers were awarded grants. The Tennessee Department of Health received \$503,752 for clinics it operates. Other recipients include Hope Family Health Services in Westmoreland, \$195,392; Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia, \$187,000; Rutherford County Primary Care Clinic in Murfreesboro, \$213,896; United Neighborhood Health Services in Nashville, 294,764 and University Community Health Services in Nashville, \$229,224. In Tennessee, centers like these serve 367,754 patients. The grants are designed to allow them to add another 24,342 patients.

TN reviews procurement process

State procurement officials are reviewing their draft requirements for a major new contract for radio equipment in response to suggestions by potential vendors that the

draft would exclude most vendors from bidding and thus cost taxpayers money. The state Department of General Services is in the process of awarding a new contract worth millions of dollars for all radio equipment and its maintenance, repairs, parts and accessories purchased by the state over the next five years. The contract allows any city and county government in Tennessee, and some nonprofit agencies, to buy the same products and services at the same prices. Local governments and agencies that want to try to get lower prices have to draft their own specifications and go through their own bidding processes, but vendors say about 80 percent of public-service radios are purchased using state contracts.

State takes hard look at crime

For the first time in two decades, Tennessee lawmakers are examining the way the state punishes criminals. The Tennessee Senate Judiciary Committee recently held a two-day discussion to determine the state's current situation and where it should go from here. "We ranked No. 1 in the nation in our violent crime rate," said Bill Gibbons, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. David Raybin, a Nashville attorney who helped write many of the state's criminal justice laws, said much of the blame can be traced back to 1995, when a commission devoted solely to sentencing reform was dissolved. Since then, Tennessee has created a patchwork of criminal laws with varying penalties — typically trending toward harsher punishments. The end result, Raybin said, is that Tennessee now locks up more people than all of Australia does (with four times the population), at a cost of more than \$1 billion each year. The committee's second hearing focused on how to fix criminal justice in the state focused on what other states are doing and what Tennessee should do to reduce prison populations and recidivism — and, by extension, save taxpayers money. reduce crime and recidivism and hear recommendations on how to make the system work better.

TDEC launches energy efficiency program for local jurisdictions, public housing authorities.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has launched a new program to provide education, outreach and technical assistance to local jurisdictions and public housing authorities to support implementation of energy efficiency and energy management projects.

With a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, TDEC's Office of Energy Programs and its sub-recipient grantee, expert energy efficiency consultancy group Clean Energy Solutions, Inc., will educate local officials on the benefits of energy efficiency and provide technical assistance on cost-effective energy efficiency measures, such as: building audits; requests for proposals or requests for qualifications to scope energy efficiency improvement projects; collaborating with energy service companies; benchmarking energy and water usage; measurement and verification of energy savings; and procurement and contracting assistance.

The program will explore major financing options to support energy efficiency improvements, such as energy performance contracting,

utility incentives, and utility bill repayments. Other financing options may be identified during the grant period, which currently runs through early 2016.

"TDEC is pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with local government and public housing authority partners in an effort to promote energy efficiency in the State's harder to reach sectors," said Commissioner Bob Martineau. "We thank the U.S. Department of Energy for providing the funding for TDEC and its partners to provide often-needed technical consultation and support at the local level."

The program is available at no cost to local jurisdictions, including

Grant to help reduce worker misclassification

Tennessee is among 19 states receiving more than \$10 million to ensure workers are accurately classified in unemployment insurance programs. Tennessee's grant is \$499,260. The funds will be used to help state unemployment insurance tax programs identify instances where employers improperly classify employees as independent contractors or fail to report wages paid to workers. The states selected will also use the funds for improvements and initiatives, including enhancing employer audit programs and conducting employer education initiatives. While several states have existing programs designed to reduce worker misclassification, this is the first year that the U.S. Department of Labor has awarded these type of grants.

State partnering to prevent rabies

The Tennessee Department of Health is working with the United States Department of Agriculture to help prevent rabies by distributing oral rabies vaccine for wild raccoons along Tennessee's borders with Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. The annual baiting program administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, will begin in Tennessee on September 27. Vaccine packets placed inside fishmeal blocks or coated with fishmeal were distributed throughout a 20-county area. Baits distributed by helicopter and by hand from vehicles in urban and suburban areas, were dropped from specially-equipped airplanes in rural areas. Rabies, once disease develops, is almost universally fatal. However, it is completely preventable if vaccine is provided prior to or soon after exposure.

UT project targets vehicle safety

A new project at the University of Tennessee aims to improve the safety of drivers and passengers who are in vehicles after dark. The project is being supported with a three-year \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The federal agency is tasked with public health and safety. The high number of injuries and deaths from traffic accidents has been recognized as epidemic in proportion.

TN law enforcement agencies earn statewide, national honors

53 awards earned by agencies from across the state



The Clarksville Police Department placed first in the Tennessee Law Enforcement Challenge for Agencies comprised of 201-500 Sworn Officers. Clarksville PD also received special category wins for both Speed Awareness and Impaired Driving Awareness. The agency placed third in the category of Municipal Agencies with 251 or More Sworn Officers in the International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Challenge.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office announced the winners of the 10th Annual Law Enforcement Challenge on Sept. 5. The award winners were recognized on a state level with four agencies also receiving national recognition.

Designed to recognize and reward the best overall traffic safety programs, similar sizes and types of agencies are judged on their local efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about the dangers of driving impaired and speeding, as well as the importance of occupant protection.

The winning programs combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within their jurisdictions. To receive national recognition,

agencies participated in the International Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Challenge.

Qualifying agencies were eligible to win two fully equipped police vehicles. This year's vehicle winners were the White House Police Department and the Paris Police Department. Agencies that participated in the S.A.F.E. (Seatbelts Are For Everyone) campaign were eligible for a third fully equipped police vehicle. The winner was the Oliver Springs Police Department.

The Law Enforcement Challenge took place following the 27th Annual Tennessee Lifesavers Conference. A list of state and national winners can be found here: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/news/2014/91914ChallengeWinners.pdf>

Unicoi's new arboretum achieves state certification



Photo by The Johnson City Press

The town of Unicoi's arboretum, at Buffalo Creek Park, a project initiated by a citizen, the late Brenda Warner, receives state certification status from the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

A dedication ceremony for the town's new arboretum created in memory of the late Brenda Warner, was held recently at Buffalo Creek Park. Mayor Johnny Lynch, flanked by state and local officials, cut the ribbon, while Parks and Recreation Director Sarah Miller said the process began about four years ago, after a walking trail was constructed at the park.

Warner, a Unicoi citizen, proposed the idea of labeling the oaks, ashes and maples that surround the trail. Prior to her death nearly a year ago, Warner made contact with Johnson City resident Martin Miller for his expertise and assistance in identifying the trees. Local resident Frosty Levy also brought his expertise to the project. Levy and Miller not only served as project technical advisors, but they have also assisted with the care and maintenance of the trees.

A minimum of 30 different species of trees is required for an arboretum to receive certification. Miller said while some species could already be found on the grounds of the park, other trees were brought in to be planted.

During the process, the town also pursued a Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program tree planting grant and hosted a "tree planting day" this past spring, in which local Boy Scouts and others in the community helped plant trees throughout the park.

"It's been one of those projects where you involve the whole community, and we did," Lynch said.

In mid-August, officials with the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council visited the park to conduct an inspection to assess whether it met the qualifications to become a certified arboretum.

In all, 31 diverse species of trees have been labeled and plaques identifying each species with their common and scientific names installed in front of the trees. The Unicoi County University of Tennessee Extension office is also working to develop a brochure that will map out the park and where each species of tree can be located.

At its recent meeting, the Unicoi Board of Mayor and Aldermen presented proclamations recognizing Miller, Levy and Warner for their efforts in initiating the arboretum.

Tennessee sales-tax growth largest in more than 2 years

Tax collections reflect positive growth as the state begins a new fiscal year. Overall revenues were \$31 million more than those collected from the same period a year ago. August revenues of \$870 million registered a 3.7 percent increase. They also came in \$24.4 million above the budgeted estimate.

"While we are encouraged by the August numbers, we continue to be concerned about the relatively slow economic recovery in Tennessee," said Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin.

"It is important for us to maintain our close controls on state spending

and to carefully monitor revenue trends."

The August figures, which are for revenue actually collected in July, are the first month of the state's 2014-2015 fiscal year on an accrual basis.

"Sales taxes collected by retailers in July grew 6.7 percent, the largest month-over-month growth we have experienced in the past 27 months," Martin said.

Other types of revenue include corporate taxes, franchise and excise taxes, gasoline taxes, privilege taxes, business taxes and tobacco taxes.

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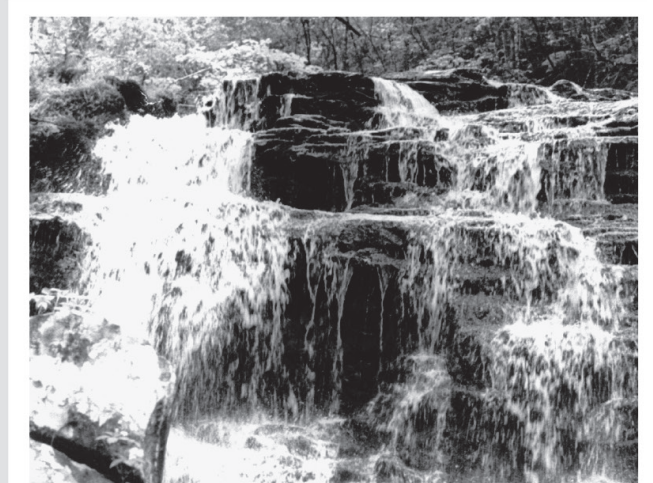
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TREEDC Inaugural International Conference Oct 12 - 14

The Inaugural International Renewable Energy & Economic Development (TREEDC) Conference will be held at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville Oct. 12- 14.

This conference will feature a wide selection of renewable energy approaches and dialogue for networking and fellowship among supporters in Tennessee and the world.

Featuring Tennessee and Philippine renewable energy technologies, leaders and local government and university best practices to state, national and international members of TREEDC.

Ten Philippine universities and eight cities that are members of TREEDC will be present.

Attendees will hear about:

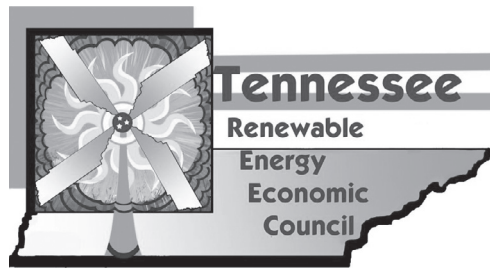
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UT MTAS Oct. 20 Class in Nashville

Administrative Hearing Officer 2014

The Administrative Hearing Officer training is a means for municipalities to acquire training for designated officials who are seeking to become administrative hearing officers. After this training, these officers will have jurisdiction to hear violations of certain locally-adopted codes, including building and property maintenance.

Successful completion of this training authorizes participants to serve as municipal administrative hearing officers pursuant to Public Chapter No. 1128 of the 2010 Public Acts.

Pursuant to this law, a city can, via ordinance, create an administrative hearing office with jurisdiction to hear violations of certain locally-adopted codes, including building code and property maintenance ordinances.



The law also allows a city, through its administrative hearing officer, to levy fines for such violations in excess of \$50.

Course topics include:

- The statutory authorization
- Mechanics of Public Chapter No. 1128
- The Administrative Hearing Process

Time: 8:30-4:30 CST

Location: Nashville at the Tennessee Municipal League Ground Level Conference Room, 226 Capitol Blvd.

Oct. 10-12: Nashville

35th Annual Oktoberfest
 Held at 7th Avenue & Monroe Street, Fri. 5pm to 10pm, Sat. 10am to 10pm and Sun., 10am to 1pm. Events include a parade from Christie Cookie Co., followed by music from Shelly Colvin, Bobby Bare Jr., and more. Saturday's lineup includes music from Courtney Jaye, Tyler Jacobson, and the Devin Williams Band. Traditional polka from the Ompahsters. Sunday features Julia Knight of "Chasing Nashville," Jonathan Wyndham and Celica Westbrook of "The Voice." Delicious food from local restaurants, food trucks, a special Oktoberfest brew; three music stages, and more. General admission is free or go VIP for an exclusive experience. For information, visit nashvilleguru.com/34169/oktoberfest-nashville-2014-dates-details.

Oct. 11: Franklin/Williamson Co.

2014 Celebration of Nations
 Downtown Franklin from 12 -8 pm. Festival will be located on Fourth Avenue from the parking garage to Main Street and the alley from Fourth to the Historic Williamson County Courthouse. Two stages on Fourth Avenue and another in front of the courthouse. Features an international beer tasting from 5 to 8 pm. Beer tasting takes place in the alley featuring 20 beers, from 10 countries. Main Street will remain

open. Tickets for the International Beer tasting are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, with limited tickets available. Tickets may be purchased at www.sistercityestn.org. Music and dance from India, Mexico, Ireland, Tibet, Canada, Persia, France, Americana and West Africa will be highlighted on both stages.

Oct 25 - Lynchburg

Annual Jack Daniel BBQ Cook -Off
 For complete information, visit www.lynchburgtn.com.

Oct. 25: Jackson

6th Annual West TN Cigar & Brew Fest

Held at the Jackson fairgrounds from 12 to 4 pm. This is a 21 and up event. Live cigar rolling, watch how artisans create the best cigars in the world. Meet representatives from the biggest premium cigar companies, samples and cool merchandise. Home brewers from across the region demonstrate crafting your own award winning beer. Unlimited free samples of craft brews. Door prizes and giveaways throughout the event. Vendors with scrumptious foods and more. Celebrity guests are actress Jamie Gray Hyder and professional bull rider Cody Wood. Entertainment all day. For more information, visit: <http://cigarandbrewfest.com/>

Oct. 25: Nashville

2nd Annual Nashville Urban Runoff 5K and Water Festival

The TN. Department of Environment and Conservation, Nashville Metro Water Services and the TN. Stormwater Association team up to host. The run begins at the Bicentennial Mall to Deadrick Street and Nashville's Public Square. Net proceeds benefit the Tennessee Stormwater Association. Entry fees \$30 prior to Oct. 22, \$40 thereafter. Online registration closes at 4 pm Oct. 24. T-shirt is included with registration. Participants register at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=10007853>. The event is also listed at <http://www.active.com/nashville-tn/running/races/2nd-annual-nashville-urban-runoff-5k-2014>.

Nov. 1: Franklin

Wine Down Main Street

Historic Main Street downtown from 7pm to 10 pm. Enjoy wine tastings at more than 32 pouring stations inside stores. Taste food from more than 20 restaurants, souvenir wine glass, live music. General admission tickets \$75 in advance until Oct. 17, \$85 per person at 12 am Oct. 18. Includes all wine, beer and food tastings. A complete wine list available online at www.WineDownMainStreet.com. Proceeds benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee. For more information, contact Denise Carothers at 615.794.1106 or dcarothers@bgcmt.org.

Nov. 7-8: Selmer

6th Annual Craft Mart

Held at the Selmer Community Center Fri. from 11 am-5 pm and Sat. from 9 am to 3 pm. Vendors selling Tupperware, plants, original paintings, vintage jewelry, candles, pottery, afghans, Christmas items, stained glass and much more. For more information or to register as a vendor, call 731-645-3866.

Smart Growth America offers free annual workshops

Each year, Smart Growth America makes a limited number of technical assistance workshops available to interested communities for zero cost. This competitive award gives communities a chance to understand the technical aspects of smart growth development through a one- or two-day workshop.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 workshop series. Communities can apply for one of 12 workshop types as part of the free program, including:

- Implementing smart growth
- Planning for economic and

fiscal health

- Sustainable land use code audit
- Complete Streets
- Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities
- Walkability workshop/audit
- Regional planning for small communities
- Smart growth zoning codes for small cities
- Transportation performance measurement
- "Cool planning"
- Parking audits
- Implementing transit-oriented development 101

Any unit or subdivision of local government, Indian tribe, or regional government is eligible to apply for these free workshops.

Communities may apply for more than one workshop, but must submit separate applications for each. Applications are due by Oct. 23, at 5 pm EDT.

Download the application at <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/epa-ta-application-2015.pdf>.

To learn more about each workshop, visit <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/technical-assistance/free-annual-workshops>.

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.



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ASSISTANT UTILITIES DIRECTOR
GERMANTOWN. The Germantown Public Services Department is seeking an Assistant Utilities Director to assist in the overall planning, organization and management of all aspects of utility operations, including general administration, budgeting, planning, and policy and performance measure development. This position will serve as technical advisor for the department on utility CIP projects requiring knowledge of civil/municipal engineering practices. This position also serves as acting utilities director when the director is not present. The successful candidate must be an experienced leader; possess a good understanding of water and sewer utilities; and be very knowledgeable of current technical trends with the ability to operate and implement specialized system programs. Requirements include the equivalency to a bachelor's degree in public or business administration, environmental science, engineering or related field and at least five years of increasingly responsible professional experience in utility management, including at least three years in a supervisory/management capacity. Hiring Range: \$65,000 - \$72,000. For a complete job description, duties and requirements, go to <http://www.germantown-tn.gov/index.aspx?page=444>. Those interested in the position should submit a City of Germantown employment application or resume to the Human Resource Office, 1930 S. Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138. Position open until filled.

CITY MANAGER

PARIS. The City of Paris is seeking applicants for the position of city manager to replace the retiring city manager. The City operates under a Manager - Commission charter, has an annual budget of \$12 million, and 147 FTEs. Utilities are operated under a separate board. The salary range is \$80,080 - \$97,760. The city of Paris participates in the TCPS Pension system. The ideal candidate should have a minimum of five years of progressive experience in municipal management, including a supervisory experience, and bachelor's degree in public administration. A master's degree in public administration is preferable. Strong financial capabilities and major project planning skills are a must. An expanded position / community description may be obtained by electronic mail by contacting wray@cityofparistn.gov. Resumes may be submitted electronically to cholder@cityofparistn.gov.

CODES INSPECTOR

HENDERSONVILLE. This position is responsible for performing inspections of buildings, property, and related systems to ensure compliance with applicable building codes, zoning ordinances, property maintenance ordinances, and other applicable codes and laws. A non-exempt position reporting to the Codes Director and Senior Inspector, the entry salary is \$3573 per month. Greater than entry level may be approved depending on qualifications. High school diploma or GED, possession of or ability to readily obtain the appropriate state certification(s) for the type of inspection(s) conducted and valid TN driver's license or ability to obtain. Candidates should provide copies of all appropriate certifications as well as city application materials. For more information and application materials, interested candidates should go to <http://www.hvilletn.org/codesinspector>. Candidates must apply on the official city application and should provide copies of all certifications. Applications must be sent or delivered to: Attn: Personnel/Codes Inspector Position, 101 Maple Drive North, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Applications must be received or postmarked no later than Oct. 10, 2014

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTOR

GERMANTOWN. The city is seeking a Construction Inspector to perform inspections of construction sites for conformance to city standards, codes, designs, and specifications. This is an entry level position and works under moderate supervision to inspect and monitor the more standardized construction activities for city and private development construction projects. The Inspector works independently in the field and is responsible for making decisions requiring technical discretion, sound judgment and familiarity with a variety of codes, specifications and construction methods. Successful candidate must possess excellent documentation, interpersonal and communication skills. Incumbents may advance to the higher-level Senior Construction Inspector classification after gaining experience and demonstrating a level of proficiency that meets the qualifications of the higher level. Equivalency to high school education and three years of construction inspection experience required. Special Level I Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) Certified or ability to obtain one. Valid driver's license required. Minimum Salary: \$38,000. For a full job description, go to www.germantown-tn.gov. Interested candidates should submit a city of Germantown employment application or resume to the Human Resource Office, 1930 S. Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN 38138, or email to hmailbox@germantown-tn.gov.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

MT. JULIET. The city is seeking candidates for Certified Electrical Inspector Commercial and Residential to perform a variety of tasks associated with advanced technical building inspection work to enforce building codes, regulations and ordinances for both residential and commercial construction. This position will be responsible for electrical commercial and residential inspections (ICC Certifications Required/ State Certification). Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. You will need to hold a valid TN drivers license. Salary

\$16.93 and to top out in three years at \$24.43. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city's website, www.cityofmtjuliet.org. We will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. The City of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call 615-754-2552. The City of Mt. Juliet is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

ENGINEER

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city of Goodlettsville is seeking an experienced Engineering Professional to serve as Engineer for the city's Public Services Department. The city is seeking a proven, dedicated, responsive, and experienced individual for the position of Engineer. The position reports directly to the Public Services Director and assists with development, review, and oversight of plans, specifications, construction and cost estimates for projects occurring within the city. Individuals should meet the following qualifications: bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college or university and two years post-degree full-time engineering experience, preferably within a municipal or government setting. Must hold active engineering license and possess a valid "Class D" driver's license. Obtain TDEC Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications; pass a medical examination by licensed physician; pass a drug screen by licensed physician. Starting salary is \$53,907 to \$65,342, depending on the experience and qualifications, salary maximum is \$81,677. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Email: dfeeman@cityofgoodlettsville.org Apply by Oct. 17, 2014. The city of Goodlettsville is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

FIREFIGHTER

COLLIERVILLE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This position is to perform entry level firefighting and basic level emergency medical assistance work in combating, extinguishing, and preventing fires, and in responding to medical emergencies that is designed to help the town of Collierville's Fire Department respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations. Requires a High School diploma or GED with course concentration in the physical sciences or industrial arts; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Must possess a valid Emergency Medical Technician license with IV endorsement (up to Dec. 31, 2016) or Advanced EMT license as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment and maintain license throughout employment. Must possess a Firefighter I certification, as outlined in the rules and regulations by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighter Standards and Education. Education and/or training cannot be substituted for the required years of experience. Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Incumbents must satisfactorily complete a one year probationary period. Incumbents must establish and maintain their actual bona fide residence within a distance no greater than 30 miles from a firehouse within the town's corporate limits. If qualified, a firefighter may ride out-of-rank in the driver's position and perform such duties and responsibilities. Applicants must not have been convicted of a felony or any misdemeanor or that involved force, liquor, or drug laws. Applicants who have military service must possess an "Honorable" discharge. Salary: \$31,389.00 annually with excellent benefits package. Apply to: Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. The Town of Collierville is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

FOREMAN II

UNION CITY. The city is accepting applications for the position of Foreman II in the Water & Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works. Salary range \$14.10 - \$ 19.86 per hour. Must possess: GRADE II distribution system operator certification, GRADE II wastewater collection system operator certification, CLASS A CDL with air breaks or able to obtain one in 6 months. Contact: Lisa Chambers, personnel administrator, lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us City of Union City, P O Box 9, Union City, TN, 38281, or call 731 885-1341.

MECHANICAL & PLUMBING BUILDING INSPECTOR

MT. JULIET. The city is seeking candidates for Certified Mechanical & Plumbing Building Inspector to perform a variety of tasks associated with advanced technical building inspection and plans review work to enforce building codes, regulations and ordinances for both residential and commercial construction. This position will be responsible for Commercial and Residential inspections, Plumbing and Mechanical (ICC Certifications Required and State Certification). Selected candidates will be required to complete pre-employment testing as deemed necessary by each specific position. A valid TN drivers license required. Salary DOQ. Detailed job description and requirements are available online. Applications must be filed electronically and are available online at the city's website, www.cityofmtjuliet.org. We will accept electronic applications until such time when a qualified candidate is chosen. The city of Mt. Juliet reserves the right to stop accepting applications at any time. For questions, regarding the electronic application process, please call 615- 754-2552. The City of Mt. Juliet is EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

PARK THEATER COORDINATOR

McMinnville. The city's Park & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a Park Theater Coordinator. Preferred skills,

knowledge and abilities include: Knowledge of principles in performing arts program planning and in the maintenance of safe facilities, knowledge of effective methods of facility preparation for events; such as performing arts, rentals, and recitals and knowledge of sound, video and audio equipment. Preferred education and requirements include: Bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college or university and 2 years of work experience or Four years of progressively responsible experience in the field of performing arts of which one year must have been in a responsible supervisory, consultative, or administrative capacity. Position requires a background check, drug screen and physical. Must have a valid Tennessee driver's license. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications can be picked up at City Hall 3rd Floor or submitted on line. For more information, to view the full job description or to apply online please visit our website at www.mcminnvilletenn.com or contact Jennifer Rigsby at 931.473.1209. The City of McMinnville does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d).

PROJECT ENGINEER

LA VERGNE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Project Engineer (Stormwater). This position is under the supervision of the city engineer. This position performs complex and professional engineering work for the City's varied projects and programs ensuring technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria. Supervises storm water inspectors/employees and other staff as assigned. Graduation from a four-year college or university with a degree in engineering or a closely related field; and any equivalent combination of education and experience. Thorough knowledge of civil engineering principles, practices and methods as applicable to a municipal setting. Considerable knowledge of applicable city policies, laws, and regulations affecting Division activities. Considerable skill in arriving at cost estimates on complex projects; Skill in operating the listed tools and equipment. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with employees, consultants, other governmental agency representatives, city officials and the general public. Ability to conduct necessary engineering research and compile comprehensive reports. Must possess a valid State driver's license or have the ability to obtain one prior to employment. Must be physically capable of moving about on construction work sites and under adverse field conditions. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at www.lavergnetn.gov. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SOUTH FULTON. The city is seeking a Public Works Director. The position reports to the city manager and mayor and Board of Commissioners. The position will have direct responsibility for 10 full-time employees and the water, sewer, natural gas, streets and oversight of the solid waste contractor. The full job description can be acquired by contacting South Fulton City Hall. Starting salary is \$40,000. Resumes may be sent to City Manager, Debra Craig, via email drcraig@cityofsouthfulton.org or by mail to 700 Milton Counce Dr, South Fulton, TN, 38257. The City of South Fulton is an EOE employer. The position is open until filled and resumes will be reviewed as received.

WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

MCMINNVILLE. The city of is accepting

applications from qualified individuals for the position of Director of Water/Wastewater operations. The ideal candidate will possess highly developed technical, presentation and communication skills and have in-depth knowledge and experience in management of water/wastewater systems. He or she will have significant operational experience, and will be responsible for the general administration of the department's operating budget and enforcement of city policies regarding employees, facility use and overall supervision of the activities of three divisions of the Water Department. Duties are, but not limited to: preparing operating budget, working with city administrator and water committee to develop capital plan and budget for department, overseeing and coordinating the various operations at city facilities, and the ability to plan, organize, delegate, supervise and inspect work of subordinates. A minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in water and wastewater operations of which two years must have been in a responsible supervisory consultative, or administrative capacity or a bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college or university with a major in civil engineering or related field or an associate degree may be substituted with eight years of progressively responsible experience required. Candidate will be examined by city physician to determine if applicant can perform all essential duties required of this position. Residency within the city is

required within 90 days of employment. The full job description can be viewed at <http://www.mcminnvilletenn.com/>. The salary for this position is dependent on experience and qualifications. Salary range is \$45,801 to \$85,092. In addition, the city offers an extensive benefit package that includes paid vacation, paid holidays, health insurance, dental, vision etc., and contributions to the state of Tennessee retirement plan. Qualified persons should submit an application, a resume of experience and qualifications, letter of interest, salary history and professional references to: Jennifer Rigsby, Human Resource Administrator, City of McMinnville, P.O. Box 7088, McMinnville, TN, 37111. Closing date for applications is until filled.

WASTEWATER TECH I

WHITE HOUSE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Tech I. A full job description detailing the purpose, functions, responsibilities, and minimum qualifications, training, and experience is available on our website at www.cityofwhitehouse.com. Starting hourly rate of \$11.50, depending on experience. Applications may be obtained by visiting the website 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. Application Deadline: Open until filled.

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New TEMA Director David Purkey, instinctively drawn to public safety, local government

BY LINDA BRYANT

David Purkey has dedicated most of his adult life to public safety, which he defines as a constellation of disciplines that affect the well-being of the general population. Police, fire and emergency medical systems, dispatchers, public health agencies and many elected positions all fall under his broad definition of the term.

Purkey is the only state official who straddles leadership positions in two major departments. He's been the assistant commissioner for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Gov. Bill Haslam's Homeland Security advisor since 2011. In August 2014, he was named deputy commissioner of the Military Department, where he has assumed the main leadership position at the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA).

Born and bred in Hamblen County in East Tennessee, Purkey's professional and political life has been deeply anchored in local politics. He credits his success to his grassroots experience in a variety of roles, from Tennessee State Trooper to emergency management director — and eventually County Mayor of Hamblen County. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve and Tennessee Army National Guard.

"I think the fact that I have spent most of my career in local government is a tremendous asset," Purkey said. "Local government is where the rubber meets the road. Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House, once said that all politics is local. He couldn't have been more right."

Purkey lives in Nashville during the week and commutes back to Hamblen County on weekends. His wife, Pamela, is a long-time employee of the Tennessee State Dept. of Health. The couple has no children but call their beloved pets their "fur babies." It's not hard to find them on a Sunday because they're usually worshipping together at the United Methodist Church of Morristown.

Purkey sees his current leadership role as the place where he'll put the final stamp on his career in public service.

"I really love what I'm doing," Purkey said. "I look at it as a last career. If I'm fortunate enough to stay until the end of Gov. Haslam's administration it will give me 38 years in the government system."

TT&C: Tell me about your background and family. Where did you grow up?

DP: I was born in Jefferson County and "taken home" to Hamblen County. I spent my first 28 years living in Hamblen County until I got a job with state government. I graduated second in my class at Morristown Hamblen High School West. I felt led to work in government. I was always interested in public safety. My first experience in the field came when I was the member of a rescue squad. I became an emergency medical technician, and I'm still certified 35 years later.

I went to Eastern Tennessee State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Health. I came back home after college and worked for Judge James A. Miller, who ended up being my great mentor. We never had a cross word for six years. He was very popular and compassionate and taught me how to treat people. Even when he ruled against people, he was compassionate.

I was then appointed the emergency management director for the city, and I did that for a few years. I'd always wanted to be a state trooper so I applied and was accepted into the academy. I was a trooper for three years and transferred to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for a couple of years. Then the police chief of Morristown called me one day and said he wanted to start an accreditation for the police department. It was more money and an opportunity to go home so I did that for about three years until my predecessor as county mayor died in office.

Some county commissioners asked me if I'd be interested in the job. I was appointed and was on the ballot four times. I had 30 years in the retirement system in 2010, so I didn't run again. When I ran the last time I actually announced that, if elected, I would not seek another term. Political friends said, "Bad mistake, David. You don't ever do that in politics." But I wanted to be fair to the people. I was elected that last time with about 68 percent of the vote. I finished my time out and was replaced by the county

trustee, who was a great friend of mine. He made a wonderful transition and even kept all my staff.

TT&C: Why did you come out of retirement to work for the Haslam Administration?

DP: I knew Bill Haslam. We were mayors together and became friends. About two weeks after the election, he called and asked me to be his Homeland Security advisor. He also made me assistant commissioner of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security because I had been a state trooper.

About seven months ago, I got a call that Gov. Haslam wanted to see me. He told me that TEMA Director Jim Bassham was going to announce his retirement and that he'd like for me to do both jobs on an interim basis. I did that for about four months, and it worked out very well. About a month ago the Governor asked me if I'd be willing to do both jobs permanently.



David Purkey



TEMA Director David Purkey met with Lincoln County officials following a Spring tornado in April 2014.

TT&C: You have a diverse background — from legal clerk to state trooper to military reservist. What lessons from your previous jobs do you carry with you into this job?

DP: I believe in a life plan. I can see it at work in what I learned at each job, whether it was how to deal with people, building a team, dealing with procedures or making good decisions. I've learned that it's not the people at the top who're actually doing the coordinating during an emergency. You're making decisions and offering guidance, but it's your people on the ground that are handling the emergency. They need to have your support, and you need to trust them. There's no question in my mind that every position has prepared me for the next one. It's certainly true in my life. I definitely felt led to public safety.

TT&C: You were county mayor of Hamblen County for 16 years. What did you learn from such a long tenure?

DP: Everything is about relationships. The worst time to exchange business cards is at the scene of an emergency. I learned you have very little authority and all the responsibility when you're a county mayor. You must have good relationships with your local commissioners and other elected officials. I had a good relationship with our Hamblen County Commission except for one four year term. In 2002, we had 16 county commissioners and six of them were defeated by people with much more radical views than mine. It was a very difficult four years, and we didn't get a whole lot done. But at the end of those four years they were replaced.

The public will put up with you for one term. You either perform or they make a change. That's the beauty of elections. Fortunately, when I left we had the highest bond rating in our history. We had the highest reserves that our county had ever had and we had finished the largest building program in the county's history. I really worked during my last term to tidy things up and leave things better than I found them.

County mayors traditionally have a 50 percent turnover rate. It can be a very volatile elected office to hold. If you are making principled decisions, you are going to make somebody mad. Your support base tends to dwindle the longer you're there. I was very fortunate that I could stay in that job for 16 years.

About three weeks ago, I got a call from a new county mayor. He was up-

set over some funding issues and the first few minutes of the conversation were not good. I listened. I was able to tell him that I had sat in his position for 16 years and that I understood his frustration. The tone of the conversation changed immediately.

TT&C: Can you explain the basics of TEMA for our readers? What is its structure and how do you serve Tennesseans?

DP: TEMA is a public safety agency that's about preparedness, response and recovery. We have 111 employees and everything we do is geared toward those three things. Our employees are specialists in their own areas. We exist to serve our local, state and government partners. TEMA depends heavily on federal grant monies. I can tell you that people are here because they want to be here. It's a tremendous responsibility, and the hours are long. If you don't make good, sound decisions you can cost lives.

TT&C: How is TEMA funded? Generally speaking what resources do you have available for communities in crisis?

DP: FEMA falls under the Department of Homeland Security. It's headed by an administrator who's also undersecretary for the department. So TEMA is under the umbrella of FEMA, and FEMA is split into different regions. We are in the Atlanta region. We keep them apprised about emergencies going on in our state so that they can look at the bigger picture. FEMA administers all the Presidential Declarations. To get one is a big deal, and it means that 75 percent of the monetary costs of a disaster will be covered by federal funds. There's an expectation that another 25 percent will be covered by local governments. But it's important to note that the state of Tennessee steps up and covers 12.5 percent of that 25 percent.

TEMA is very well taken care of by all branches of state government. We're a part of the Military Department, which consists of the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard and TEMA. We are kind of stingy with our money, but I can tell you we never want for anything. If there is anything we absolutely need, we can do it. We have a reserve fund and the state has a disaster relief fund. There's an understanding by Gov. Haslam and the Cabinet that TEMA is vital if our citizens get in a bind, whether it be from the weather emergencies or manmade emergencies.

TT&C: Can you give me a behind-the-scenes picture of what happens during a disaster, using the example of a tornado?

DP: We would be ahead of a tornado and spring into action before it happened. We have a very close relationship with the National Weather Service. Sometimes I feel like they work here! TEMA would be monitoring the weather before a tornado system ever got to Tennessee. We'd be convening our people in our Crisis Action Center. We would be listening very closely with the weather service, communicating with FEMA in Atlanta. We have five levels of activation. Normal day-to-day operations are Level 5. Then we ramp up to Level 4, which is increased monitoring. Level 3 begins a state of emergency and then, depending on how bad it is, it goes up to Level 1, which

is catastrophic.

Our 24-hour Emergency Operations Center would be in touch with the areas most likely to be affected by the tornado. Depending on how bad it got, we might activate to Level 4, which is a "heads up" to be alert -- check your plans, charge your phones, make sure your response vehicles are full of gas and make your contacts. If we started having damage we'd make an assessment about whether or not to activate to Level 3. Those different activations cause

different activity in our state Emergency Operations Center.

TT&C: It sounds like it takes a tremendous amount of coordination and organization to pull off these kinds of responses. How do you do it?

DP: There are many ways, but one important one is a "best practice" system here called Emergency Services Coordinators (ESC). Each state department of government, including some federal agencies such as Tennessee Valley Authority, designates someone from their department and an alternate to be an ESC. That person is paid a modest stipend of \$100 a month. When they are activated in our operations center, they make decisions along with the authority of their commissioner or department head. That's a big deal. As we go through the emergency functions of our emergency operations plan, we return to those people, whether its representatives from the Department of Human Services, TDOT, or the Department of Safety.

We have five ESC's based full-time here at TEMA. We'd turn to them to begin to look for what resources we need in a crisis. There are eight Tennessee Highway Patrol districts and each one of them has a 12-member THP strike team that can activate quickly and be sent to an area to help local governments stabilize crisis situations. One of the things I want to do here at TEMA is to create a five-member strike team. They would be specially trained employees with special equipment. They would be available 24-hours a day at the request of local government. That's very important because we don't force state action on any city or county.

TT&C: What did you do when you first got to TEMA?

DP: Any new leader likes to have his or her own organization. I'm not any different than any other person who'd come to this position. We are going through reorganization here at TEMA. I wouldn't call it a radical one. It will consist of my vision and of other visions in the agency. I hope to have it finalized in 30 days.

I have visited other states to find ways to improve. We asked the National Governors' Association to recommend three to five states that they consider model programs. They were all organized differently, so I was able to make an appraisal based on what all of them were doing. I put together a working group and spent

30 minutes giving them my big block vision of what I think the agency should look like. I think I surprised them when I looked at them and said, "The details are yours." This was on a Monday and I asked them to submit a new organizational chart by Friday.

Last Friday morning they presented me with a very impressive organizational chart. I'm very proud of what they've done. We're taking the chart now and going through the processes of state government to get it in place. I anticipate that being done in the next month.

TT&C: Can you talk a bit about how you work with other local and state entities?

DP: We are the state's 24-hour warning point. We have a highly technical operations center here you can walk through. The employees are extremely capable, and they have unbelievable resources. Director Bassham told me that I could come here 24-hours a day and be connected to anyone I wanted to talk to. After I got here, I actually tested what he said. I can tell you that without fail I was hooked up with who I asked for. I was very impressed.

We obviously have a lot of communications equipment and a lot of methods that allow us to have a real time appraisal of what's going on — not only in the state, but also in the region and nation. We use a system called NWSAS, a national warning system that was born out of the Cold War. It's a little like the old telephone party lines. Each county has a warning point and it goes on from there. The Governor's residence is a warning point, so is the Department of Corrections, and so on. We are fortunate in Tennessee to have a digital NWSAS system that we were able to obtain with a mitigation grant after the 2010 floods. We were the only state in the country that got money to help put that system together.

In a recent occurrence, we had to bring a National Guard team to Murfreesboro. I had to coordinate with the Highway Patrol to get them escorted very quickly. I was able to get the Cookeville, Nashville and Knoxville THP districts on NWAL at the same time and no one else could hear. If for some reason you lose electricity, we are still able to communicate. The system automatically goes to satellite. It's just a wonderful system.

TT&C: What are some of your biggest challenges?

DP: It's important to me to cultivate the future leadership of TEMA. We're all reaching a point that the senior staff is approaching retirement. I want to cultivate bright young leaders, and we have them here at TEMA. We don't have to go anywhere to look for them. We need to make sure they are in an environment that allows them to move to other levels so that when they are in the leadership of the agency they've had experience in preparedness, response and recovery. It's very easy to get in the role of managers managing managers. We want managers who have experience at all facets of the agency. That kind of credibility, the kind that comes from ground-level experience, is just very important.

TT&C: Where is TEMA headed in the next five years?

DP: Very simply, my vision is for TEMA to be considered a credible public safety agency that stands next to the Highway Patrol, the Tennessee Wildlife Agency, the Tennessee State Park Rangers, the TBI and other local government and public safety disciplines. That's very important to me that they see us as an equal. There have been issues in the past that have not allowed that credibility to be there for various reasons. I wouldn't want to leave you with the idea that there are major problems here because that's not the situation. However, there are ways we can firm up what we do and establish even greater credibility.

TT&C: When it comes right down to it, what do you want Tennesseans to know about TEMA?

DP: Here's what I want to leave the people of Tennessee and local governments with when it comes to TEMA. You have a watch point that is manned 24-hours a day by very competent, highly-trained professionals who are able to tap just about any resource they need to help you. I can tell you that without any hesitation. I've seen it work, and I'm confident in it. I would hope that city and county governments and the people of the state could be confident in that process, too.