

State Christmas tree lighting begins the holiday season



Photo by Victoria South

The Harpeth Hall girls choir from Nashville perform several holiday selections at the State Capitol annual tree lighting ceremony.

Open Government study group requests more time

Last month, the 18-member Open Government Joint Study Committee met for the third time on the subject of revision of Tennessee's open meetings and open records laws.

Public Chapter 887 of the Public Acts of 2006 instructs this committee to review the relevant statutes to determine whether the statutes should be revised or updated. The Act further directs the study committee to file a report of its initial findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, by Dec. 1, 2006, with a final report due by Feb. 1, 2007.

At the close of the November meeting, the committee concluded that additional time is necessary in order for the study group to deter-

mine its recommendations on this complex issue of vital public importance. The committee voted unanimously to submit its preliminary report as a request for additional time to complete a more comprehensive review of the current state of the law as well as to receive appropriate input from the public and from interested parties prior to making its final recommendations.

Committee Chairman Sen. Randy McNally will submit the request in the form of legislation to amend Public Chapter 887 to extend the deadline for the preliminary report to Dec. 1, 2007 with the final report due by Feb. 1, 2008.

TML staff will continue to keep the League membership informed of these proceedings.

Congress OKs sales tax deduction for two years

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

In one of his last legislative actions as U.S. Senator and Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Bill Frist engineered the passing of a tax measure that allows residents of Tennessee and six other states that have sales taxes but no state income tax to deduct state sales taxes from the federal income tax returns. It came just hours before dawn of the last day.

The House had passed it earlier. The hold up was the Republicans wish to use the popular measure to cover items that Democrats said would add billions of dollars to the federal deficit. In early August, the GOP leadership package included a large number of tax cuts and a bigger exemption from estate taxes that Democrats blocked despite their support for the deduction.

After nearly a 20-year hiatus, the sales tax deduction was rein-

stated for two years in 2004 but, expired at the end of 2005. The legislation passed this month extends the deduction for the 2006 and 2007 tax years. It is expected to be signed into law quickly by President Bush.

The sales tax deduction of 2004 and 2005 allowed 11 million taxpayers of nine states to deduct state sales taxes on their federal forms, which is comparable to the break given people who deduct state income taxes.

Rep. Jim Cooper's office said that means the deduction was about \$205 million for Tennesseans who itemized returns, or \$313 per return. Those who don't itemize can take a standard sales tax deduction.

Other tax breaks in the bill are deductions for college tuition and fees of up to \$4,000 (a \$3.3 billion provision) and up to \$250 for school teachers who buy their own supplies. It also includes \$16.5 billion in credits for businesses investing in re-

Legislative caucuses elect leadership

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Republican and Democratic caucuses in the Senate and House met earlier this month to elect top leadership positions of their legislative bodies for the 105th Tennessee General Assembly.

In the Senate, Republicans elected Sen. Ron Ramsey as the GOP leader and Sen. Mark Norris as the caucus chair. Norris defeated Sen. Randy McNally, who was also seeking that position.

Sen. Ramsey was also nominated as their choice for Speaker of the Senate. Republicans hold a 17-16 majority in the senate. However, in order for him to win that top leadership position, he will have to defeat who ever the Democrats nominate as their choice for Speaker. Currently, two senate Democrats are vying for that opportunity.

Senate Democrats will caucus Jan. 4 to nominate their choice for speaker, caucus chairman, and Democratic leader. Lt. Gov. Wilder is seeking the position of Speaker of Senate, a position he has held since 1971. Wilder recently completed his 35th year as Speaker of the Senate, making him the longest serving presiding officer of any state legislative body in America. He will have to defeat Sen. Joe Haynes, who has also announced his candidacy for Speaker.

Haynes, who has been a member of the state Senate since 1985, has been an integral part of the Senate Leadership. He currently serves as chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

In a press release, Haynes stated, "I am not a candidate against anyone but rather a candidate for the future of Tennessee."

Sen. Jim Kyle is expected to be re-elected as the Democratic leader.

House Republicans elected Rep. Jason Mumpower as GOP leader. He defeated Rep. Bill Dunn, who was also vying for that position. Rep. Glen Casada was elected as the caucus chairman. He defeated Rep. Charles Sargent for the leadership position.

House Democrats, who hold the majority, elected Rep. Gary Odom as their new leader. He will replace

Kim McMillan, who did not seek reelection. Rep. Randy Rinks was re-elected Democratic Caucus chairman. Speaker Jimmy Naifeh was re-nominated as their choice for House Speaker.

Naifeh recently completed his eighth, two-year term as Speaker of the House, making him the longest serving House Speaker in Tennessee history. He surpasses former Gov. Ned McWherter, who served for seven terms as House speaker.

Speakers of both Houses will be elected next month as part of the first orders of business when the session convenes Jan. 9.



Ron Ramsey



Mark Norris



Glen Cassada



Jason Mumpower



Gary Odom



Randy Rinks

Duke Franklin elected to NLC Board

John "Duke" Franklin, Chattanooga council member and past TML president, was elected to the National League of Cities' Board of Directors in Reno, NV this month during the annual NLC Congress of Cities conference. Franklin's candidacy was unanimously endorsed by the Tennessee Municipal League Board of Directors. He will serve a two-year term.

Franklin has already been involved with NLC for the past eight years as a member of the Information, Technology and Communications Committee and a member of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO).

The Tennessee Municipal League benefited from his effective leadership as president of the TML Board of Directors in 2005 and as a board member since 2000. Most recently, he was appointed to serve on the Open Government Joint Legislative Study Committee.

On the local level, he has served on the Chattanooga City Council since 1998. During that time he has served as chairman and vice chairman of the council.

Other leadership positions include:

- Member of the Chattanooga Zoning Board of Appeals
- Member of the Chattanooga Sports Authority
- Past member of the Chattanooga



John Franklin Jr.

- Chamber of Commerce
- Past member of the Chattanooga African American Chamber of Commerce
- Graduate of Leadership Chattanooga

"Councilman Franklin possesses the leadership qualities that an NLC Board member should possess," said Tommy Bragg, TML president and Murfreesboro mayor. "His experience and knowledge of municipal issues uniquely qualify him to represent municipalities on a national level, and therefore, will be a tremendous asset to the National League of Cities."

Aging demographic to impact retiree health benefits, services

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The crowd grooves to the beat as a group of dancers wearing black and white outfits and matching berets take to the stage. It's not a rock concert but a Senior Expo that has them moving, featuring comprehensive health care screenings, and festive booths offering information on everything from motorized wheel chairs to small business loans. Even the dancers are well over 55, and proud of it.

Thanks to advances in education, technology, and healthcare, today's seniors are living longer, busier, independent lives, and are choosing to reside in communities with the infrastructure and services to facilitate it.

It's been estimated that by the year 2030, approximately 20 percent of the U.S. population will be comprised of adults over the age of 65, yet as 76 million baby boomers enter into the retirement phase, the sudden draw from retiree health care benefits coupled with the demand for comparable municipal services



Photo by Victoria South

Many older adults enjoy the additional perk of free health screenings and flu shots offered at most senior expos.

could present significant challenges for state and local governments.

According to the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) data, nationally, at least 75 percent of state governments and 65 percent of large local governments, followed by less percentage of smaller local governments, pro-

vide some type of health benefits for retirees younger than 65.

As these premiums continue to soar higher each year, early retirements and longer life expectancies can prolong the length of time the premiums are paid.

Additionally, GASB 45, a new See **AGING**, on Page 3

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

CHATTANOOGA

A \$20,000 Christian Community Foundation grant will be used toward plans for a homeless campus at the former Farmers Market.

CLEVELAND

Hard working law enforcement and community values were cited as reasons for a statistical decline in serious criminal activity over the past three years, according to Police Chief Wes Snyder.

COLUMBIA

Twin Duck Riverwalk Fountains, Peace and Justice, were dedicated in downtown Columbia. The fountains, marking the gateway to Columbia's Riverwalk, were paid for by private and corporate donations as well as a City Parks grant. The city and the county each paid for the infrastructure needed for the two fountains.

COLUMBIA

Grants from the Department of Homeland Security and a gift from some West Coast officers paid for Columbia's Bomb Squad equipment, including a remote-controlled robot and a Total Containment Vessel that can withstand the detonation of up to 15 pounds of explosives.

COOKEVILLE

Averitt Express' plans for a long-range expansion of its headquarters may mean hundreds of jobs for Cookeville. The company will add three buildings to its campus and has begun site preparations for the first one.

COOKEVILLE

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant of \$242,015 has been received by the Cookeville Fire Department. The funds will be used to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus, a fixed air compressor with air storage, and a fill station. Part of the money will also be used for training all personnel on the new equipment.

FRANKLIN

Worthington Precision Metals Inc., an auto parts company, announced it is closing its Franklin plant effective Jan. 12 due to the downturn of one of its major clients, Ford Motor Company. One hundred seventeen employees will be affected.

GREENEVILLE

The city school system scored all A's in the student academic achievement portion of the "Report Card" issued by the Tennessee Department of Education.

HENDERSONVILLE

The fire department dive team went underwater to inspect Hendersonville Utility District's fresh water intake using fire department camera and communication equipment. It was not only helpful to the utility district, but also good training for the dive team.

JOHNSON CITY

The Johnson City Commission has approved a health assessment program to identify "high risk" employees who will be required to take six hours of wellness education classes

in a three month period or be made to pay double for their insurance coverage. The effort is to keep insurance costs down as well as improve employee health.

JOHNSON COUNTY

The Johnson County Airport is the recipient of an Aeronautics Grant of \$198,000 which will be used for a new hangar.

KINGSPORT

The Kingsport Convention and Visitors Bureau gave more than \$74,000 to local middle and high school athletic programs and the Kingsport Department of Parks and Recreation. The money came from the proceeds of the five national athletic events and one regional sports tournament hosted by and held in Kingsport this year.

KINGSPORT

General Shale Products Corp., a supplier of brick and block for construction, closed its Kingsport plant leaving 40 employees without jobs. A slowdown in the housing market was cited as the reason for shutting the plant.

KNOXVILLE

PBR North America, an auto brake systems manufacturer, is moving its headquarters from Detroit to the PBR Knoxville LLC plant.

LOUISVILLE

Anonymous donors have offered to foot the bill for the new town hall that broke ground in October, according to Mayor Geraldine Anderson. The benefactors have been very supportive of the town and have stepped up to help out the fire department in the past.

MEMPHIS

The Memphis bond rating was upgraded from negative to stable by Fitch Ratings while Standard & Poor's upgraded the city's outlook from stable to positive.

NASHVILLE

Peterbilt Motors Co., a heavy-duty truck manufacturer, will cut its Madison plant workforce by 667 in late January, citing an anticipated slow down in truck sales. New Environmental Protection Agency rules further limiting pollutants in diesel exhausts making the trucks more expensive to build were cited as the reason for the layoffs.

NASHVILLE

The National Council of Teachers of English honored Nashville's Book'em with its 2006 Literacy Award. Book'em is a non-profit organization focusing on providing volunteer readers to local pre-schools, Head Start, and elementary schools; and, collecting and distributing new books to children in lower-income families.

NEWPORT

The city's 50-year-old steel gas line was inspected and all 13 miles were found to be in excellent shape. The cost of the inspection ran \$100,000.

RUTLEDGE

Tactical Armor Products, a body armor manufacturer, closed it doors on Oct. 25 and left 100 employees out in the cold.

Bredesen names new staff members

Gov. Phil Bredesen named Stuart Brunson as Deputy to the Governor and Steve Elkins as Legal Counsel to the Governor. Brunson replaces outgoing Deputy to the Governor Dave Cooley, who recently announced plans to return to the private sector. Elkins replaces Bob Cooper, who was appointed Tennessee's attorney general and reporter on Oct. 31.

"Stuart has been an important part of my political and public service success. His careful and considerate style of management will be invaluable to me as deputy governor," said Bredesen. "Steve Elkins has proven himself to be a skilled and knowledgeable counsel to me, and I'm pleased that he is stepping into this new role."

Brunson, a longtime trusted advisor to the Governor, most recently led Bredesen's 2006 re-election effort as his campaign manager. The campaign achieved a historic victory, winning all of Tennessee's 95 counties and capturing the most votes by a gubernatorial campaign in state history.

Brunson also served as the campaign manager for Gov. Bredesen's successful 2002 campaign. Following the 2002 election, Brunson served as Deputy Director of Bredesen's transition team, helping identify people to fill key posts

throughout state government.

"Gov. Bredesen has laid out a positive, bipartisan vision for Tennessee, and I am honored to be a part of the team that will help move his agenda forward," Brunson said.

Brunson, 39, is a Moscow, Tenn., native. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and history from the University of Mississippi, Oxford, a law degree from the University of Memphis, and he attended Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

Brunson's appointment is effective in January.

Steve Elkins currently serves as deputy legal counsel in the Governor's Office. Before joining the administration, Elkins served as research director and comptroller for Bredesen's successful 2002 campaign. Before that, he served as deputy legal counsel for the Tennessee Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve Gov. Bredesen in this new capacity," said Elkins. "I very much appreciate the confidence the Governor has shown in me, and I look forward to continuing to work with him and his team to build on the successes achieved over the past four years."

Elkins, 33, is a Smyrna, Tenn., native. He holds a bachelor's degree

in finance and a law degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he graduated summa cum laude. Elkins' appointment is effective immediately.

A replacement has not been announced as yet for Tennessee Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance Paula Flowers, who plans to step down Jan. 18 to return to the private sector.

"I'm sorry to see her go. She's a good commissioner," said Bredesen.

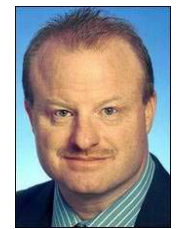
According to Flowers, family matters and economics played a role in her decision.



Brunson



Elkins



Cooley



Flowers



PEOPLE



BY TISH WOMACK

U.S. Sen.-elect **Bob Corker** appointed **Todd Womack** as his state director, and **Armand DeKeyser** as chief of staff.

Gov. Phil Bredesen officiated at the wedding of State Lottery CEO **Rebecca Paul** and former state Rep. **Jere Hargrove** in early November.

State Sen. and Congressman-elect **Steve Cohen** resigned his Senate seat on Dec. 1. A special election primary has been set for Jan. 25 and a general election for March 13 to fill the Cohen seat and that of state Rep. **Henri Brooks** who won a seat on the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

In November, Tennessee state Sen. **Tim Burchett**, a motorcycle enthusiast, had a dirt bike stolen from his warehouse. He staked out the place hoping the burglars would return; they did; he nabbed three teenagers and took them at gunpoint to a nearby business. He fed the teens cookies while awaiting the authorities.

Alcoa Police Detective **Kris Sanders** received the National Forensic Academy's Dr. William Bass Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Forensic Investigation at the Academy's graduation ceremonies. He was selected by his classmates for his class participation, dependability, leadership, increased proficiency, and character.

The Tennessee Republican Party re-elected **Bob Davis** chairman for the next two years.

In November, Collegedale selected **Ted Rogers** as city manager.

Former Elizabethton city manager and current Johnson City assistant

city manager **Charles Stahl** was the Grand Marshal for Elizabethton's Christmas parade on Dec. 2.

Johnson City attorney, **James Epps III**, celebrated his 40th year as the city's attorney in December. His 40 years with the city make him the longest serving municipal attorney in the state.

Clarksville City attorney, **David Haines**, resigned his position effective Jan. 1 to become general counsel to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts. He has been the city's first full-time attorney since 1991.

Memphis City Council Chairwoman **TaJuan Stout Mitchell** resigned her council position to become the city's administrator of intergovernmental relations. She replaces **Dottie Jones** who resigned Dec. 1 to become director of Shelby County's Community Services Agency.

Greysville Secretary/Treasurer **Kathy Defur** was promoted to city recorder. She replaced **Michelle Horton** who resigned in October.

Williamson County Emergency Communications Center Director **Bill Jorgensen** developed the Basic Interoperability Liaison Link (BILL Box) that links UHF, VHF and 800-megahertz radios to a "mobile multiswitcher," thereby enabling different agencies to communicate with each other in emergency situations. While there are others like the BILL Box, his is much cheaper. It can be obtained from Commtech.

Milan Alderwoman **Lou Hawkins** will make city history when she is sworn in and joins **Tammy Floyd Wade** on the Board of Aldermen. It will be the first time that two females have served on the board at the same

time.

Bartlett Fire Chief **Gary Graves** will retire at the end of December to accept a position with the Memphis Motorsports Park in Millington. He has served 23 years with the city, the last three as chief.

Lebanon Fire Chief **Wayne Driver** notified the city he plans on retiring in early 2007. He has been with the Lebanon fire department for 33 years, the last six of which he served as chief.

Maryville Finance Director **John Tate** resigned his position effective Dec. 1 to take a position as treasurer of the Holston Conference of the Untied Methodist Church. He has been the city's finance director for seven years.

The three-round charity boxing match between Memphis Mayor **Willie Herenton** and former heavyweight boxing champion **Joe Frazier** turned out to be more of a pillow fight, according to news accounts. The money raised was for the Shelby County Drug Court.

Former state Rep. **Robb C. Robinson** died at age 84 on Nov. 14, from Alzheimer's disease. He served in the Tennessee House of Representatives for 30 years and served as the chairman of the Transportation Committee. In 1986, he sponsored the bill requiring seat belts for all occupants of a vehicle.

James F. "Jimmy" Kyle, father of state Sen. **Jim Kyle**, died Nov. 9 at age 93.

Former Charleston Mayor **Orval A. Crawley** died at age 83 on Oct. 31. He was Charleston's second mayor serving from 1971 to 1978.

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Aging demographic to impact health benefits, services

AGING, continued from Page 1 accounting standard for healthcare and benefits other than pensions (OPEBS) has arrived.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires public agencies, including school districts and county offices of education (COE), to report costs and obligations for OPEBS on financial statements in advance, rather than previous pay-as-you-go methods.

The cost of the liabilities must be determined by an actuary, and a target plan developed for future reporting. Districts with a total revenue of \$100 million are to comply after Dec. 15, 2006 for, fiscal year 2007-08.

According to the 2006 *Government Finance Review*, as benefit costs increase, financially strapped governments could find themselves raising taxes, cutting other spending, using surplus funds or issuing bonds to pre-fund OPEBS, or more than likely, scaling back current and future benefits.

As detailed in ICMA's Management *Strategies for Healthy and Livable Communities*, cities can possibly lower the cost of retiree healthcare and social services, by recognizing and adopting trends to-

communities clearly need to reassess their policies, programs and services in the areas of transportation, housing, land use planning, public safety, parks and recreation, workforce development and volunteerism/civic engagement," said Sandy Markwood, CEO, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a).

"Communities will need to provide larger street signage, accessible housing, and age appropriate fitness programs, as well as lifelong learning and job re-training opportunities in order to respond to the rapid rise in their aging populations."



The city of Jacksonville participates in annual senior games where the winners compete in the Tennessee Senior Games then on to the national Senior Olympics. Programs such as this one help keep seniors active physically and socially.

ward active living for older adults and by developing and implementing community design plans, strategies, and policies that assist rather than hinder their endeavors to remain healthy, contributing members of society.

Despite the certain forecast of an aging population, surprising data compiled by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, shows that only 46 percent of 1,790 U.S. cities and counties surveyed have done anything to address the needs of baby boomers.

"Beyond traditional aging services such as senior centers, meals-on-wheels programs, and home care,

ICMA studies predict that older adults who live more physically active lives are healthier and prone to become more sociably and civically involved with their communities, contributing years of experience and education.

"Our recent campaign is Get up, Get out and Get active," said Sandy MacDiarmid superintendent of Jackson Parks and Recreation.

MacDiarmid is working on a campaign to permanently mark the distance along the community's local walking trail.

"We promote walking and offer a wide variety of sports for seniors from table tennis to senior ladies

volleyball," McDiarmid said.

"We plan to participate in the 2007 senior Olympics. Our women's basketball team has placed in the nationals and winners of our April senior games will go on to the state games in Clarksville. With several wonderful parks and nature trails, we are campaigning to get our younger and older seniors out and active."

For governments interested in promoting and developing active aging concepts within their communities, ICMA suggests that local governments begin by fostering an understanding of current trends, conducting an analysis of the distribution of population, services, and amenities within their communities as they pertain to older adults and the concept of active living.

- Where do the highest concentrations of older residents reside?
- Where are the basic services such as health care facilities, supermarkets, restaurants, post offices, and libraries located?
- Where are parks and walking trails located?
- Which areas have continuous net-



The Metro Parks Swinging Seniors Dancers perform all around Nashville at various events. Here they are at the Senior Expo 2006 program held at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds



Today's retirees wish to stay active in their retirement years and seek municipal services to facilitate their choices.



Congressman Jim Cooper encourages senior citizens to continue educating themselves and participating in government.

Strategies for promoting active aging

When asked why they do not walk, older adults cite distance, walking difficulties, poor sidewalks, lack of resting places, and fear of crime as some of the top reasons, according to the ICMA guide for Active Living for Older Adults.

Active living for seniors and boomers promotes healthy lifestyles and could ultimately keep retiree insurance costs down.

Local governments should pay close attention to the ways street and streetscape design in their communities encourage or discourage active living.

Key issues for governments to consider in the promotion of active

communities include:

A. Creating safe and comfortable walking routes

1. Improvement and maintainance of sidewalks
2. Safe street crossings
3. Addition of streetscape amenities
4. Addressing security concerns

B. Improving transportation options for older adults

1. Evaluate existing transportation options.
2. Addition of more routes and vehicles.

C. Encouraging density and connectivity

1. Promote mixed-use and com-

pact development through zoning.

2. Integrate new development into existing communities.
3. Use development incentives and guidelines.

D. Making the built environment more attractive

E. Promoting awareness of active aging

For a downloadable version of this ICMA report, *Active Living for Older Adults: Management Strategies for Healthy and Livable Communities*, go to bookstore.icma.org/freedocs/Active_Living.pdf

working of sidewalks?

- Which areas are well served by public transportation?
- Which areas of town are already compact, walkable, and mixed-use in character?
- Where are vacant parcels of land located?

By synthesizing this information into a map formation, local governments can begin to assess active living opportunities around the city for its older residents, identifying and targeting major goals for the future.

Other recommendations are:


- Communicating active living considerations across all departments and recruiting and collaborating with partners from outside local government such as

churches, foundations and universities;

- Creating a multi-disciplinary task force to examine issues on aging and active living, involving older residents, particularly neighborhood associations and senior citizen groups in the process, and educating seniors about municipal planning policies and procedures, so that they may understand and take part in the process.

As the cost of insurance and medications escalate, the amenities of healthy living and smart communities can benefit citizens of all ages for generations to come.


Photos by Victoria South

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Cities fund projects with help from TMBF



The City of Henderson recently closed a loan with TMBF for improvements to city-owned buildings, streets, and the water and sewer system. Shown at the loan closing are (L-R) TMBF Vice President Kevin Barnett, Mayor Charles Patterson, and City Recorder Jim Garland.



New and re-elected mayors for 2006-07

At press time, TML has notice of the following elected or re-elected mayors:

- Allardt: Phillip Gernt re-elected
- Bartlett: A. Keith McDonald re-elected
- Bulls Gap: Robin Horner
- Calhoun: John Walker
- Carthage: David Bowman re-elected
- Clarksville: Johnny Piper
- Clifton: Wayne Brandon re-elected
- Crossville: J. H. Graham III re-elected
- Crump: Phyllis James re-elected
- Dresden: Danny Forrester
- Dyersburg: John Holden
- East Ridge: Mike Steele
- Elizabethton: Curt Alexander
- Fairview: Ken Brison re-elected
- Germantown: Sharon Goldsworthy re-elected
- Greenback: Tom Peeler re-elected
- Greenfield: Eddie Joe McKelvy re-elected
- Hickory Valley: Richard Ayers re-elected
- Hollow Rock: Tim Runions
- Huntsville: George W. Potter re-elected

- Jefferson City: Darrell M. Helton re-elected
- Jellico: Forster Baird
- Jonesborough: Tobie Bledsoe re-elected
- Lake City: V. E. Wilson re-elected
- Lenoir City: Matt Brookshire re-elected
- Madisonville: Alfred McClendon re-elected
- Martin: Randy Brundige re-elected
- Maryville: Joe Swan re-elected
- Morrison: Bobby L. Prater re-elected
- Niota: Martha M. Waldon
- Nolensville: Beth Weaver-Lothers
- Normandy: Larry Nee re-elected
- Parrottsville: Ronnie Hommel
- Pleasant Hill: James Olds Jr.
- Red Bank: Howard Cotter
- Rutherford: Casey Harris
- Sharon: Bob Gardner
- Soddy Daisy: Bob Privett
- St. Joseph: Michael Kelley
- Surgoinsville: Johnny Greer
- Thompson’s Station: Leon Heron
- Three Way: James Hill re-elected
- Trimble: Jim Stark
- Walden: Peter Hetzler re-elected
- Wartrace: Don Gallagher re-elected
- Winfield: Kenny Burchfield

Associate Profile:

The Sensus experience: progressive metering products



Centuries of customer service, technology, and product advancements allows today’s utility industry to benefit from the superior products, services and support offered by Sensus Metering Systems.

Well into its second 100 years of service to utilities across the world, Sensus’ history is highlighted with industry-leading metering technology product developments. Sensus has responded to industry needs by becoming a total metering solutions provider, including comprehensive advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) systems.

Sensus, one of the first to provide Automatic Meter Reading installations in the water industry, is unique in offering a total package of AMR/AMI, Metering, and Software solutions. Sensus addresses the entire process in metering by providing optimization software tools such as mapping, propagation studies and financial benefits analysis.

Today, Sensus remains the world’s largest manufacturer of water meters and has a comprehensive suite of Commercial/Industrial and Residential meters. Sensus offers field-proven sealed register positive displacement, turbine, compound, and fire service meters. Most models feature the Intelligent Communications Encoder (ICE) register that can electronically output from a single odometer wheel.

All meters also integrate into Sensus’ AMR/AMI systems. Sensus offers a wide array of AMR/AMI

system solutions for water metering applications, including TouchRead, PhonRead, RadioRead, and FlexNet.

FlexNet is a radio-frequency fixed network utility meter reading system which increases meter reading efficiency, reduces overhead costs, and enhances customer service. FlexNet offers both two-way and one-way fixed-based monitoring for up to 300 square miles of coverage, depending on terrain, from one network tower. The patented technology allows for Internet-based programming of the network and meter endpoints. This system also enables utilities to monitor and identify a meter’s continuous flow over a programmable period of time. If a leak or continuous flow is detected, the water module will broadcast a message to notify the utility of the issue. Additionally, the system can be set to read meters in one-hour intervals, giving detailed data when events like consumption disputes occur. This data is transmitted and stored at the utility.

FlexNet can handle gas and electric fixed network applications for individual and/or multi-utility installations. The system complements the Sensus line of water metering products and provides any utility with a complete metering systems solution.

Sensus Metering Systems brings its reputation of stability, reliability, and proven customer service to every project. It is that experience that allows customers to trust Sensus products, both existing and to come.

TML requests E-mail addresses

The quickest way to keep city officials apprised of legislative happenings is through e-mail or fax.

Each Friday during the legislative session, TML prepares and distributes a weekly bulletin .

To receive the *TML Legislative Bulletin* by e-mail or fax, please send your contact information to Mona Lawrence, by fax at 615-255-4752, by e-mail to mlawrence@TML1.org, or call 615-255-6416.

STATE BRIEFS



BY TISH WOMACK
TML Research Analyst

Tennessee’s auto supply industry is being impacted by slower car sales nationwide. The state has seen more layoffs and plant closings over the year than job announcements by a 2-to-1 margin.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency’s system for preparedness and response to disasters received conditional accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. The state has up to nine months to complete any corrective steps required and seek full accreditation. Eight states have achieved full accreditation and six states, including Tennessee have been granted conditional accreditation by EMAP.

Eight governors have joined Gov. Bredesen in requesting President George W. Bush provide the states \$950 million in federal funds to help with costs related to the detaining of illegal immigrants.

Two Middle Tennessee watersheds, Red River and Upper Duck River, have been designated part of the national Conservation Security Program by the U.S. secretary of agriculture. The designation allows farmers living in the watershed areas to apply for Conservation Security Program funds through the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Tennessee Department of Transportation projects a \$2 billion gap between what the state’s highway needs will be and what the state can afford to do over the next 10 years. A study done by the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank, indicates the state will need to build more than 2,750 new lane miles to avoid traffic jams on the scale of Boston’s. TDOT plans to emphasize maintenance of roads, improving existing roadways, encouraging vanpools and park-and-rides, and

then adding to the capacity in areas where most needed.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol may be granted new enforcement power of federal immigration laws following the formal request filing for the power with the federal Homeland Security Department. The request is for one federally-trained trooper and special agent assigned to each of the state’s eight districts.

Plateau Properties has donated approximately 300 acres of land to the state. The donation, pending approval by the State Building Commission, includes a craggy-ridged portion of Brady Mountain and a piece of the Cumberland Trail along with an historic cave.

The Tennessee Fusion Center, a partnership of Tennessee Homeland Security and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, has been created as a “one-stop shopping” network for information on potential terrorists and criminals. The fusion center, paid for with federal Homeland Security funds and an appropriation from the General Assembly, will be a clearinghouse for information submitted and analyzed from across the state.

Tennessee professional licenses can be renewed online with the state Department of Commerce and Insurance with instant confirmation. The program can be accessed at www.tnanytime.org/cirens.

Nashville Public Television’s documentary, “Tennessee Town Squares,” featured Clarksville, Collierville, Columbia, Franklin, Gallatin, Jonesborough, and Wartrace in the hour-long program. The film focused on the history, architecture, life, and preservation of the featured town squares.

Gov. Phil Bredesen announced the state purchase of more than 12,500 acres on the Cumberland Plateau from Bowater Incorporated

for an average of \$1,385 per acre. The land is located in Cumberland, Hamilton, Rhea, Van Buren, and White counties. Twenty million dollars in bonds allocated by the General Assembly will be used to purchase the land.

The new motorist information line, Tennessee 511, has logged 268,416 calls since the service was launched in August, putting it on track to hit a million calls within the first year of operation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed Chattanooga, Nashville, and the Tri-cities among the 14 communities across the nation that are on track to meet EPA clean air standards ahead of time. The three are already meeting the tougher eight-hour standard for ground-level ozone and are doing so using “early action compact” programs developed with the help of the state Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors adopted a land use policy prohibiting the sale of protected shoreline for residential and retail development. It affects some 11,000 miles and 293,000 acres of the Tennessee River system that TVA manages.

TVA paid state and local governments a record \$376 million in lieu of taxes this year, an increase of \$11 million from 2005. Tennessee received \$221,017,704.

The 17th annual America’s Health Rankings by the United Health Foundation ranked Tennessee 47th in the nation for health, up from 48th last year. Eighteen indicators including smoking, violent crime, and infant mortality were used in determining the rankings. The state did poorly in heavily weighted areas of infant mortality, smoking, and premature death, but did well on immunization of children.

Congress approves sales tax deductions

TAX from page 1
printed versions of IRS Publication 600, which includes tables outlining the sales tax deduction, will be available at libraries and post offices.

There will not be a specific line for the sales tax deduction on the 1040A form. Instead, it can be entered under the line for “other deductions.” Most popular tax prepa-

ration software is expected to download updated information.
The overall cost of the package is \$45 billion.

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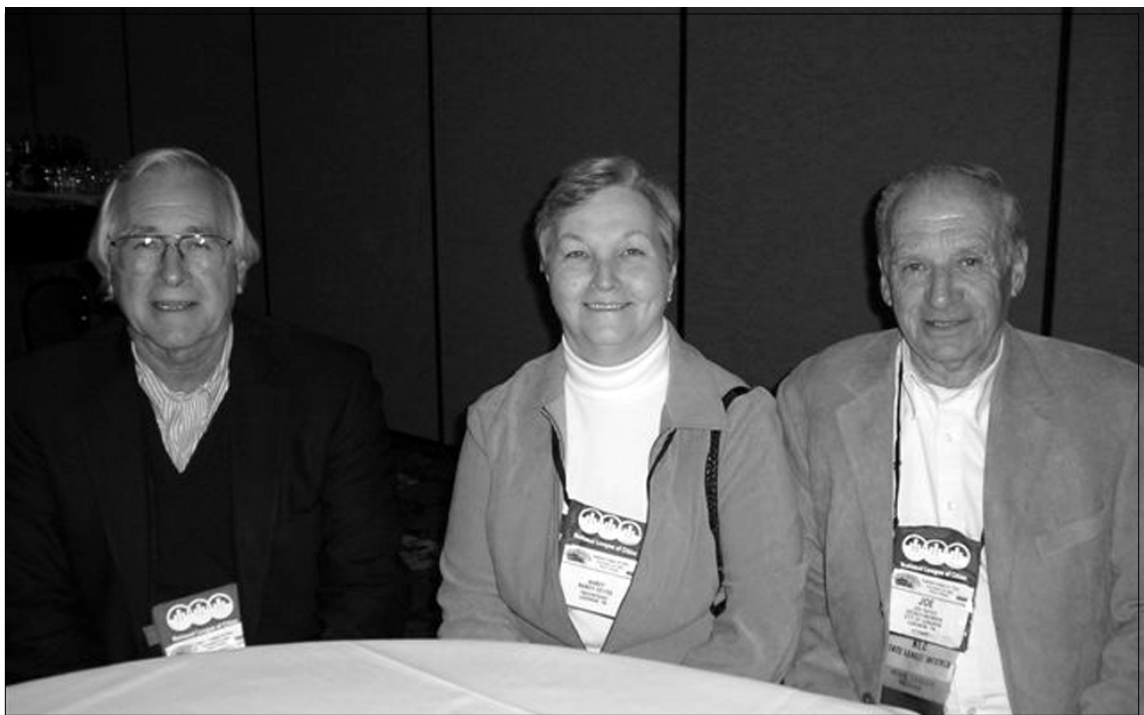
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SPN-41-AD



The 2006 National League of Cities; Reno, Nevada



(Pictured left to right) Dyersburg Alderman Bob Kirk, Memphis Councilmember Barbara Swearengen-Holt, and Franklin Mayor Tom Miller.



(Left to right) Lebanon Councilmember Haywood Barry, Nancy Hayes and Councilmember Joe Hayes, Lebanon.



(Left to right) Metro Nashville Vice Mayor Council Office Roseanne Hayes; Metro Nashville Councilmember and incoming State Representative Brenda Gilmore; and TML Director of Conference Planning Sylvia Trice.



Metro Nashville Councilmember Eric Crafton and Miiko Crafton.



Linda Ford and Farragut Mayor Eddy Ford.



(Left to right) Murfreesboro Councilmember David Edwards; Susan Young, and Murfreesboro Councilmember Doug Young.



Chattanooga Councilmember John Franklin; Alamo Mayor Tommy Green, and Franklin City Administrator Jay Johnson.

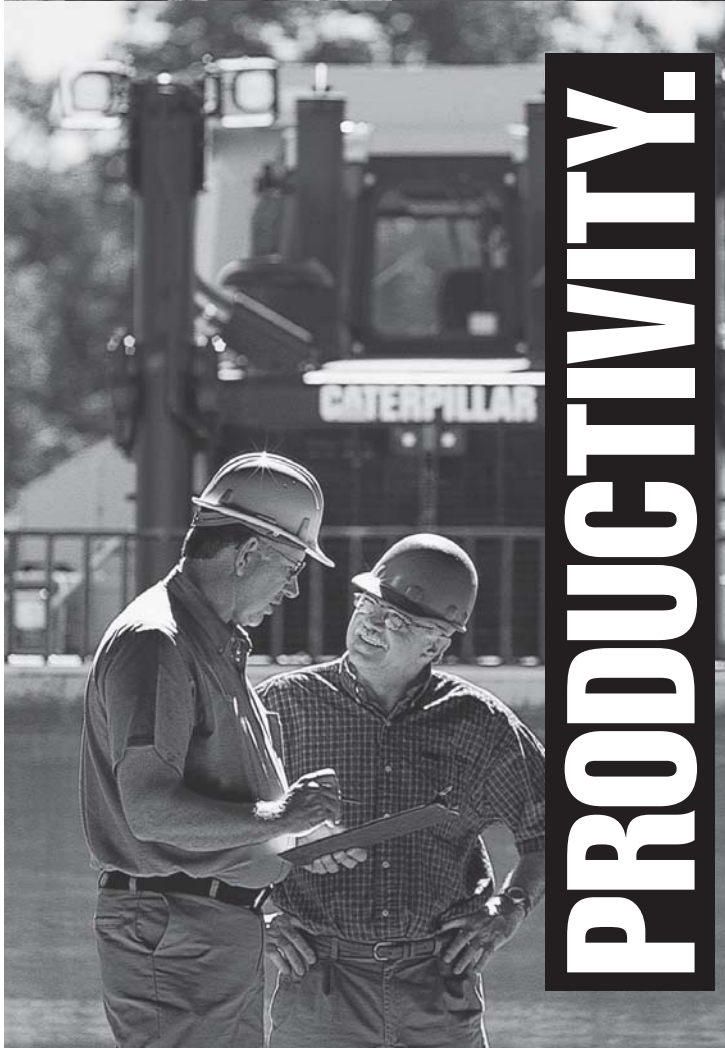


(Left to right) Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg and President and CEO TN Municipal Bond Fund Bones Seivers.



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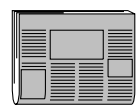
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Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads Editor Tish Womack, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: twomack@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

CIVIL ENGINEER
CLARKSVILLE. The city of Clarksville is seeking qualified candidates for this position. The person hired will perform civil engineering work in the design, development, analysis and inspection of projects involving municipal utilities. Designing public works improvements for water, sewer and gas systems along with performing systems analysis using related computer software are included as part of the job. The civil engineer will also inspect construction contracts to insure compliance with plans and specifications. A bachelor's degree with major in civil engineering plus two years experience in civil engineering or related field is required. Salary range: \$35,500-\$55,706. Send resume to: Clarksville-Montgomery County Career Center, 350 Pageant Lane, Suite 406, Clarksville, TN 37040. Phone: 931-648-5530. EOE.

DIRECTOR ARTS AND RECREATION
MILLINGTON. The city of Millington is seeking qualified applicants for the position of director of arts and recreation whose duties will include overseeing department operations including recreation and athletic programs of Millington Civic Center and Baker Community Center; developing and maintaining organizational structure and accountability systems to enhance efficient and effective operations; facilitating long range planning to ensure adequate maintenance of the Civic Center; and overseeing fiscal and general management of the center. The person hired should have a record of demonstrated experience and proven accomplishments in marketing, recreation or a related field. A bachelor's degree in recreation management, marketing, business, public administration, or related field, or any equivalent combination of experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities for the job and six years of experience in local government involving recreation management or public administration are required as is a valid Tennessee driver's license. This is an appointed position and serves at the "will and pleasure" of the city mayor. Send resume with names and telephone numbers of three professional references and two character references under confidential cover to: Ms. Cynthia K. Donaldson, Personnel Director, City of Millington, 4836 Navy Road, Suite 3, Millington, TN 38053. E-mail: cdonaldson@cityofmillington.org. Position open until filled. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
GOODLETTSVILLE. The city of Goodlettsville, population 15,000, is seeking qualified applicants for the newly created position of human resources director who will be responsible for administrative and managerial functions associated with development, coordination, and administration of all aspects of the city's personnel functions, including recruitment/retention, staffing, compensation, benefits, employee relations, and risk management. The person hired will also be responsible for coordinating workers' compensation program activities, developing training programs, representing the city in personnel-related legal situations, providing counseling on employment matters; developing/maintaining documentation, rules and regulations pertaining to employment by the city, and maintaining an awareness of legal/governmental requirements of the city as an employer and keeping the city manager and city commission apprised of those requirements. The position reports directly to the city manager. Goodlettsville has 138 full-time positions, 20 part-time employees, and up to 20 seasonal employees. The successful applicant will have a bachelor's degree in personnel/human resources management or a closely related field with work experience in personnel/human resources management, particularly in the public sector. Other combinations of desired education and work experience will be considered. Salary: beginning at \$55,000 with generous benefits. Mail detailed resume to: HR Director Search, Goodlettsville City Hall, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072, or e-mail to: hrdirectorsearch@cityofgoodlettsville.org. Deadline: Jan 12. EOE.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING/PROMOTIONS
JACKSON. The purpose of this position is to develop a comprehensive marketing, promotional, and advertising plan to make the East TN Healthcare Sportsplex a successful venture. This person will service existing sponsors and increase sponsorship base. Specific job duties include: provide leadership and direction in the development of short and long range plans; gather, interpret, and prepare data for studies, reports, and recommendations; coordinate department activities with other departments and agencies as needed. Assume that assigned areas of responsibility are performed within budget; perform cost control activities; monitor revenues and expenditures in assigned areas to assure sound fiscal control; prepare annual budget; assure effective and efficient use of budgeted funds, personnel, materials, facilities and time. Develop and execute marketing, promotional and advertising plans and programs, both short and long range, to ensure the profit growth and expansion of West TN Healthcare Sportsplex services. B.S. degree in marketing, advertising, business administration or a related field. Generous benefit package; beginning salary: \$45,000 plus commission up to \$25,000. EOE/M/F/V/D. **MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!** Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net. Please contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main St., Ste. 303, Jackson, TN 38301. Phone 731-425-8252, Fax 731-425-8673.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
WAYNESBORO. The Wayne County Joint Economic and Community Development Board is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time position of director. Current priorities of the community of 17,000 include building relationships with economic development partner organizations, developing strategies to position the community for future growth, building the skill levels of the workforce, retaining and assisting existing industry to expand, building awareness for economic development within the general public and enhancing tourism opportunities. The ideal applicant will have a bachelor's degree and/or five years of economic development-related experience. The person must be familiar with latest economic trends; have demonstrated experience and knowledge of the site location process including recruitment, proposal development and working with industrial prospects or site selection consultants; and experience working with community, business and elected officials. Strong listening skills, verbal communication skills, and be highly motivated as well as demonstrate a high level of integrity, and be computer proficient in Word, Excel, Power Point and other software application. Salary: DOE. Send resume, three references and salary requirements to: Victor Lay, Chairman, Wayne County J.E.C.D.B., P.O. Box 471, Waynesboro, TN 38485. Email: vlay@cityofwaynesboro.org. Deadline: Jan 15. EOE.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM DIRECTOR
SPARTA. The city of Sparta is accepting resumes and employment applications for the position of electric system director who will be responsible for the daily management and operation of the electric department. The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in business or public administration, engineering, or a field relevant to the management of a public utility, plus five years experience in operations, engineering and/or management in a utility, or public or private business or organization, three years of which should be in a management capacity of sufficient responsibility to provide transferable skills and experience. A master's degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. Representing the city and developing a leadership role in both local and regional efforts to promote economic development

will also be encouraged and expected. A job description and additional application information is available by contacting the City of Sparta, P.O. Box 30, Sparta, TN 38583. Phone: 931-836-3248. Position open until filled. EOE.

ENGINEER II
GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown is seeking a licensed civil engineer to perform a variety of complex engineering functions related to the planning and design of municipal projects such as subdivisions and commercial development, transportation, and water and sewer systems. The person will assist in overseeing the city's traffic engineering operations including monitoring traffic control devices and traffic study analysis. The position requires the ability to work with considerable independence, manage multi-project workloads, prepare project reports, and utilize engineering software. Individuals will represent the city and must have good public relations skills. The person hires must be a registered P.E. in Tennessee. Send resume to: City of Germantown, ATTN: Personnel, 1930 S. Germantown Road, Germantown, TN 38138. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. The town of Christiansburg, Va., population 17,000, is seeking a replacement for the long-tenured chief of police. The person sought will have a demonstrated record of experience in law enforcement with particular focus on public and media relations skills, personnel management, and conflict/grievance resolution, fiscal budgeting, and principles of lean government/value-added government, in an environment where small-town values and hometown charm are prized resources. The town has a council/manager form of government and the police chief is appointed by the town council and reports to the town manager. Duties include managing a workforce of 65-70 employees, interacting positively with the public, fiscal budgeting, planning programs, maintaining departmental accreditation, and resolving personnel issues quickly with fairness and integrity. Qualified applicants should be highly organized with results-oriented leadership style, and should possess a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, with continuing education in business or public administration/MBA/MPA. Benefits include paid Virginia Retirement System Retirement, life insurance, paid annual/sick leave, medical insurance, and length of service pay increases, plus optional 457 retirement, dental, life, and cancer coverage available. Send resume and town employment application (available at www.christiansburg.org) to: Town of Christiansburg, ATTN: Clay McCoy, Director of Human Resources, 100 East Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073. Deadline: Jan. 8. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER
MILLINGTON. The city of Millington has an immediate opening for the position of police officer. The position requires a high school diploma, or the equivalent, and must meet the minimum standards law for police officers (TCA 38-1104), as well as a valid Tennessee driver's license, and be 21 years of age. The person hired must pass written/physical agility test. POST certification preferred. The applicant must apply in person at 4836 Navy Road, Suite 3, Millington, TN. No phone calls. Visit www.ci.millingtn.tn.us for more information. Deadline: Dec. 27. EOE.

STAFF ENGINEER
MILLINGTON. The city of Millington is seeking qualified applicants for the position of staff engineer whose responsibilities will include performing a wide variety of professional civil engineering work in planning, design, plan and construction review, and other smaller functions related to public and interdepartmental services to insure compliance with applicable laws and standards. A bachelor's degree in civil engineer or related field, with three years of progressively responsible civil engineering experience, and Tennessee Professional Engineering license are required. Any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job will be considered. Salary range: \$46,102-\$66,443. Send resume to: Director of Personnel, P.O. Box 247, Millington, TN 38083, or apply in person at 4836 Navy Road, Suite 3, Millington, TN. No Phone calls. Deadline: Dec. 27. EOE.

TRAINING CONSULTANT
(IPS Consultant II)
The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service has an opening for a Training Consultant in its Knoxville office. This position provides design and curriculum development for all aspects of the MTAS training effort and serves as the CEU accreditation approver. This position requires a master's degree in adult education, human resource development, organization development, a related field or equivalent degree. This position requires at least five years employment in developing curricula, evaluating training programs, performing logistical development, and delivering training programs. Prefer three years experience in a local government environment. Please send letter and resume to: Training Consultant Search; University of Tennessee, MTAS; 600 Henley Street, Suite 120; Knoxville, TN 37996-4105 or email to: teresa.davis@tennessee.edu. The position will be open until filled; however, for full consideration, applicants are encouraged to apply until filled.

FINANCE DIRECTOR
MARYVILLE. Performs complex professional and difficult administrative work performing accounting, budgeting and payroll functions, preparing and maintaining detailed financial records and files, preparing financial reports and related work as required. Work involves setting policies and goals under the direction of the city manager. Departmental supervision is exercised over all departmental personnel.

This work requires the frequent exertion of up to 10 pounds of force and occasional exertion of up to 25 pounds of force; work regularly requires sitting, speaking or hearing and using hands to finger, handle or feel and occasionally requires and walking; work requires close vision; vocal communication is required for expressing or exchanging ideas by means of the spoken word; hearing is required to receive detailed information through oral communications and/or to make fine distinctions in sound; work requires preparing and analyzing written or computer data, visual inspection involving small defects and/or small parts, operating motor vehicles or equipment and observing general surroundings and activities; work has no exposure to environmental conditions; work is generally in a quiet location.

Summary of essential function: Directs and manages operations of finance department, direction and strategies, collections and disbursements, prepares reports and advises groups on financial issues, monitors, coordinates, communicates and implements city budget, manages city's debt and investment portfolios, monitors and establishes internal controls and procedures, integrates technology in daily operations, and interacts with financial stakeholders. Requires bachelor's degree with coursework in accounting or related field and considerable experience in management, governmental accounting, municipal law and public administration or equivalent combination of education and experience and possession of a valid driver's license issued by the State of Tennessee. EOE. For further details and application: Human Resources Office, Maryville Municipal Center, 404 W. Broadway or e-mail: aclarge@ci.maryville.tn.us

PROJECT MANAGER
SEVIERVILLE. The city of Sevierville is seeking qualified candidates for the position of project manager who will serve as coordinator between the engineering department and other city departments, developers, contractors, and the general public on policies and procedures pertaining to engineering. This position is responsible for providing information on the engineering-related policy and procedures, coordination/inspection of contracts and construction projects, assisting with policy setting, plan reviewing, and reporting. The position works independently, reporting to the city engineer on major activities through periodic meetings. A bachelor's degree, or the equivalent, in civil engineering or closely related field, four years related experience, and a valid Tennessee driver's license are required. An engineering intern license from Tennessee desirable. Send resume to: City of Sevierville, P.O. Box 5500, Knoxville, TN 37864-5500, Attn: Human Resources. Fax: 865-453-5517; e-mail: kinman@seviervilletn.org.

Russian delegates research municipal policies



Photo by Victoria South

Aided by an interpreter (far right), four Russian delegates recently met with staff members of the Tennessee Municipal League and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) to research policies and procedures relative to municipal self-governance. Self-governing legislation enacted in Russia in 2003 has vastly expanded the number of municipalities and local responsibilities for basic services.

Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Awards

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association recently presented the following individual awards during the association's annual conference at Paris Landing State Park in Buchanan, Tenn.

Fellow Award – *This is the highest honor the association can confer on an individual. It recognizes professional members of TRPA that have made outstanding contributions to the recreation field, over and above their normal and expected duties.* –

- * Austin Fesmire, CPRP, Director Athens Parks and Recreation
- Young Professional Award** – *This award recognizes a young professional that exemplifies the management skills in planning a wide variety of parks and recreation opportunities and activities; and who through leadership, inspiration and incentive has made noteworthy contributions to their local service area and for the association* –

- * Jeni Brinkman, Aquatics Coordinator, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation

Lifetime Member Awards - *honors and recognizes individuals who have made numerous and/or significant long-term contributions within*

the parks and recreation profession.

- * Booker White retired from Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation
- * Homer Gray retired from Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association recently presented the following **Four Star Awards** (the highest award the association can confer on an agency). Renovated Facility Awards:

- Williamson County Parks and Recreation – Gym Renovations at Academy Park
- Kingsport Parks and Recreation – Ridgefields Park
- Gallatin Leisure Services – Gallatin Skatepark at Thompson Park

- New Facility Awards:**
- Hamilton County Parks and Recreation – East Hamilton County Sports Complex
 - Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation – Richard Siegel Park
 - Kingsport Parks and Recreation – Scott Adams Memorial Skatepark
 - Athens Parks and Recreation – Playground at Athens Regional Park
 - Munford Parks and Recreation – Centennial Park

- Program Awards:
- Chattanooga Parks and Recreation – Getting to Know Our Sister Cities
 - Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation – Tumbleweeds
 - Johnson City Parks and Recreation – Up and At' Em
 - Dyersburg Parks and Recreation – Kidz Krazie
 - Kingston Parks and Recreation – Smokin' the Waters
 - T.O. Fuller State Park – Turtle Patrol and Rescue

Individual Service Awards: *active member of a park board, commission or council*

- * Lewis Norman, Dyersburg City Councilman and Board Member
- * John Wilbanks (of Pigeon Forge Parks and Recreation), Commissioners Advisory Council on Greenways and Trails

- Benefactor Awards:**
- Colonial Pipeline Company – Playground at Athens Regional Park
 - Friends of Centennial Park and the Parthenon – Nashville Parthenon
 - Friends of Warriors Path State Park – Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground



Season's Greetings

from the municipal financing experts at the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund.

May next year bring peace and joy to your community and our nation.



Charles G. Bones Seivers
President - Chief Executive Officer



W. Kevin Barnett
Vice President - Marketing



Wade Morrell
Controller



Joseph Muscatello Jr.
Marketing Representative



Lorrie Nelson
Loan Coordinator/Secretary



TMLBF
TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND

Tennessee’s Main Streets offer holiday festivities

*’Twas the night before Christmas
and all over the state
Business was booming, the sales
were just great
Main streets glowed brightly in
each lovely town
And store fronts were bustling up
this street and down
Each city attending to shoppers
with care,
In hope that fresh tax dollars soon
would be there
For freshly poured sidewalks, new
roads, how refreshing!
Ball diamonds, and sewers and
schools, what a blessing!
Merchants served cookies, hot tea
and the like
While Santa took pictures with
each tiny tyke
And I heard him exclaim, all jolly
and vocal
Merry Christmas to all! And to all—
SHOP LOCAL!*

From Christmas parades to tree lightings, Tennessee’s Main Street communities are in full swing this holiday season offering an abundance of Christmas festivities and events.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) encourages Tennesseans to participate in Main Street events and patron small businesses in downtown districts.

“All across Tennessee, local downtown businesses want to bring families together for holiday events and provide a personable shopping experience,” said Kimberly Nyberg, ECD Main Street coordinator.

“Shoppers have the satisfaction of investing dollars in the economic growth of their own community and experiencing a level of individual attention and customer service not found elsewhere.”

“When you visit downtown merchants, no matter what community you live in, you get the customer attention with a smile, hands-on service and unique products,” said Sharon Marr, executive director of Main Street Cleveland. “It is the experience of a slower pace and you feel good when you are there.”

Tennessee’s Main Street pro-

gram provides communities with technical assistance and guidance in developing long-term strategies that promote economic growth and development.

The program provides information and assistance in forging public networking and training opportunities for downtown commercial districts.

“Revitalization of the downtown district is one of the major steps often overlooked in community development,” said ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber. “By joining the Main Street Program and committing to meeting its certification requirements, cities are investing in the physical environment of their communities and making a smart choice for their economic environments as well.”

Main Street revitalization is a

comprehensive, incremental, self-help economic strategy that also focuses on developing public-private partnerships to enhance community livability and job creation, while maintaining the historic character of the district.

Tennessee has 20 Main Street communities: Bristol, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Johnson City, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, McMinnville, Murfreesboro, Tiptonville, Union City,



Photo courtesy of Tiffany Graham Cable Channel 10

Franklin’s “Dickens of a Christmas” has become a huge draw for Christmas shoppers with special events and characters in period costumes along the historic shopping district



Photo courtesy of the Clarksville Chamber

More than 2 million lights in displays along the Cumberland bring visitors, diners and shoppers to Clarksville



The historic main street district in Gallatin.



Photos by Victoria South

The Christmas parade in Gallatin drew scores of shoppers to the quaint boutiques and restaurants along Main Street

TDEC offers tips for a greener holiday

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation offers the following tips for a greener holiday and New Year:

- Give consumable gifts such as candles, soap, note cards or food items
- Bring along your own cloth bag for holiday shopping
- Give environmentally friendly gifts such as canvas bags, travel mugs, garden tools, or cloth napkins and linens. Avoid battery-dependent gifts or tools, or provide rechargeable batteries
- Donate money to a cause the recipient cares about
- Choose well-made classic items such as books, sports equipment, long-lasting cooking or building tools. Think repairable!
- Chip or compost a cut tree after the holiday season is over.
- Use a digital camera at holiday events

- Start a savings account for a child or give stocks or bonds.
- Shop for gifts at antique stores, estate sales or flea markets.
- Use yarn or raffia instead of ribbon or bows; wrap gifts in newspaper or use brown paper bags.
- Give a compact fluorescent bulb or light fixture; they last longer, burn cooler, and use 75% less energy.
- Use LED Christmas lights to decorate the tree. Check out www.efi.org for a list of energy-efficient products.
- Tie a simple bow around oversized gifts instead of gift-wrapping them.
- Donate unwanted gifts and last year’s gifts the kids have outgrown to charitable organizations.
- During the holidays, take the time to enjoy what’s readily available right in your own backyard!

Shopping with a cop making the difference at Christmas

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

For some children, Christmas means getting to hang out with their brand new buddies, the police officers of Columbia.

Pancake and white bean supper fundraisers have enabled Columbia’s police officers to once again join other participating cities and counties across the state in helping needy children experience a fun-filled evening of food, fellowship and Christmas shopping through the Shop-with-a-Cop program.

Established by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in order to build positive relationships between police officers and children, Columbia has participated in the program since 2003.

“It’s growing each year,” said Sergeant Terry Peery, the event’s coordinator. “This year, we were able to provide food baskets to the families of the children as well. They are all at-risk kids. Most are from Columbia’s housing projects.”

After school, participating officers treated 14 children to lunch at a local Pizza Hut, then on to an afternoon of Christmas shopping at Walmart and the movies.

“Some of the children have to be coached to buy something for themselves,” said Peery. “Surprisingly, most choose clothes over toys.”

The officers plan to participate in the program next year hoping that donations will increase significantly so that they might help more and more families each Christmas.

“Some areas, such as Metro Nashville, have served 100 kids,”



Photo courtesy of Columbia Police Dept.

Columbia’s police officers made Christmas a lot brighter for a group of children recently through the Shop with a Cop program. Fundraisers and donations enabled officers to provide food baskets for 14 homes, taking the children shopping and out for pizza and a movie

Peery said, hopeful that the Columbia program will one day reach that level.

According to Peery, the social interaction between the officers and the children is priceless. “The kids are so funny. The officers and the

children always have a night of laughter.”

We have officers helping out from the vice and narcotics division, and now these kids just love them.

Helping the children helps the police officers as well.”

Tennessee fuel coalition wins biofuel projects award

The East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition has won a U.S. Department of Energy grant award of \$590,000 to assist with public biofuel pump costs at existing gas stations. Tennessee joins Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina as recipients of the DOE’s second Clean City grant award this year.

The awards will allow all four states to open 36 renewable fuel

pumps at 24 public stations.

The East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition will open four stations in Cleveland, Knoxville and Ooltewah.

All pumps will offer either E85 or B20. E85 is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. B20 is a blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum.

The East Tennessee Clean Fuels

Coalition is one of 90 national coalitions working to improve air quality and reduce dependence on petroleum fuels.

Tennessee local governments may apply for a free Biodiesel Infrastructure Grant to install biodiesel tanks, pumps and card readers by calling ECD Energy Division Program Manager Terry Ellis toll-free at 1-800-342-1340.

Nashville No. 5 in America’s Most Digital Cities for 2006

Nashville placed 5th in America as The Most Digital City based on the Center for Digital Government’s 2006 Digital Cities Survey.

The sixth annual study examines how city governments are utilizing digital technologies to better serve their citizens and streamline operations.

“We were so happy to see the fantastic improvements and innovations made by cities from coast to coast,” said Cathilea Robinett, executive director for the Center for Digital Government. “We continually see America’s state and local governments raising the bar and expanding their use of technology to serve citizens. We can’t help but be inspired and impressed by the amazing strides made by this year’s participating cities.”

While the survey is open to all U.S. cities with populations of 30,000 or more, there are a handful of cities consistently at the front of the pack.

Of note, Corpus Christi, TX has been in the top 10 since 2003 as has Madison, WI. Both took top honors in their categories. In cities between 125, 000 and 250,000 in population, Alexandria, VA

shares first place with Madison, WI having held fourth place last year.

Other top performers from the past include Roanoke, which placed first in all but one year, Ogden, UT which held first in 2004 and Delray Beach, FL which took first place last year in its first year in the survey.

Winners were honored at a special awards ceremony conducted by the Center for Digital Government December 7th in Reno, Nev. **Digital Cities Top Ten - 250,000 or more population:**

- 1st Corpus Christi, Texas
- 2nd Tampa, Fla.
- 3rd Tucson, Ariz.
- 4th Aurora, Colo.
- 5th Nashville, Tenn.
- 6th Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 7th San Diego, Calif.
- 8th Miami, Fla.
- 9th Mesa, Ariz. (tie)
- 9th Washington, D.C. (tie)
- 10th 10th Phoenix, Ariz. (tie)
- 10th Riverside, Calif. (tie)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
from the staff of
The Tennessee Municipal League

Kay Senter sees overlap in her philosophies of education and public service

BY GAEL STAHL
Editor

Kay Senter, vice mayor of Morristown, is the rare “Tennessee Teacher of the Year” who can compare her philosophy of teaching to her philosophy of public service.

She was born in Memphis in 1949 when her mother, Betty C. Kinser, was getting a then rare BS nursing degree at the University of Tennessee Nursing School and her father was completing his medical degree from the UT Memphis Medical School. Dr. John H. Kinser interned at St. Mary’s Hospital in Knoxville. He set up its emergency room, then served in the Air Force conducting basic training physicals at Columbia, SC. He founded a private practice in Morristown in 1952, continued it for 50 years, and has been Hamblen County medical examiner since 1964. Nurse Kinser gave up outside nursing to practice it at home raising four children, including Senter’s sisters, Viki Kinser and Brenda Johnson, and a brother, the late John Kinser Jr. Her mother taught Senter to always stay positive and focus her efforts where she could make a difference. Her father urged her to never stop seeing every situation as a learning opportunity.

Senter was a school mascot in elementary school and a cheerleader in junior high. She was a cheerleader all four years of high school –also vice president of the student council and member of the Beta Club Pep Club, and Tri-Hi-Y, graduating from Morristown High in 1967.

Her first date with Jim Senter, the captain of the football team, was when he escorted her as homecoming queen candidate. He won a full scholarship to play football at East Tennessee State University. Kay went to Emory & Henry College in southwestern Virginia graduating in 1971. They married in 1971. Jim was stationed four years at Warner Robins Air Force Base serving as a medic and orthopedic tech. Kay started work on her master’s, taught English at Warner Robins High School, and was the sponsor of the Pep Club the same year when the football team played in the state championship at Valdosta. In 1972, their son, James “Jim” David Senter III, was born. He and his wife, Brooke, live in Farragut with their two- year-old son, Grant. Senter is a proud grandmother.

Back in Morristown in 1974, Jim worked in the family wholesale grocery business, managed physician practices, and recruited physicians until he died suddenly of a heart attack in 2002. Kay began teaching at Morristown High School in 1974. She also completed 30 semester hours above her master’s degree at UT and has been a Career Ladder II teacher since 1984. In 1991, she was elected First Lady of Morristown. She was one of only two statewide high school teacher finalists to make it to the final round of the of the 2004 Teacher of the Year award.

Elected to the Morristown Council in 1993, Senter has served four terms. She is still the only female councilmember ever elected and is serving her third year as vice mayor. She is chair of the Finance Committee. She chaired the 1995-1997 Vision 2000 Community Planning Committee, chaired the Industrial Park Land Criteria Committee, and was a member of the city’s Technology Task Force. She was council representative on the Downtown Morristown Partnership Board, and in 2005, was elected to the 911 Board, the Hamblen County Emergency Communications District Board. She is now serving on the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and on the board of directors of Morristown-Hamblen Community Hospital.

For TML, she has served on the Board of Directors as District 2 director in 1994-5, 1998-9, and 2004-7. She has been on the TML Public Safety Policy Committee for six years and was on the Strategic Planning Committee 1998-9. A member of Tennessee Women In Government since 1993, she served as its president in 1998-9.

Senter has been a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee since 1997 and of NLC’s Women in Municipal Government since 1993 and was president of WIMG in 2006.

TT&C: Who steered you to teaching?

KS: My mentor was Ralph Sharp, the teacher of advanced senior English, who inspired every female who went through his class. He challenged us, “All you girls are going to do when you go to college is get a degree, find a husband, and scramble eggs for the rest of your lives.” We all responded to the challenge. At the last class reunion, they invited Ralph back and told him, “Ralph, we’ve done a little bit more than find a husband and scramble eggs.”

TT&C: Compare your philosophy of education and philosophy of public service.

KS: Both are about life and the complexity of life. Yesterday, my students and I were discussing “The Death of the Moth,” an essay by Virginia Woolf. By examining the edges of life, we see the nature of life and come to see there is an integrity that each individual deserves, even in the way that the moth struggled to free itself from the confines of the window –to live. The moth manages to stand on its feet and face death. At one point, Woolf almost turns the moth over with her pencil but stops because she realizes that to interrupt the process would only prolong the inevitable and take away from the self-determination of the moth to face death on its own terms.

The themes and values presented in English literature parallel the undertones of mu-



Kay Senter at the NLC Congress of Cities in December 2006

nicipal life. We learn much about ourselves while helping others in public service.

TT&C: Exactly how does it apply to municipal service?

KS: Education and public service are similar in data gathering and making informed decisions. Learning is a lifetime process in both fields. Elected officials must be aware of current trends and realize that no one individual has the answers to all problems. Collaboration and networking are necessary.

In education and in the city, vision and implementation of the vision is a process. Those who scatter the seeds of potential ideas may not be the ones who see the harvest or fruition of their efforts. One must also be mindful that today’s decisions will potentially affect many generations to come.

TT&C: What kinds of things do you have to do to be chosen First Lady of Morristown? Did that help you go on to win 75 percent of the vote for city council on your first try?

KS: To be nominated for First Lady, you had to prepare your resume. I had worked with our son to become an Eagle Scout and helped start the Hurricane Alumni Association. I was on the United Way Board, Delta Kappa Gamma, and served on the Homecoming ’86 Committee. I was president of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities and co-ordinated the Historic Bethesda Days and the Crockett Tavern Museum Roof Raising project. I was on the board of Discover Tennessee and Girls Incorporated and president of Hamblen County Historical Society

That led friends to say I had the kind of diverse professional background needed to run for public office as an educator.

TT&C: Did you have any personal reasons for running for the city council?

KS: While visiting Hilton Head in the late 1980s, I was impressed by the wonderful landscaping due to its ordinances regulating setbacks and signage. As a citizen I went before city council to recommend improving Morristown’s downtown. I felt that my ideas were not well received. I was told, “We’re not Hilton Head. We’re Morristown.” I remembered that when I ran for office. I thought maybe if I were a councilmember, I would make the public feel more welcome at council meetings.

TTC: How did you go about becoming the city’s first councilwoman?

KS: I interviewed all the department heads, City Administrator Keith Jackson, County Executive Paul Bruce, the city finance director, City Engineer Philip Lynn, and City Planner Jim Ellison. I felt I needed information before deciding whether or not this was an area in which I could focus my efforts and make a positive impact. I was well received. The finance director told me no one had ever talked to him about the budget before the election.

TT&C: Is the council more receptive now?

KS: We have opened up lines of communication and respect the fact that everyone has an opinion. There are no wrong questions, and everyone should be *entitled* to ask their questions and present ideas to the council. The protocol for meetings can make it a bit hard for people to know when and how to speak at meetings. With regard to downtown landscaping, we have a landscaping ordinance in place now and a city planner aware of signage. We evaluated our trailer park ordinance, which hadn’t been done in 20 years, and we have setback requirements in place for all development projects.

TT&C: How quickly did you get involved in TML and NLC activities?

KS: At the first TML conference after I was elected in 1993, I met Germantown Mayor

Sharon Goldsworthy when then Mayor Bredesen’s wife spoke at the first TWIG meeting I attended. That fall, I attended my first NLC conference in Orlando. I found a niche in the NLC’s constituency group, WIMG.

TML and NLC provide opportunities for elected officials to join smaller groups to get to know and learn from each other. We don’t live in a vacuum. Because of my interest in public safety at TML, I became a member of the NLC Public Safety Steering Committee.

TML break-out sessions lead to exchanges of ideas. For example, after Morristown finished its MainStreet project, we collaborated with the Athens Main Street project. The Hastings and Chivetta evaluation of Morristown was an outgrowth of the Vision 2000 Community Planning Steering Committee that I chaired. Athens heard about our visioning process and implemented its own Main Street project.

TT&C: What is special about Morristown?

KS: Morristown is unique in that we have, with a population of 25,000, a small town feel, yet maybe 15,000 people commute in and out of Morristown each day to work. We have three teeming industrial parks. The first one is almost 50 years old, the second started in 1980, and by 1995, we needed a third –an investment of 980 acres. In the third park, there are four Japanese companies, one Canadian and two American. Fourteen international flags fly over Mor-ristown, bringing us diversity in culture.

Morristown City Council has an outstanding partnership with the county commission. We cooperatively manage the landfill, the 911 Board, and recycling.

We were recently designated a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) including 160,000 people from Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, and Jefferson counties.

TT&C: Why is Morristown a regional hub?

KS: Part of it is geographical. City hall is located at the “Crossroads of Dixie” where the main roads from Knoxville to Baltimore and the famous Buffalo Trail from Cumberland Gap cross each other and where the stage coach ran from Kentucky to the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia.

Morristown is the home of the Davy Crockett Tavern and Museum and Rose Center, which is a regional cultural and performing arts center.

Companies and individuals are attracted because Morristown is located between Cherokee Lake and Douglas Lake. Morristown is also in a valley between two mountain recreation areas, Clinch Mountain/Cumberland Gap and the Great Smoky Mountains.

Colgate is coming to Morristown and investing \$58 million. All Colgate Total brand toothpaste will be made at Morristown employing 200, eventually 400, people.

TT&C: You’ve done historical work?

KS: In the 1980s, I did a two-week summer course at Appalachia State University. Jim Wayne Miller (a college professor who worked in the Poet-in-the Schools program in Virginia), Wilma Dykeman (writer and Tennessee State Historian) and Eustas Conway (a graduate of ASU who became a naturalist), were there. At the end of that course Miller led a canoe trip on the New River and stopped periodically to read poetry to us. I later brought Eustas Conway to Morristown to help when we received a grant to put another roof on the Davy Crockett Museum out-building. I have been president of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities and was the first female president of the Hamblen Historical Society when we received a grant to put another roof on the Davy Crockett out building.

TT&C: When did Davy Crockett live here? KS:

He grew up here. The Crockett Cabin is on

the street where I live. Crockett was born in Limestone but went to school here. His family ran what we would now call a Bed and Breakfast. When his father incurred debts, he farmed Davy out to earn money to pay them off. Once, Davy left home and lived for a while with one of his teachers to escape forced labor.

The Crockett Museum has two rooms on the main floor and two rooms upstairs – one for travelers and one room where the children stayed. The basement of the Tavern also houses a pioneer museum and a separate room dedicated to the art of weaving in pioneer days. We have recently added a small souvenir/information center. My friend Sally Baker is the curator of the Davy Crockett Museum.

TT&C: What do you mean when you say you’re a hands-on kind of person?

KS: As a member of our first Citizen’s Police Academy, I went out to the firing range. I did a ride-along so I could know what our officers experienced. When we got the new garbage truck, I asked to drive it – and did. At the groundbreaking for Fire Station No. 5, I asked the chief if I could drive the new ladder truck. It drives like a dream.

Deputy Chief Ryan with the approval of Chief Honeycutt gave me the rare opportunity of participating in a live burn. He outfitted me in the oxygen tank, mask, and other regalia. I was mesmerized by how the firefighters were trained to use the fire hoses. The flames shooting out were beautiful. He ordered me to get down on my knees. I said, “I couldn’t get up if I did. You didn’t tell me I had to get down on my knees.” He said, “It’s going to be a 1,000 degrees up there in minutes. Your helmet is going to melt around your ears.” I got down on my knees. This experience gave me confidence to be the only female to volunteer to participate in a flashover trailer fire drill exercise with the NLC Public Safety Committee in 2003. In this drill, an entire room and its contents simultaneously ignite. I have tremendous admiration for all of our public safety personnel. I think I have found my niche in public safety.

TT&C: Have you brought that kind of experience back to TML and NLC, too?

KS: Yes. At policy meetings. I’ve been on the NLC Public Safety Steering Committee since 1997. I hosted the NLC Public Safety Steering Committee in Morristown in 2002. Elected officials from all over the United States came to Morristown and were thoroughly impressed. Our Public Safety, Police, and Fire departments had a static display for them to walk through and see all we had to offer. One mayor was so impressed with our industrial parks that he went back to Bismarck, ND, to establish an industrial park with infrastructure and covenants similar to those in Morristown’s industrial parks.

One of our committee members, Ann Simack, had just been elected to the Oklahoma City Council three months before the April 1995 bombing. During that disaster the inability of radios of the various public safety agencies was apparent.

Interoperability of first responders is essential. TML and NLC are continuing to work on this problem utilizing information gained from the Oklahoma City disaster. Simack and Olden Henson of Oakland, Calif., (both members of the NLC – PSCP) testified before a congressional committee about the need for specified radio frequencies for public safety and inter-operability.

In the summer of 2006, I co-hosted the WIMG summer conference and board meeting in Savannah, Ga., with my friend Edna Jackson, mayor pro tem of Savannah. Women municipal elected officials from all over the United States participated in this conference.

TT&C: Awhile back, Morristown began the process of establishing its own cable service. Anything to report yet?

KS: It’s up and running. We offer cable TV, Internet service, and phone services over a fiber optic network to the home. We’re partnering with Synergy Communications for the phone service. Morristown Utilities is providing cable TV and Internet.

Our rates are very competitive with Charter and BellSouth. We began offering services May 1 and currently have 2,200 customers subscribed with a target of 3,500 by May 1. We’ll be in a positive cash flow at that point.

It’s very successful to this point. Customers seem to like the benefits we offer including a local office where they can walk in off the street.

A benefit for municipalities providing this service is that we’re able to partner with the city for other services much more economically. With Morristown, we are doing projects like handling their email and providing wireless service for the police and fire departments.

TT&C: Do you have any new dreams for Morristown?

KS: I have a couple. One goal I’d like to achieve is a community center that I’ve been working on for 10 years. This idea was a concept that came from the Vision 2000 in 1995; however, it has encountered major obstacles that have prevented us from bringing it to fruition. My second goal is seeing Morristown College, a 52-acre site in the middle of town, refurbished. The historical African-American college, which is on the National Registry, closed in 1994. It is a wonderful opportunity to own 52 acres in the center of town. We have someone who may be interested in developing a retirement community on the site.