

Changes enacted to Red Flags regulations

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

On the last day of 2010 and after numerous delays in implementation the Identity Theft Red Flag Rules of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act (FACTA) became effective.

These rules, aimed at identifying and preventing identity theft, caused much consternation among local governments upon their initial release. Central to that worry was the question of applicability. Some of this uncertainty was alleviated by the Red Flag Program Clarification Act of 2010, passed during the recent lame-duck Congressional session.

Under the new Act a municipal service or utility is subject to the Red Flag Rule requirements if it meets the definition of "creditor". The new Act defines "creditor" as an entity that regularly in the course of business:

- 1)Obtains or uses consumer reports, directly or indirectly, in connection with credit transactions;
- 2)Furnishes information to consumer reporting agencies in connection with credit transactions; or,
- 3)Advances funds to or on behalf of a person, based on an obligation of the person to repay the funds or repayable from pledged property (as in the case of payday lenders or check cashers)

A municipal utility who does not regularly engage in the aforementioned activities may be exempt from the law and thus not subject to its policy, training and reporting requirements. Before a city acts upon this information, a thorough examination of its policies and procedures and consultation with the city attorney is recommended.

For further information go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact your MTAS Management Consultant.

Kelley resigns; Tharpe named interim TML president

On Dec. 20, Governor-elect Bill Haslam appointed Dale Kelley, presiding TML President and Huntingdon mayor, as his special advisor for legislation, a Cabinet-level position.

To avoid any suggestion of a conflict of interest, Mayor Kelley submitted and the executive committee accepted his resignation as president of the Tennessee Municipal League.

Under the League's by-laws, the president is to be elected at the annual conference. As such, Mayor Kelley's resignation creates the possibility of a six-month period in which the League would be without a president. The executive commit-

tee felt it would be imprudent to enter a year marked by a new administration and an historic legislative session absent a president.

The executive committee considered several different possibilities and after giving consideration to several factors including preserving the rotation of the office of the president among the grand divisions and respecting the terms of ascending officers. The executive committee unanimously voted to recommend that Sam Tharpe, current mayor of Paris, TML board member, and former TML president, be appointed to serve out the remainder of Mayor's Kelley's term.

The executive committee rea-

soned that as a former TML president, Mayor Tharpe is familiar with the role and responsibilities of the League's president. Moreover, as

from rain or other precipitation to be absorbed into the ground. As a result, rainwater carries pollutants from these hardened surfaces into bodies of water, creating health hazards and damaging the environment. Local governments with stormwater programs are permitted to charge fees to fund their programs for the benefit of everyone in the community. Services may include flood control, development regulation, and pollution prevention. Since everyone benefits from the services, all property owners, including churches, nonprofit organizations, and homeowners share towards the overall cost of the stormwater management program. In Tennessee, only farmers and persons whose storm water runoff is not discharged into or through the stormwater or flood control facilities are exempt from the payment of this fee.

The city of Chattanooga was instrumental in seeking clarification



Sam Tharpe

soned that as a former TML president, Mayor Tharpe is familiar with the role and responsibilities of the League's president. Moreover, as

See TML on Page 8

Republicans take the reins at the state house

Bill Haslam became the 49th governor of Tennessee on Jan. 15, promising to set the state on a course toward economic recovery.

"As we slowly reverse the negative trends of the economic downturn that gripped our state and nation, we will be diligent in watching the weight of state government, going on a diet of efficiency and effectiveness," Haslam pledged during his inaugural address.

Given before an estimated crowd of more than 3,000 who gathered outside the state Capitol, his speech, covered his three biggest priorities: job, education and managing the state's budget.

Earlier that week, the 107th Tennessee General Assembly convened, to take the oath of office, elect officers, and organize the business of the 2010-2011 legislative sessions.

It marked the first time since 1869 that Republicans control both chambers of the legislature as well as the governor's office.

In the Senate, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey was re-elected to his third term as Senate speaker. And in the House, it was an historic moment when Rep. Beth Harwell was elected the first female speaker in Tennessee history.

The Senate welcomed four new members – all Republicans – increasing the majority party to 20 - 13. In the House, 22 new freshmen took the oath of office, giving the Republican party a 64-34 advantage over the Democrats.

The legislature's organizational week ended with the inauguration of Gov. Haslam. The General Assembly now stands in a brief recess to allow for office assignments.

Coverage of Gov Haslam's Cabinet, the Inauguration, opening day of the 107th General Assembly, and legislative committee assignments begins on Page 4.



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey is re-elected to his third term of office as Speaker of the Tennessee Senate.



Gov. Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam give a thumbs up following the inauguration.

Photos by Victoria South and Carole Graves



Rep. Beth Harwell is sworn in as the first female speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives for the 107th General Assembly

ECD program helps citizens learn the basics of downtown revival



Main Street Collierville

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

There's a science to reviving the downtowns of yesterday and Tennessee's citizens are eager to learn it. Tennessee Downtowns, a highly competitive, educationally-tiered training program sponsored by The Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD), supplies guidance and information about sustainable downtown revitalization and historic preservation to citizens from all walks of life.

"The Tennessee Downtowns program provides communities an opportunity to explore all the moving parts of revitalizing a traditional downtown commercial area," explains Kimberly Nyberg, ECD Main Street director. "Some communities just want to find out what the downtown revitalization commitment means before making the transition into a full-time downtown management program like Main Street."

Based on the National Main Street Center approach, the Tennessee Downtowns program requires eligible commercial districts to be at least 50 years or older. They are selected to participate in the pro-

gram according to various criteria: historic resources (economic and physical), demonstrated local effort, overall presentation and probability of success. Each community is represented by volunteer steering committees; five citizens committed to attending the monthly meetings and working incrementally through the 18-month program. "It's humbling to watch dedicated citizens put their time and sweat into the communities they love," said Andrea Fanta, Tennessee Downtowns program manager. "The common thread is that they are fully invested and care about creating a sense of place and a quality, livable place."

Each group will ultimately devise project plans for their downtowns based on the national methodology, which emphasizes four key areas: organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring. While the methodology is the same across the U.S., each community decides how to wield this approach to meet their specific needs. The program provides technical assistance, workshops and \$15,000 in grant funding for the projects.

"What it comes down to is not

See DOWNTOWNS on Page 11

Congress clarifies stormwater fee assessments

BY DENISE PAIGE
TML Legislative Staff

Earlier this month, President Obama signed S. 3481 into law, clarifying that federal agencies are required to pay local stormwater fees used to fund programs that reduce pollution going into community lakes, streams, and rivers. Stormwater utilities require most property owners to pay fees based on the amount of impervious surface area like rooftops, parking lots, and compacted soil located on their parcels of land. The bill was introduced to resolve disagreements over whether agencies like post offices, power authorities, and federal buildings were exempt from payment of these fees.

Stormwater runoff is one of the fastest growing sources of pollution in water today and includes bacteria, sediments, chemicals, trash, pesticides, and motor vehicle fluids. Impervious surfaces prevent runoff

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

Alcoa held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the \$1.5 million Alcoa Greenway Pedestrian Bridge and West Hunt Road trail extension. After more than a decade of planning, the bridge linking the existing 10 miles of the Alcoa and Maryville greenway trails to the western side of Alcoa, are complete. The bridge spans the U.S. 129 Bypass between the Alcoa Municipal Building in Springbrook Corporate Center and Anderson Lumber Company. Supported by two concrete abutments, the bridge is 225 feet long, rises 21 feet above the highway, and is accessible by approach ramps on either end. Aluminum letters spelling out “City of Alcoa” adorn each side of the bridge, backlit by LED fixtures. The project was fully funded by state and federal grants.

CHATTANOOGA

Amazon.com, Inc. has finalized its commitment to establish two fulfillment centers in Tennessee, one at the Enterprise South Industrial Park in Chattanooga and the other along State Route 308 in neighboring Bradley County. Amazon.com.dedc, LLC plans to invest a combined total of up to \$139 million to construct the two new facilities, with up to 1,400 jobs expected to be created in the next three years, in addition to hundreds of additional seasonal jobs

during peak season. The new fulfillment centers are expected to be operational before the 2011 holiday season.

CHATTANOOGA

The city was recently awarded the Entrepreneurial Livable Community Award by Washington-based Partners for Livable Communities. The award recognizes the community’s entrepreneurial spirit in its transformation to become a model for sustainable development and prosperity. “The unique partnerships between city and citizenry, public and private entities, to improve local quality of life have transformed Chattanooga into a national model of sustainable growth and regional prosperity,” said Partners for Livable Communities president Bob McNulty.

CLINTON

Clinton is Tennessee’s best small town for raising children, according to Bloomberg’s *BusinessWeek*, the financial news publication’s fifth annual ranking of areas to raise kids focused on small communities. Factors considered in the evaluation of the 5,418 places included a community’s number of schools, academic rankings, cost of living, job growth, air quality and access to recreational and cultural facilities. In awarding top billing to Clinton, the publication noted the city of 9,224 residents is planning to develop its Clinch River waterfront into a recre-

ational area with hiking and bike trails. Additionally, 54 percent of the students at Anderson County High School posted advanced scores on state criterion referenced tests, beating the state average of 41 percent.

COOKEVILLE

When the city offices shut down for the Christmas holiday, every light, computer, and non-essential electronic item operating there did as well. The effort is part of an energy efficiency project dubbed the “Cookeville Unplugged Challenge,” which targets items that are commonly left on overnight, during the weekends and over holiday breaks. The hope is that it will help cut costs in terms of energy usage at the approximately 20 city buildings scattered throughout town. The city is partnering with Cummins Filtration, which has implemented a similar environmental challenge program company-wide and has saved nearly \$1 million at 54 sites by reducing electrical and natural gas usage. Cummins is helping Cookeville officials fine-tune its new program by providing the city with technical assistance and training for a team of “energy leaders.” Those energy leaders, 20 city employees chosen from all city departments, will begin a 10-week training module in mid-January. Currently, combined utility cost for all city facilities including the Municipal Building, fire and police stations is approximately \$85,000 a month.

COOKEVILLE

Approximately 516 volunteers signed up for duty during this year’s TSSAA BlueCross Bowl held Dec. 2-4 at Tennessee Tech’s Tucker Stadium. “Two years in a row these games have been a tremendous success, and there is no way we could have done it without the 500-plus volunteers,” said Bob Luna, chairman of the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. According to TSSAA, the estimate for total attendance is 45,962. The event is such a success that representatives from Tennessee Tech, Cookeville and the Highlands region plan to make a presentation to the TSSAA Board of Control in January to host basketball as well. The TSSAA Board has granted a two-



Former ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber speaks along with Asurion President Gerald Risk and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, at the Asurion announcement on Dec. 16.

year extension to Cookeville to host the games through 2012. The 2011 BlueCross Bowl is confirmed and scheduled for Dec. 1-3.

DYERSBURG

Dyersburg’s Roger Hawkins Water Treatment Plant was awarded the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Association’s 2010 Julian R. Fleming Award for Outstanding Water Treatment Plant at a Nov. 18 awards banquet in Parsons. The prestigious statewide award is presented to one water treatment plant in the state each year. The award is presented in honor of Julian R. Fleming, a Tennessee native noted for his pioneering work in the field.

GALLATIN

A state road grant approved by the Gallatin City Council could lead to more jobs for Sumner County residents. The state Department of Transportation has agreed to pay \$1.9 million for a road into the city’s new industrial park, with the stipulation that the first tract of land must be sold within three years of the project’s completion. If the city doesn’t have a commitment from a new firm by that time, it must reimburse the state. The 207-acre second phase of the industrial park, purchased in 2007, is adjacent to the first phase.

GOODLETTSVILLE

The tobacco company Commonwealth Brands Inc. is moving its headquarters from Bowling Green, Ky. to Goodlettsville in the spring of 2011. The company, which sells USA Gold cigarettes among its eight brands, has a 4 percent market share of the cigarette industry. An estimated 83 employees have indicated they’ll make the move with Commonwealth from Kentucky, and the firm could add a few more jobs once here. Commonwealth, formed in Bowling Green in 1991, also has a cigarette manufacturing plant in Reidsville, N.C. and is a subsidiary of the British company Imperial Tobacco.

GOODLETTSVILLE

Goodlettsville-based Dollar General Corp. plans its largest expansion in four years opening 625 new stores nationwide this year. The discount store chain plans to create 6,000 new jobs, including 250 in Tennessee, which will get about 25 new stores. The company also plans to remodel or relocate 550 stores.

JACKSON

Construction of a new solar power system in Jackson is nearing completion. The one megawatt solar power system with a 47-kilowatt solar array located in Madison Industrial Park, will take up nearly 20 acres of the 55-acre site. One megawatt provides enough energy to power 1,000 houses. Meridian Development Partners purchased the property in 2008 and negotiated with Natural Energy Group, a group of Tennessee investors formed to help launch large-scale solar projects, to bring the project to fruition. The

solar facility is expected to help lure other industries to the site.

LEBANON

Two companies plan to lay off a total of 93 workers. Menlo Worldwide Logistics will close its Lebanon location laying off 68 employees. The trucking and supply chain company is part of industry giant Conway. In Murfreesboro. B&W Wholesale Distributors LLC plans to lay off 25 people. The company is touted as Middle Tennessee’s largest distributor of tobacco products, health and beauty products and candy.

MEMPHIS

Electrolux will build a \$190 million manufacturing facility in Memphis with a work force of more than 1,200. State officials said that with construction, procurement and additional supply chain activity, the project could result in 2,260 more jobs and \$550 million in additional capital investment in the region. The 700,000-square-foot facility will make major cooking appliances in the Frank C. Pidgeon Industrial Park. Construction is to begin in early 2011 with production to begin in mid-2012. Electrolux said Memphis was chosen based on its skilled labor pool, central location and closeness to another company plant in Springfield. That plant is 200 miles to the northeast and employs about 2,900.

NASHVILLE

Executives of Asurion announced an agreement which will keep the company’s corporate headquarters in Davidson County and expand the presence of one of the nation’s leading technology protection companies in Tennessee. Under the agreement, Asurion has committed to add more than 500 jobs to its current Tennessee work force of 2,400 employees over the next five years. The company originally began with a business model focused on providing roadside rescue services to stranded motorists, then expanded into insuring, recovering and repairing mobile phones and home electronics. Today, those services are provided to more than 90 million customers around the world. Asurion operates out of headquarters facilities in Grassmere Park in Nashville and operates two technology and logistics centers in Rutherford County.

SMYRNA

Nissan’s Smyrna assembly plant will be producing yet another new vehicle, beginning sometime in 2013, as the automaker moves production of the compact Nissan Rogue crossover to the US from a plant in Japan. The Smyrna plant also will be the site of North American production of Nissan’s new Leaf electric car, beginning in 2012, which will add about 1,300 jobs to the plant. Most of those positions will be at the adjacent \$1 billion lithium-ion battery plant, which is under construction.



Dyersburg’s Roger Hawkins Water Treatment Plant was awarded the Tennessee Water and Wastewater Association’s 2010 Julian R. Fleming Award for Outstanding Water Treatment Plant.



PEOPLE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Former Sen. **Dewayne Bunch**, Cleveland, was recently appointed as an administrative law judge by Secretary of State Tré Hargett. Bunch will be based in East Tennessee.



Bunch

Nashville Mayor **Karl Dean** has been selected as “Tennessean of the Year” by the readership and editorial board of the *Tennessean* newspaper. Dean was primarily lauded for his leadership during the historic May flood. Dean was also recognized for the \$585 million Music City Center, one of Dean’s pet projects, and a deal with Omni Hotels under his administration, the future \$273 million headquarters hotel across Fifth Avenue South from the convention center.



Dean

The National League of Cities (NLC) has selected the 2011 leaders for NLC steering committees, councils and panels. Among those selected were Farragut Vice Mayor, **Dot LaMarche**, vice chair of the Human Development (HD) Policy and Advocacy Committee; Nashville Council member **Vivian Wilhoite**, vice chair of the Information Technology and Communications (ITC) Policy and Advocacy Committee; and Nashville Councilmember At Large **Ronnie Steine**, vice chair of the Council on Youth, Education, and Families (YEF).



LaMarche



Wilhoite



Steine

State Rep. **Joe Armstrong**, who represents Knoxville’s inner city, has been chosen president-elect of the National Black Caucus of State

Legislators, based in Washington. Scheduled to take office in 2012, Armstrong has been active in the organization since first being elected to the Legislature in 1989.



Armstrong

South Fulton city manager **Jeff Vowell** has resigned his position to return to the banking profession. Vowell, who is from the Twin Cities, has a background in banking and production and was hired as city manager in December 2007. South Fulton Mayor David Crocker will serve as the city’s interim city manager until the position is filled permanently.



Vowell



Crocker

Genevieve Cohen, the mother of U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, passed away recently in Memphis.

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Transportation plan geared to “modernize” Middle Tennessee

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

Once upon a time, before the ‘American Dream’ became a giant suburban house, with a fenced in yard and two cars in the driveway, running an errand meant putting one foot in front of the other along tree-lined sidewalks that led to nearby grocery stores, the barber shop, or a quick fix of double chocolate chip. Streetcars moved with ease along major downtown arteries, commuting by train was commonplace and there was a bus stop on every corner.

While it doesn’t include time travel or jet packs, the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, recently adopted by the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is set to propel Middle Tennessee “back to the future” by adapting much of the transportation infrastructure and services our ancestors once relied upon.

Drawing upon four basic principals: livability, prosperity, sustainability and diversity, the plan is designed to serve the transportation needs of an additional million people across a seven-county region of Middle Tennessee within the next 25 years utilizing nearly 6 billion in federal, state and local funding.

“Diversifying our transportation investment strategies to more seriously support alternative modes such as transit, walking and biking will help us to conserve open space and fuel, manage congestion, and connect people with the places they want to go (such as) work, school, shopping or entertainment,” said Nashville MPO director Michael Skipper. “We’re now better prepared to absorb the population growth that accompanies continued efforts to grow our local economies—bringing new jobs and additional prosperity—without sacrificing Middle Tennessee as we know it today.”

Under the plan’s “bold new vision for mass transit,” part of a three-prong policy initiative structure for transportation projects, Middle Tennessee will see a revival of former transit options by 2035, light rail or bus rapid transit lines, modernized with today’s technology.

“As we grow and as we attract more and more people to Nashville, they’re going to want to have a mass transit alternative, the ability to get around the city without using a car,” Mayor Karl Dean observed. According to the Nashville MPO, the cost of congestion to the Metro-Nashville area alone in lost fuel and productive time could be as much as \$10.6 billion between now and 2035. According to the plan, downtown Nashville would see the return of a streetcar system that hasn’t been in operation since 1941. One of the first cities in the nation to install a public trolley system in 1889, the suggested starter route would begin at Broadway, forming a two-way spine from 1st Ave. to beyond 31st, very close to the I-440 exit, the new convention center and the commuter rail station.

Williamson County is expected to more than double its population by 2035. Almost 30,000 people commute daily to Davidson County from the south corridor between Nashville and Franklin. The corridor is

listed by the plan as a top candidate for light rail or bus rapid transit in the next decade. Already in limited use, bus rapid transit puts buses in dedicated lanes on major thoroughfares and is generally cheaper than light rail, but has less capacity.

Currently, the area is served by express bus service, 91X Franklin/Brentwood, and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) recently expanded the service to Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

“Ridership is up,” said Brentwood Mayor Betsy Crossley. “We’re working with businesses like Vanderbilt for partnerships to help decrease traffic on the road.” A board member of the Nashville MPO, Crossley eyes a future RTA route between Clarksville and Murfreesboro. A native of Atlanta, she recalls a simpler time when her father would commute to work by electric bus. “It was the norm. We’d drop him off in the morning and he’d be there at night,” she said. “In the 30s, there was also an interurban train point between Franklin, Brentwood and Nashville.”

While the actual cost of 2035 Plan projects is likely to double or triple in the next 25 years, the plan offers strategies that could be implemented to reduce the gap of what the region can afford and what it actually needs.

“It will be up to locals in the future to oversee how much we will all want to invest in the pie, with decisions about infrastructure, yet it is inevitable for all localities. We can’t just keep laying down concrete,” said Crossley. The 91X Franklin/Brentwood route is funded with federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Dave McGovern, in the article “America’s Most Walkable Cities,” sums up the return of walkable communities across the nation. “People are longing to be part of a community again, rather than feeling isolated from their neighbors,” he writes. “Being able to amble around town on foot can be a big part of that sense of community.”

With a suggested 1100 plus miles of on-road bicycle accommodations and expansion of greenways, the 2035 Plan bolsters the trend of walkability with the creation of sidewalks on all major thoroughfares.

Today, “concerns about congestion and environmental components is driving the dynamics of the real estate industry and fostering increased interest and investment in downtowns and mixed use neighborhoods,” notes Charla Long, executive director of Lipscomb University’s Institute for Law, Justice, and Society and a member of the board of directors for the Transit Alliance of Middle Tennessee.

In an editorial to *The Tennessean*, Long observes the changing face of Middle Tennesseans, a demographic shift: increased diversity, aging Baby Boomers, more young professionals. “Households are evolving from mostly families to be older, smaller, more ethnically diverse and majority single, writes Long.

It is the vision of the 2035 Plan that in response to shifts in population and demographics, the region



To view the 2035 plan in its entirety, visit the Nashville Area MPO website at www.nashvillempo.org.

Three Major Policy Initiatives of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan

Transportation projects selected for inclusion in the 2035 Regional Transportation plan fall under three policy initiatives:

1. A BOLD NEW VISION FOR MASS TRANSIT.

Under this policy initiative, the plan provides: A first-of-its-kind vision for transit services across Middle Tennessee’s 10 counties to communicate the region’s intentions for the long-term; Funding for upcoming corridor and circulator studies to layout more specific strategies to implement the vision; a call to reorganize the existing RTA to take advantage of new legislation; a call to establish dedicated funding for transit to improve operational capacity of existing agencies, and to help build out the vision; \$950 million in federal transit funds for the continued maintenance and modest expansion of urban transit, ridesharing, and vanpool services; \$30 million for continued support for the JARC and New Freedom programs; and 10 percent of future funding for urban roadway projects flexed to support transit projects.

2. INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES.

A regional, comprehensive vision for future walking and bicycling facilities; Infrastructure recommendations include expansion of greenways, regional network of 1100+ miles of on-road bicycle accommodations, and the creation of sidewalks on all major thoroughfares; guidance for roadway design standards to accommodate non-motorized modes of transportation; support for ongoing education of local law enforcement and the public to increase safety of walking and cycling; a new emphasis on accommodations for non-motorized modes, with: 75 percent of proposed roadway projects submitted by MPO member jurisdictions having included a sidewalk, bicycle lane, or shared-use lane (due to new MPO project scoring criteria); 15 percent of future funding for urban roadway projects flexed to support active transportation facilities; guidance for utilizing other available grants such as Safe Routes to School and Transportation Enhancements.

3. PRESERVATION & ENHANCEMENT OF STRATEGIC ROADWAY CORRIDORS

A regional, comprehensive approach to long-term transportation programming; guidance for local implementation of “complete streets” policies; more than \$3.2 billion in Roadway Projects: \$2.7 billion for roadway widening; \$291 million for interchanges/intersections; \$100 million for new roadways; \$85 million for roadway reconstructions; \$24 million for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and other enhancements, with five percent of all future urban roadway funds flexed to improve the efficiency of the transportation system through innovative management and operations upgrades; seventy percent of the MPO’s future allocation of urban roadway funding will be awarded to projects that expand the multi-modal capacity of the regional roadway system, in order to manage congestion, accommodate a growing population, and address goals for increased safety and security.

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Cities and municipal agencies have joined together to create in the TML Pool what has grown to be the largest municipal insurer in Tennessee. The extent of the coverage provided for municipal exposures is staggering.

The Pool insures:

- 40,575 municipal employees for workers’ compensation representing more than \$951.7 million in annual payroll exposures;
- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million for liability coverage; and provides
- general liability coverage for 16,407 miles of streets.



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Gov. Haslam makes additions to Cabinet

Governor Bill Haslam has announced additional members to his cabinet.

Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley has been named senior advisor for Legislative Affairs. Franklin Mayor John Schroer was named as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. East Tennessee executive and attorney Richard Roberts has been selected as the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue. Robert “Bob” Martineau has been named Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Business executive Bill Hagerty has been named as the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Nashville insurance regulatory attorney Julie Mix McPeak has been named Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance. Susan Whitaker will continue as Commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development.

Karla Davis has been named Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Georgia Department of Corrections Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield is Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Former Hamblen County Mayor David Purkey has been named the assistant commissioner for Tennessee Homeland Security. Jim Henry of Kingston has been named as the Commissioner of the Department of Intellectual Disabilities. Kathryn “Kate” O’Day has been tapped for the Commissioner of the Department of Children’s Services. Dr. Raquel Hatter has been named as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. Major General Terry “Max” Haston will continue as Adjutant General of the Tennessee Military Department, commonly known the Tennessee National Guard. Mental health non-profit executive Doug Varney has been named Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health. COL Many-Bears Grinder with the Tennessee Army National Guard as Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Dale Kelley
Kelley, 71, has an extensive public service career, including currently serving his fifth consecutive four-year team as Huntingdon’s mayor. Kelley was a three-term state Representative from 1979-1985. He was the Commissioner of Employment Security for then-Gov. Lamar Alexander and he also served Alexander as the Transportation Commissioner, overseeing the Governor’s road program. Kelley also has an extensive career beyond the public sector. He was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 for his basketball officiating career, which included officiating Final Four games 1978-1980. He also spent time as the NCAA Division I Coordinator of Officials President and on the National Association of Sports Officials Board of Directors.

John Schroer
Schroer was sworn in as Franklin Mayor in 2007 and is a member of the Middle Tennessee Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Regional Transit Authority. He spent a decade working in commercial real estate finance before starting his own development business. Prior to his election, he served on the Franklin Special School Board for 13 years, and he also has served on the board of the Tennessee School Board Association. Schroer has a bachelor’s degree in business from Indiana University and an MBA from the University of Tennessee (UT). He was a founding board member of Franklin Tomorrow.

Richard Roberts
Roberts, 56, will oversee the Department of Revenue, which is responsible for the administration of state tax laws and motor vehicle title and registration laws. Roberts currently serves as a director of Miller Industries, Inc., the world’s largest manufacturer of towing and recovery vehicles. Previously he was General Counsel and senior vice president with Forward Air Corporation, and he also held the same positions with Landair Corporation. Both are Greeneville, Tenn.-based transportation companies. Before working at Forward Air, he was a corporate securities attorney with the regional law firm Baker, Worthington. Roberts has a bachelor’s degree from UT and a JD/MBA from UT College of Law.

Bob Martineau
Martineau is a partner at Waller

Lansden Dortch and Davis, practicing in the area of environmental and regulatory law, and he has extensive experience working with companies on the development and implementation of corporate environmental management programs and auditing programs. At Waller Lansden, he regularly assists clients in assessing the impacts of proposed legislative or regulatory initiatives at the federal and state level and developing policy positions with respect to those initiatives. For six years, he served as senior counsel in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Martineau is a member of the Air and Waste Management Association and a former council member of the Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law of the American Bar Association.

Bill Hagerty
Hagerty was a founder and managing director of Hagerty Peterson & Company, LLC, a merchant bank and private equity firm. Previously, he worked with Trident Capital, L.P., a private equity investment firm headquartered in Silicon Valley, and with the Boston Consulting Group, an international management consultancy. Hagerty has served in a number of executive positions during his career including CFO, COO and CEO of both U.S. and international companies. Hagerty worked on the White House Domestic Policy staff during the George W. Bush Administration as a member of the President’s Council on Competitiveness. He also served as a National Finance Chairman for Romney for President in 2007-2008.

Julie McPeak
McPeak, 41, is an insurance regulatory attorney at Nashville’s office of Burr & Forman, LLP. She has more than 12 years of legal and administrative experience in state government, recently serving as executive director of the Kentucky Office of Insurance (KOI). Prior to becoming executive director, she spent nine years as an attorney for KOI, including five as general counsel. She received her J.D. from the University of Louisville and a bachelor’s in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from the University of Kentucky.

Susan Whitaker
Whitaker is a Chicago native and a direct descendant of Tennessee’s first governor, John Sevier. She has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Northwestern University, and before serving as commissioner, she was vice president of Marketing for Dollywood.

Karla Davis
Since 2006, Davis has been Director of Urban Strategies Memphis Hope, managing and overseeing the Community and Supportive Services Program for three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI public housing redevelopment projects and two HUD ROSS Grant projects in Memphis. Davis previously worked in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 16 years, rising to become an Environmental Justice program manager covering six states. As program manager at the EPA, she focused on environmental and human health improvements and community revitalization in distressed urban areas. Davis has a bachelor’s in Bioengineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Derrick Schofield
Schofield, 50, will oversee the state’s corrections system comprised of 14 prisons, more than 20,000 inmates and more than 5,000 employees. Schofield was named Georgia Assistant Commissioner of Corrections in 2009 and has 19 years total experience in the field.

Schofield received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Fort Valley State University. He then spent eight years with the U.S. Army and reached the rank of Captain. He also has a master’s degree in public administration from Georgia’s Law Enforcement Command College and Columbus State University.

David Purkey
Purkey, 51, was Hamblen County Mayor from 1995-2010. Before becoming mayor, his career included stints as a state trooper, TBI special agent, and Hamblen County Director of Emergency Management, and he served in the U.S. Army Reserve and Tennessee Army National Guard. The state Office of Homeland Security serves as a liaison between federal, state and local agencies and the private sector on security matters.

Jim Henry
Henry will serve as the Commissioner of the new state Department of Intellectual Disabilities.

Henry, 65, is a former Kingston mayor, state House minority leader and Tennessee Republican Party chairman. He is the president and CEO of Omni Visions Inc., which serves adults with developmental disabilities and families in crisis.

In 1973, at age 28, Henry became mayor of Kingston, and he was elected to the state House in 1978. Two years later, he became House Republican leader, helping guide then-Gov. Lamar Alexander’s education reforms through a Democrat-controlled legislature.

Kathryn O’Day
O’Day has dedicated her entire professional life to children. She began her career as a youth counselor with the Broward County Sheriff’s Office in Florida. Before becoming president and CEO of Child & Family Tennessee, she was vice president of Program Development and Evaluation for Children’s Home Society of Florida and director of Program Services for Covenant House of Florida. At Child & Family Tennessee, O’Day created a business-like management team and organizational model to ensure fiscal and programmatic accountability, which has helped the organization meet goals. O’Day is a graduate of Leadership Knoxville, a co-chair of the Community Coalition for Domestic Violence in Knoxville, founding chair of the Juvenile Court Assistance Board in Knox County, a former panel chair for the Foster Care Review Board in Knox County and a member of the Executive Women’s Association. She has a master’s degree of social work from Florida International University.

Raquel Hatter
Hatter served the last three years as the president and CEO of Family & Children’s Service, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of families, children and individuals. Hatter worked for 17 years in Flint, Mich. at the Whaley Children’s Center where she held several clinical and administrative roles from front line practitioner to president and CEO of the center. She currently serves on the Tennessee Council on Children’s Mental Health, Alliance for Children & Families Public Policy Committee, the National Building Bridges Initiative Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee and American Association of Children’s Residential Centers Board of Directors, among others.

Major Gen. Terry “Max” Haston
First appointed in January 2010, Haston supervises the Military Department, which includes the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and the Tennessee State Guard. Before his appointment, Haston served as the assistant Adjutant General, and as the deputy chief of staff for Training and Operations J-3 for the Joint Forces Headquarters, Tennessee. Haston is a McMinnville native and has a master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the United States War College at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania. In May 2005, he mobilized and deployed as the Chief of Reserve Components, Multi-National Corps Iraq.

Doug Varney
Varney has spent his professional career with Frontier Health, a community mental health center serving families and individuals affected by behavioral health, substance abuse and intellectual deficit issues. He worked his way up from psychological examiner, counselor and therapist to president and CEO.

Col. Grinder
COL Grinder was the director of logistics for the Tennessee Army National Guard in Nashville. She served previously as the director of Personnel, overseeing actions from the time that an individual enlists in the National Guard to the retirement process. As director of logistics, Grinder supervised more than 340 personnel across the state. She was responsible for a more than \$35 million budget and is a certified Defense Financial Manager, the defense equivalent of a certified public accountant. Grinder has master’s in strategic studies from Army War College and a master’s in human resource management from UT Knoxville. She is a Bronze Star Medal recipient, and she is an Operation Enduring Freedom combat veteran. Grinder’s first name was originally a nickname that stuck, so she legally changed her name.



Kelley



Schroer



Roberts



Martineau



Hagerty



McPeak



Whitaker



Davis



Schofield



Purkey



Henry



O'Day



Hatter



Haston



Varney



Grinder

Previously announced Cabinet members include:
• Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey as deputy governor and chief of staff;
• Campaign manager Mark Cate as special assistant to the governor;
• Knoxville attorney Herbert Slatery as chief legal counsel;
• Mark Emkes, former head of Bridgestone Americas, as Commissioner of Finance and Administration;
• Julius Johnson, the chief administrative officer for the Tennessee Farm Bureau, as Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture;
• Shelby County prosecutor Bill Gibbons to lead the Department of Safety and Homeland Security; and
• Greg Gonzales, appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen, as commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions.

Special Coverage: New State Leadership takes the Helm



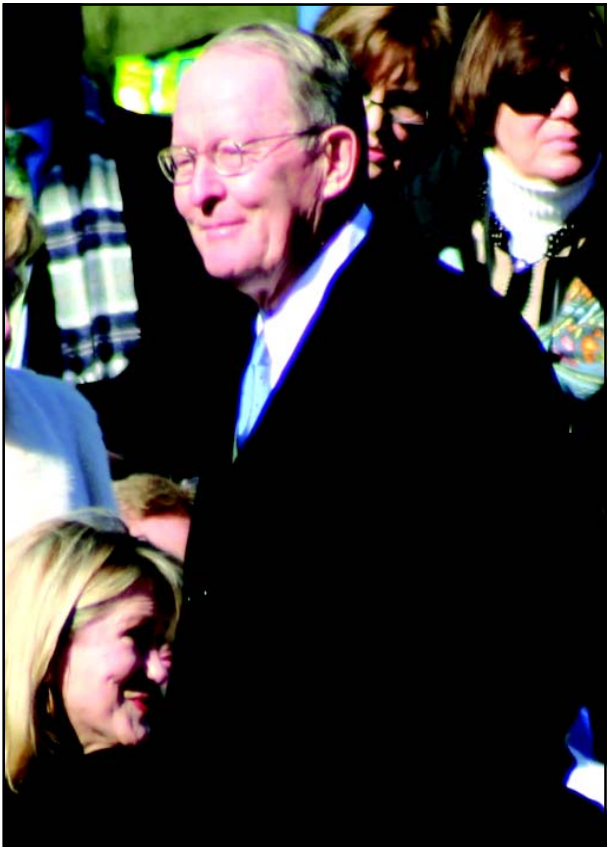
In his inaugural address, Gov. Haslam promises to set the state on a course toward economic recovery.



Gov. Bill Haslam takes the oath of office with his son William, and his wife and two daughters by his side.



U.S. Sen. Bob Corker



U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander



Former U.S. Sen. Bill Frist and state Sen. Rusty Crowe



Above: U.S. Congressman Jimmy Duncan (standing), Sam Harwell and TN House Speaker Beth Harwell



Lt. Gov Ron Ramsey and Russell Humphrey, Senate chief clerk, review final details before the inauguration.

Below: Gov. Haslam's Cabinet is sworn in. Among those pictured include: Dale Kelley, senior legislative advisor; Claude Ramsey, chief of staff; Julius Johnson, Agriculture Commissioner; and (back row) Doug Varney, Mental Health Commissioner.

Photos by Carole Graves and Victoria South



Gov. Phil Bredesen and Andre Conte, escorted by state Reps. Lois DeBerry and Jimmy Naifeh



Above: Gov. Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam kick off the inaugural parade. Below: Members of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution participate in the parade.



Special Coverage: New State Leadership takes the Helm

107th General Assembly convenes; Senate elects officers



Sen. Mark Norris, Republican Leader



Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey takes the oath of office.



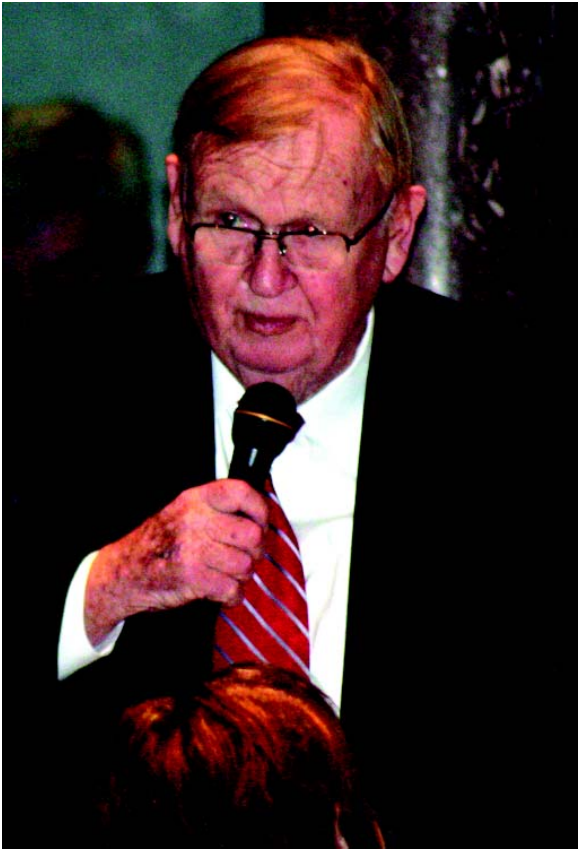
Sen. Jamie Woodson, Speaker Pro Tem



Sens. Jack Johnson and Jim Tracy



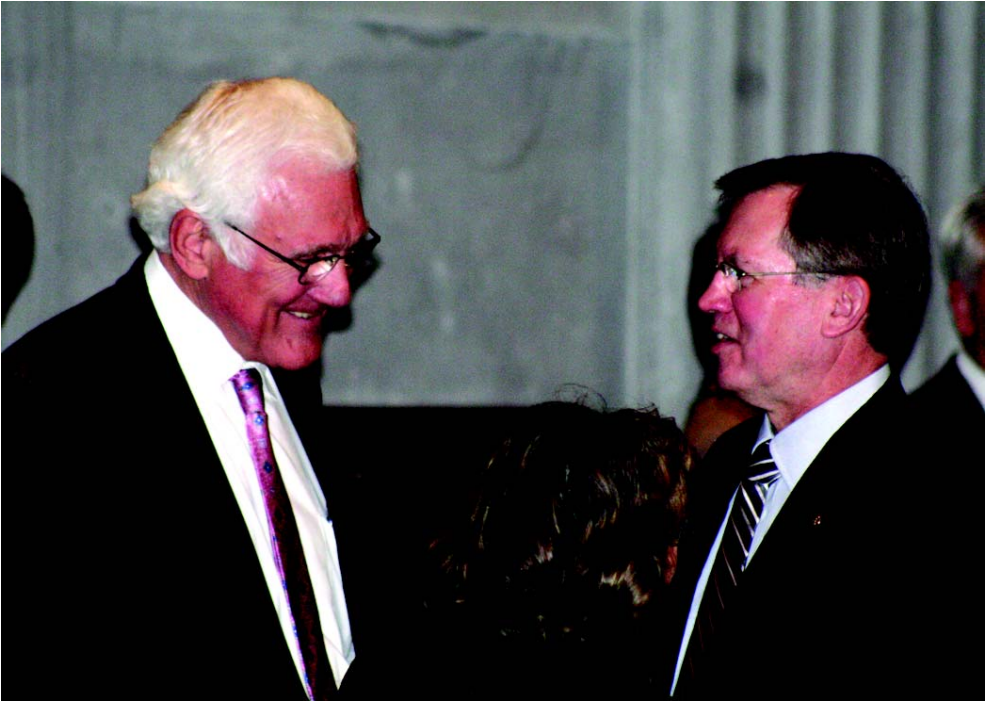
Sen. Bill Ketron, Republican Caucus Chair



Sen. Douglas Henry



Sen. Thelma Harper



Sen. Joe Haynes



Sen. Bo Watson



Sen. Beverly Marrero

Special Coverage: New State Leadership takes the Helm

Tennessee House makes history with Speaker Harwell



Rep. Craig Fitzhugh (left) won the post of House Minority Leader, a position formerly held by Rep. Gary Odom (right).



Newly-elected House Speaker gives her acceptance speech. She was elected unanimously by her fellow representatives.



Speaker Emeritus Jimmy Naifeh



Rep. Glen Casada.



Newly-elected Republican Caucus Chair Debra Maggart



Below: Reps. Mark White and Phillip Johnson



Rep. Judd Matheny is sworn in as the new House Speaker Pro Tem.



Far left: Reps. Dale Ford and Jimmy Matlock take the oath of office. At left, Rep. Barret Rich signs the oath of office.

Special Coverage: New State Leadership takes the Helm

Legislative Leadership – 2011 - 2012

SENATE



Speaker/Lt. Gov.
Ron Ramsey



Speaker Pro Tem
Jamie Woodson



Republican Leader
Mark Norris



Democratic Leader
Jim Kyle

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JUDICIARY: Chairman Beavers, Vice-



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Bill Ketron



Democratic Caucus Chair
Lowe Finney

Chair Bell, Overbey, Barnes, Campfield, Ford, Kelsey, Marrero, and Yager

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RULES: Chairman Norris, Vice-Chair McNally, Henry, Kelsey, and Kyle

CALENDAR: Chairman Faulk, Vice-Chair Norris, and Kyle

ETHICS: Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Burks, Haynes, Ketron, and Norris

HOUSE



Speaker
Beth Harwell



Speaker Pro Tem
Judd Matheny



Majority Leader
Gerald McCormick



Democratic Leader
Craig Fitzhugh

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FINANCE: Chair Sargent, Vice-Chair Harrison, C. Johnson, Alexander, Armstrong, H. Brooks, K. Brooks, Brown, Campbell, Carr, Coley, L. DeBerry, Eldridge, Fitzhugh, Hall, Hawk, Matheny, McCormick, McDaniel, L. Miller, Naifeh, Odom, Roach, Shaw, Tindell

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: Chair Cobb, Vice-Chair Rich, Shipley, Cooper, Fitzhugh, Hall, Hurley, Kernell, Maggart, Matheny, McCormick, and M. Tumer



Republican Caucus
Chair Debra Maggart



Democratic Caucus
Chair Mike Turner

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES: Chair Casada, Vice-Chair Hill, Evans, Armstrong, Campbell, Dennis, Favors, Halford, Harrison, Hensley, Odom, Pruitt, Ramsey, Richardson, Sexton, Shepard, Sparks, M. Turner, and R. Williams

JUDICIARY: Chair Watson, Vice-Chair Coley, Dennis, Bass, Camper, Elam, Faison, Gotto, Lundberg, Maggart, Matheny, Moore, Rich, Sontany, Stewart, Warnick

STATE AND LOCAL: Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Ramsey, Haynes, Brown, Cobb, Dean, Dunn, Evans, Gotto, McCormick, L. Miller, Pruitt, Tindell, M. Tumer, Watson, and K. Williams

TRANSPORTATION: Chair P. Johnson, Vice-Chair Dean, Ford, Weaver, Camper, Cooper, Floyd, Ford, Harmon, Hill, Hurley, Keisling, McDonald, D. Miller, Sanderson, Shipley, Sparks, Stewart, and Tidwell

CALENDAR AND RULES: Chair Dunn, Vice-Chair Roach, McDaniel, H. Brooks, Casada, Cobb, Eldridge, Fitzhugh, Harwell, Hawk, Haynes, P. Johnson, Maggart, Matheny, McCormick, McManus, Montgomery, Naifeh, Niceley, Sargent, Sexton, Todd, Towns, M. Tumer, and Watson

ETHICS: Chair C. Johnson, Vice-Chair Camper, Coley, Curtiss, Dean, Elam, Eldridge, Ford, Halford, Ramsey, Shaw, and Shepard

....

State’s constitutional officers re-elected to second term

By unanimous voice votes, the Tennessee General Assembly re-elected Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. and Comptroller Justin P. Wilson to new two-year terms in office.

Under Tennessee’s Constitution, the state Treasurer and Comptroller are elected jointly by the state Senate and House of Representatives, as is the Secretary of State. The Treasurer and Comptroller serve two-year terms, while the Secretary of State serves four-year terms.

Comptroller Wilson and Treasurer Lillard took their oaths of office for their new terms immediately following the legislature’s vote.

Both of the constitutional officers were initially elected to their respective offices in January 2009, along with Secretary of State Tre Hargett, who has two years remaining in his current term.

The constitutional officers oversee a variety of functions in state government. Among other duties, the Treasurer manages the state’s investments and oversees the state pension fund. The Comptroller is responsible for auditing state government agencies and local governments throughout Tennessee.

“I am humbled by the confidence shown in me by members of the General Assembly and the honor of serving as Treasurer of the great state of Tennessee,” Treasurer Lillard said.

“I also want to thank the General Assembly for its vote of confidence,” Comptroller Wilson said. “We have a lot of work to do – and I am anxious to move forward with it.”



Wilson



Lillard

Tharpe named interim TML president



TML from Page 1

the mayor of Paris, his appointment preserves the regular rotation of the office of the president. Finally, appointing Tharpe will leave the regular order of ascension undisturbed and allow ascending officers to serve their full terms, absent additional modifications to the by-laws.

As the next scheduled board meeting is not to occur until March 7, 2011, the executive committee directed the staff to poll the full board of directors. TML received responses

from 21 of 30 board members. The final tally was 21 board members concurring with the executive committee’s recommendation that Mayor Sam Tharpe be appointed to complete the unexpired term of Mayor Kelley as president; 1 abstention (Mayor Tharpe); and 8 members not responding.

“I know that you join me in expressing our gratitude to Mayor Kelley for his exemplary leadership as our president. While I regret his premature departure from the League presidency, I am pleased that he will be afforded such a terrific opportunity and I know you join me in wishing him the best in this endeavor,” said TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery. “We would also like to congratulate Mayor Tharpe and thank him for his brief return to the presidency.”

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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Census, state grows

Census figures show Tennessee’s population grew by 11.5 percent since 2000, which wasn’t enough to add any seats to the state’s Congressional delegation. The population data is used to reapportion the 435 seats in the U.S. House among the 50 states, as well as legislative district boundaries within the states. Currently, 6.3 million people live in Tennessee, making it the 17th biggest state in the country by population. That’s down by one spot from the 2000 Census after Arizona moved ahead of Tennessee by about 50,000 people.

Major cities report drop in crime

Middle Tennessee’s three largest cities reported continuing declines in crime for the first half of 2010, according to a new FBI report. Nashville, Murfreesboro and Clarksville had overall drops in violent and property crimes in the report that highlights cities with 100,000 residents or more. The release documents the continuation of a similar nationwide decline.

Governments net finance awards

The state and 17 local governments have been honored for their budget preparation work. The Government Finance Officers Association gave its Distinguished Budget Award for high quality budget documents. The cities recognized were Bartlett, Brentwood, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Collierville, Franklin, Germantown, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis and Oak Ridge along with six counties Bradley, Hamilton, Knox, Davidson, Shelby and Weakley. The budgets had to meet guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and conform to the finance association’s best practices.

Childhood immunization upswing

Tennessee has moved from the middle of the pack to the top spot

among states for early childhood immunization in the last five years, and children are benefiting. The achievement, measured by America’s Health Rankings, is the result of a partnership between the state and family doctors to better educate parents and to make free vaccinations readily available.

Tree scourge, firewood link

Don’t buy firewood from an area more than 50 miles from where it came from, warns the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee. A variety of insects and other pests infesting and devastating trees in other areas could be transported into your community. Past invaders have destroyed native species of American chestnut, hemlock, and American elm trees. “Here in Tennessee, it is incredibly important to the health of our forests and economy that people know moving firewood is dangerous and, in certain areas, illegal,” said Alex Wyss, with the Conservancy. The “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign did a poll recently showing that fewer people are moving firewood, but it was still around one in 20 Americans.

State sues over swipe fees

The state is suing most of the major credit card companies. Tennessee is now one of 18 states in a civil anti-trust lawsuit. Attorney General Bob Cooper is challenging rules that American Express, MasterCard and Visa have in place that allegedly cost the consumer more money. The case challenges the so-called “swipe fees” card companies charge merchants for the use of their cards. General Cooper alleges those fees keep merchants from offering consumer discounts. The state also feels such fees increase merchants’ cost of doing business.

Grants, training provide jobs

Grants and training efforts through the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development enabled 19,296 Tennesseans to get work in 2010, according to a state

report. The figures are based on information submitted to the Workforce Development Board, which provides oversight of the workforce development system in Tennessee. Those jobs included private and government funded positions.

Traffic fatalities on the rise

Traffic deaths are up in Tennessee for the first time in five years. But state officials say that’s because Tennesseans are spending more time on the road. Although 2009 marked the first time in decades the state posted less than 1000 fatalities on its roadways, Tennessee will jump back more than a 1000 deaths when officials close the books on 2010, according to projections. “While the average mile of driving is getting safer, people are driving more,” said Kendell Poole, of the Governor’s Highway Safety Office. “There are more cars driving more miles – that means our fatality rate will actually go down as a result, so there will be less deaths per vehicle-miles traveled this year.”

Jailers must check citizenship

Tennessee jailers must now check every new inmate’s citizenship to make sure he or she is not in the country illegally. The new immigration rules consist of two questions to be asked by authorities: Where were you born, and are you here legally? The law applies to every jail in the state and every person jailed. Supporters of the bill say that it’s simply a new tool for local law enforcement to help deter illegal immigration, while critics such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee worry that the new law could lead to racial profiling and other abuses. Law enforcement officials have also expressed concern that the law could flood an already overburdened immigration system.

Construction contracts drop

Across the board, the value of contracts for future construction dropped in Tennessee during November. According to data released by New York-based McGraw-Hill Construction, \$529 million worth of construction contracts were awarded in November, down 11



Nissan North America Inc. recently delivered the state’s first all-electric Nissan LEAF to Tennessee to the Jeff Heeren family at Action Nissan of Nashville. The moment represents the state’s first delivery of an affordable, mass-market, all-electric car.

percent from the \$594.4 million of one year ago. The value of nonresidential, residential and nonbuilding contracts were all down. The biggest dip however was seen in the residential sector, which tumbled 16 percent, to \$201.2 million. Nonresidential contracts dipped 8 percent, to \$127 million, while nonbuilding construction dipped 7 percent, to \$201 million. Through November, the year-to-date value of construction contracts awarded in Tennessee is up 14 percent, to \$7.8 billion. Through the first 11 months of 2010, residential contracts were essentially flat, increasing 2 percent. Nonbuilding and nonresidential contracts increased 19 and 25 percent.

Nissan delivers 1st LEAF to TN

Nissan North America Inc. recently delivered the state’s first all-electric Nissan LEAF to Tennessee. The car was delivered to Jeff Heeren at Ac-

tion Nissan of Nashville. The moment represents the state’s first delivery of an affordable, mass-market, all-electric car. In July 2008, Nissan announced that it was entering into a partnership with the state and the Tennessee Valley Authority to foster the development of electric vehicle-friendly policies and an EV charging infrastructure. This collaboration was the first of its kind in the United States and has served as a model for other markets across the nation. “Just as Nissan has been working to put electric vehicles on the roads of Tennessee, TVA has been helping develop the infrastructure and technology to fuel them,” said Anda Ray, TVA’s senior vice president of Environment and Technology. Early in 2011, TVA will unveil the first of its many planned solar-assisted charging stations in the state.

ICMA censures former city manager for ethics violation

Robert Rizzo, former city manager, Bell, California, was publicly censured and expelled from membership in ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, by the ICMA Executive Board at its Dec. 11, 2010, meeting.

The board found that Mr. Rizzo personally benefitted from misuse of city funds; failed in his fiduciary responsibility to ensure that public funds were legally and properly used for the public’s benefit; did not fully and accurately disclose his compensation in a transparent manner; and failed in his obligation to ensure that city matters were transparent and fully communicated to the council and public.

The board found that Mr. Rizzo’s conduct violated Tenets 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12 of the ICMA Code of Ethics as follows:

1. The manner in which Mr. Rizzo’s compensation was established did not follow normally accepted practices and lacked both transparency and adequate public disclosure leading to excessive compensation not supported by fair and reasonable market-based metrics and performance standards.
2. A portion of Mr. Rizzo’s compensation was improperly charged to special district funds, which is not permitted under California law and is contrary to standard municipal financial practices restricting the use of special agency funds.

3. Mr. Rizzo obtained a personal loan using public funds without proper authorization and provided loans of public funds to other city employees and elected officials that also lacked proper authorization and any justification that the loan program served a public benefit.
4. Without approval of the city council, city funds were used to repay a personal loan Mr. Rizzo made from his retirement accounts of approximately \$94,000.
5. Mr. Rizzo failed to follow customary and legal purchasing requirements which resulted in the payment of \$10.4 million over 15 years to a firm that had no valid contract with the city. Mr. Rizzo personally approved invoices issued in increments of \$10,000.
6. Mr. Rizzo failed in his fiduciary responsibility to properly secure, segregate, and manage bond proceeds resulting in a loss of \$1.7 million in interest earnings as well as the improper depositing of funds.

ICMA members are expected to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct in order to maintain the trust and confidence of the public they serve.

The action to publicly censure and expel Mr. Rizzo is the strongest action available to the ICMA Board. The Board’s consideration of the case followed a thorough investigation by the ICMA Committee on Professional Conduct.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

“Forever” stamp debuts in 2011

Beginning in January, all new stamps good for one ounce of first-class mail will be marked as “forever.” The move is designed to help customers cope with postage increases. When the Postal Service unveiled its first-class commemorative stamps for 2011, all were marked “forever” instead of the current rate of 44 cents.



The Indianapolis 500, is included in the 2011 US postage stamps collection.

New limits on unemployment

So many Americans have been jobless for so long that the government is changing how it records long-term unemployment. Citing what it calls “an unprecedented rise” in long-term unemployment, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will raise from two years to five years the upper limit on how long someone can be listed as having been jobless. The move could help economists better measure the severity of the nation’s prolonged economic downturn. The change is a sign that bureau officials “are afraid that a cap of two years may be ‘understating

the true average duration’ — but they won’t know by how much until they raise the upper limit,” according to Linda Barrington, an economist who directs the Institute for Compensation Studies at Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Law targets foodborne illnesses

A \$1.4 billion overhaul of the food safety system gives Washington new power to increase inspections at food processing facilities and force companies to recall tainted products. Congress passed the bill at

the end of last year to respond to several serious outbreaks of E. coli and salmonella poisoning in peanuts, eggs and produce in the past few years. The law will be the first major overhaul of the U.S. food safety system since the 1930s. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 48 million people — or one in six Americans — are sickened each year by foodborne illnesses. Of that, 180,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die annually. The new law will require larger farms and food manufacturers to prepare detailed food safety plans and tell the FDA how they are striving to keep their food safe at different stages of production. It also emphasizes prevention to help stop outbreaks before they happen.

Fee free National Parks

The National Park Service plans to waive admission fees for all national parks on 17 selected days this year. Remaining dates run April 16-24, June 21, Sept. 24 and Veterans Day, weekend Nov. 11-13.



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

CITYMANAGER

GALLAWAY. The city is now accepting resumes for City Manager. Candidates must have a minimum of bachelor's degree, preferably a master's or advanced degree in Political Science and Urban Planning or Law. Two years experience managing a business and must be able to pass a background check. Starting salary between \$34,000 to \$42,000 depending on qualifications or at least five years of city management experience could be qualified without a degree. Please mail resumes to: City of Gallaway; PO Box 168, Gallaway, TN 38036.

CODES INSPECTOR/STORM WATERMANAGER

LEWISBURG. The city of Lewisburg, Tennessee is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Codes Inspector/Storm Water Manager. The position is responsible to the city manager, but must work independently with others. Job functions include technical work in the enforcement of Planning and Zoning Codes and Storm Water management. The job requires a very dedicated self motivated individual to implement policy and procedures. A Bachelor's Degree and/or five years of relevant work experience required. Successful candidate must have ability to obtain Storm Water Certification from State of Tennessee within 12 months of employment date. Applicant shall be proficient in Microsoft Office. This would include but not limited to Microsoft, Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher and Word. Must also be capable of learning any other computer applications deemed necessary or applicable to the position. The successful candidate must reside within five miles of the corporate limits of the city of Lewisburg in Marshall County within 90 days from date of hire. The position has an excellent benefit package. Salary: \$25,000 - \$45,000 DOQ. The city is an EEO employer. An application, resume and salary requirements should be submitted to: City of Lewisburg, P.O. Box 1968, 131 East Church Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091 Attn: City Codes Inspector/Storm Water Manager Application/Resume or must be received in Lewisburg City Hall by 4:30 p.m., Feb. 25, 2011.

FINANCEDIRECTOR/CITY RECORDER

SODDY-DAISY. The city is accepting applications for the position of Finance Director/City Recorder. This position manages and serves as Chief Financial Officer and as the City Recorder. The city currently has an Annual Budget of \$7,000,000 +, has 52 full time employees and a population of 14,000. Minimum requirements are a Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university or five years of experience and training in related field. Salary is dependent upon qualifications. Please apply by resume to the City of Soddy-Daisy, Attn: City Manager, 9835 Dayton Pike, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 37379. Applications will be accepted through Friday, Jan. 31, 2011 at noon.

FOREMANII,PUBLICWORKS

UNION CITY. The city is seeking applications for the postion of Foreman II for their Public Works, Water/Sewer Department. The salary range is \$13.55 - \$19.05. Applications and job descriptions can be obtained by mail at the City of Union City, City Hall, P. O. Box 9, Union City, Tn 38281 or at 408 Depot St, Union City, Tn 38261, phone 731 885-1341, fax 731-885-7598. The city of Union City does not discriminate based on race, color or national origin, age, sex or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, and activities.

POLICEOFFICER

OBION. The town will be taking applications for a police officer until Feb. 1, 2011. Applications may be picked up at city hall, 137 East Palestine, Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Preference will be given to certified officers.

COMING UP

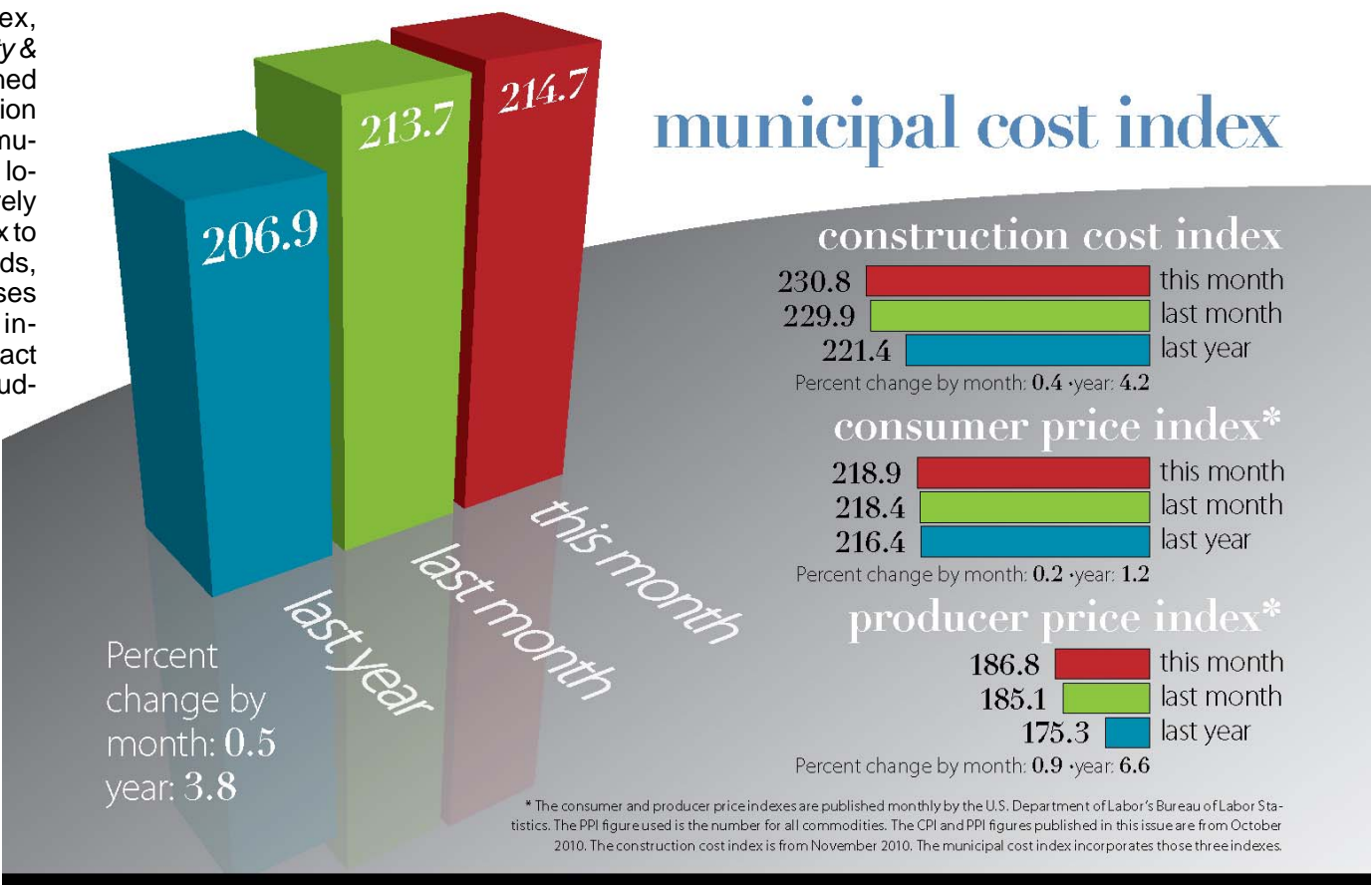
Jan. 19-22: 20th Annual Practical Tools & Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms Conference presented by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group at the Chattanooga Convention Center. For more information, visit www.ssawg.org/conference-reg.html.

Jan. 25 - 26: TML District Meetings. Jan 25: District 8, Covington 9 - 11am. Jan 26: District 7, Medina 10 am - 12 noon. For more information contact TML at 615-255-6416.

March 7 - 8: TML Legislative Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Nashville. Go to www.tml1.org to download a registration form. Group hotel rates are available until Feb. 10: a special room rate of \$122 a night, until sold out. To make a reservation call 1-615-244-8200 and reference the TML group rate. For more information contact TML at 615-255-6416.

December 2010 Municipal Cost Index

The Municipal Cost Index, developed by *American City & County* magazine, is designed to show the effects of inflation on the cost of providing municipal services. State and local government officials rely on the Municipal Cost Index to stay on top of price trends, help control price increases for commodities, make informed government contract decisions and intelligent budget planning.



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Percent change from				Percent change from			
	Current	last month	last year		Current	last month	last year
Air conditioning equipment	164.8	0.8	0.6	Milled rice	175.6	6.2	-8.1
Asphalt felts, coatings	221.7	-1.0	1.2	Mixed fertilizers	178.9	-0.1	0.7
Ball, roller bearings	229.9	-0.1	2.6	Motors, generators	192.5	0.2	2.8
Cement	190.9	-0.5	-6.2	Natural gas	161.6	2.7	4.9
Coal	190.5	1.0	5.7	Office, store machines	120.8	-0.2	0.1
Communication equipment	105.6	0	-0.1	Paper	186.3	-0.1	5.7
Concrete products	210.5	0	-0.4	Passenger cars	129.2	-3.0	-3.7
Construction machinery	192.1	-0.2	1.2	Plumbing fixtures, brass fittings	232.1	0.3	1.3
Crude petroleum	224.2	8.7	11.4	Plywood	172.2	-1.4	5.1
Diesel fuel (No. 2)	243.9	5.6	20.3	Prepared paint	237.3	0.4	0.5
Electronic computers	29.0	-1.4	-10.8	Pumps, compressors	215.4	-0.1	1.1
Fabricated metal products	201.9	-0.4	2.2	Residential electric power	155.9	-1.1	4.4
Floor coverings	169.8	-0.8	-0.2	Sand, gravel, crushed stone	263.2	-0.5	2.1
Foundry, forge shop products	195.2	1.1	5.3	Sanitary papers, health products	179.4	0	0.1
Gasoline	229.5	9.8	18.1	Sporting, athletic goods	133.5	0.2	2.1
Glass containers	181.1	0.1	1.7	Steel mill products	194.6	1.4	12.0
Gypsum products	205.1	-0.2	0	Switchgear	206.0	0.1	2.1
Hardwood lumber	190.9	-0.2	10.9	Synthetic fibers	108.6	-0.2	-2.9
Heating equipment	221.7	-1.0	1.1	Tires, tubes, tread, etc.	141.1	0.7	6.2
Heavy motor trucks	197.3	-0.3	2.7	Tools, dies, jigs, fixtures	143.4	0.1	0.5
Home heating oil and distillates	221.4	5.1	26.8	Transformers	223.4	0.2	3.9
Internal combustion engines	162.7	0.4	-0.1	Transmission equipment	234.0	0.2	1.7
Iron ore	151.6	1.1	8.0	Truck trailers	182.8	0.7	2.6
Iron and steel scrap	514.8	-7.3	28.2	Wiring devices	212.9	0.8	2.8

For more detailed information about the cost indexes, including the history of the municipal cost index, formulas and an archive of past cost index, visit American City and County's web site at www.americancityandcounty.com

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Citizens learn the basics of downtown revival

DOWNTOWNS *from Page 1* right or wrong, but what makes sense for the communities,” said Fanta. “It’s what they can do in a local ownership and self reliant way that makes sense.”

Now in its second year, steering committees from a total of twenty-two communities have completed the lengthy application process and engaged in activities such as walking their downtown areas, counting the number of empty buildings and estimating the average downtown rent per square foot. Applicants must also petition the city council to adopt a resolution that they are participants of the program with an endorsement from the city. “Basically the application is a learning process,” notes Fanta. “It forces people to think about what is the historic business district. Committees focus on four areas of revitalization with equal energy instead of only one or two, which can lead to frustration when their downtown still isn’t a sustainably vital area.”

“There’s more excitement surrounding this program than anything I’ve participated in,” said Jessica Morgan, Sweetwater city recorder. “Our merchants had already done a lot of work on their storefronts, so we’re going to focus more on promotion.” The city’s project plans include a downtown farmer’s market led by a committee member who is a local farmer. Throughout the program, Tennessee Downtowns are assigned with Tennessee Main

Street Program mentors to assist them, providing “in-the-trenches” expertise as seasoned Main Street professionals. Main Street Dandridge and Main Street Cleveland served as mentors for the Sweetwater committee.

“They have been phenomenal in getting us contacts and provided priceless input into what our challenges might be,” said Morgan. “With the economic downturn, this program helped us do some things we wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise.”

The discussion elements of the program have proved to be invaluable for cities. “Tennessee Downtowns allowed us to open a dialogue with downtown property owners and the city where sometimes there is a huge disconnect,” said Michelle Williams, executive director of the Mount Pleasant Community Development Corporation. “This program gets everyone around the table where we can improve by working together.” The Mount Pleasant committee plans to implement frontal façade improvements for its historic buildings, install welcome signage at the downtown entrances and support the Scarecrow Festival in the fall.

Communities may choose to move forward into making an application to be a part of Tennessee Main Street following their participation in Tennessee Downtowns. Admission into the Tennessee Main Street Program is neither required nor guaranteed, but Nyberg said the starter

program can provide an excellent “toe-in-the-water experience” toward becoming a certified Tennessee Main Street community.

“We haven’t considered it at this point. We’re going to see where we are after we complete the program,” said Jennifer Morris, Paris Community Development director. “We have a Downtown Paris Association that’s very good at events and promotions and our city government has been very proactive with infrastructure, but we came to a point that we needed help to go further. We didn’t realize until we got involved with the Tennessee Downtowns Program that there were certain aspects that we were not doing, some of the points highlighted by the 4-point system of Main Street.”

For their project, the Paris committee has decided to place three informational kiosks along the courthouse square. “We can advertise events, promotions, sales, and include a directory to show shoppers the types and locations of stores along the district,” said Morgan. “We’ve gotten so much out of this that we have the basis for planning in the future.”

For more information about Tennessee Downtowns, visit www.tennesseemainstreet.org or contact Andrea Fanta, Tennessee Downtowns program manager at 615-253-6720 or e-mail andrea.fanta@tn.gov, or contact Kimberly Nyberg, Tennessee Main Street program director at 615-532-3595 or kimberly.nyberg@tn.gov



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Jan 28-29: Bellbuckle
2nd Annual Rollin’ Round Robin Wheelchair Basketball Classic
Held at Webb School. Two games Fri. 6pm – 9pm in the Barton gym and Sat. 8 am - 6 pm. Hoop shooting contest, home cooked food, family fun. For more information, call Carla Webb at 931-389-7107.

Feb. 3-6: Townsend
Winter Heritage Festival
Celebrate human history, natural beauty and cultural traditions of Townsend, Cades Cove and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Activities include tours, talks, hikes, music, storytelling and exhibits. An officially sanctioned event of the 75th Anniversary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For more information, call 800-525-6834.

Feb. 11-13: Nashville
21st Antiques & Garden Show
Nashville Convention Center. Fri-Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5. View spectacular gardens, hear lectures and see and purchase rare and beautiful antiques. For ticket and other information, visit the website www.antiquesandgardenshow.com

Feb. 12-13: Knoxville
The 2011 Dogwood Arts House and Garden Show
Held at the Knoxville Convention Center. More than 200 commercial exhibits featuring innovative home and garden products. Professionals will be on-hand to provide ideas and assistance. Shop and save on the newest and most innovative home and garden products and services for indoor and outdoor design. Feb. 12 from 10 am to 8 pm and Feb. 13 from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit the website www.dogwoodarts.com or call 865-637-4561.

Feb. 19: Greeneville
4th Annual Antique Appraisal Fair and Show
Offers local and regional antique dealers showcasing and selling treasures. Six certified appraisers for items brought in by the public. For more information, call 423-638-4111.

Feb. 26: Rogersville
Young Musicians Bluegrass Contest
Open to musicians ages 18 and under. For more information, contact Patricia Humbert, at 423-272-1961 or e-mail rogersvillefiddle.com

Feb. 26 :Sevierville
Rose Glen Literary Festival
Local authors and those who have written about Sevier County provide lectures and book signings. Held at Walters State Community College. For more information, call 1-888-738-4378 or visit the website www.VisitSevierville.com

Elected Officials Academy Schedule

MTAS will be hosting Elected Officials Academy sessions across the state this year.

- Level 1 sessions include:
- Foundations & Structure of Municipal Government,
 - Introduction to Charter,
 - Codes & Open Records Law
 - Municipal Finance Overview
 - Economic Development
 - Ethics and Open Meetings

These sessions will be informative for both the seasoned and the newly elected officials in Tennessee. All sessions in level 1 must be

completed in order to complete Level 1.

Dates and locations

Jan. 28-29	Chattanooga
Jan.28-29	Jackson
Feb. 4-5	Cookeville
Feb.18-19	Knoxville
Feb. 25-26	Goodlettsville
March 4-5	Martin

Training Facilities

Chattanooga, *Chattanooga Zoo*
Jackson, *West TN Center for Agricultural Research*
Cookeville, *Leslie Town Center*

Knoxville, UT Conference Center
Goodlettsville, *The Goodlettsville Fire Station*
Martin, *Boling University Center*

To obtain a registration form register or for additional information please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.utk.edu under the training tab or contact MTAS at 865-974-0411.



Certified Municipal Officer Schedule

The Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) is a certification program offered by MTAS. It is an 11-course program that includes an exam at the end of each course. Courses are offered in a sequence beginning with the Government Environment. Approximately every other month (beginning February 2011) a course will be offered in several locations across the state.

Each course is a day-long event beginning at 8:30 am local time and concluding at 5:00 pm. More information on the course location and schedule is provided below. This program is a valuable resource to gain in-depth knowledge of municipal accounting and finance and is required training for

municipal finance officials as provided for in the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007. Completion of the entire series takes about 24 months.

The schedule of session 1 of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer Program is as follows:

- **Feb. 8 Morristown**
Holiday Inn Conference Ctr., 5435 S. Davy Crockett Pkwy
- **Feb. 8 Jackson**
West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension and Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd.
- **Feb 8 Columbia**
LGC corporate office, 714 Armstrong Lane
- **Feb 16 Lenoir City**
Hampton Inn, 585 Ft. Loudon Medical Ctr. Dr.

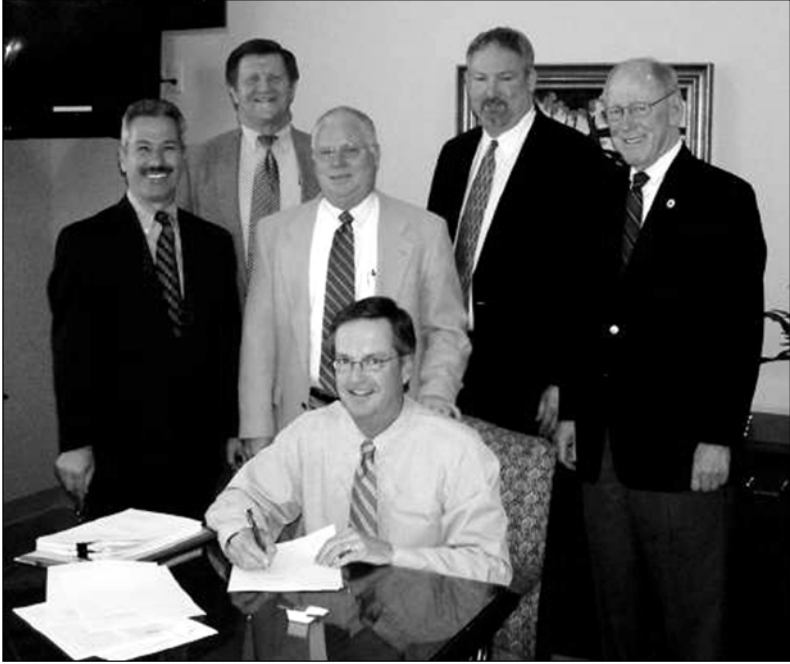
- **Feb 16 Martin**
Boling University Center, 61 Mt. Pelia Rd.
- **Feb 16 Lebanon**
Jimmy Floyd Family Center, 511 N. Castle Heights Ave.
- **Feb. 24 McMinnville**
City Hall, 101 East Main St.

To register for this class, please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Michelle Buckner at (865) 974-9851 or michelle.buckner@tennessee.edu



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The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.



The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.



Special Coverage: New State Leadership takes the Helm

House Speaker Beth Harwell says it’s time to let the GOP’s light shine

BY GAEL STAHL

Since 1798, the Tennessee House has met for 107 two-year sessions. Until last week there had been 74 House speakers in those 212 years. All male. This month, 1/11/11 became a memorable date in Tennessee history when Rep. Beth Harwell was elected the first female speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives for the 107th General Assembly. Four days later, Gov. Bill Haslam was inaugurated giving Tennessee for the first time since the 1870s a Republican governor along with Republican House and Senate speakers.

Harwell won the nomination of the House Republican Caucus in November, and on Jan. 11 was formally nominated by Rep. Steve McDaniel on the House floor. Rep. Glen Casada seconded the nomination. She won every vote of her colleagues.

They know her well. Harwell is beginning her 23rd year in the House, making her the third longest serving House member. As state party chair from 2001-2004 she recruited many of the candidates that in 2005 gave Republicans majority control of the Senate for the first time in 105 years. In 2009, they won a one-vote House majority. When she was elected to the House in 1988, 40 of the 99 House members were Republicans. This year there are 64.

Harwell was born Beth Halteman in 1957. She was raised in Pottsville, Pa., 40 miles west of Philadelphia along with two older brothers and two older sisters. Her parents wanted her to attend a Church of Christ college and her chiropractor father, who was willing and able to pay her way through undergraduate and post-graduate studies, let her pick her school of choice. Nashville’s David Lipscomb College (University since 1987) was the nearest four-year college and the one she liked most. Her mother was born and raised in North Carolina, so she figured she had good Southern blood running in her veins to bring to neighboring Tennessee. She quickly fell in love with the campus, the students and faculty, the city, and the state.

Her bio lacks a high school graduation date because she didn’t graduate. Instead, as she neared the end of her junior year, school advisors asked if she might like to skip senior year. She had already fulfilled college requirements and the small town school had no more classes to offer that would challenge her as a college could. Thus, it was that in 1974, a month after Richard Nixon resigned the presidency, she began her undergraduate studies and earned a bachelor’s in political science from Lipscomb in 1978. The same year, she began graduate work earning first an M.S. degree from George Peabody College and then a PhD in political science from Vanderbilt. She taught full-time at Belmont University for four years and part-time at Lipscomb, Trevecca College, Volunteer State Community College, and at the UT Center for Government Training.

She spent high school and college summers either as a camp counselor or taking extra courses. While at graduate school, she was a graduate assistant and taught one summer. She also pursued political interests and worked in campaigns.

Not being from a political family, Harwell gets asked how she got interested in politics. She says that while a high school sophomore and junior, her grandmother became ill and came to live with the family. She was bedridden, and when her day-time nurse took a lunch break, it was Beth’s job to sit with her. The only thing on TV was the Watergate hearings. They were riveted to the screen. For Harwell, following the debates and questioning of witnesses was an introduction to the political process. Both picked their favorites. Beth’s was Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, his smooth Southern scrappy but gentlemanly way of talking and probing. Her grandmother’s hero was the folksy Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina who, called himself a country lawyer, set the tone of the proceedings. At one point, Harwell said, “Grandma, some day I’m going to meet those people.” “Well you just do that,” she said. “That would be good.” Not many weeks later, Harwell chose political science for her college major.

Ten years after graduating from Lipscomb, in 1988, she was elected to the Tennessee House on her second

try. She was 31. In 1992, she married Sam Harwell, a toy manufacturer. A year later she was the first female House member to have a child while serving in office.

In 2001, Rep. Harwell was elected chairman of the state Republican Party and for four years traveled the state county by county between sessions, searching for Republicans capable of winning House seats. The candidates she found, supported, and promoted would lay the groundwork that saw the General Assembly slowly but steadily turn the Republican minority in the General Assembly into the majority. As of last November, the GOP won majorities of 19-14 in the Senate and 64-34 in the House. Many of the House members she recruited helped nominate her for House speaker.

She was co-chair of Gov. Haslam’s gubernatorial campaign and worked in President George W. Bush’s re-election campaign. She has served on 16 boards and councils including Lipscomb’s. A friend of small business, Harwell was awarded the coveted Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Beth and Sam Harwell have a daughter and two sons, Allie and Sam, who are in high school, and Tucker, who is in fifth grade.

TT&C: Did you ever meet Howard Baker and Sam Ervin as promised?

BH: When I was doing graduate work at Vanderbilt one of its programs, IMPACT Symposium, which brings prominent guests on campus to speak, invited Sam Ervin. After he spoke I was able to tell him the story about him being my grandma’s hero. He was such a gentleman; when he got back home he sent me a letter to her in care of the Political Science Department. As I got involved in Republican Party politics in Tennessee, I met Howard Baker at various political party events and was able to tell Grandma that sure enough I’d met both of our heroes.

TT&C: How did you get into elective politics?

BH: I had been involved in party events and campaigns and then a House seat that had always been held by a Democrat came open in 1986. That was when incumbent Steve Cobb stepped down to run for Congress. I ran for it and was unsuccessful. I came back two years later, ran against the Democratic incumbent, and won.

TT&C: Who were some of the legislators you worked closely with who had an impact on your career over the last 22 years?

BH: Rep. David Copeland was an early friend and mentor. He was the House’s fiscal guru, a Republican, a man who helped me significantly during his final years in the House by taking the time to help me better understand the tax structure and budgeting. You don’t forget when somebody helps you that way.

I couldn’t begin to point out all the many good people here that I have learned from. I work well with and admire Steve McDaniel’s wisdom. He’s steady, has a depth of knowledge of state government that is remarkable. That’s true of many people on both sides of the aisle that I treasure and grew close to. I’ve always been able to work well with my Davidson County delegation and enjoyed serving on committees with Democrats and Republicans alike. I’ve learned from so many.

TT&C: What major challenges do you face as speaker, especially the first six months?

BH: My first challenge is that it’s a new job with a steep learning curve. So many diverse responsibilities flow through the Speaker’s Office. Speaker Naifeh and Speaker Williams have been generous with their time and helpfulness. They too want to see a smooth transition. I appreciate that.

Another big challenge is helping 22 new legislators learn the legislative process. My Republican leadership team will be doing a large part of that.

That will prepare the way for us to meet our most important challenge, which is keeping us on task. We’ve got to stay focused on the economy, job creation, balancing the budget, and continuing the educa-



House Speaker Beth Harwell

tional reform that we started. Those are the essential things that we can’t let other issues distract us from. The fact is that we and the rest of the country are recovering from the Great Recession. That is the priority concern for state Republicans.

We look forward to supporting Gov. Bill Haslam and what he has in store to create an environment conducive for job creation, to pass a balanced budget without raising taxes, and to achieve my third and final priority which is keeping us moving forward on education reform and improving great strides we’ve made in that area.

TT&C: What areas of reforming and improving charter schools interest you most?

BH: We want to have quality public charter schools in Tennessee. We’re not going to make it easier for charter schools. We want the best charter schools. As the state grows and the needs of inner city areas grow, we want more charter schools available to children that could benefit from them. They’re not right for every child, but are right for some. So, we might be upping the number of charter schools that could be allowed to be in Tennessee.

TT&C: Rep. Vince Dean, a Republican and former mayor, shared your legislative office last session. He says you are methodical with an ability to think things through. Rep. Mike Turner, the Democratic caucus chair, predicted you’d be a good speaker if you stay true to who Beth Harwell is and not let fractious colleagues pull you in other directions. What does that mean?

BH: I didn’t know he said that. I have always liked Mike Turner. He’s a personal friend. I’d like to think Mike knows that I’m honest, that if I tell you something I’m going to try to do it. I’ve always tried to be honest and fair with my colleagues. It serves the state of Tennessee better to do that. There is a time for politics. But then there is a time for governing. We’re now into January. It’s time to govern. There will be time in two years for another set of elections. But right now it’s all about governing.

Methodically thinking things through means staying focused on conservative principles, being true to my party, true to me, and true to all the people of our state. Jobs, the budget, and not sliding back on education improvements face us. If other issues are important to the Republican caucus, we’ll address them.

We’re in a serious position. The economy is fragile. We need to be careful of what we do while always being true to conservative Republican principles. The Republican Party is the party that says we don’t need a lot of laws regulating people’s lives. I see us being reasonable in what we present this session. Right now it’s time for us to focus on jobs and

education and balancing the budget at a time that we are going to have a billion dollar shortfall. We’re going to have to make difficult budget decisions.

TT&C: Those are issues that represent your focus as House speaker. Going back over your career, what legislation was important to you that you passed as a member of the House?

BH: I sponsored, of course, the 2009 landmark charter school legislation that enabled more students to attend public charter schools in Tennessee. Secondly, legislation was brought to me by constituents that I’m proud that I was able to pass in my earlier years. I sponsored and passed legislation requiring more time behind bars for rapists, strengthening Tennessee’s laws for rape of a child, clarifying and toughening the penalties against stalkers, and building crime prevention cooperation among the states.

Over my many years, I’ve sponsored a lot of bills. For instance, I was the prime sponsor of Gov. Don Sundquist’s Families First welfare reform legislation.

TT&C: Now that you will be in state history books forever, how does it feel? You’ve made little mention of your being the state’s first female House speaker.

BH: It hasn’t gone unnoticed by people. Any number of men and women, many not particularly interested in politics, have come up to me and said they think it’s great that a woman is getting to do this. I will certainly try to live up to people’s expectations and be worthy of the job.

I might add that it’s nice when your teenage daughter thinks it’s cool that her mom is the first female speaker in Tennessee history. It’s an historical precedent that I’m proud that I could be part of it, but I don’t think I was nominated by my caucus because I am a woman.

TT&C: You have been a Republican in the Howard Baker mold, that is representing the fiscally conservative, pro-business, moderate wing of the state Republican Party rather than the social conservative wing. You won the House speaker nomination from your caucus despite lobbyists for the NRA and the Tea Party movement opposing you. How did you overcome that?

BH: I have had a long history of loyalty to this party, of helping people over many years. I was state party chairman when we took the state Senate. I have been working in campaigns for a long time helping a lot of good people get elected, and proud and happy to do it. In 2008, I was the co-chair of the Tennessee for John McCain presidential campaign. It won nearly 57 percent of the vote.

This was a Republican caucus decision. Although we welcome the

influence from other groups, and we certainly have a lot in common with the Tea Party, this is a Republican caucus. Our caucus’s voting record and legislation proves it will continue to be a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. I have a very good record when it comes to the NRA and have always received an A or B rating from them. I differed with them on just one vote (Note: It was the vote on the bill to allow the taking of loaded guns into restaurants and bars, which was opposed by police chiefs. I can differ on votes at times and still have enough in common for us to work well together.

TT&C: This being the first time in almost 140 years that Tennessee Republicans have had a majority in both chambers as well as a Republican governor, what does that mean for the party?

BH: I think it may be a time for the GOP to let its light shine and prove it can govern. This is an historic moment for Tennessee Republicans that after what, 140 years, we captured the governorship, state House and state Senate.

TT&C: What is your relationship with Gov. Haslam and Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey?

BH: I have a good working relationship with both of them. I am so proud of Bill Haslam. I think he is going to be a terrific governor. He has a wonderful demeanor. He will listen. He will learn. A stable, good man. I’ve known Ron Ramsey since we were in the House together and have a good friendship with him. We served together, but not on the same committee. I think we’ll work well together.

TT&C: How would you describe your relationship with Minority Leader Fitzhugh?

BH: Craig Fitzhugh is a member I truly admire. He’s another man that is calm under pressure. He certainly understands the budget and played an integral part as a member of the Commerce Committee that I chaired last session. Besides being wonderful on Commerce, he chaired the Finance Committee last session. I watched and admired him. He will bring good leadership to the Democratic Party.

TT&C: Besides a new House speaker’s endless housekeeping responsibilities, she also makes committee assignments. What’s your philosophy on that?

BH: A lot comes through the Speaker’s Office; enough to keep us on task. I’d love to see the legislature run efficiently from the mundane job of finding parking spaces to scheduling committee rooms. I’m going to work hard every day.

Certainly, the voters gave us Republicans a mandate. They gave us a 30-vote margin, the biggest ever, and 22 new Republican freshmen. Voters wanted to see what Republican leadership could do for the state. Committee chairmanships will all be in the hands of Republicans. I quickly add that there is a role for the minority party. They can offer suggestions to make legislation better. I think they need to live up to that role. I want them to know that I will be fair and open and treat each member with respect and dignity whether they are Ds or Rs. The bottom line is that I know that we have partisan differences but I also know that the House is made up of statesmen who are ready, when it comes down to it, to do what’s best for the state of Tennessee.

TT&C: Do you see local government involved in helping solve some of those challenges?

BH: Absolutely. In my years of service in the General Assembly I witnessed over and over strong respect for local governments on the part of state legislators. They want and need a good working relationship with their local officials. I think we’ve had that over the years. That is vital. We’ve been very conscientious about not doing to local governments what the federal government does to states, that is, sending you unfunded mandates. We certainly want to avoid anything like that. Keep in mind that I am a Republican, which means I believe that the best government is that which is closest to the people. As much authority that can remain at the local level is, I think, a good thing.