



University of Tennessee, Knoxville

TRACE: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange

Municipal E-News

Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)

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MTAS

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CITY SPOTLIGHT:

SAVANNAH

Hardin County

Incorporated 1849

2013 Population: 6,982

Municipal Management Consultant

Ronnie Neill

ronnie.neill@tennessee.edu

CLASS LISTINGS & INTERACTIVE TRAINING CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! MTAS training events and conferences are listed here along with information on how to register for upcoming training events on your Solution Point account. [READ](#)

RESEARCH/INFORMATION CENTER NEW MATERIALS

MTAS's Research and Information Center is always adding new materials to its collection. See what's new for this month. [READ](#)

PAST ISSUES OF THE MUNICIPAL E-NEWSLETTER

[READ](#)

WELCOME, CHRIS SHULTS AND ELISHA HODGE! We are pleased to announce the addition of Chris Shults and Elisha Hodge to the MTAS staff. [READ](#)

TENNESSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

In today's economy, all cities must prioritize revenue and other resources devoted to providing service to the residents, business owners, and visitors to their community. [READ](#)

SUBSTANCE OF THE ANTI-KICKING THE CAN ACT One of the many complicated issues that local governments must deal with regarding debt management relates to structuring the timing of debt principal and interest repayment schedules. [READ](#)

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC ACTS 2014

MTAS has released a final Summary of Public Acts 2014 document. [READ](#)

NEW COVALENT BENCHMARKING SOFTWARE TRAINING IN FULL SWING

Participating TMBP cities across the state are now training on Covalent's municipal benchmarking software system. [READ](#)

TREEDC HOSTING ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "Energy is the second highest budget allocation for a city after labor costs," says Warren Nevad of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC). [READ](#)

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PROGRESS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2ND ROUND OF TASP SCHOLARSHIPS

Does your city need financial assistance to assess, reform, develop, and/or implement systems to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment in your community? [READ](#)

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MTAS Online

3 new certificate programs

Administrative Professional Online Certificate
Human Resources Essentials Online Certificate
Managerial Essentials Online Certificate



Welcome New Employees!

WELCOME, CHRIS SHULTS AND ELISHA HODGE!

We are pleased to announce the addition of Chris Shults and Elisha Hodge to the MTAS staff.

Chris, who will be serving as the Tennessee Municipal Benchmarking Project (TMBP) Coordinator, fills the vacancy created when Sarah Young resigned earlier this year. Elisha will fill the vacant legal consultant position created when Josh Jones resigned in June.

Chris is a familiar face to MTAS staff. He worked as an intern with the benchmarking program in 2009 and 2010. Chris has a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's in public administration, and will be awarded a doctorate in political science in December 2014.



Several of you may know Elisha, as she has served as the Open Records Counsel in the state comptroller's office for the past seven years. Elisha will officially join MTAS on Monday, October 6.

We are very fortunate to have Chris and Elisha join our team. They bring extensive knowledge and experience to MTAS, and we look forward to bringing their expertise to our town and city customers.

Tennessee Fire Department Needs Assessment Survey (2013-14)

IN TODAY'S ECONOMY, all cities must prioritize revenue and other resources devoted to providing service to the residents, business owners, and visitors to their community. The recent recession has caused many cities to forgo purchases in many areas, including the provision of fire services, which has led to increased needs across the state.

Throughout the fall of 2013 and spring of 2014, MTAS conducted a statewide fire service needs assessment survey to identify and quantify these collective needs. The survey identified gaps in Tennessee fire service coverage by comparing departments' personnel, emergency services, equipment, and facilities against consensus standards, government regulations, and other nationally recognized guidance regarding efficient and effective firefighting practices.

Local government officials and state legislators should use the results of this survey to plan for and fund programs to address these critical needs at both the local and state level.

This report is available for download on our website at [this link](#). For additional information, contact [Dennis Wolf](#), MTAS fire management consultant.



Substance of the Anti-Kicking the Can Act

Sharee Brewer,
MTAS Finance and Accounting Consultant

ONE OF THE MANY COMPLICATED ISSUES that local governments must deal with regarding debt management relates to structuring the timing of debt principal and interest repayment schedules. It is good stewardship for municipal finance officers to consider budgetary constraints for the foreseeable future in structuring those payments. Two common terms found on this topic are frontloading and backloading. Simply put, frontloading debt is the strategic placement of higher debt repayments in the near term, while backloading debt delays higher debt repayments to the latter term of the repayment schedule.

Recent action by the Tennessee legislature became effective on July 1, 2014, with the passage of the Anti-Kicking the Can Act. This act addresses the practice of backloading debt principal and interest repayment schedules. The legislation addresses backloading by using the term balloon indebtedness and defines it as debt that 1) has a maturity date of more than 31 years after issuance; 2) delays principal payments for more than three years; 3) capitalizes interest beyond the later of the construction period or three years after issuance; or 4) does not have substantially level or declining debt service.

With this legislation, a plan must be submitted to the Office of State and Local Finance before any local government can issue any form of balloon indebtedness. This plan will be reviewed by that office and may be approved only if it is determined that the repayment structure is in the public's interest. After receiving the plan, accompanied by all requested supplemental documentation, the director of state and local finance must report the approval or disapproval of the plan to the governing body within 15 business days. If you have any further questions on this topic, please contact your MTAS finance consultant.



Summary of Public Acts 2014

Tennessee Public Acts 2014

*Summaries of Interest
to Municipal Officials*

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE 
MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

MTAS HAS RELEASED a final Summary of Public Acts 2014 document. Users of this document are cautioned that much judgment is involved in determining which Public Acts to summarize and how to summarize them. Before taking action or giving advice based upon any Public Act summarized here, one should consult the act itself and not rely on the summary.

Click [here](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/242/) to download: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_mtaspubs/242/ (The PDF download option appears as a grey button.)



New Covalent Benchmarking Software Training in Full Swing

John Crawford, MTAS Marketing Coordinator

PARTICIPATING TMBP CITIES ACROSS THE STATE are now training on Covalent's municipal benchmarking software system. More than 200 city representatives have been focusing on online data entry techniques, with some additional exposure to the powerful data analysis tools



included with the system. Training webinars and onsite training sessions will be carried out through the fall to bring users of the 20 participating cities up to speed.

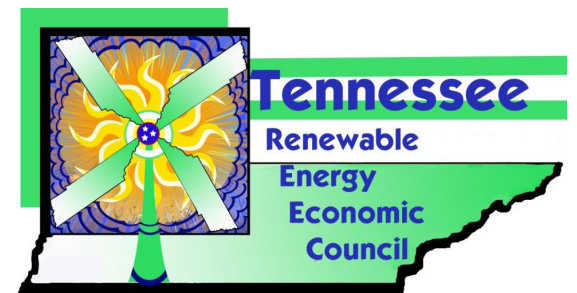
The Covalent software is designed specifically for municipal benchmarking and has been used in similar environments for over eight years. Trend analysis, charting, ad hoc reporting options, target setting and tracking, and project management tools are just a few of the many benefits of this TMBP dedicated software. MTAS purchased licenses for all participants earlier this year and includes this software and training with TMBP participation at no additional charge.

If you are interested in participating in the 2015 benchmarking cycle, please contact John Crawford at john.crawford@tennessee.edu or 615-532-2588. We will be glad to visit your city to discuss the many advantages of collaborative municipal benchmarking.

TREEDC Hosting Its First International Conference

Tom Ballard, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Initiatives
Pershing Yoakley Associates, P.C.

"ENERGY IS THE SECOND HIGHEST BUDGET allocation for a city after labor costs," says Warren Nevad of the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC).



That fact alone explains why the full-time municipal management consultant for the University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service is so involved in the work of TREEDC and its upcoming first-ever International Renewable Energy Conference. The event is set for October 12-14 at Tennessee Technological University (TTU) in Cookeville.

The "international" tag is no misnomer. TREEDC decided in 2012 to build global partnerships and selected the Philippines in early 2013 as its first target.

"We're anticipating six to eight university officials and mayors from the Philippines to attend the conference," Nevad said. In addition to his consulting role with UT's Municipal Technical Advisory Service, Nevad also serves as TREEDC's director.

From the fledgling organization established by four Tennessee Mayors in 2008, TREEDC has grown to a statewide association boasting 96 Tennessee city members and another 10 international communities. It even includes two out-of-state universities – Arkansas and Mississippi State – as members.

With its university connections, education is obviously a key priority for TREEDC. It is also helpful that the TREEDC Chair is UT President Emeritus Joe Johnson.

"We've held 20 forums since our founding," Nevad explained. They are designed to help mayors learn about new initiatives in other cities, available opportunities, and best practices in renewable energy.

"Our model can be easily replicated," Nevad says. "Most green organizations are industry specific, whereas our focus is on leveraging the member cities. We're promoting all of the renewables. We're technology neutral."

He describes another part of TREEDC's function as a matchmaking service for cities and businesses.

"We get them to dance and how they do it is up to them," Nevad says.

Reprinted from Teknovation.Biz: Technology News for the Serious Entrepreneur.
<http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=c0b10d5c7494b005ca053507a&id=73ecf08cd9&e=80d9cab91a>

TREEDC Hosting Its First International Conference (con't)

The upcoming conference takes TREEDC's educational focus to a new level.

Anyone can attend the October event, Nevad says. The registration fee is \$99 a person, and TREEDC hopes to attract 250 to 300 registrants. To register and learn more about sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#).

Nevad promises an exciting three days. He's particularly excited about Neil Petchers, who will deliver the keynote address at the luncheon on October 13. Petchers is the president and chief executive officer of NORESCO, an international energy services firm that has implemented energy infrastructure upgrade projects for government and private industry clients throughout the U.S. and internationally in Guam and Japan.

Other sessions on October 13 will include panels on topics such as international best practices, available funding for energy efficiency and renewable projects; compressed natural gas and propane; waste to energy projects in two West Tennessee cities; and net zero energy manufacturing.

The conference wraps up after panels on the morning of October 14. For a complete program agenda, [click here](#).

2014 TREEDC STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT *October 12-14, 2014, Hosted By Tennessee Tech University*

Registration Options:

- Individual Registration | \$89
- Friend Registration | \$500
- Partner Registration | \$1000
- Principal Registration | \$1500
- Premier Registration | \$2000

Additional Events - Scholarship Fundraisers:

Golf Outing | \$25

- Sunday, October 12th
- 9 Holes of Golf—Prizes Awarded

Guided Westside Walk | \$10

- Monday, October 13th, 6PM

Register Online:

https://epay.tntech.edu/C20205_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=610&SINGLESTORE=true

The 2014 TREEDC International Conference has gone mobile! Schedule, maps, Twitter, alerts, more on your iPhone/Android, free! Get Guidebook at <http://guidebook.com/guide/21671>

Center for Community Progress Now Accepting Applications for 2nd Round of TASP Scholarships



DOES YOUR CITY NEED financial assistance to assess, reform, develop, and/or implement systems to address large-scale vacancy and abandonment in your community?" The Center for Community Progress is now welcoming applications for the second round of the Technical Assistance Scholarship Program (TASP).

TASP recipients each receive up to 200 hours of direct technical assistance from a team of experts. Key dates for the application process are:

- Monday, October 6, 2014, from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. EDT: RFA Informational Webinar. [Click here to register](#) for the webinar.
- Friday, October 17, 2014: Deadline for submission of questions.
- Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 4 p.m. EST: Application deadline. Incomplete applications or those submitted after this deadline will not be considered. [Click here to apply](#).
- Monday, January 12, 2015: Recipients notified of results.

MTAS Training Opportunities

CONFERENCES

TENNESSEE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 12-14, 2014
Cookeville

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 16-17, 2014
MURFREESBORO

TENNESSEE CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

October 29-31, 2014
Gatlinburg

PRIMA INSTITUTE

November 3-7, 2014
Louisville, KY

TENNESSEE PUBLIC RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (TNPRIMA)

November 19-21, 2014
Nashville

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONGRESS OF CITIES AND EXPOSITION

November 18-23, 2014
Austin, TX

For a listing of all 2014 MTAS Training Opportunities, click [here](#) for the 2014 Training Catalog.

Administrative Hearing Officer 2014

10/20/2014	8:30 AM	Nashville	TML Conference Room
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CMFO-Payroll, Benefits & Pensions

10/29/2014	8:30 AM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
10/29/2014	8:30 AM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center
11/5/2014	8:30 AM	Kingsport	Kingsport Center for Higher Education
11/5/2014	8:30 AM	Nashville	Univ of Tenn - CIS Training Room
11/5/2014	8:30 AM	East Ridge	East Ridge City Hall

Collections for Municipal Court

10/10/2014	12:30 PM	Franklin	Franklin Police Department
10/16/2014	12:30 PM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
11/7/2014	12:30 PM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center

Effective Leadership Series: Developing Your Emotional Intelligence

11/11/2014	8:30 AM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
11/12/2014	8:30 AM	Nashville	TBI Headquarters
11/19/2014	8:30 AM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center
11/25/2014	8:30 AM	Chattanooga	Univ of Tenn - Chattanooga

Improving Team Effectiveness

10/15/2014	10:00 AM	Murfreesboro	Murfreesboro Police Department Training Room
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MAP- Planning and Zoning: Annexation Issues & Smart Growth

10/8/2014	8:30 AM	Johnson City	Johnson City Public Library
10/9/2014	8:30 AM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center
10/15/2014	8:30 AM	Collegedale	Collegedale City Hall
10/16/2014	8:30 AM	Nashville	TBI Headquarters
10/22/2014	8:30 AM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
10/23/2014	8:30 AM	Bartlett	Bartlett Station Municipal Center

Municipal Court Clerk Class-2014

10/9/2014	8:30 AM	Collegedale	Collegedale City Hall
10/10/2014	8:30 AM	Franklin	Franklin Police Department
10/15/2014	8:30 AM	Bartlett	Bartlett Station Municipal Center
10/16/2014	8:30 AM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
11/5/2014	8:30 AM	Cookeville	Leslie Town Center
11/7/2014	8:30 AM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center

Women in Public Service Symposium

11/13/2014	9:00 AM	Murfreesboro	Doubletree Hotel
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