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Municipal E-News

Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS)

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2-2015

### Municipal E-News: Issue 68: February 2015

MTAS

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## 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](#)

- **Breaking a Tie in the Election of an Alderman** ([Click here](#))
- **Model Stormwater Ordinance.** Revised May 2013, Available on web December 2014. ([Click here](#))
- **Tattoo Policies in the Workplace in Selected Tennessee Cities and Towns.** MTAS Survey. ([Click here](#))

## PAST ISSUES OF THE MUNICIPAL E-NEWSLETTER

[READ](#)

## CITY SPOTLIGHT: SNEEDVILLE

**Hancock County**  
**Incorporated 1850**

2014 Population: 1,387  
Municipal Management Consultant  
Pat Hardy  
[pat.hardy@tennessee.edu](mailto:pat.hardy@tennessee.edu)



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**THE CITY OF DETROIT, ACT II** In August 2013, I submitted an article in the wake of the city of Detroit filing for bankruptcy protection. [READ](#)

**IPS HEALTH CARE FORUM** Health care and health care financing are undoubtedly key issues for cities and counties in this state. [READ](#)

## ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION WEBINAR ON *LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE*

Join us for a webinar on Mar 4, 2015 at 1:00 PM EST. [READ](#)

## FIRST MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE TO COMPLETE ALL THREE LEVELS OF ONLINE TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) would like to officially congratulate Susan Coleman of the city of Franklin, for being the first municipal employee to successfully complete all three levels of the new Administrative Professional Online Training Certificate Program! [READ](#)



**MTAS Online**  
3 new certificate programs  
Administrative Professional Online Certificate  
Human Resources Essentials Online Certificate  
Managerial Essentials Online Certificate



# The City of Detroit, Act II

Sharee Brewer, MTAS Finance and Accounting Consultant

**IN AUGUST 2013**, I submitted an article in the wake of the city of Detroit filing for bankruptcy protection. It was the largest filing by a municipality in U.S. history. In December 2014, the city of Detroit emerged from court protection having shed \$7 billion in debt and with authorization to spend \$1.7 billion over the next decade on the city's crumbling infrastructure. It is reported that the legal bills alone have cost the city a whopping \$177 million.

No single cause for the troubles that faced this municipality can be identified. When an entity reaches this point, there are so many issues that must be addressed it can be hard to pick a starting point. In that first article I mentioned the problems for Detroit (and any bankruptcy) stem ultimately from insolvency caused by a failure to appropriately manage cash reserves. Managing cash is critical, but there are other issues outside the hands-on financial management world that could warn a municipality of a potential problem on the horizon. What are some triggers that contribute to revenues decreasing and expenses increasing, both of which consume local government cash reserves?

Less than 1/10 of 1 percent of all local government entities have filed for bankruptcy protection. In those cases, the most common triggers included a loss of property tax base, increases in employment and pension costs, and losses sustained from unsafe investments. Addressing these issues is beyond the scope of this particular article but they are good food for thought when it comes to the larger picture of managing a municipality for longevity and providing future services to its citizens.

Please contact your MTAS consultant for assistance with any concerns you have.

## IPS Health Care Forum

**HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH CARE FINANCING** are undoubtedly key issues for cities and counties in this state.

In collaboration with the Center for State & Local Government Excellence, the UT Institute for Public Service has developed a summary of strategies to address rising health care costs. This work discusses some of the more important drivers of health care costs and provides six case studies highlighting solutions in use in local governments across the country.

**WHEN:** February 24th - 10 AM - 2 PM

**WHERE:** Doubletree by Hilton in Murfreesboro.

A block of rooms has been reserved for those planning to stay overnight on Feb. 23. To receive the conference rate of \$102 (plus taxes), room must be reserved by February 10th using the code "UTH."

**COST:** \$25 (includes lunch)

**REGISTRATION:** The meeting agenda and details are available online at <http://www.ips.tennessee.edu/content/join-us-panel-discussion-local-governments-health-care-costs>, and registration is through CTAS/MTAS at <http://bit.ly/1AHyeaL>.

The registration deadline is February 17, 2015.

*This program qualifies for credits under the CMFO requirements for continuing education.*

**For registration questions, please contact Patrick Mills at [patrick.mills@tennessee.edu](mailto:patrick.mills@tennessee.edu) or 865-974-0413.**





# Alliance for Innovation Webinar on *Love Where You Live*



**JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON MAR 4, 2015 AT 1:00 PM EST.**

**Register now!** There is no charge for this webinar.

**<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4171943304096862209>**

Join Alliance for Innovation Senior Fellow Peter Kageyama for a session on creating emotionally engaging places. Peter is the author of *For the Love of Cities* and the newly released *Love Where You Live*. The new book is the practical guide for community leaders to be intentional about creating a more emotionally engaging, lovable place. The webinar is designed for city leaders who are looking to take simple, immediate and largely inexpensive steps towards a better, more interesting, more lovable community.

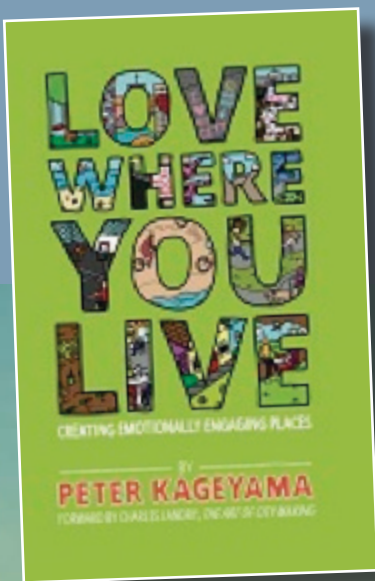
Highlights include:

- How to marshal your co-creators; those creative people in your midst who are making things happen in your city
- The importance of starting small
- Avoid the “Daggers” - the small but painful things that disconnect us from our places
- Embracing temporary
- Being emotionally true

You can purchase his books on Amazon.com. For more information about Peter:

**[www.fortheloveofcities.com](http://www.fortheloveofcities.com).**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



# First Municipal Employee to Complete All Three Levels of Online Training Certificate Program

**MTAS WOULD LIKE TO** officially congratulate Susan Coleman of the city of Franklin, for being the first municipal employee to successfully complete all three levels of the new Administrative Professional Online Training Certificate Program! A technical support specialist in the department of planning & sustainability, Coleman has been with Franklin for nine years. She was a past graduate of the MTAS Municipal Administration Program's (MAP) Public Administrator Certificate as well.

"MTAS is a great resource for me by providing informative and technical advice on a variety of subject matters," Coleman said. "I am so glad MTAS now offers the online classes and certificate programs, since this a convenient way to stay up-to-date and provides continued training."

Prior to Coleman becoming the first city employee in the state to complete all three levels of the Administrative Professional Online Training Certificate, Coleman had to successfully complete 30 online courses, a total of 28 hours of instruction. Examples of completed courses include Managing Challenges in Customer Service and Professional Skills for Customer Service Agents.

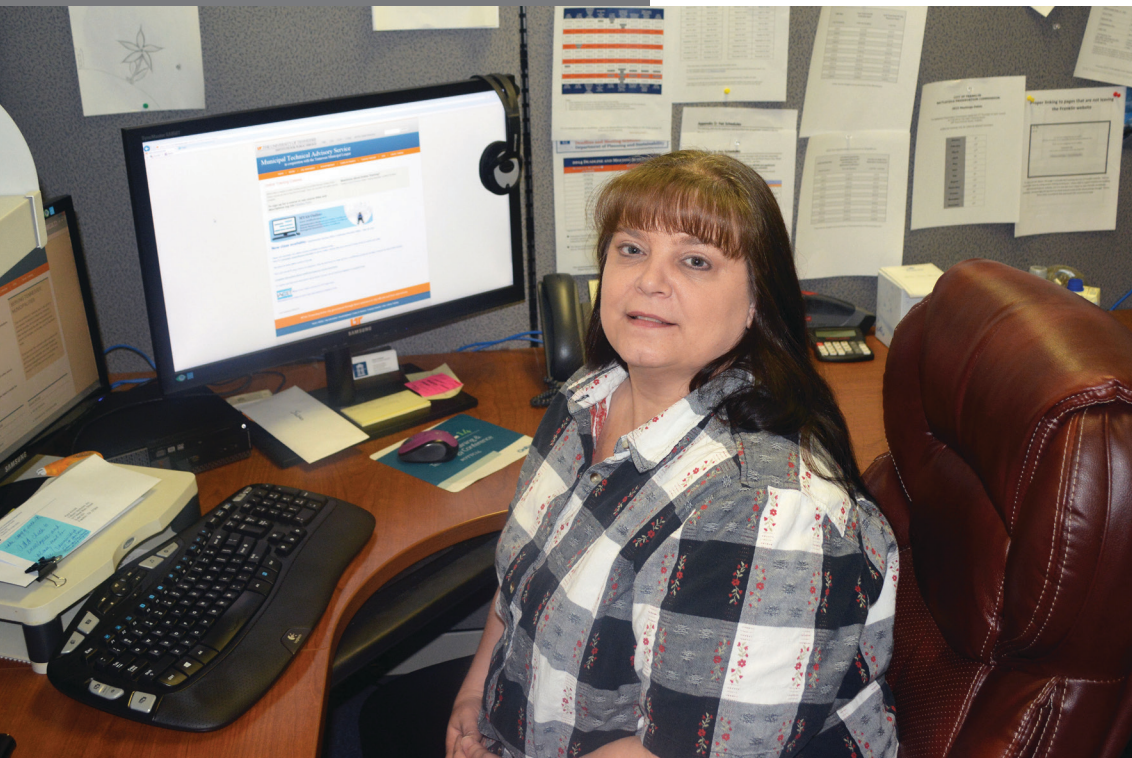
Coleman says she now plans to continue her training by enrolling in the Managerial Essentials Online Certificate Program for the new fiscal year.

"Our heartfelt congratulations go out to both Susan and the city of Franklin for seeing the value in utilizing online training for professional development! We believe these online courses are beneficial for municipal employees and their respective cities," said MTAS Training Manager Dr. Macel Ely. "By equipping our municipal employees with additional knowledge, job skills and insight, everyone reaps the benefit: our employees, our cities and our citizens."

MTAS Online Training Specialist, Cyndy Edmonds added, "MTAS offers more than 100 online classes, from finance to customer service to workplace environment. An online course allows employees of city governments to participate by enabling a flexible schedule and affordability. Participants can work at their own pace, and in their own respective time frames. These courses address all skill levels from introductory to advanced levels."

**MTAS HAS THREE ONLINE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:** Administrative Professional Online Certificate, Human Resources Essentials Online Certificate and the Managerial Essentials Online Certificate.

Customers can sign up for the certificate programs or can take any course, from any level, at any time. Please read more about MTAS online certificate programs **here**. To register and start right away, visit **Solution Point**.



  
*Susan Coleman*

Check out the [2015 MTAS Training Catalog](#) and plan your training calendar now!

# MTAS Training Opportunities

## Certified Municipal Finance Officer Program (CMFO)

### Municipal Budgeting

2/16/2015	8:30 AM	Collegedale	Collegedale City Hall
2/16/2015	8:30 AM	Collierville	Collierville Fire Dept
2/25/2015	8:30 AM	Nashville	CIS Training Room

## Municipal Administration Program (MAP)

### Purchasing Updates

2/10/15	8:30 AM	Johnson City	Memorial Park Community Center
2/11/15	8:30 AM	Knoxville	UT Conference Center Building
2/12/15	8:30 AM	Collegedale	Collegedale City Hall
2/17/15	8:30 AM	Bartlett	Bartlett Station Municipal Center
2/18/15	8:30 AM	Jackson	West Tenn Research & Education Center
2/19/15	8:30 AM	Franklin	Franklin Police Department

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### TML LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

March 2-3, 2015  
Nashville Doubletree Hotel

### AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 6-10, 2015  
Chicago, IL

### ICMA SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SUMMIT

March 12-13, 2015  
Grove Park Inn  
Asheville, NC

### TENNESSEE GFOA SPRING INSTITUTE 2015

March 20, 2015  
Chattanooga Marriott

### TRANSFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE (ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION)

April 13-15, 2015  
Phoenix, AZ

### TENNESSEE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION 23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 15-17, 2015  
Gatlinburg

### TENNESSEE CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE 2015

April 22-24, 2015  
Nashville