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County Officials E-News

May 2013, Vol 44

Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.



County Spotlight:

Hardeman County

County Seat: Bolivar

Population: 27,613

CTAS Field Consultant:

Bobby Phillips

In the 1880s, a retired Confederate colonel named Paul Jones donated land to start a home here for people with mental disabilities. It opened in 1889 and for many years was known as the West Tennessee Hospital for the Insane. By the 1950s it had more than 2,000 patients -- too many, as it turned out -- and in following years several other mental hospitals were built in Tennessee (now there are five in the state).

For more information, visit

PRESENTATION

How to Successfully Navigate Through Health Care Reform

County and Local Governments Workshops

April 30 – May 2, 2013
Jackson, Franklin and Knoxville, TN

Presented by:



Andrea Bailey Powers
205.244.3809
apowers@bakerdonelson.com

BAKER, DONELSON

EXPAND YOUR EXPECTATIONS™

Affordable Care Act Training Webcast Available

Did you miss the Affordable Care Act training we offered April 30-May 2?

Don't worry! **Watch the entire 4-hour recorded webinar here** to stay up-to-date on the impact this Act will have on local governments. You can also **download the PowerPoint presentation here**.

Please contact us or your field consultant if you have any questions at 615-532-3555.

Revised Employer Identification Number Regulations from the IRS

The **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** has revised the regulations that require all taxpayers with **employer identification numbers (EIN)** to update their information with the IRS. The new regulations will take effect on **Jan. 1, 2014** and apply to everyone who has an EIN.

<http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org>



EINs are issued by the IRS to businesses, governmental entities and certain individuals for tax filing & reporting. This regulation will allow the IRS to determine the true responsible party for the EIN and prevent unnecessary delays in resolving tax matters.

The IRS has already **updated Form SS-4** for new EIN applicants and will publish a form for those with current EINs once the regulations are finalized. Learn more about EINs [here](#).

Event Calendar

May 30 & 31
Energy 101

June 4-5
TCSA Legislative Conference

June 11, 12, 24, 27
Creating Success: The Role of
the Leader, Manager and
Follower

June 12-14
Clerks of Court Conference

[CTAS Event Calendar](#)



TCSA 2013 Legislative Conference Registration

When: June 4-5, 2013

Where: Park Vista Hotel, 705
Cherokee Orchard Road,
Gatlinburg, TN

Registration Info: [TCSA
Conferences Website](#)

County Highway Certification Worksheets Now Available



The highway certification worksheets will be going out to all mayors/executives, highway administrators, and finance directors soon. Each county's worksheets include a memo describing the purpose of the worksheets, the certification letter, and worksheets.

You can download your county's worksheets from the Reference Materials section on the [CTAS website](#). Please contact us (or your field consultant) if you have any questions at 615-532-3555.

Local Government Web Development Tips

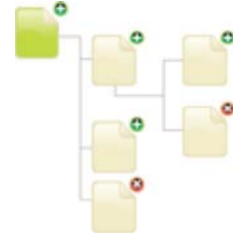
The Internet is a booming place and having an online presence is important to maintaining relationships with customers. A website is a great way to house and share information -- sometimes, however, it can seem overwhelming.

Some general tips for increasing the effectiveness of your official website's design include:

- Keep the content of the main page limited -- Focus on what your customers need to know!
- For a visually-pleasing look, limit the design to 2-3 colors.
- Alphabetize lists! While some menu items may be more popular, alphabetical lists make it easy to find information.
- Be sure to verify the website adheres to the [ADA Standards](#).

In most applications, simpler is better when it comes to website design. The purpose (hopefully!) of a website is to provide information. Lots of graphics and colors can 1) slow down page loading which frustrates the end user; and 2) may obscure the very information you're trying to display.

If you have any questions about website design or would like advice, contact us at 615-532-3555.



Source: David
Brenner,
openclipart.org

UT County Technical Assistance Service ctas.eneus@tennessee.edu

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