



Sullivan County Courthouse

County Spotlight: *Sullivan*

Population: 153,048
County Seat: *Blountville*

Did you know...?

Walking Magazine has included Kingsport on its list of Top Ten Cities in which to Walk.

Bristol Motor Speedway has a larger seating capacity than UT's Neyland Stadium. The Sullivan County racetrack seats 160,000.

*For more information, visit:
visitingkingsport.com
bristolmotorspeedway.com

PAYMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION/TREATMENT *Misdemeanor Defendants and Juveniles*

Under 2009 Public Chapter 531, Section 45 (click [here](#) to view), counties are responsible for the cost of court-ordered outpatient and inpatient mental health evaluations and treatment ordered by general sessions, circuit, and criminal courts under Title 33, chapter 7, part 3, for criminal defendants charged with misdemeanors only. Under Section 33 of that act, the state remains responsible for payment for such services when a defendant is charged with at least one felony.

Please note that Section 45 of the act expressly authorizes the court to order the defendant to pay for these services if the court finds the defendant financially able to pay all or part of the costs and expenses of evaluation and treatment. Your judges should be making these determinations where appropriate so that the county is not unnecessarily burdened with these costs.

With regard to mental health evaluation and treatment services for juveniles, under the authority of the 2008 decision of the Tennessee Court of Appeals in *In re J. B.*, the state stopped paying any of the costs for court-ordered inpatient evaluations of juveniles last year. Since that time counties have been responsible for the cost of all inpatient mental health evaluations ordered by a juvenile judge, unless the court finds that the parent or guardian is financially able to pay and orders the parent or guardian to pay these costs. Again, your judges should be making these determinations where appropriate so that the county is not unnecessarily burdened with these costs. The state will continue to pay the costs for outpatient evaluations ordered by the juvenile court.

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) will provide outpatient evaluations and inpatient evaluation and treatment services to counties at a reduced rate for adult misdemeanants and inpatient evaluations and treatment for juveniles at the same reduced rate, but only if the county enters into a rate-setting agreement for the services. The TDMHDD mailed a notice of rate-setting agreements to each county mayor during the month of September to establish the per diem rate for inpatient evaluation and treatment services provided in state facilities. Two separate contracts are available: one for adult misdemeanants and one for juveniles. *Unless your county signs and returns both of these contracts, your county will be charged a much higher daily rate for the services.*

To assist you in estimating the costs of these services to your county for budgetary purposes, the TDMHDD has agreed to provide you with statistics showing the evaluation and treatment services provided to your county in prior years. To obtain this information, to request your contracts, or if you need additional information or assistance, please contact Dr. Jeff Feix, TDMHDD Director of Forensic and Juvenile Court Services, at (615) 532-6747.

New Web Resource for West Tennessee

State, regional, and federal agencies serving West Tennessee have created a new website tool to enhance delivery of programs and services to customers throughout the region. The website, www.economicanswerstn.com, is sponsored and managed by West Tennessee Industrial Association. It is designed to provide government leaders, economic development practitioners, and business and industry leaders a central point of contact to access information on resources and assistance available through agency partners, including the UT Institute for Public Service (IPS), the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee Valley Authority, Development Districts, USDA Rural Development, and others. The website was developed as a result of discussions held in March 2008, at the Economic Development Field Summit, a statewide meeting of community and economic development agency representatives, including consultants from MTAS, CTAS and IPS. Summit participants were challenged to strengthen partnerships among technical assistance providers to address opportunities and challenges in communities and regions throughout the state.

The new website provides an overview of each partner agency and field consultant contact information; a brief description of agency programs and resources; a mechanism to email one or many field agents with a specific question or request for services; and an opportunity to post current events and news articles related to economic and community development. To learn more about the website or post an upcoming event, please contact Jim Blankenship at (731) 668-4300.

Mark Your Calendars!

The County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) Annual Conference will be held at the Airport Marriott in Nashville November 15-19. To register and view the complete conference agenda, click [here](#).



CTAS Announces Solid Waste Certificate Program

CTAS recently began the administration of a new training certificate program in conjunction with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the Tennessee Solid Waste Directors Association (TSWDA). The new Solid Waste Professionals Certificate Program (SWPCP) was designed to provide sound principles and practices in the planning, management and operation of an integrated solid waste system.

Participants will reap many benefits from the SWPCP, including having a comprehensive training program with courses specifically designed for their role as a solid waste professional; learning the latest approaches in the solid waste field of study; networking with leaders and innovative colleagues in solid waste management; and becoming recognized by the University of Tennessee as a Certified Solid Waste Professional. The program requires the completion of a combination of both SWANA and CTAS courses, some of which involve the participant to successfully complete a corresponding exam. Once certified, the solid waste professionals must earn 42 hours of approved training credit within a three year cycle to maintain their professional designation.

In October, CTAS presented the first SWPCP certificate to Randy Etheridge, the solid waste director from Hardin County.

For more information on the SWPCP, contact CTAS Training Manager Bob Schettler at bob.schettler@tennessee.edu or click [here](#).

Highway Officials Encouraged to Attend OSHA Training

CTAS and the Center for Industrial Services (CIS) will continue to conduct a training program on Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) regulations and safety procedures for highway officials. The 10 hour workshop addresses topics such as electrical safety, hazard communication, industrial hygiene, personal protective equipment, machine guarding, and flammable and combustible liquids. CTAS strongly encourages county highway officials and their employees to attend one of these informative safety training sessions. Remaining class dates and locations can be found on the Calendar of Events to the right. To obtain detailed registration information, click this icon .

Have comments or suggestions for this newsletter?
Contact Claire Marsalis at claire.marsalis@tennessee.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 19-20	OSHA Training, Knoxville
Oct. 20	Giving Employee Feedback Workshop, Knoxville
Oct. 22-23	Assoc. of TN Valley Governments (AVTG) Annual Membership Meeting, Gatlinburg
Oct. 22-23	Grant Writing Workshop, Nashville
Nov. 4	Business Tax Workshop, Collegedale
Nov. 4-5	OSHA Training, Greeneville
Nov. 5	Business Workshop, Johnson City
Nov. 6	Business Tax Workshop, Knoxville
Nov. 9-10	OSHA Training, Columbia
Nov. 12	Business Tax Workshop, Franklin
Nov. 12-13	OSHA Training, Springfield
Nov. 15-19	COAT Annual Conference, Nashville
Nov. 19	Business Tax Workshop, Jackson

*For more detailed event information, [click here](#).

COCTP Training Opportunity: Business Tax Workshop

On June 30, 2009, Governor Bredesen signed Public Chapter 530, shifting the administration and collection of business tax from local municipalities and counties to the Department of Revenue. Annual business tax returns will be filed and the taxes paid to the Tennessee Department of Revenue, and the department will collect all delinquent taxes and handle all necessary audit functions. Businesses will continue to obtain business licenses from the county clerk and/or municipal officials, and clerks and municipal officials will continue to administer transient vendor licenses. This class is being taught by the Tennessee Department of Revenue to assist local tax collecting officials in handling the transition from local to state collection of business taxes. The workshop is worth four hours of category B or recertification credit in the County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP). To view location details and register online, click [here](#).

County Officials E-News is a monthly newsletter provided by the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service in an effort to promote better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.

226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 400 ■ Nashville, TN 37219
Phone: (615) 532-3555 ■ Fax: (615) 532-3699
www.ctas.tennessee.edu