



Overton County Courthouse

County Spotlight:

Overton

Population: 22,083

County Seat: Livingston

CTAS Field Consultant:

Ben Rodgers

ben.rodgers@tennessee.edu

The Alpine community of Overton County was home to Tennessee Governor Albert H. Roberts. Roberts was instrumental in obtaining state ratification of the 19th Amendment for women's suffrage.

For more information on the history of Overton County, visit: www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net

TNData Portal Provides Demographic and Economic Information about Tennessee

CTAS has partnered with the UT Center for Business and Economic Research and the UT Department of Geography to create the CTAS/CBER TNData Portal, an interactive mapping, charting and data download website of demographic and economic information about Tennessee. The project is an extension of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project to centralize widely dispersed government data for fast access and easy analysis by county associations and elected officials.

CBER partnered with CTAS on the project because it was seeking better web-based visualization tools for the business and economic research data it collects and compiles for research use and economic analysis for the citizens of Tennessee. CBER introduced the site at its June 14 workshop on US Census Data and Projection, showing how recent data from the American Community Survey can be geographically selected and then mapped, charted, and downloaded in Excel format at the county or tract level. The UT Department of Geography joined the partnership because it supplies similar information on its Tennessee Electronic Atlas. The UT Geography Department and CTAS staff developed a rich internet application (RIA) interface for the data collected by CBER and UT Geography student workers. The website will also supply tax and revenue information. The combined efforts of the three groups will assist in keeping data current and relevant.

The website utilizes innovative and interactive presentation tools. With a few clicks of the mouse, users can: choose data by topic and geography and download to their selected format; as well as interactively map, chart and list data at the county level; and explore census tract level data in maps, charts, and table form.

The TNData Portal may be accessed at <http://ctasgis02.psur.utk.edu/credapopulation/>. Feedback on additional data and application performance may be sent to jon.walden@tennessee.edu.

News & Information

County Uniform Chart of Accounts Revision

The July 2011 revision of the County Uniform Chart of Accounts is now available on the State Comptroller's Office website: www.tn.gov/comptroller/ca/chart.htm. These revisions to the chart of accounts were effective July 1, 2011. For more information, double-click the icon ()

Preparedness Measures Every County Should Know

Many communities get themselves and their citizens ready for a disaster mostly in terms of bottled water and shelter. What many communities do not even think about – until a disaster strikes and they are still mounting a response – are the administrative components that will make or break their recovery. Andrew Sachs, vice president of disaster services at Witt Associates, a public safety and crisis management consulting firm, compiled a listing of essential steps every community should take to prepare for a disaster. To read the article, click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars!

WasteCon 2011 in Nashville

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) will hold its premier annual solid waste conference, WasteCon, in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel August 23-25. This year's program includes SWANA certification courses, area site tours, and a full host of education tracks. For more information on this and other environmental events and issues, check out the [CTAS Environmental Blog](#).

TAPTP to Hold First Annual Meeting

The Tennessee Association of Property Tax Professionals (TAPTP) will hold its first annual meeting August 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Nashville. The TAPTP will play a vital role in improving collection of delinquent taxes and prosecuting suits for the sale of property. If you are a tax professional, TAPTP encourages you to be present to have your voice heard concerning procedures to be followed and possible changes to the laws concerning collection and tax sales. For more information on this event, double-click the icon () or contact (865) 215-3692.

Local Planning Transition Grants for Smaller Counties

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty today announced the agency is now accepting applications for transition funding from the 212 communities for whom ECD formerly provided local planning services. Governor Bill Haslam included \$1 million for the transition in his 2011-2012 budget and each community applying for grant funds will receive an equal amount. Grant applications will be e-mailed directly to each of the client communities and applicants will have until September 1, 2011, to return the form. Applications will also be available on the agency's web site at www.tn.gov/ecd.

“We understand this is a period of transition for those communities who used ECD for planning purposes,” said Commissioner Hagerty. “As we move to make local planning truly a local function, we want to provide the help needed to make that happen as seamlessly as possible.”

Commissioner Hagerty added that only communities with contracts for local planning services with ECD during the 2010-2011 fiscal year and who received a notice of contract termination from ECD will be eligible to apply for the grants. The applicant community must be willing to match the grant with funding equal to their 2011 Local Planning Assistance service fee for the transition and must guarantee the funds will be used for services from a qualified planning professional.

To view the grant application, click [here](#).

Application deadline: September 15, 2011

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

August Training: Basic Principles of Economic Development

CTAS will offer a workshop series at the end of August entitled "Basic Principles of Economic Development for County Officials." The course focuses on a global perspective by defining economic development, explaining why it is important, and discussing current trends. Workshops will be delivered in three locations across the state: Knoxville, Jackson, and Franklin.

For dates, locations, and registration information, select the "Training" tab from the main menu on the CTAS web site (www.ctas.tennessee.edu) and click on "Classroom Training." This course is eligible for four hours of Category A or Recertification credit as part of the County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 19 Assoc. of Property Tax Professionals Mtg, Nashville
- Aug. 23 Economic Development Workshop, Knoxville
- Aug. 23-25 WasteCon 2011, Nashville
- Aug. 24 Economic Development Workshop, Franklin
- Aug. 25 Economic Development Workshop, Jackson

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

2011 Index of Acts Available on CTAS Website

The 2011 edition of the CTAS Index of Acts Related to County Government is on the Legislative Information page of the [CTAS website](#). To view the document, click [here](#). This publication contains summaries of the public and private acts affecting county government that were passed by the General Assembly this year. These summaries are intended to give county officials notice of changes in the laws affecting their offices. Prior to taking action based on these new laws, the actual text of the law should be reviewed. The full text of all of the new laws can be found on the website of the Tennessee Secretary of State listed by public or private chapter number: <http://tennessee.gov/sos/acts>.

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