



Putnam County Courthouse

County Spotlight: *Putnam*

Population: 62,315
County Seat: Cookeville

Did you know?

Putnam County is named in honor of Revolutionary War general Israel Putnam.

U.S. News & World Report ranked Cookeville's Tennessee Technological University among the "Top Public Universities" in its 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 America's Best Colleges Guides.

For more information, visit:
www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net
<http://www.tntech.edu/>

STATE FIRE MARSHAL SEEKS LOCAL BUILDING PERMIT ISSUING AGENTS: INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR ON JULY 29 AT 9 A.M. (CST)

In October of this year, the State Fire Marshal's office will begin permitting and inspecting new construction of one and two family residences and townhomes. The state program will not apply in jurisdictions that enforce their own building codes (having elected to continue local enforcement) or that opt out of state residential building code enforcement. The State Fire Marshal desires to contract with local government officials and electrical permit issuing agents to serve as issuing agents for these permits.

Under contracts with the state, local issuing agents will be paid a fee of \$15 for issuing a building permit and collecting and transmitting permit fees to the state. The State Fire Marshal's office is seeking issuing agents in every county participating in the state program. Issuing agents could be electric departments or other issuing agents currently serving as electrical inspection issuing agents, or a city or county office. All inspections will be scheduled through the State Fire Marshal's office using an automated system and not through the issuing agent.

The State Fire Marshal's office will be conducting an informational webinar to outline the process for building permit issuance for any who might be interested in becoming an issuing agent. You may pre-register for this interactive webinar or ask questions relating to the webinar by emailing greg.adams@tn.gov. Written materials for the webinar will be emailed to you for printing prior to the webinar's start time.

On July 29, log on to <http://stateoftennessee.na6.acrobat.com/residentialpermits/> at 9 A.M. (CST) to attend the webinar. To hear audio for the webinar, call 615-532-2242 (outside area code 615, call 877-436-2482). While additional training will be offered for issuing agents, anyone who is possibly interested in serving as an issuing agent should participate in this informational webinar.

If you have never attended a Connect Pro meeting before:

Test your connection: http://stateoftennessee.na6.acrobat.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Get a quick overview: http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview

Haywood County Solar Plant to be Among the Largest in the Southeast

Earlier this month, the State Building Commission approved Chattanooga-based Signal Energy as the design/build contractor for the West Tennessee Solar Farm to be located along Interstate 40 in Haywood County. The proposed five-megawatt, 30-acre power generation facility is part of Governor Phil Bredesen's Volunteer State Solar Initiative, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and will be one of the largest solar installations in the Southeast.

"The West Tennessee Solar Farm is a significant step forward for the development of the clean energy industry in Tennessee," said Governor Bredesen. "Through the Volunteer State Solar Initiative we are supporting the manufacturing and installation sectors of the solar industry and creating new jobs and opportunities for Tennesseans. In the long run we are strengthening Tennessee's reputation as a national clean energy leader and solar power hub."

The Department of Economic and Community Development has contracted with the University of Tennessee to oversee planning, operation and management of the West Tennessee Solar Farm. The Farm will consist of over 20,000 high efficiency silicon-based photovoltaic modules in a 5 MW configuration, expected to produce more than 7,000 megawatt hours of electricity annually. Installation of the solar modules is expected to begin in October 2010 with completion the following spring.

"Millions of Americans traveling I-40 each year will pass by the West Tennessee Solar Farm," said Matt Kisber, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. "By demonstrating the zero-carbon production of electricity on a highly visible and significant scale, the Solar Farm highlights Tennessee's commitment to supporting the solar industry and will encourage future renewable-energy interest and investments here in Tennessee."

The Tennessee Department of Transportation will also build an education and welcome center at the Solar Farm which will serve as an educational facility for the public and students to learn about renewable energy. The Solar Farm will utilize commercially available power generation technology, but may also test new technology under real world conditions.

For more information on this solar plant project, view a full press release here: <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/5525>.

County governments interested in solar power should contact their local power distributor.

CALCULATION OF SURETY BONDS FOR TRUSTEES

Certain county officials and employees are required to execute surety bonds prior to assuming their duties for the county (a list of these officials and employees is attached here ). For most of these bonds, the minimum amount of the bond requires little or no calculation.

However, the bond for the county trustee is based on the amount of revenues that the trustee's office handled during the past audited fiscal year. The Office of State and Local Finance has posted the trustee bond amounts for each county to its website.

To view the amounts, select the following link: <http://tn.gov/comptroller/lf/pdf/2010TrusteeSuretyBondAmounts.pdf>.

CTAS has prepared a sample Invitation to Bid (ITB) that counties may use to develop bid specifications to obtain competitive bids for surety bonds for the officials and employees in their particular county. To view the sample

ITB, double-click the following icon (). If you need assistance or have questions about official surety bonds, please contact your CTAS field consultant.

Update on State Revenues

The latest news release from the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration states that total tax collections for June were below budgeted estimates, but recorded positive growth in sales and corporate taxes. Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz recently announced that overall June revenues were \$1.062 billion, which is \$6.2 million less than the state budgeted. June sales tax collections represent consumer spending that took place in the month of May.

“This marks the third consecutive month in which sales tax collections recorded positive growth over the same month a year ago,” Goetz said. “While the positive growth for June is small, remember that consumer spending was depressed in May as a result of the unprecedented flooding the state endured. Although we believe that Tennessee is in the early stages of economic recovery we will continue to be diligent in monitoring the state’s spending in order to keep our budget in balance on a recurring basis.”

To read the full press release, click [here](#).

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 29	Webinar for Potential Issue Agents for the State Residential Inspection Program
August 5	General Election
August 9-12	Tennessee Sheriff’s Association Family Conference, Sevierville
August 16-20	The New Sheriff’s School, Nashville
August 24-26	County Officials Orientation Program (COOP), Nashville*

*To view the two agendas for COOP, click [here](#)

Index of Acts Available on CTAS Website

The 2010 edition of the CTAS Index of Acts Related to County Government is on the Legislative Information page of the CTAS website. 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 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.

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