



Bledsoe County Courthouse

County Spotlight: *Bledsoe*

Population: 12,367
County Seat: *Pikeville*

Did you know...

Fall Creek Falls State Park in Bledsoe and Van Buren Counties was voted by Southern Living magazine readers as the best state park in the Southeastern United States.

James B. Frazier, a native of Bledsoe County, served as Governor of Tennessee from 1903 to 1905. Frazier was elected for a second term, but resigned after the inauguration and had himself appointed to the vacant seat of deceased U.S. Senator William Bate.

*For more information, visit:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_B._Frazier

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED TO COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

The County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) and the Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA), along with their affiliate organizations, have elected new officers for 2009. These officials are chosen to direct association activities and to meet throughout the year to discuss issues relating to their county offices. Below is a listing of those elected, their organization and a contact phone number.

President, COAT

Pam Deen, Tipton County Clerk
901-476-0207

President Elect, COAT

Pam Whitaker, Sumner County
Register
615-452-3892

President, Court Clerks Association of Tennessee

Mike Forbess, Tipton County
Circuit Court Clerk
901-475-3310

President, Tennessee Registers Association

Bev Spickard, Wilson County Register
615-443-2611

President, County Clerks Association

Connie Stephens, Hardin County
Clerk
731-925-3921

President, Tennessee Trustees Association

Carl Levi, Hamilton County Trustee
423-209-7270

President, TCSA

Bill Dunlap, Blount County
Highway Superintendent
865-982-4652

1st Vice President, TCSA

Greg Adkins, Metro/Davidson County
Councilmember
615-832-2767

2nd Vice President, TCSA

Jeff Huffman, Tipton County
Executive
901-476-0200

President, Tennessee Association of County Mayors

Franklin Smith, Haywood County Mayor
731-772-1432

President, Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Jeff Minatra, Wayne County Highway
Commissioner
931-722-5556

President, Tennessee County Commissioners Association

Wallace Austin, White County
Commissioner
931-836-3552

FTC Requires Development and Implementation of Written Identity Theft Prevention Programs

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the federal bank regulatory agencies, and the National Credit Union Administration have jointly issued regulations known as the “Red Flags Rules” (Rules) requiring financial institutions and creditors with covered accounts to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs, as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (FACTA). The programs must provide for the identification, detection, and response to patterns, practices, or specific activities – known as “red flags” – that could indicate identity theft.

The Rules appear on their face to be aimed at financial institutions and business that offer credit; however, due to the broad definition of “creditor” and “covered account” the Rules may apply to some county departments. The Rules define “creditor” as any entity that regularly accepts deferred payment for goods or services; the Rules define “covered accounts” as an account used mostly for personal, family, or household purposes, and that involves multiple payments or transactions.

The Rules specifically state that utility companies are creditors and the FTC states that where any government entity defers payment for goods or services, they, too, are to be considered creditors. Thus, if a local government department provides and bills for goods or services, such as curb-side garbage pick-up, that department would most likely be considered a creditor under the Rules.

The Rules require creditors with covered accounts to design and implement an identity theft prevention program that is appropriate to their size and complexity, as well as the nature of their operations. The programs must provide for the identification, detection, and response to red flags. The FTC identifies 26 possible red flags in the Rules. These red flags are not a checklist, but rather, are examples that creditors may want to use as a starting point. They fall into five categories: (1) alerts, notifications, or warnings from a consumer reporting agency; (2) suspicious documents; (3) suspicious personally identifying

information, such as a suspicious address; (4) unusual use of – or suspicious activity relating to – a covered account; and (5) notices from customers, victims of identity theft, law enforcement authorities, or other businesses about possible identity theft in connection with covered accounts.

To view the FTC website, click here: www.ftc.gov

If you have specific questions about compliance with the Rules, email the FTC at RedFlags@ftc.gov.

Originally, the FTC intended to start enforcement of the Rules on November 1, 2008, however, the FTC has stated that due to confusion and uncertainty about the applicability of the Rules, the FTC will not enforce the Rules until May 1, 2009.

You can find more information regarding the Rules at the website of the FTC (www.ftc.gov). Additionally, if you have specific questions about compliance with the Rules, you may email the FTC at RedFlags@ftc.gov.

COUNTY PRIVATE ACT UPDATES

Private Acts are acts passed by the state legislature that affect a particular county. CTAS compiles and maintains thorough records of all the private acts in effect for a particular county. These compilations are continuously being updated. The following is a listing of the private acts that have been updated in 2008. The new compilations can be accessed from the CTAS website under "Legislative Information."

- Bedford
- Benton
- Blount
- Bradley
- Campbell
- Cannon
- Carroll
- Carter
- Cheatham
- Clay
- Crockett
- Decatur
- Dickson
- Dyer
- Fayette
- Fentress
- Grainger
- Hamblen
- Hamilton
- Hawkins
- Henry
- Lincoln
- Maury
- Meigs
- Montgomery
- Perry
- Robertson
- Tipton
- Wayne
- Weakley
- Williamson
- Wilson

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 16-18 Association of County Mayors (ACM)
Strategic Leadership Conference
Holiday Inn Express, Nashville

New COCTP Training Format for County Commissioners

CTAS is expanding its training schedule to accommodate more county officials. In January, CTAS will be providing an ethics course at the Williamson County Agricultural Center as an evening offering to better fit the schedules of county commissioners. "We are excited about the opportunity to enhance our service to county commissioners by offering evening classes. If this class is a success, we will begin teaching more classes in this format across the state," said Mike Garland, executive director of CTAS. All county officials are welcome and will be given more detailed information regarding the ethics session, including how to register, at a later date.

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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