

APRIL 2010, VOLUME 19



Cocke County Courthouse

County Spotlight: *Cocke*

Population: 33,565
County Seat: Newport

Did you know?

Cocke County is named for William Cocke, a Revolutionary War soldier and one of Tennessee's first U.S. senators.

Cocke County is home to Parrottsville, the third oldest town in Tennessee.

For more information, visit:

<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net>

Next Generation 911 Project Moves Forward

The Tennessee General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee recently approved an amendment to a state contract that will allow a planned digital upgrade of 911 service to move forward. The approval comes on the heels of the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board's (TECB) adoption of a plan to distribute \$25 million to local governments to purchase equipment for the upgrade, known as NG 911.

"The contract amendment to the NET TN project will facilitate the building of a statewide digital 911 infrastructure," said Lynn Questell, executive director of the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board. "This will allow us to move ahead with our plans to convert 911 in Tennessee to a digital system."

The NET TN project offers a unique opportunity for 911 to route calls over an existing, robust, secure, private IP infrastructure that is already connected to many 911 call centers through the TBI's NCIC program, significantly reducing costs and providing statewide uniformity for 911 call routing. "This is a big project that will have significant benefits for Tennesseans," Questell said. "This contract amendment will enable us to build critical digital infrastructure in an efficient, cost-effective manner. We need NG 911 to handle emerging technologies like Internet phone service (VoIP) and the many capabilities of today's cell phones."

The TECB expects to begin deployment of NG 911 in 2011. "Once the NG 911 project is complete, Tennesseans will have access to the best technology available to coordinate emergency responses," said Randy Porter, chairman of the Emergency Communications Board.

The TECB was created by the General Assembly in 1998 to assist Emergency Communication Districts' boards of directors in the areas of management, operations and accountability, with the goal of establishing reliable emergency communications for all citizens of the state. It's a successful formula; in 2005, Tennessee became the third state in the nation to become Phase II-ready, meaning a 911 operator can obtain a wireless caller's number and location information. In 2005, Tennessee received an award from the Congressional E911 Institute for having the nation's best state system.

The TECB is administratively attached to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, which works to protect consumers while ensuring fair competition for industries and professionals who do business in Tennessee. www.tn.gov/commerce/

The State 911 board will be in contact with all of the 911 directors regarding this new project and should be sending information directly to each 911 district.

Local Government Exemption Forms

The residential codes portion of Public Chapter 529 of the 2009 General Assembly will go into effect on October 1, 2010. This Public Act is known as the “Tennessee Clean Energy Future Act of 2009.” Several cities and counties in Tennessee currently conduct inspections of one- and two-family residential dwellings. For local jurisdictions that plan to continue to conduct their own inspections, it is necessary for the attached “Local Government Exemption Form” to be completed and returned to the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) [\[link\]](#).

In order to become an exempt jurisdiction, the local government certifies that (1) it has adopted the 2009, 2006, or 2003 edition of the *International Residential Code*; (2) it keeps its code current — within seven years of the most recent edition; (3) it uses state certified inspectors; and, (4) it enforces the adopted code by performing the required inspections.

For further questions regarding this program, please contact the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance’s Division of Fire Prevention at 615-741-2981.



Follow COOP 2010 on Facebook



It's an election year for county officials in Tennessee which means CTAS, in conjunction with the Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA) and the County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT), will be hosting the County Officials Orientation Program (COOP) in late August. COOP 2010 is an opportunity for new county officials to network and learn about county government, most importantly the responsibilities of their new office. This year county officials can learn and get updates about COOP from Facebook. Simply log in to your Facebook account and type “Tennessee County Officials Orientation Program” in the search box at the top of the page. For the most up-to-date information on COOP, become a fan!

Attention COAT Members: Deadline Approaching for Scholarship

Members of the County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) and their families have until May 15, 2010 to apply for the University of Tennessee Marie and Jim Murphy Graduate Scholarship.

The Murphy scholarship for graduate students was funded at \$25,000 in early 2010 through the generous support of Marie and Jim Murphy, COAT, other county associations and many other individual donors.

Marie Murphy served as executive director of COAT for several years and wanted to create the opportunity to help members of COAT and CTAS and their relatives achieve their educational dreams. Marie's husband Jim Murphy is currently a member of the UT Board of Trustees.

If you are a COAT member or a CTAS employee wishing to pursue a graduate degree at UT or have a spouse, child, sister, brother, niece or nephew hoping to do so, please click [here](#) for an application and additional information.

If you have questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Paul Bowman at (865) 974-6587 or paul.bowman@tennessee.edu.

New Reference Materials on CTAS Website

CTAS recently added new reference materials to our website (www.ctas.tennessee.edu). The first is the Ethics-Conflicts of Interests-Ouster manual which discusses the Comprehensive Governmental Ethics Reform Act passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2006, as well as other state laws that address ethics and conflicts of interests in county government. The manual can be found by selecting CTAS Reference Materials from the left sidebar of the home page, and then looking alphabetically under the Other Publications list.

Also new on the website are updated versions of the descriptions of elected officials brochures. These brochures detail the duties, oath, bond and other matters associated with county mayors/executives, assessors of property, county clerks, clerks of court, registers of deeds, county commissioners, sheriffs, county highway officials and trustees. These brochures can be found in the CTAS Reference Materials section under Descriptions of Elected Officials.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21	Asphalt/Paving Training, Franklin
April 22	Dealing with Difficult People Workshop, Jackson
April 27	Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging Workshop, Cookeville
April 28	Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging Workshop, Winchester
April 28-30	COCTP Capstone, Montgomery Bell State Park
May 11	Trust & Emotions Workshop, Knoxville
May 12	Trust & Emotions Workshop, Johnson City
May 12-14	Principles of Management (Solid Waste Seminar), Knoxville
May 12-14	TN Clerks of Court Spring Conference, Pigeon Forge
May 17-20	Trustee's Conference, Memphis
May 18-20	TN Registers Association Spring Meeting, Pickwick Landing State Park
May 19-21	COCTP Capstone, Montgomery Bell State Park
May 25	Trust & Emotions Workshop, Jackson
May 28	Trust & Emotions Workshop, Franklin

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

Federal Campaign Provides Info on Workers' Rights

The Secretary of Labor and the Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division have officially launched a national public awareness campaign called "We Can Help." This public awareness effort is intended to provide workers with information about their rights in the workplace and to educate them on how to seek the assistance of the Wage and Hour Division when they believe that they have been the subject of a violation.

The "We Can Help" campaign includes a launch of a new website at <http://www.dol.gov/wecanhelp>.

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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