



Cheatham County Courthouse

County Spotlight: **Cheatham**

Population: 35,912
 County Seat: *Ashland City*

Did you know...?

Cheatham County is named in honor of Edward Saunders Cheatham, Speaker of the Tennessee State Senate from 1855 to 1861.

Ashland City native Redd Stewart co-wrote the popular song "The Tennessee Waltz."

State of Tennessee Highlights of the 2010 Election Schedule

	May 4, 2010 (applies only to counties where a county primary has been called)	August 5, 2010	November 2, 2010
Call for County Primary Required if Desired by Political Party	December 18, 2009	N/A	N/A
First Day to Pick Up Nominating Petitions	November 20, 2009	January 1, 2010	May 21, 2010
Affidavits for Sheriff Candidate or Road Superintendent Candidate	February 4, 2010	March 18, 2010	August 5, 2010 (applies only if vacancy must be filed using regular qualifying deadline)
Qualifying Deadline	February 18, 2010 (12:00 Noon)	April 1, 2010 (12:00 Noon)	August 19, 2010 (12:00 Noon)
Withdrawal Deadline	February 25, 2010 (12:00 Noon)	April 8, 2010 (12:00 Noon)	August 26, 2010 (12:00 Noon)
Voter Registration Deadline	April 5, 2010	July 6, 2010	October 4, 2010
Early Voting Period	April 14, 2010 - April 29, 2010	July 16, 2010 - July 31, 2010	October 13, 2010 - October 28, 2010

To view a table detailing the key dates for voters, please visit the Election Dates section of the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.tennessee.gov/sos/>.

*For more information, visit:
<http://www.reddstewart.com/>
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net>

HANDGUNS IN PARKS

PUBLIC CHAPTER 428

On June 12, the Governor signed into law Public Chapter 428, which, beginning September 1, 2009, permits persons with a handgun carry permit to carry their handgun in public parks, natural areas, historic parks, nature trails, campgrounds, forests, greenways, waterways and other similar public places that are owned or operated by the state, a county, or a municipality.

Under the law, a county may prohibit persons lawfully authorized to carry a handgun from carrying their handgun while in a county park, or other similar property, by passing a resolution adopted by a majority vote of its legislative body. If the county legislative body elects to prohibit handguns in county parks, the prohibition will apply to the entire park.

If a county elects to prohibit persons lawfully authorized to carry a handgun from carrying handguns while in a county park, or other similar property, the county must display signs in prominent locations to give notice that handguns are not permitted in the park. As used in the statute, “prominent locations” includes, but is not limited to, all entrances to the property, any building or structure located on the property, such as restrooms, picnic areas, sports facilities, welcome centers, gift shops, playgrounds, swimming pools, restaurants, and parking lots.

The local option provision of the law went into effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature, allowing county legislative bodies to act now to exercise their option to prohibit handguns in their parks and post the necessary signage prior to September 1.

The Mentally Ill in Jail Whose Problem is it Anyway?

Mental health issues in the criminal justice system are a community-wide problem, and corrections stakeholders, including government officials and corrections personnel, all have a role in identifying creative programs and solutions that tackle the problem at its core.

On July 15, 2009, the National Institute of Corrections will host a live 3-hour satellite/internet broadcast to provide an overview of opportunities that can help your county or organization prepare to work with persons suffering from mental illness in jails. Broadcast participants will be able to do the following:

- Identify those stakeholders who need to be involved in designing a successful mental health treatment program.
- Understand the risks and liabilities to the local criminal justice system and the surrounding community that can stem from not adequately addressing the needs of persons suffering from mental illness.
- Identify collaborative strategies for overcoming system failures in treating persons suffering from mental illness in local communities and along the criminal justice continuum.
- Implement strategies to leverage existing resources and develop a collaborative action plan involving all stakeholders.

The broadcast will be held from 12:00p.m. to 3:00p.m, Eastern time. Participants will be able to call in questions using the toll-free telephone number shown during the broadcast. Elected officials, sheriffs, and jail administrators are especially encouraged to attend. All agencies that register will be accepted. There is no charge for registration.

To register or receive more information, visit www.nicic.gov/Broadcasts or contact Ed Wolahan at 800-995-6429, ext. 4419, or via email at ewolahan@bop.gov.

May Capstone Graduates

Congratulations to the graduates of the County Officials Certificate Training Program's (COCTP) May Capstone. The thirty-three county employees pictured below are the latest participants to complete the 80 hour training program and be designated as certified public administrators. The class included five Trousdale County officials who became the first from their county to go through the program.

The COCTP is available to every county employee in the state. Each course in the program is designed to aid county government officials in performing their jobs and efficiently administering county services. Classroom topics include ethics, personnel issues, budget workshops, records management and proactive leadership. More than 1,100 county officials have completed the COCTP since its inception in 1982.

Graduates of the training program must take 16 hours of training per fiscal year to retain their certification.

For more information about COCTP, contact the CTAS Training Department at 615-532-3555 or [click here](#).



Podcast Feature Coming Soon to CTAS Website

Starting Monday, June 22, county officials will be able to download and listen to podcasts from the CTAS website. A podcast is an audio recording that can be listened to from a computer or downloaded to an iPod or MP3 player. Each CTAS podcast is less than 15 minutes in length and explains a topic or updates existing legislation. Initially there will be four podcasts available: the Sunshine Law, the updates to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act, and how to fill a vacancy in a county office.

All the podcasts use a radio show format where the CTAS attorneys are interviewed about various topics by Mary Ann Moon, CTAS e-learning specialist.

The podcasts will be available on the CTAS website for anyone to listen to. Also included on the podcast website is a help section for people not familiar with podcasts and a contact us section where people can submit comments and make suggestions for future podcasts. The podcasts are an exciting new addition to the [CTAS website](#) and to training. Everyone is encouraged to visit the site on June 22 to check them out!

Upcoming OSHA Training

On August 5 and 6, CTAS and the UT Center for Industrial Services (CIS) will conduct a pilot training program on Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) regulations and safety procedures for highway officials in Franklin County and surrounding counties. CTAS will coordinate the training and the class will be taught by CIS Consultant Bryan Lane. The 10 hour course will include an introduction to OSHA; OSHA Act/General Duty Clause; inspections, citations, and penalties; walking and working surfaces; means of egress and fire protection; and electrical safety. In addition to providing classroom training, Bryan will take the officials through the highway shop area and point out possible safety hazards and/or safety improvements. Once this pilot program has been completed, CTAS and CIS plan to conduct similar workshops in each of the CTAS regions. Registration information is forthcoming.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 15	National Institute of Corrections Internet Broadcast, "The Mentally Ill in Jail"
July 24-29	National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference, Nashville
July 27-31	TN Sheriffs' Association Annual Family Conference, Sevierville
July 30-31	TDOT Litter Grant Program Training, Jackson
Aug. 5-6	OSHA Training Program, Winchester
Aug. 12-14	Association of County Mayors Conference, Knoxville
Aug. 21-22	TDOT Litter Grant Program Training, Sumner County
Sept. 2-3	TDOT Litter Grant Program Training, Jonesborough

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

Litter Grant Program Training Sessions

CTAS has received information that TDOT will offer three training sessions this summer for the litter grant program. The one and a half day sessions will take place in Madison County (July 30-31), Sumner County (Aug. 21-22), and Washington County (Sept. 2-3). It is mandatory that someone from your litter grant program attend one of these offerings.

The training will cover the latest informational updates, invoice and schedule sheet paperwork procedures, monthly invoice reporting, and education network/eligibility. Auditors will be available to answer questions as well.

The training is free, but registration is required. To register and receive site details and times, email Teresa Cubreath at Teresa.Cubreath@tn.gov.

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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