

# COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

*Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.*



## Important Information...

### Government Entities Invited to Comment on Charging to Inspect Public Records

The [Office of Open Records Counsel](#) (OORC) within the Comptroller’s Office has been asked by the General Assembly to review issues surrounding the inspection of public records, and OORC is asking Tennesseans to weigh in.

Legislation was introduced in the previous session that would permit charges for inspecting public records. While a records custodian is permitted to charge for copies of public records, inspection is generally free of charge. The OORC will prepare a report with recommendations on this issue to the General Assembly by January 2016 and has prepared brief online surveys to help gather input from citizens and government entities. The responses from these surveys will be utilized in the report issued by OORC to the General Assembly.

Representatives of governmental entities can submit a survey by [clicking here](#). We are encouraging county officials to provide their feedback regarding this potential change. This is especially important for officials who are custodians of public records.

Additionally, the OORC will hold three public hearings, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Open Government, to gather additional feedback on five specific questions related to these issues. Tennessee citizens, governmental entities, and advocacy group representatives are invited to participate by sending written comments to: [comments.open.records@cot.tn.gov](mailto:comments.open.records@cot.tn.gov) and by attending one of the public hearings listed below:

- **KNOXVILLE:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 4-6pm  
12 Oaks Executive Park, 5401 Kingston Pike, Building 2, Suite 350
- **NASHVILLE:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 10am- 12pm  
James K. Polk State Office Building, 505 Deaderick Street, 16th Floor, Video Conference Center
- **JACKSON:** Thursday, September 17, 2015, 3-5pm  
Lowell Thomas State Office Building, 225 Marthin Luther King Drive, Tower B, Conference Room 1

Additional information and guidelines regarding the public hearings can be found on the OORC website by [clicking here](#).

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# County Spotlight

## Carter County



**County Seat: Elizabethton**

**Population: 57,424**

**County Government Consultant:**

**Rick Hall**

[rick.hall@tennessee.edu](mailto:rick.hall@tennessee.edu)

The county is named for General Landon Carter, the son of John Carter of Virginia, who was “chairman of the court” of the first majority-rule system of American democracy, known as the Watauga Association of 1772. The association was the first permanent settlement established outside the original thirteen American colonies and included the area that is today’s Carter County. In 1775, the Association was absorbed into North Carolina by petition, becoming known thereafter as the Washington District.

The county seat, Elizabethton, is named for Carter’s wife, Elizabeth MacLin Carter.

For more information, visit <http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org>

### TCSA 62nd Fall Conference & Trade Show - Oct 7-9

The 62nd Annual TCSA Fall Conference & Trade Show will be held October 7-9 in Rutherford County (Murfreesboro) at the Embassy Suites. The hotel block is now open. Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at 615-890-4464. You will need to use the Group Code “CSV” when making your reservations. You can also reserve rooms on the hotel webpage at [www.murfreesboro.embassysuites.com](http://www.murfreesboro.embassysuites.com).

- Enter your dates of stay
- Click “Add Special Rate Codes”
- Enter Group Code “CSV”
- Click “Check Rooms & Rates”

**Online registration  
is now available!**

CTAS will be offering the County Purchasing class at this conference to provide elected officials, department heads, and employees with a basic understanding of procurement activities in county government. This class offers a practical approach to county purchasing for non-procurement professionals as well as department heads or employees who work daily in the purchasing or finance office. We will cover purchasing in both centralized and non-centralized counties. Topics will include purchasing techniques, the procurement process, the purchase order, county records disposition relating to purchasing documents, ethics in purchasing, general laws for county purchasing, general laws of local application for county purchasing, and many other purchasing areas and topics. In addition, the class will give a brief overview of the process for moving toward centralized purchasing.



## Upcoming Training Opportunities

DATE	TIME	TITLE	LOCATION
08/24/2015	8:30a - 12:30p EDT	National Flood Insurance Program Administrative and Legislative Training	Kingsport - Meadow View Conference Resort
08/27/2015	8:30a - 12:30p CDT	National Flood Insurance Program Administrative and Legislative Training	Bartlett - Bartlett Station Municipal Center
08/28/2015	8:30a - 12:30p CDT	National Flood Insurance Program Administrative and Legislative Training	Jackson - Jackson Energy Authority
08/31/2015	8:30a - 12:30p CDT	National Flood Insurance Program Administrative and Legislative Training	Franklin - Franklin Police Department

## CTAS Training | Events Calendar



## TCCA Regional Meetings for 2015

Join the Tennessee County Commissioners Association to meet with Executive Director Charlie Curtiss and discuss issues facing county commissioners. *All meetings are 5:30pm-8:30pm local time.*

Date	Location
August 25	Bradley County - Museum Center at Five Points
August 27	Marshall County - Henry Horton State Park
August 31	Washington County - Jonesborough Visitors Center
September 1	Knox County - Bridgewater Place
September 3	Robertson County - Catfish House
September 10	Madison County - Catfish Cabin
September 15	Henry County - Paris Landing State Park
September 17	Putnam County - Del Monaco Winery

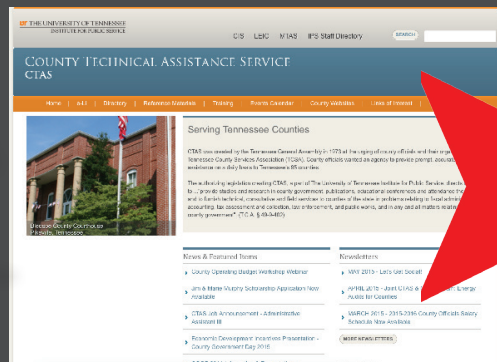


### ACM Strategic Leadership Conference: August 26-28 in Murfreesboro

The [Association of County Mayors \(ACM\)](#) will hold a Strategic Leadership Conference August 26-28 at the Doubletree by Hilton in Rutherford County (Murfreesboro). The registration fee is \$100 for participants and \$30 for guests/spouses.

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

Changes to the CTAS Website...



### TDOT Continues Nashville I-40 Bridge Project

The Tennessee Department of Transportation [recently completed the first of 8 bridge rehabilitations](#) in downtown Nashville along I-40 between the I-65 splits on the west and south sides of town. This project will occur between June 2015 and June 2016.

If you will be visiting Nashville during that time, know that you will be detoured to the north and east sides of town. [A map of the detour can be found here.](#)

We are providing this information as a courtesy to our customers. If you have any questions about this project, [please contact TDOT.](#)

Logo, press release and detour map provided courtesy of TDOT.

# WOMEN in Public Service symposium

**CTAS** County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

**CTAS** Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



Dr. Debbye Turner Bell will be one of the featured speakers at the upcoming Women in Public Service Symposium in Murfreesboro on November 19.

Register now!

Note: Registration link goes to SolutionPoint. Please sign in to register for this symposium. If you need an account, please visit [this link](#).

## CTAS September Training Opportunities



### Planning & Zoning: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. local time

September 10, 2015 Johnson City – Carnegie Hotel, 1216 W. State of Franklin Road

September 11, 2015 Knoxville – Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road

September 14, 2015 Murfreesboro – Doubletree Hotel, 1850 Old Fort Parkway

September 15, 2015 Jackson – Union University (Harvey Hall), 1050 Union University Drive

### Purchasing: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. local time

September 23, 2015 Jackson – Union University (Harvey Hall), 1050 Union University Drive

September 24, 2015 Dickson – Renaissance Center 855 Highway 46 South

September 29, 2015 Johnson City – Carnegie Hotel, 1216 W. State of Franklin Road

September 30, 2015 Knoxville – Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road



Please be sure to verify that your information is correct in the [CTAS Directory](#). If you have any updates, please email your changes to Liz Gossett ([liz.gossett@tennessee.edu](mailto:liz.gossett@tennessee.edu)). If you do not have any updates, you don't need to do anything. Thanks for helping us keep the Directory accurate!

Please call Liz with any Directory-related questions at (615) 532-5293.

## **CTAS** County Technical Assistance Service INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

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County Officials E-News is published every month to bring important information to county officials. For any questions or comments about the newsletter, please send Liz Gossett, CTAS E-Media & Information Specialist, an email at [liz.gossett@tennessee.edu](mailto:liz.gossett@tennessee.edu).