

The Voice

DECEMBER 2006

Voice

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Downtown Jackson Revitalized After the Storm

by *Mary L. Bearden, Executive Director
Jackson Downtown Development Corporation*

On the night of May 4, 2003, tornadoes, high winds, and hail damaged much of downtown Jackson, Tennessee, with some older buildings being completely destroyed. As the rubble was cleared away, a new landscape emerged. Vacant lots and upgraded buildings became available to offer businesses a fresh start. A true resurrection is taking place.



Mary L. Bearden

After the tornado, officials addressed problems head on with proper short and long term planning. The City through an Urban Land Institute (ULI) study acknowledged future issues and development strategies. The planning process set in motion a direction for managed growth and development, while preserving those tangible and intangible elements of character that defined Jackson's identity. The planning provided a thought process for how the downtown could function cost-effectively, preserve the historical character, and survive in a contemporary world. At its most fundamental level, this planning process provided answers to basic re-development questions.

The last few years have been tough and unusual years for all of Jackson, but particularly for the downtown. After the tornado,

with downtown being hit the hardest, we had to take a hard fast look at ourselves as a community and make a conscious decision as to how we were going to deal with the recovery. It caused all of us to manage our business as it has never been managed before. Thanks to our sharing a strong economic base and the quality and commitment of our residents and businesses, the downtown and the city as a whole has fared much better than some other geographic areas.

Jackson Today

How is Jackson faring now? The economy's mixed performance this past year has led to a growing perception that the economy is once again in trouble. Some see recent trends as warning signs of a faltering economy. However, as we continue to stabilize the downtown economy, we are trying to do it right. There is always a demand for the development of new and better places to live, work and shop along with the re-development and improvement to the historical existing buildings. The facts clearly tell us that we can't have the best of both worlds by following a "business as usual" approach or by relying on market forces alone. Community spirit and pride is what will allow the downtown to control its own destiny. It is this passion, this dedication and leadership that is making the renaissance of our downtown so successful.

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The Cost of Growth

by Bill Johnson, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee

With the end of the year approaching, it is a good time to reflect on the happenings of the last 12 months. Unemployment is down across the state and country. Businesses have had a record year of growth, and next year looks to be a record year for reliable growth also. What a remarkable year it has been. If not for the war, it would have been the best year we have seen in quite awhile.



Bill Johnson

The type of growth that we have witnessed requires a lot of new infrastructure and brings a challenge to the consulting engineering companies of our state. Tennessee consulting engineers have met the challenge both here and abroad by providing

the blueprints for the needed infrastructure required for growth. We should all be thankful for such a good year.

This year was an election year with a big power change in Congress. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal), will be Speaker of the House, the first woman to hold this position. The control of the Senate also changed from Republican to Democrat. However, by the nature of what we do, consulting engineers work well with both sides of the aisle because our focus is on bipartisan issues: more funding for infrastructure which enables growth that benefits everyone.

With all of the changes occurring, we must stay in tune with the needs of Tennessee communities so that we can better provide them with advice and counsel. Next year, we should work harder to be more closely involved with our communities as good citizens and consultants. With these thoughts in mind, I wish all of you a happy holiday season.

Collaboration Continues with TDOT

by Richard Riggins, PE, Chair
ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee

The ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee and representatives of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) continue their collaboration to address issues that affect the quality of services provided to the citizens of the state.



Richard Riggins

At a joint meeting on October 24, TDOT representatives raised several questions that have come up during recent contract negotiations. These questions related to the man-day estimating spread sheet used to determine engineering fees for TDOT contracts. The items of concern were wage increase allowance on multi-year contracts, administrative cost for management of sub-consultants, administrative costs for contracts, costs of quality control/quality assurance, overhead rate on state funded projects, and voluntary reduction of net fee. TDOT responses to these questions were discussed by the group. ACEC of Tennessee is now reviewing the issues and will prepare a response.

TDOT is drafting rules for design/build proj-

ects. The draft document should be completed in late 2006 or early 2007. At that time, the ACEC of Tennessee Transportation Committee will have the opportunity to review and comment on the document.

Riggins is Senior Vice President at Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Nashville.



The ACEC of Tennessee Scholarship Committee met in mid-November to review 13 applications from engineering students for the state and national scholarships. Pictured left to right are Steve Meyer, PE, Volkert and Associates, Chattanooga; Chair Chris Provost, PE, CDM, Nashville; David Sparkes, PE, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Memphis; and Andrew Hutsell, PE, Vaughn and Melton, Knoxville. The name of the state scholarship recipient will be announced in a few weeks.

Record Number of Projects Compete for EEA

Tennessee engineering firms entered 31 projects in competition for the 2007 *Engineering Excellence Awards* (EEA), setting a record for the number of projects competing for the prestigious awards. Entries came from engineering firms across Tennessee for projects located in five states, Washington, D.C., and, for the first time, another country.

"The competition has an international flavor with the entry of a project completed in Baku, Azerbaijan," noted Joe Chester, P.E. chair of the awards program, who is vice president for Infrastructure Services, Tennessee Region, at engineering firm URS.

"The independent panel of judges will have its work cut out for it in determining the winners," said David Harrell, P.E., EEA awards program co-chair and vice president at engineering firm Vaughn and Melton.

The judges will convene in February 2007 at the Tennessee Engineering Center in Nashville to review the entries. The winners in each entry category and the recipient of the Grand Award will be announced on the evening of March 6 during an awards banquet at the Hilton Nashville Downtown.

Jackson (cont. from page 1)

Today, downtown Jackson is alive and well and remains steadfast as the center of finance, law and government for the city with the re-development taking place at a constant steady pace. Millions of dollars have been invested by downtown employers and entrepreneurs. A major federal building has become a new downtown landmark, as has the new architecturally appealing City Hall. The stately old City Hall became an arts center and a popular performing arts center, "The Ned", was built adjacent to it. The New Southern Hotel is alive with senior housing opportunities as well as providing commercial endeavors. A former historical church was transformed into a unique office and gathering space, and a beautiful new three-story office building sits proudly overlooking the city. Retail opportunities have been reborn and specialty shops and eateries are springing up to accommodate the increased downtown employment base.

The immediate outlook for our downtown couldn't be better. There is a continued controlled growth process, moving forward always. The anima of Jackson is alive and well. The psyche is strong. We can feel it. The future is bright for Jackson, Tennessee.

EEA 2007 Entrants

Building / Technology Systems

I.C. Thomasson Associates, Inc. - Project: Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Nashville, TN; Client: Nashville Symphony
OGCB, Inc. - Project: Whitehaven Neighborhood Center, Memphis, TN; Client: The Haizlip Firm for the City of Memphis

Environmental

EnSafe Inc. - Project: The Binagadi Challenge: Cold War Legacy Site Cleanup, Baku, Azerbaijan; Client: State Oil Co. of the Azerbaijan Republic

Small Projects

EnSafe Inc. - Project: Cost-Saving In Situ Lagoon Closure, Napoleon, OH; Client: Tenneco Inc.

TLM Associates, Inc. - Project: Lexington Downtown Revitalization, Lexington, TN; Client: City of Lexington

Wilbur Smith Associates - Project: Sevierville Ultraflow, Sevierville, TN; Client: City of Sevierville

Special Projects

Askew Hargraves Harcourt and Associates, Inc. - Project: Tipton County Court Square Renovations, Ripley, TN; Client: Tipton County

Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers - Project: TDOT's New Erosion Control Standards, (statewide); Client: Tennessee Department of Transportation

Gresham, Smith and Partners - Project: Rebirth of the Demonbreun Street Viaduct, Nashville, TN; Client: Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc. - Project: Naked Eye Observatory at MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN; Client: Tennessee Board of Regents

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. - Project: Music City Star Commuter Rail, Nashville, TN; Client: Regional Transportation Authority

URS Corporation - Project: Former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot, Camden, AR; Client: International Paper Company

Studies, Research & Consulting

Askew Hargraves Harcourt and Associates, Inc. - Project: Munford Centennial Park, Munford, TN; Client: City of Munford

EnSafe Inc. - Project: Design for the Future: Stormwater Manual Update, Memphis, TN; Client: City of Memphis

Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc. - Project: NASA Michoud Assembly Facility Hurricane Repairs, New Orleans, LA; Client: Marshall Space Flight Center

K.S. Ware Associates, LLC - Project: Rolling Mill Brownfield Project, General Hospital Site, Nashville, TN; Client: Metropolitan Nashville Development and Housing Agency

PBS&J - Project: TDOT 25 Year Long-Range Transportation Plan, (statewide); Client: Tennessee Department of Transportation Environmental Bureau

Parsons Brinckerhoff - Project: Station Area Planning for the NW I-75 HOV/BRT Project, Metro Atlanta, GA; Client: Georgia Regulatory Transportation Authority

Qore, Inc. - Project: 21st Century Renaissance Park Development, Chattanooga, TN; Client: City of Chattanooga

URS Corporation - Project: Modifying the Proposed OSHA Cr+5 PEL for Electroplaters, Washington, D.C.; Client: National Association of Metal Finishers

Surveying & Mapping Technology

PBS&J - Project: I-124 (US 27) Interstate Reconstruction Project, Chattanooga, TN; Client: Clinard Engineering Associates, LLC

Transportation

Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. - Project: Gatlinburg Underground Utility / Streetscape Phase IV, Gatlinburg, TN; Client: City of Gatlinburg

Florence & Hutcheson, Inc. - Project: I-65 Widening from Trinity Lane to Vietnam Veterans Parkway, Nashville, TN; Client: Tennessee Department of Transportation

Neel-Schaffer, Inc. - Project: Chickamauga Lock Road Relocation Project, Chattanooga, TN; Client: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / Nashville District

TLM Associates, Inc. - Project: Beech River Regional Airport, Henderson County, TN; Client: Beech River Regional Airport

Wilbur Smith Associates - Project: Mississippi River Crossing Feasibility & Location Study, Memphis, TN; Client: Tennessee Department of Transportation

Water & Wastewater

ARCADIS - Project: Whites Creek Performance-Based I/I Reduction, Nashville, TN; Client: Nashville Metro Water Services

CH2M Hill & Gresham Smith & Partners - Project: Walker Springs Wastewater Storage Facility, Knoxville, TN; Client: Knoxville Utilities Board

TLM Associates, Inc. - Project: Raw Water Intake and Pipeline, Parsons, TN; Client: City of Parsons

Water Resources

CDM - Project: Dry Branch Stormwater Detention, Franklin, TN; Client: City of Franklin

Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers - Project: Harpeth River Source Water Availability, Franklin, TN; Client: City of Franklin

CALENDAR

DECEMBER
6

Professional Liability Seminar, Knoxville
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

DECEMBER
7

Professional Liability Seminar, Nashville
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

DECEMBER
8

Professional Liability Seminar, Memphis
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

JANUARY
17

Transportation Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m., Nashville
Information:
richard.riggins@neel-schaffer.com

FEBRUARY
18 - 24
Engineers' Week

Member News

- Askew Hargraves Harcourt and Associates, Inc. announced that Dennis J. Hubbard, P.E., has joined its professional design team in Memphis as Lead Mechanical Engineer.
- Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC) announced that David M. House, P.E., has been named Manager of the Nashville Facilities Operating Unit. He was previously a Senior Project Manager at the firm and was recently named a Vice President.
- Hart Freeland Roberts Inc. (HFR) announced Chad Bobrowski, E.I.T., has joined the firm as a Transportation Project Manager in the Civil Engineering Department where he will concentrate primarily on site work and transportation engineering.

ACEC

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of Tennessee

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Welcome, New Member

Branham & Lloyd, LLC
2657 Appling Road, Suite 202
Memphis, TN 38133
901-937-1720
901-937-1722 (Fax)
www.branhamlloyd.com

Key Contact:
Davie L. Lloyd, PE, President
dave1@branhamlloyd.com

Branham & Lloyd primarily provides engineering services related to mechanical, plumbing, earthquake/fire protection and utility systems, air quality and acoustical/air/noise/vibration. Services include design/build, remediation, due diligence and expert witness.

Welcome, New Partner Program Member

Outsource Training.biz LLC
HRCI Approved Provider #2299
4361 Heritage View Rd.
Birmingham, AL 35242
205-706-5228
205-981-7336 (Fax)
Contact: Richard Grimes,
President
outsourcetrn@charter.net
www.outsourcetraining.biz

Outsource Training.biz develops and delivers on-site seminars and self-study/correspondence courses for professional development hour (PDH) credit and can provide teambuilding and employee performance consultation services.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Continue Responding to the Call

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Several months ago, ACEC of Tennessee President Bill Johnson urged members to participate in ACEC activities. Many of you have already heeded that call by entering projects in the *Engineering Excellence Awards* program – 20 firms in all, with some entering three projects! You will have another opportunity to support the EEA program by attending the Awards Banquet on March 6.



Candy Toler

Another way to participate is by contributing to ACEC's PAC and our state PAC. Thanks to the efforts of Jerry Stump, Tennessee has reached its goal for contributions to the national ACEC PAC for 2006. Sincere

thanks to all contributors and way to go, Jerry!

Now that the election is behind us, we will start focusing on issues near and dear to the hearts of engineers. We will have the opportunity to educate several "freshman" legislators about these issues in the next few months. ACEC needs your participation on *Engineers' Day on the Hill* in Tennessee on March 6 and on Consulting Congress Day in Washington, D.C. on May 8 - 9, when we look out for the business of engineering. Lobbyists visit legislators all the time, but legislators at all levels are far more receptive to constituents who come to talk with them about issues important to their business. There really is power in numbers when we all descend on the Capitol together, whether in Nashville or in D.C.

We hope that your holiday season is great and that the engineering business thrives in 2007!