



KTnB Open Line: Oct. 4, 2013 Edition

[First Edition of KTnB Open Line](#)

During Affiliates Day back in August, the KTnB/KAB local affiliates expressed a desire for the KTnB office to communicate more frequently. The primary purpose of Open Line is to ensure ongoing communication among our various partners, as well as share timely, relevant, and accurate information to the KTnB / KAB affiliates. I hope you find Open Line to be useful and informative. I would appreciate any and all feedback on how we can continue to improve our communications and methods of raising awareness of the KTnB mission to educate and rally Tennesseans to take greater responsibility for improving their community environment.

[Outreach Efforts](#)

First Lady Crissy Haslam - On August 26th, Shawn Bible, TDOT Beautification Director and I met with First Lady, Crissy Haslam to share some of our programs and discuss the possibility of working together on some common goals. The First Lady expressed interest in the idea of tying her [READ20 Book Club](#) to the Great American Cleanup and with the idea of designating a Keep Tennessee Beautiful month in March 2014. We requested that she consider featuring a book with a beautification message for the month of March and presented her with some options that have been used in the past for our programming. The First Lady consults with librarian professionals regarding the monthly selections for her [READ20 Book Club](#) and they will be helping her determine which books she will read and promote by the end of January. I will provide updates as we continue to cultivate the relationship and work towards partnering with the First Lady and her staff.

Law Enforcement Support - Assistant Commissioner David Purkey and I met on September 25th to begin the process of requesting time during the Tennessee Highway Patrol's annual in-service training for state troopers. The ultimate goal is to provide information to the officers on the importance of enforcing Tennessee's Litter Law. I am grateful to Commissioner Purkey for his assistance and support in this endeavor.

Litter Law & Defensive Driving Programs - KTnB is partnering with the University of Memphis Defensive Driving Program to provide Tennessee Litter Law literature to instructors for both the Defensive Driving classes and [Alive at 25](#) classes conducted in Shelby County. Over the course of a semester, the information has the potential to reach approximately 400 students. [Alive at 25](#) is targeted to young drivers between the ages of 15 and 24.

[Visits With Affiliates](#)

Keep Williamson Beautiful (KWB) - On Friday, September 13th, I had the opportunity to visit Laurie Rousseau at the KWB office. I appreciate Laurie and the rest of her co-workers taking the time to share information about their various projects and partnerships within the county that help them to accomplish their mission to promote beautification, litter-prevention, recycling, and community greening. Did you know that this past spring, [KWB](#) partnered with several **Williamson County organizations** to bring the **Environmental Reading Program** to area second grade classrooms and community volunteers read recycle-themed books to help kids get excited about recycling and taking care of our environment? In all, **64 volunteers** read to **77 classrooms**, reaching more than **1,500 second graders!** Way to go KWB!



Keep Blount Beautiful (KBB) - I was honored to serve as a judge for the [KBB](#) Recycled Trash Elegance Fashion Show on Saturday, September 14th in my hometown of Maryville. The event was not only fun but, extremely educational. Thank you to Charlene DeSha for allowing me to be a part of program!

Nashville Metro Beautification and Environment Commission (NMBC) - Congratulations to our KTnB/KAB Affiliate - [NMBC](#) for their recent achievement in preserving the former Bordeaux Landfill property as a natural habitat and receiving the prestigious Wildlife Habitat Council's Wildlife at Work certification. Metro Public Works made a concerted effort, beginning in 2004, to plant native plants and grasses on the over 300 acre property. The Bordeaux Landfill opened in 1973 and accepted garbage for over 20 years before closing in 1996. The certification criteria are stringent and programs must demonstrate that they have been active with a detailed management plan that documents the purposeful effort to remove invasive plant species and encourage the growth of native plants. Currently, 16 native plants and 35 animal species call the closed landfill their home. Animal species living on the property include deer, rabbit, beaver, wild turkey, hawks, Kestrel, Bluebirds and turtles. On September 26th, I was honored to join Sharon Smith, Veronica Frazier Assistant Director of Metro Public Works and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean for the official announcement of Bordeaux Landfill Property Certified as a Natural Habitat.



[Meet KTnB Advisory Board Member: David Purkey](#)

David Wayne Purkey, Assistant Commissioner of Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security, was educated in the Hamblen County School System at Manley Elementary, Alpha Elementary, West View Middle School and Morristown-Hamblen High School West, where he graduated in 1977. Purkey was the salutatorian of his senior class, selected as a Who's Who student, achieved First Honors status and was elected Senior Class Treasurer. He was awarded the Dr. J.C. Freels and (perhaps as a further foreboding to his government and political career) the Senator Estes Kefauver academic scholarships to the University of Tennessee.

As a college freshman on Christmas break, Purkey earned a personally signed recognition from President Jimmy Carter, the American Red Cross Award of Merit and the Lion's Club Medal of Valor for saving the life of a young boy using CPR. He graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1981 with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health and interned with the State Division of Emergency Medical Services. He earned a Master's degree in Public Health in 1987 from the University of Tennessee where he interned with the Tennessee Department of Safety. Purkey also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician, a certification he continues to hold some 34 years later.

His first government position was Judicial Assistant to his mentor, Judge James K. Miller. He also served as a 911 Dispatcher, Morristown-Hamblen County Emergency Management Director,

Tennessee State Trooper assigned to the Nashville and Fall Branch Districts, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Special Agent assigned to the Chattanooga Region, and Police Accreditation Manager for the City of Morristown. Purkey proudly wore the uniform as an officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard and United State Army Reserves for eight years.



Purkey was appointed to the vacancy of Hamblen County Mayor in 1995 and went on to be elected four times before voluntarily retiring in 2010. At the time of his retirement, he left the County with historically low property tax rates, the highest bond rating on record and audit recognized record "rainy day" reserves while supporting the largest building program in history to address needs of the Hamblen County School System. Purkey had the unique experience of serving two terms with his brother Otto, who was elected Sheriff during his tenure.

Purkey's 30 year retirement was short lived. Governor-Elect Bill Haslam and Commissioner-Designee Bill Gibbons tapped him to be the fourth State Homeland Security Advisor and Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security in 2011. He serves with some 1,700 employees statewide. The Governor-Elect commented at the time that "David Purkey is a man who has helped make Tennesseans safer throughout his life and I'm grateful that he'll be a part of our team."

Purkey was inducted into his high school Hall of Fame in 2011. He also received the coveted Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 2012. Purkey splits his time between Nashville and Morristown where he resides with his wife, Pam. They are members of First United Methodist Church.

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