



# THE BLUE PAGES

## TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

### Tre Hargett

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Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

### NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

#### *From the Secretary's Desk*

The 108<sup>th</sup> General Assembly reconvened last week for its organizational session, and the two chambers re-elected their respective leaders - both of whom are exemplary Tennesseans. The Senate chose Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey to begin his fourth term as Speaker of the Senate, and the House of Representatives selected Speaker Beth Harwell to serve a second term as Speaker of the House. Congratulations to both of these great public servants on their well-deserved and historic re-elections. Having served with both of them during my tenure in Tennessee General Assembly, I know

firsthand that these leaders have helped ensure that Tennessee continues to serve as an example of fiscal conservatism and common-sense government to other states and the federal government.

Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, Treasurer David H. Lillard, Jr. and I were all re-elected to serve as Tennessee's constitutional officers. It has been my privilege to work alongside my two colleagues in the legislative branch for the last four years. Tennesseans are fortunate to have two such exemplary individuals willing to serve in these critical positions. They have both been tremendous partners in advocating for greater transparency throughout state government and as dedicated fiduciaries of the public trust in

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important roles in their respective departments and on the State Funding Board, State Building Commission and numerous other boards and commissions literally affecting every department in state government.

As I enter my fifth year as Secretary of State, I remain excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our department. I am surrounded by fantastic leadership team members who continue to embrace our commitment to the taxpayers of Tennessee by bringing their best efforts to their jobs. Every day we strive to serve with accountability, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness. The passion and energy of not only our department's leaders but all of my co-workers in the department of state create a "can do" attitude

that has helped us develop the customer-centered environment that we set out to build four years ago, and it is the foundation for what we will accomplish over the next four years.

While we are proud of the previous term, we know that yesterday's successes are to be put in the rear view mirror and our eyes must be fixed on the road ahead. We are always striving for ways we can surpass the high standards that have marked the last four years. After all, we remain committed to providing you and your fellow Tennesseans with the state government you deserve.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a peaceful and prosperous 2013.




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## NEW YEAR BRINGS CHANGES FOR BUSINESS FILINGS

A new law approved by the General Assembly in 2012 will affect filing requirements for for-profit corporations this year. The changes to the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, which took effect Jan. 1, may seem minor, but they will make the law more workable for some Tennessee companies.

For example, the new law - Public Chapter 1051 - makes it possible for a for-profit corporation in a rural community to list a post office box for a registered agent's address if the U.S. Post Office does not deliver to the agent's physical address. Another change in the law means that for-profit corporations are no longer required to list a president and a secretary on their annual reports. They are instead required to list principal officers.

Revised forms for for-profit corporation charters and applications for certificates of authority have been developed to address the

recent changes. Those forms can be found online on the Division of Business Services' forms page [http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/forms.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/forms.htm).

The act also grants more flexibility to companies that wish to convert into Tennessee corporations and for Tennessee corporations to convert into other business types. Under the revised act, a for-profit Tennessee corporation can convert into any domestic business type or surrender its Tennessee charter to convert to a foreign business entity. Likewise, foreign and domestic business entities can now convert to Tennessee for-profit corporations. New forms have been developed to assist in these processes and can be found on the division's forms page as well.

Please contact the Business Services Division by e-mail at [Business.Services@tn.gov](mailto:Business.Services@tn.gov) or by telephone at (615) 741-2286 if you need more information. 

## LIBRARIES TO GET CHEAPER, FASTER AND MORE EXTENSIVE LOAN SERVICE IN 2013

Tennessee's public libraries will soon have more books available - cheaper and faster than before - thanks to a new interlibrary loan service set to debut this year.

The new Firefly Courier service, developed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, will link rural, suburban and urban public libraries throughout the state, as well as libraries at colleges and universities.



The new courier service will allow libraries to request and receive books on loan from other libraries more quickly and more efficiently. Interlibrary loans, which previously were handled through the postal service, account for about 125,000 books checked out from Tennessee libraries each year.

The State Library and Archives, part of the Office of the Secretary of State, provides support and training for regional library systems across Tennessee.

"For many years, we have tried to reimburse libraries for their postage costs to support the interlibrary loan program," State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill said. "We have been spending about \$200,000 per year, but even that only covers about half the postage costs."

The new courier service was developed in conjunction with Tenn-Share, an organization that helps Tennessee libraries take advantage of group purchasing power and innovative resource-sharing projects. The courier will visit each of the state's 177 public libraries twice weekly, at no cost to the local libraries.

"Moving these materials by road is far cheaper than by mail," Sherrill said. "Because of the large volume of loans, we benefit from economies of scale."

The State Library and Archives is responsible for serving rural and suburban library systems, but the addition of the college and metro libraries is an advantage made possible through Tenn-Share's involvement.

"Just lending among our public libraries is a big business, but adding Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee and all the other private libraries in Firefly will make many more titles available to Tennesseans," Sherrill said.

"This new courier system will allow public libraries to provide improved service to their patrons," Secretary Hargett said. "A book in Union City can be shared with a reader in Bristol at no cost to either of those libraries. And the amount the state will be paying to provide this service is about the same as it was before. This system will also give citizens throughout the state better access to the resources available at our institutions of higher learning."

For more information about the new courier service, contact your local public library or explore the statewide library catalog [tn.gov/tsla](http://tn.gov/tsla) (select "Catalogs" in the red menu bar). 

## ANOTHER HIDDEN TREASURE FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Among the Tennessee State Library and Archives' collections is a scrapbook from the Bowen Family Papers that offers a glimpse into an exotic life's journey. Jean (Johnnie) Sanders Bowen served 29 years as a missionary to China for the Methodist-Episcopal Church, South. Bowen, a native of Union, South Carolina, trained for mission work at Scarritt Bible and Training School in Kansas City and sailed for China with a group of young missionaries the year she graduated, 1896. She married another missionary, Rev. Albert C. Bowen, in China in 1904 and joined him in his works while raising a daughter and a son. After ill health put an end to her work and forced the family to return to the United States in 1925, the family settled in Nashville on Acklen Avenue.

Johnnie Bowen died in April of 1926, but her daughter's scrapbook vividly depicts her life. Contained within are love letters between the couple, as well as correspondence with others describing life experiences in a faraway land.

Clippings, poems, and cards cover the pages. The scrapbook also contains the Bowens' marriage certificate, which was issued by the U. S. Consular Office in Shanghai, and the couple's wedding announcement from *The North-China Daily News*. Three-dimensional Valentine decorations from Johnnie Bowen's sick room have a place in the album, as do many photographs. The featured photograph shows Johnnie Bowen, her husband, and Chinese members of the household in front of their residence in Sungkiang, China. 🇺🇸



(Bowen Family Papers, Box 6)

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ADDS NEW DIVISION

The Office of the Secretary of State recently began oversight of the Records Management Division, which was previously part of the state's Department of General Services. The division serves as the primary records management agency for the State of Tennessee and provides guidance to state agencies. This guidance assists with the disposition, retention, and destruction of records.

"In the past couple of months, we have worked to streamline our process for managing records," Secretary Hargett said. "I am excited that our office now oversees the Records Management Division and we look forward to the progress we can make and ways we can change how the state views and maintains its records." 🇺🇸

## MEET ALEC BUSH

After years of infertility, Robin and Pat Bush came to the conclusion that adoption was the only way to grow their family. A few chance encounters with friends who had adopted internationally was all it took for the Bushes to complete their paperwork and file for adoption from Russia.

“I had a friend who adopted from Russia,” Robin said. “I met her through an infertility forum and we had been talking back and forth and several of us in Nashville decided to get together for dinner and became good friends. She adopted a little girl from Russia and we pretty much followed in her footsteps.”

At first, Pat was reluctant to adopt.

“He ran into a friend in the hardware store,” Robin said. “They were talking about old times and (the friend) had mentioned that he and his wife had just adopted from Russia – had pictures and everything in the car. It was definitely a God thing – Pat was in the right place at the right time.”

*“WHEN WE WALKED OUT OF THE ORPHANAGE WITH HIM, IT WAS A SURREAL FEELING. I KEPT TRYING TO PINCH MYSELF.” - ROBIN BUSH*

In June 2004 all of the Bushes’ paperwork was submitted, and in two weeks they received their referral for a 6-month-old baby they named Alec.

“I was in a store shopping and they called me and back then you couldn’t get e-mail on your phone so I had to rush home to see pictures,” Robin said. “The adoption agency also sent a VHS tape overnight to us of him in the orphanage.”

In August of that year, the Bushes were making their first trip to Russia. Russia is what is called “a two-trip country” for adoptions. On the first trip

a couple will have a court date to declare whether they are fit to adopt. On the second trip, a child is officially adopted.

“I’m a special education teacher. I can tell pretty easily if a child is able to focus and if cognitively everything is intact,” Robin said of the couple’s first meeting with Alec. “As soon as we met him that was it...He was interested and looking around the room and focused on things and curious – all the things you want to see in a baby where all the wheels are clicking.”

Three days before returning to Russia for their second trip, the Bushes encountered a delay.

“In Russia, everyone in the family needs to sign off on the adoption,” Robin said. “The grandmother was on vacation and hadn’t signed off, which was scary.”

After the grandmother signed off on the adoption, the Bushes returned to Russia in November to bring their son home.

“It was Halloween time over there when we returned the second time and I remember strapping a Halloween bib on him,” Robin said. “When we walked out of the orphanage with him, it was a surreal feeling. I kept trying to pinch myself.”

The family had to go through one more checkpoint before flying to the United States.

“We had to go through a citizenship process at the U.S. Embassy as well as a medical check-up before we went home,” Robin said. “I remember standing there and the guy signing off on the paperwork had tears in his eyes and he said: ‘You



just don't realize that these children have hit the lottery. There are 600,000 children in orphanages here and these children being adopted are going to have much better lives.' It was a unique and special moment for us."

*"TO KNOW THAT THOSE DOCUMENTS ARE HELPING FAMILIES IN TENNESSEE GROW AND FLOURISH IS A WONDERFUL THING AND I AM HAPPY TO BE A PART OF THAT PROCESS." - SECRETARY HARGETT*

There wasn't really a transition for baby Alec upon arrival in the U.S.

"We had zero problems," Robin said. "To this day, he's so healthy. He ate everything. We'd go to Cracker Barrel and he ate turnip greens and carrots and broccoli."

Alec is now 9 years old and the family has been open and honest about his adoption.

"He's known since day one and he's very proud that he is from Russia," Robin said. "There are quite a few in his school and in our church

that have adopted from Russia, among many other places. He knows where it is and wants to go back and visit sometime."

Alec attends Holy Rosary Academy in Nashville. He enjoys playing basketball, flag football, and runs in cross country meets with his school.

International adoptions in Tennessee require an apostille or authentication by the Tennessee Secretary of State's office. For more information on document authentication, call (615) 741-0536 or go to [http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm).

"I am proud that my office plays a small part in the international adoption process by providing apostilles and authentications," Secretary Hargett said. "To know that those documents are helping families in Tennessee grow and flourish is a wonderful thing and I am happy to be a part of that process." 🌟



## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Some people may have the impression that the only thing state employees do is push paper around. This story is an example of how state employees positively impact Tennessean's lives and the lives of children worldwide. International adoptions require an apostille or authentication, depending on the nation of origin, by the secretary of state in the state where the documents were signed. This certification of the signatures' validity on the documents is much like the notary publics would be on the local level. Apostilles/authentications are processed in the Secretary of State Division of Business Services. About 20,000 apostilles and authentications were processed last year.

Documents may be submitted by mail or in person.

For more information, contact: Division of Business Services, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Snodgrass Tower, 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243, 615.741.0536, [business.services@tn.gov](mailto:business.services@tn.gov), or visit [www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm)

## TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES THE FITNESS INDUSTRY

With the holidays over, many people look to the new year for a fresh beginning and a time for New Year's resolutions. This month's *Tennessee Business Spotlight* theme is: "Tennessee Stays Fit and Healthy." The businesses featured this month produce fitness clothing, equipment, or are homegrown gyms - all of which can help Tennesseans reach their fitness goals.



*Tennessee Business Spotlight* is a feature on the Secretary of State's web site that showcases some of the state's businesses that create jobs, produce quality products and give back to their local communities. People visiting the *Tennessee Business Spotlight* web page can learn about the selected companies' goods and services, operations, employment figures, photos and links to web and social media sites that provide more information.

The companies showcased this month are:

- **American Bicycle Group** in Ooltewah
- **ATC Fitness** in Bartlett
- **Legend Fitness** in Knoxville
- **NIKE** in Memphis
- **SeeMore Putter Company** in Franklin
- **Swiftwick** in Brentwood
- **WestSide Athletic Club** in Nashville

"These businesses provide fitness products not only to Tennesseans, but to people nationwide," Secretary Hargett said. "Many Tennesseans are adopting healthier lifestyles and I am proud that these businesses play a role in that by providing excellent products and services."

To visit *Tennessee Business Spotlight*, go to [www.spotlight.tnsos.net](http://www.spotlight.tnsos.net).

To nominate a company to be recognized in *Tennessee Business Spotlight*, please visit the web page and click the "Submit a Business" link or call (615) 741-3382. 🇺🇸



WestSide Athletic Club



## IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY FOR MARIE ELLISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Libraries are often the central hub in their communities for technology, books, and other resources. The Marie Ellison Memorial Library in Del Rio is not an exception to that rule. And thanks to a recent technology upgrade, the library is providing high-speed Internet access not only for its patrons, but the local volunteer fire department as well.

Del Rio is a small, rural community in Cocke County where many residents lack Internet access at home. For them, the library provides an important line of communication to the outside world.

Secretary Hargett, Representative Jeremy Faison and Regional Director of the Holston River Regional Library Nancy Roark toured the Del Rio library last year. At the time, the library was still using dial-up Internet service.

“I mentioned at this point that Del Rio had a need to have high-speed Internet,” Roark said. “Representative Faison said he would help in any way he could.”

Representative Faison was true to his word. He reached out to industry leaders to explain the importance of the service to the Del Rio community. A service provider saw the opportunity and responded favorably. Representative Faison’s keen interest in helping the library and the Del Rio community proved to be the needed catalyst.

“Of course I could not do anything with speed,” Marie Ellison Memorial Library Director Leslie Gibbens said of her working conditions before the upgrade. “It took forever to get work done with dial-up Internet.”

AT&T is the only service provider in the area and brought the update to fruition.

“Public libraries can apply for federal e-rate funding for Internet,” Roark said. “Marie Ellison’s

library director Leslie Gibbens had to file all the paperwork well in advance of the installation.”

With the update, Ms. Gibbens is now able to complete tasks more quickly, in addition to giving patrons the ability to access more information with greater speed.

“Patrons can bring the iPhones and other wireless devices and use them at the library,” Gibbens said. “They can search the Tennessee Electronic Library, apply for jobs, take online classes - none of which would have happened before. The connection would have timed-out or been lost completely.”

Others benefitted from the update as well. The Del Rio Volunteer Fire Department once had to drive approximately 15 miles to Newport to file reports due to lack of Internet access. Now firefighters can stay in their building, which they share with the library, and file their reports online.

“The community needed this,” Gibbens said. “We appreciate everyone who has helped and been supportive of us – between the community, the library board, and the Del Rio Community Association – they’ve been really helpful and supportive.”

Plans for a Wi-Fi sign to accompany the library sign outside the library are underway.

“I am proud that Del Rio took the initiative to apply for federal e-rate funding in order to better serve their community,” Secretary Hargett said. “Even with technology and changing times, libraries still remain so important to the community in which they are located and I commend the Marie Ellison Memorial Library for continuing to improve the library experience for its patrons in Del Rio.” 

# TENNESSEE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY USAGE INCREASES SIGNIFICANTLY IN 2012

## New Services to be Added This Year

The Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) saw an increase of 15 percent last year compared to the year before, indicating more Tennesseans are finding the free resources available to them through TEL's many databases.

"TEL is an important resource for Tennesseans," Secretary Hargett said. "Whether it is helping students study for the ACT or helping individuals find new careers, I am happy to see that more Tennesseans are using the vast array of free information and databases available to them through TEL. We will continue our efforts to inform Tennesseans about these free resources."

TEL Coordinator Wendy Cornelisen attributes the increase to a number of factors. Use of Test Prep, a feature that helps students get ready for standardized tests, increased by 12 percent and use of the online version of World Book Encyclopedia increased by 53 percent.

"Interest in Test Prep continues, with double-digit growth, as more people discover the free practice tests provided in the Tennessee Electronic Library," Cornelisen said. "There are more than 300 practice tests and current study guides in TEL. If it's a test taken for school or work, it's most likely available. People getting ready for careers or graduate studies drove the numbers up the most - use at colleges increased 25 percent."

In 2012, The Tennessee State Library & Archives partnered with Ancestry.com to provide online access to thousands of Tennessee records, including many historic birth and death

certificates. Tennesseans can find these for free using TEL. There were more than 4 million searches of Tennessee records in Ancestry.com last year.



TEL is adding two new services this year that will further benefit Tennesseans.

Teachers around the state are struggling to find resources that meet Tennessee's new Common Core standards. TEL is coordinating with the Department of Education to develop online tools that show teachers how to use TEL to find Common Core resources.

"TEL is also working on adding an online language learning tool in late spring 2013. The goal is to give everyone in Tennessee the opportunity to learn a wide variety of languages," Cornelisen said. "Having an online language learning program that everyone in Tennessee can use will provide our children with a distinct advantage when they apply to college or get ready to join the workforce."

TEL is an online resource that's free to anyone in Tennessee with Internet access. TEL provides access to more than 400,000 reference materials, journals, essays, podcasts, videos and e-books. TEL's wealth of high quality content is used for test preparation, family history research, homework help and much more. 



*DR. KING SPEAKS AT FISK UNIVERSITY*

## OFFICE CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a state holiday. The Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Monday, January 21. If you have business with any of the office's divisions, please plan accordingly.

## RULEMAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rulemaking hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rulemaking meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state's rules could be more "user-friendly," please contact Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: [Cody.York@tn.gov](mailto:Cody.York@tn.gov). 

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