Tennessee Municipal League Honors Bristol with Excellence in Governance Award

“So seamless interaction, a drive to succeed, that’s what makes the difference between mediocrity and a great way of life in Bristol. The city’s council and administration are fully invested in meeting today’s challenges as a team, channeling creative solutions and long range goals into a wide array of top-notch, innovative services for the community.” That was the opening line used by Carol Graves of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML). Ms. Graves was outlining the reasoning behind TML’s decision to recognize the city with the 2011 Tennessee Municipal League Achievement Award for Excellence in Governance. The award will be presented on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 during TML’s annual conference in Murfreesboro, TN.

Bristol’s emphasis on creativity, concern and communication was also noted, as well as a new program that involves neighborhoods in Bristol’s visioning and planning process. The newly renovated train in Steele Creek Park was mentioned along with the amazing array of other initiatives already taking place in the park. The farmers’ market success and the reaction the city took during recent storms in allowing building permit fees for storm-related repairs to be waived were major initiatives also recognized.

Pat Hardy, a consultant with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) said, “As with all well-governed cities, these projects did not have to happen. Constantly looking for ways to improve is what the Bristol city council and staff is all about. Initiating projects that are important but not urgent is where the gold mine of progress lies.”

Each year TML honors cities throughout the state for overall excellence, improvement, specific outstanding programs, or department accomplishments.

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