

Art & Science

THE COMMUNITY TECTONICS QUARTERLY

Dickson County Government: Community Tectonics Facilitates Solid Planning and Consensus Building

We've been fortunate here to see what we can accomplish with outside assistance," says Judy Wilson, chair of the Dickson County Public Safety Committee. A county commissioner and juvenile and probate court clerk, Wilson recently listened to a county-wide planning report presented by Community Tectonics, Inc.

Wilson explains that Community Tectonics' facilities master plan for Dickson County's school system convinced her that good planning saves taxpayer dollars. "A professional can help us look at our long-range needs," she says.

Sheriff Tom Wall credits Commissioner Wilson for getting several committees to join forces on the county's facilities

planning process.

"It will be extremely helpful to have these committees together on the ground floor when we report the findings to county commission," Wall says.

Historic Dickson County Courthouse



The findings include the impact of rapid growth in Dickson County. Population is expected to grow at twice the rate of Tennessee as a whole. Dickson's close proximity to Nashville and the completion of the 840-South Bypass will fuel a population of about 64,480 by 2020, compared to an estimated year 2000 population of 43,891.

In addition to gathering demographic and economic data, Community Tectonics evaluated 18 county buildings

(Continued on back page)



architecture • planning • interior design

Tectonics: The Art and Science of Creating Structures



Impacting the Environment

Today's architects must be prepared to totally immerse themselves in the challenge of making the environment better when they leave than when they arrived," says James B. (Jim) Coykendall, III, corporate vice president of Community Tectonics, Inc.

"In the future, our greatest challenge will be managing growth, which will only continue and even accelerate over time," Coykendall continues. "As architects, we must manage the development associated with growth so that it won't have a negative impact on the total human experience."

Coykendall joined Community Tectonics in 1969 and initially worked out of the company's first office in Gatlinburg. In his early days with the firm, he worked with and learned from the late Hubert Bebb, founder of Community Tectonics.

"Mr. Bebb was a very creative person," Coykendall remembers. "I related to his style. Architects educated in his era did everything. He drew beautifully and could sketch your portrait effortlessly. He did all of his own engineering, mechanical and structural design, as well."

Coykendall opened the company's office in Sevierville in the early 1970's. Today, he works from the main office in Knoxville and also at the office in Dickson, Tennessee.

"I love architecture because every project has its own unique set of challenges. That's what keeps things interesting. Architecture is all about solving problems," Coykendall says.

His involvement with educational programs has been extensive. He's served as the project principal and project architect for numerous schools, medical facilities, community centers and government centers. He was also the facilities evaluator for several educational facilities master planning programs. One of his most interesting jobs was the restoration of the historically significant Sevier County Courthouse.

A graduate of Auburn University's architectural program, he is active in several professional architectural associations and is a past board member and current supporter of the Foothills Land Conservancy. He is also active in his community of Pittman Center, where he's chairman of the planning commission.

CT News Roundup

Golf Tournament Winners Announced

David Holloway of Bradley County Schools was the winning superintendent at Community Tectonics' 10th Annual Superintendents Summer Hummer Scramble. His winning foursome was completed by Wayne Qualls, Wayne Henley and George Heins.

Don Shell, president of Community Tectonics, says that his firm hosts this annual golf tournament to build and strengthen relationships throughout the educational community. In addition to superintendents and architects, participants include representatives from various aspects of the building trades.

The afternoon of fellowship and sport culminated in an evening of celebration. The first, second and third place tournament winners were announced, along with winners of the putting contest, closest to the pin and the longest drive.

A total of 86 golfers turned out for the tournament during free time scheduled into the Superintendents' Study Council held at Gatlinburg's Park Vista Hotel each summer. This was the 50th anniversary of that annual event.



The winning team

Vinson Speaks to Southern Forest Products Association

"Beyond '99 With Southern Pine" was the theme of the Southern Forest Products Association's annual conference in Amelia Island, Fla. Bill Vinson, vice president at Community Tectonics, recently stirred up interest with a speech about the use of wood in large commercial structures, with an emphasis on schools. Vinson says he's received several follow-up calls about the cost benefits that are possible when working within wood products' design capabilities and building codes.

Newsletter Wins National Award

This newsletter, called Art and Science, has won the first-place award for newsletters from the Society for Marketing Professional Services. SMPS' National Marketing Awards program recognizes outstanding marketing pieces created by architectural, engineering, design, planning, interior design, specialty consulting and construction firms.

which are both Functional and Visually Pleasing.



Sweetwater Junior High – after



Sweetwater Junior High – before

CT Submits Sweetwater Junior HS at TSBA

The renovation and expansion of Sweetwater Junior High School were captured in Community Tectonics' submission for the TSBA School of the Year Award. More than 4,000 square feet were added to the school, which houses approximately 270 seventh and eighth grade students, and 40,595 square feet were renovated. In addition, new electrical and HVAC systems were provided.

The winner of the School of the Year Award will be announced at the Nov. 16 closing session of the Tennessee School Boards Association's annual meeting at Opryland Hotel. In the past, Community Tectonics has

won School of the Year Awards for six schools and merit awards for two schools.

"For many years, Community Tectonics has been an active participant in this annual conference," says Don Shell, president. "This year, we look forward to spending more quality, one-on-one time with the educators and administrators with whom we work so closely."

TSBA attendees are invited to drop by the Community Tectonics booth to visit with staff and view the 3D video of Cleveland Middle School.



Shading = County School System

Star = City School System

Community Tectonics has provided planning, architecture, and interior design services for 36 school systems throughout the State of Tennessee.

(Continued from page 1)

in Dickson and nearby Charlotte, Tenn. The architectural and planning experts also interviewed every department in county government to identify needs.

The number one priority in the plan is a justice center, which would house the court system and jails. Community Tectonics presented two location options for this new facility, along with budget estimates for each location. In addition, they recommended restoration of the historic courthouse, a courthouse annex addition, construction of a new library and some modified utilization of existing facilities.

"This plan provided thoughts and directions on how we can work toward growth," explains Buford Reed, a county commissioner, member of the building committee and chair of the planning and zoning committee. "The plan



Fred Martin, director of planning and business development at Community Tectonics, presents a preliminary report of the Dickson County facilities master plan.

gives insight into what we need to do over the next 20 years, instead of playing catch-up 10 years hence."

Reed explains that he was on the commission when a jail was built in the early 1990's. He explains that the lack of consensus resulted in a jail for 110 inmates, not the 250 initially proposed.

Sheriff Wall notes that the jail currently houses

more than 200 inmates on a regular basis.

"We need to fix the problem, but we don't want a band-aid solution," Wall says. "By looking at all of the county's buildings together, we save money.

"This planning process is working better because,

in my opinion, we have a more progressive county commission," Wall continues. "Plus, we have several committees that brought in professionals to do the legwork. They've told us, 'Here's the situation. Here's how you can fix it. And here are your choices.'"

The committees are now working together to make those important choices for a presentation to the full county commission. With Community Tectonics' assistance, they're building consensus this time and focusing on the long term.



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