



KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



It seems that everyday that we read or hear about the challenges in the economy. It would be very easy to become depressed, throw up our hands and give up. I firmly believe that is the wrong approach and we've never done that as Americans.

We are working hard in Knox County to do everything in our power to weather the economic storm, create new jobs for our citizens, and look optimistically to the future.

Some businesses are still hiring and several new industries are looking to move here. To those in our community who have lost their jobs, please know that we realize the terrible situation that places many of you in. We will work diligently and act as quickly as possible to help restore lost jobs for our citizens. It would be easy to dwell on the negative. This attitude will keep the economy spiraling downward. During this difficult time, let's work together with a sense of urgency to restore jobs, look after our friends and neighbors, and fulfill our potential in becoming a great American community.

We have faced challenges before, and we will again in the future. I'm positive beyond any doubt that we will overcome this current economy and be a stronger community. As Americans and Knox Countians, we should expect nothing less.

Mike Ragsdale

Mayors host legislative luncheon

Ragsdale urges putting sending stimulus dollars to local level

Last week, Mayors Mike Ragsdale and Bill Haslam hosted a luncheon for the county's legislative delegation to discuss issues of importance to the city and county and to learn about the prospects of this year's legislative session. The mayors were joined by members of Knox County Commission and City Council. The session followed a regional legislative briefing by the Knox, Oak Ridge, and Blount Chambers.

At the luncheon, Mayor Ragsdale told legislators, "We realize it is a very difficult economic year," but also urged them to protect the state shared revenues that the county and city receive.

Ragsdale emphasized the importance of getting dollars from any federal



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Holiday Festival of Lights feeds more than the eyes

stimulus package incoming from the Obama administration down to the local level as quickly as possible so that the local economy can begin to rebound. "As the money comes down please remember we have shovel-ready projects ready to go right now," he told the delegation. "We could put people to work very quickly."

2009 Regional Senior Summit at the BlueCross Healthy Living Expo

Thursday, January 22, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Knoxville Convention Center

Free parking in Garage B of the Civic Coliseum
(Howard Baker Blvd.)

Free shuttle buses to and from the Convention Center

On January 8th, Knox County Parks and Recreation delivered nearly 2,500 pounds of food and a check for \$234 to the Love Kitchen on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. The food and cash were contributions that were gathered at the Holiday Festival of Lights at the Cove during December.

Knox County says **thank you** to everyone who made donations!!

Help Mobile Meals eliminate the waiting list

Funding shortfall means some don't eat

With tough economic times, we all need to pull together to make sure the basics for all of our citizens are met. Food is one of those basics.



Mobile Meals provides one meal a day to citizens who are at least 60 years old, who cannot cook for themselves and have no one to prepare meals for them. Right now, our Mobile Meals program is facing a \$125,000 shortfall and is putting people on a waiting list for that one meal a day. For many people, it is the only meal they get each day.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you can help, contact the [CAC Office on Aging](#) at (865) 524-2786.

Knox County Calendar

January 19
County holiday
*

Convenience centers
closed

January 20
Finance Committee
Intergovernmental
Committee

January 22
Regional Senior Summit
at Healthy Living Expo

January 24
Imagination Library
4th birthday
*

E-waste collection at
Chilhowee Park
*

Surviving the Recession
workshops at Lawson
McGhee Library

January 26
County Commission

February 5
Free five-part series on
diabetes management

Health Department offers free diabetes management series

Free classes on Thursdays in February and March

According to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are 17.9 million people nationally diagnosed with diabetes and an estimated 5.7 million people who have the disease but are undiagnosed. Day-to-day management of diabetes can be confusing and overwhelming.



As part of its Comprehensive Approach to Reducing Diabetes (CARD) Program, the Knox County Health Department is offering an enhanced series of free diabetes management classes in February. The classes will be held at noon on Thursdays (Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 and March 5) in the Knox County Health Department auditorium at 140 Dameron Avenue. Sessions include free testing, free supplies and drawings for great prizes. Lunch will be provided. These community classes are free and open to the public. Anyone interested should call 215-5170 to reserve space.

Library offers workshops on surviving the recession

January 24th sessions cover job searches, finances, etc.

The Public Library is making a day of workshops available on Saturday, January 24 at Lawson McGhee Library to help Knox Countians deal with the current economy. The workshops will cover topics from strategies to save for retirement to how to find a job when the unemployment rate is high. If you would like to participate in one or more of the workshops, please pre-register by calling (865) 215-8722. The workshops are free of charge. The workshop schedule follows:

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. "Saving for Retirement." Beef up on investment strategies for those more than five years away from retirement.

"Strategies for You if You're Near Retirement." Discover the best investment choices for those about to retire or just a few years from retirement.

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. "Starting or Managing a Business in a Bad Economy" Presented by counselors from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives).

"How to Find a Job When the Unemployment Rate is High" Presented by the Tennessee Career Center.

If the library is closed due to inclement weather, the workshops will be rescheduled to February 7. For more information, please contact the Business Reference desk at 215-8722.

begins at Knox County Health Department

February 6

Community Grants application deadline

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After Hours at the Library, "What is this thing called Jazz?"

February 9

Parks and Rec Baseball Commissioners meeting

Suggestions or comments?

We'd love to get your input. Send your comments or questions to our [newsletter editor](#).

Quick Links

[Knox County Office of Neighborhoods](#)
[Public Library](#)
[Public Schools](#)
[Parks & Recreation](#)
[Health Department](#)

Imagination Library birthday party scheduled

Join in the January 24th celebration

Knox County's Imagination Library is officially 4 years old, and Knox County Public Library is celebrating! Put on your favorite dress-up clothes and head down to Lawson McGhee Library on January 24 from 1-4 p.m.

to discover all that the Library has to offer early readers.



There will be free Kindermusik all day, you can decorate your own cupcakes, free t-shirts for the littlest readers, and enjoy three special

story times and musical performances. The special performances will be at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.. To attend the special performances, parents should pick up a free ticket by January 20 to guarantee admission.

Knox County's Imagination Library mails one free, age-appropriate book each month to any Knox County child from birth to age 5. Currently, almost 560,000 books have been sent to over 29,000 children since the program began in 2005.

Call 865-215-8784 or visit www.knoxlib.org for all the details and instructions on reserving tickets, or to donate to Knox County's Imagination Library.

Mayor supports veterans' STEM education program

Program trains and places veterans as engineers

Earlier this week, Mayor Mike Ragsdale signed the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Consortium Memorandum of Agreement. The Consortium will facilitate access to higher education for veterans by furthering their scientific, technological, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Program will also enable them to complete engineering degrees at participating state universities. Additionally, veterans are guaranteed an engineering position at a partnering corporation upon graduation.



Participating Tennessee universities are Roane State Community College, Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Tennessee Technological University and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

For more information on the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Program visit www.y12.doe.gov/jobs/stem/.

UT Center for Public Health hosts KCHD "Unnatural Causes" film series

Documentary focuses on health effects of social factors & policies

This week, the University of Tennessee's Center for Public Health began showing the multipart documentary series "Unnatural Causes." The documentary is designed to prompt a community dialogue on how social factors and policies affect health.

UT's Center for Public Health is partnered with with the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) to bring this series to the public each Wednesday from 12:15-1:15 p.m. until April 25. The film is being screened in the University Center auditorium (except for the April 1st session, which will be held in the University Center's Shiloh room). Each segment will be followed by a discussion lead by KCHD's Carlos Yunsan.

Attendees are also presented with and encouraged to sign up for some specific community service activities that focus on improving health and social justice in this community. For more information, please visit the Center for Public Health's website at cph.utk.edu/events.

Join us in our efforts to make Knox County *A Great American Community*.

Become a part of the conversation. Tell us about our programs and services that are working for you, and the ones that aren't. **Support our teachers** and the great work they are doing to educate our children. **Get involved** with the workforce development effort. **Participate** in the great events our libraries and parks offer. County government starts with you, the citizen, so **join in!**

Sincerely,

Mike Ragsdale, County Mayor
Knox County, A Great American Community

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