



# KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community

Good news from Green Mountain Coffee this week. They plan to add an \$8 million coffee roasting and processing operation to their manufacturing plant at our Forks of the River Industrial Park, which means we'll begin to see some jobs being created out there in the very near future. We're also hearing that a significant number of the people who lost their jobs when ImagePoint shut down are being absorbed by other companies. That is a bright spot as well.

Times are still tough. We have an unemployment rate that is higher that we want it to be, even though it is lower than most counties around the state. We have some plans in the works with the Knoxville Chamber that we will be telling you about very soon.

I want to reiterate what I said at the County Commission meeting earlier this week. *Now* is not the time to panic. *Now* is the time for us to work together, and to persevere. We can work through this and we will work through this if we work together. I hope you will join with us as we do just that.

Mike Ragsdale

## Knox County budget presentation earns 12th award of excellence

**Knox one of only four Tennessee counties cited**



The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has awarded Knox County its 12th consecutive *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*. Finance Director John Troyer was notified by the national organization that the 2007 budget presentation satisfied "nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation." Those guidelines gauge how well the budget serves the County and its citizens, not only as a policy document and financial plan, but also as an operations guide and a communications document.

Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale praised the work of the County's finance department saying, "Our finance staff has some of the most



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## Knox County Calendar

**January 31**  
Knoxville Youth Summit

**February 1**  
knoxAchieves  
FAFSA day

dedicated and talented individuals I have had the pleasure of working with. They work hard every year to develop a budget and create a document that is useful for our citizens."

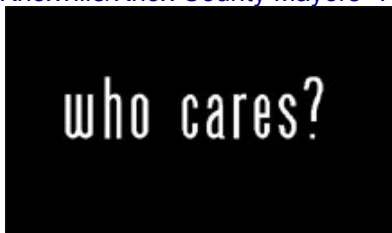
According to GFOA, the award is a significant achievement and is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. It recognizes the strong level of commitment by the Department of Finance and by Knox County to meeting the highest principles of governmental budget as established by GFOA.

Knox County was one of only four counties in Tennessee to receive this distinction for the 2007 budget. In total, 14 Tennessee municipalities, including the City of Knoxville, along with the State of Tennessee, were cited for their budget presentations. The County's budget presentation is available under the County Snapshot at [www.knoxcounty.org](http://www.knoxcounty.org).

## 250 to gather at Bearden for youth summit

### Students to explore teen apathy

"Who Cares?" is the theme for the 2009 Knoxville Youth Summit tomorrow at Bearden High School from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Whether the issue is improving education or increasing recycling efforts at your school, individual students and student groups who care are invited to attend. Presented by the Metropolitan Drug Commission and the Knoxville/Knox County Mayors' Youth Action Council, this mini-conference for teens is designed to empower high school students to engage others and make a positive difference in the community.



Mayor Mike Ragsdale kicks off the day's events, followed by a panel of community experts moderated by WBIR's John Becker. The panel includes Superintendent Jim McIntyre, Principal Clifford Davis, Mike Edwards from the Knoxville Chamber, and UT's Rita Geier, along with two students from West High School to talk about student involvement in schools.

The Summit includes two workshop sessions, "understanding student apathy," and "getting students to care." Comedian Javier Sanchez will round out the event with a challenge for students to stand up for what they believe in.

## E-waste collection events raise \$10.5K

### 3,000 cars drop off 175 tons of e-waste

More than \$10,500 and nearly 175 tons of electronic materials (e-waste) were collected at the two January events hosted by Knox County's Solid Waste Department and the West Knoxville Optimist Club.

Approximately 3,000 cars participated in the drive through and drop off collection sites. The funds raised benefit Optimist Club of West Knoxville, Goodwill Industries and the East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

The e-cycle events were designed to help our community properly recycle old electronic items that have hazardous materials in them so that they don't end up in with regular garbage, harming the environment. This event is being sponsored by Best Buy, so there are no fees being charged to

### February 3

Public hearing at Beck Cultural Exchange Center

### February 5

Part 1 of diabetes management series at 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

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Community grants applications due

### February 12

Part 2 of diabetes management series at Health Department

### February 16

County holiday

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Convenience centers closed

### February 17

Finance Committee Meeting

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Intergovernmental Committee Meeting

### February 19

Part 3 of diabetes management series at Health Department

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Close Read discussion group in West Knoxville

### February 21

Close Read discussion group in Halls

### February 23

County Commission

drop off equipment.

## Public meeting set about Beck Center expansion

### Architect to present project overview

Knox County will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 3rd from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Beck Cultural Exchange Center. The meeting is to inform the community about the expansion of the Beck Center and to celebrate the next phase of the Center. The one hour meeting will include a short program to introduce the architect for the project followed by a question and answer session. The Beck Center is located at 1927 Dandridge Avenue.

## WBIR, B97.5 & WUOT personalities lead February library "Close Read" book discussions

### *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*

What do you know about the German occupation of England in World War II? Yes, it did happen...in the channel island of Guernsey. Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows' bestselling novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is the Knox County Public Library's "Close Read" this February. The book is an inspiring and humorous story of the only part of England to be occupied.

Join one of our celebrity-led discussions as we launch the Public Library's quarterly "Close Read" series, a companion to our annual "Big Read" project. Every quarter, the Library will host a Close Read, featuring a book and discussion groups at library locations across the county. The next Close Read will be Walter Dean Myers' *Monster* to coincide with his visit on April 18, 2009 at the Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, TN.

### Schedule for the *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*:

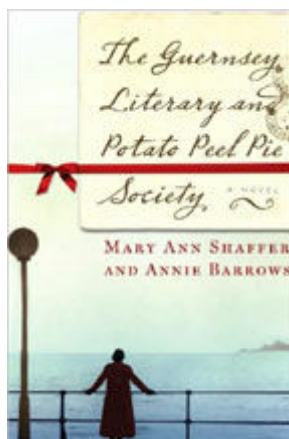
Matt Shafer Powell, WUOT 91.9 FM  
Thursday, February 19, 6 p.m.  
West Knoxville Branch Library, 100 Golf Club Road

GINNA MASHBURN, Friends of the Library  
Saturday, February 21, 11 a.m.  
Halls Branch Library, 4518 E. Emory Road

JULYA JOHNSON, WBIR TV 10  
Tuesday, February 24, 6 p.m.  
Farragut Branch Library, 417 N. Campbell Station Road

JENNIFER ALEXANDER, B97.5 FM  
Thursday, February 26, 5:30 p.m.  
Lawson McGhee Library, 500 W. Church Avenue

ED FRANCISCO, Pellissippi State  
Saturday, February 28, 11 a.m. at Powell Branch Library  
330 W. Emory Road



Meeting

**February 21**

Close Read discussion group downtown

**February 25**

Board of Zoning Appeals

**February 26**

Part 4 of diabetes management series at Health Department

**February 28**

Close Read discussion group in Powell

### 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](#)

County makes HUD grant applications available

## CDBG and HOME grant applications due February 13th

Knox County has announced that applications are now available for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) grant offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Applications are available from the County's website at [www.knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment](http://www.knoxcounty.org/communitydevelopment).

CDBG grants fund a wide range of activities that are geared toward providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities for low and moderate-income individuals. HOME grants are geared toward creating affordable housing for rent or homeownership and toward providing direct rental assistance to low-income individuals. HOME grants require matching funds.

Grant applications should be submitted to the Knox County Department of Community Development no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13. Knox County Community Development, 400 Main Street, Suite 339, Knoxville, TN 3902-2405.

As part of the County's ongoing effort to make the government greener, all information about the community grants process is available from the or by calling 865.215.3980.

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## February forums for library lovers

### **Celebrate *National Library Lovers Month* at the library**

February is National Library Lover's Month. To celebrate it, the Friends of the Knox County Public Library is hosting a series of forums to provide a forum to discuss the focus and future of the library system. Library Director Larry Frank will be on hand to answer questions and receive feedback about the Library system.

The meetings are scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. as follows:

- Tuesday, February 3, Cedar Bluff Branch Library, 9045 Cross Park Dr.
- Tuesday, February 10, Powell Branch Library, 330 W. Emory Road
- Monday, February 23, Burlington Branch Library, 4614 Asheville Hwy
- Tuesday, February 24, Howard Pinkston Branch Library, 7732 Martin Mill Pike

For more information about February Forums for Library Lovers, please call 215-8775.

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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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