



KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



Knox County News

We are just days away from delivering next year's budget proposal. I hope many of you are planning to join us on Tuesday at the Bijou for that event. I'm looking forward to sharing with you how we plan to continue meeting the community's needs under the challenges of the current economy.

Just a few days after that, we will be joining in the National Association of County Government's celebration of County Government Week. The purpose of the Week is to help citizens better understand what county government is all about. This year, all of the offices across County government have worked together to plan this celebration. We hope that there will be something for everyone.

Mike Ragsdale

Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale's State of the Community Address

Tuesday, April 28th
Coffee at 7:30, Speech at 8:00
Bijou Theatre, 803 S. Gay Street

Library announces "School Supplies for Fines" as part of County Government Week Celebration (May 3-9)

Amnesty Week to benefit Knox County Teacher Supply Depot

As part of their celebration of County Government Week, May 3-9, the Knox County Public Library is highlighting the close tie between its mission and that of the public schools by holding a "School Supplies for Fines" Amnesty Week. Beginning Sunday, May 3rd, all Branches and Lawson McGhee Library will be participating in the week-long event to collect:

- construction paper
- crayons
- glue/glue sticks
- index cards
- ink pens
- notebook paper



In This Issue

[Library announces "School Supplies for Fines"](#)

[Together! Healthy Knox focus groups coming](#)

[Vote for your favorite rain water art display](#)

[2nd season opens at New Harvest Park Farmers Market](#)

[County rabies clinics set for May 2 & 9](#)

[Tennessee Yard Done Right asks "Does Your Yard Measure Up?"](#)

[Calling All Teachers campaign from U.S. Cellular](#)

[First Tee® Golf Open benefits Concord Park Program](#)

**County
Government
Week Essay
Contest:
Get Involved**

- scotch tape
- post-it notes

Each item donated will forgive \$10 in fines, up to a maximum of \$50 in fines. For example, if a patron donates two packs of crayons, \$20 in fines will be forgiven.

Together! Healthy Knox focus groups coming

Your voice is needed to set our county health priorities

As part of the *Together! Healthy Knox* initiative, 15 focus groups are being scheduled across the county to gather input from citizens who want to voice their concerns about health-related issues in Knox County. If you live, work, worship or play in Knox County, we would like you to take part.



The Health Department will use the community feedback gathered in the focus groups to help identify priority problems and create action plans to address them.

There is no cost to participate in the focus groups. Pre-register by calling 215-5160 or 215-5180. The schedule is online at [Together! Healthy Knox!](#)

Prize: \$1,000

Deadline:
Monday, April 27th

Who?
Knox County high school seniors

Guidelines:
[Knox County website](#)

[KNOX COUNTY HAPPENINGS](#)

on FACEBOOK

Become a fan!

Urban schools forum

Join Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre

*Saturday, April 25th 10:00 a.m.
Fulton High School*

[Agenda online](#)

Knox County Calendar

April 25 -- May 5
Rainy Day Brush-Off painted rain barrels on display around the County

April 25
Urban Schools Forum
*

Adopt-a-stream training session

April 27
Pre-kindergarten

Vote for your favorite rain water art display

31 artists participate in Rainy Day Brush-Off

An unusual art competition is under way in Knox County and you get to choose the winner! The Water Quality Forum's Annual Rainy Day Brush-Off Event is happening now. The entries in this artistic rain barrel competition and fundraiser are on display at various locations throughout Knox County. All of this year's barrels are up on the [Water Quality Forum website](#).



Check out this year's entries and then email your vote for your

favorite barrel! Three winners will be selected based on online vote totals. Using rain barrels is a great way for homeowners to really make a difference in water conservation while saving some pretty big money. Once this year's Rainy Day Brush-Off barrels finish their run on display, they will be auctioned off to raise money for the Water Quality Forum. More information about the auction, which will run from May 16 - 25 2009, is available from the [Water Quality Forum](#).

2nd season opens at New Harvest Park Farmers Market

Thursdays, 3:00 until 6:00 p.m., fresh and locally grown

Here are just a few samples of what was available at this week's market:



Round-up
*
County
Commission
*
Llama, llama
shows begin
*
First Tee Open

April 28
State of the
Community
address

April 30
Farmers Market at
New Harvest Park

May 2
Rabies clinics

May 3-9
County
Government Week
(calendar of events
will be available
from
knoxcounty.org)

May 5
Audit Committee
*
*Together! Healthy
Knox focus groups*

May 6
*Together! Healthy
Knox focus groups*

May 7
Farmers Market at
New Harvest Park

May 9
TYN Home
Landscape
Workshop

May 9
Rabies clinics

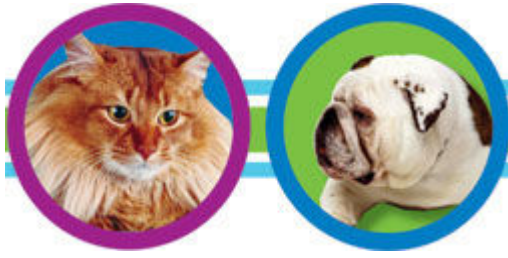
**Suggestions or
comments?**

We'd love to get

County rabies clinics set for May 2 & 9

Vaccinations required for all dogs and cats

2009 Rabies Clinic, Saturday, May 2. 2:00 - 4:30 pm, All dogs and cats 3 months and older MUST be vaccinated against rabies. The 2009 Rabies Clinic is sponsored by the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association and Knox County Health Department. All dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in carriers or may be brought in pillowcases. Cost is \$10 per animal.



May 2nd locations: Austin East High, Ball Camp Elementary, Belle Morris, Blue Grass Elementary, Dogwood Elementary, East Knox Elementary, Farragut High, Gresham Middle, Halls High, Inskip Elementary, New Hopewell Elementary, Northwest Middle, Powell High School, Rocky Hill Elementary, South Doyle High, Sunnyview Elementary, West High, and West View Elementary.

May 9th locations: Anderson Headstart, Bearden High, Brickey Elementary, Carter Middle, Cedar Bluff Primary, Chilhowee Elementary, Christenry Elementary, Copper Ridge Elementary, Gibbs Elementary, Karns Intermediate, Mount Olive Elementary, Norwood Elementary, Pond Gap Elementary, Ritta Elementary, Shannondale Elementary, and West Hills Elementary.

Tennessee Yard Done Right asks "Does Your Yard Measure Up?"

First Home Landscape Workshop Scheduled

A "Tennessee Yard Done Right" is beautiful, earth-friendly and saves money. Through the Home Landscape Workshop, Tennessee Yards and Neighborhoods (TYN) helps homeowners create attractive and healthy yards by working with Tennessee's environment rather than against it.



Does Your Yard Measure Up?

TYN will host a Home Landscape Workshop in Knox County on May 8, 2009. The six-hour workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at Homewood Suites by Hilton at Turkey Creek.

The workshop will provide guidebooks and

diagnostic tools like soil tests and rain gauges plus a "yard" stick to help you measure your progress toward a "Tennessee Yard Done Right." There will be tips and advice on the following topics:

- The importance of water in our community landscape.
- Principles for an earth-friendly landscape.
- Proper care and feeding of Tennessee grass varieties.
- How to give your plants the best chance of survival.
- Managing the quantity and quality of storm water flowing into and from your yard.
- Plan before you plant; analyzing your site for sun and water.

The workshop is limited to 25 participants and costs \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. For more information, contact David Vandergriff at 865-215-2341 or dvgriff@tennessee.edu. To register, call 865-215-2340 and ask for Wanda.

your input.

Send comments or questions to our [newsletter editor](#).

Quick Links

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

Calling All Teachers campaign from U.S. Cellular **DonorsChoose.org website to fund classroom projects**

If you are a teacher or a friend of a teacher, take note, U.S. Cellular has a new \$1 million to help ease the financial burden that classroom teachers are feeling. Between now and Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2009, the wireless company and its 9,000 associates are encouraging teachers to post requests on DonorsChoose.org.

That website helps public school teachers find money for classroom projects that exceed



their limited budgets. According to Karen Ehlers, vice president of public affairs and communications for U.S. Cellular. "We'll fund as many projects as \$1 million allows so we're encouraging all public school teachers to submit their requests."

U.S. Cellular associates are spreading word of the campaign to schools around Tennessee and will drop into classrooms during Teacher Appreciation Week to surprise selected teachers with the good news their project was funded. The program is open to all public school teachers in the markets where U.S. Cellular does business.

First Tee® Golf Open benefits Concord Park Program **April 27 event at Fox Den hosted by Humana**

Humana presents The First Tee® of Knoxville Open at Fox Den Country Club on Monday, April 27, with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The public tournament will benefit The First Tee® program at Concord Park Par Three Golf Course.



In addition, on Sunday afternoon, Humana is hosting a youth clinic for kids 6-14 years old at Fox Den from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. Local golf pros and high school golf team members will be on hand to acquaint kids with the game of golf. Clubs will be available if needed.

On Monday, registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. Four-person teams will be treated to lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed the shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

First Tee® gives young people an opportunity to develop life-enhancing values

such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship through golf and character education. Since 1983, it has introduced golf to more than 2.2 million participants in 260 learning facilities across the country. Both Knox County par three courses, Beverly Park and Concord Park, participate in the program.

For more information, or to register for the youth clinic or tournament, please call The First Tee ® at 966-9103.

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!**

Best regards,

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