

In This Issue

[Hardin Valley Academy ribbon cutting set for August 8th](#)

[Free community college plan endorsed by State officials](#)

[First Day Festival kicks off school year August 11](#)

[Movies on the Town at World's Fair Park](#)

[Library's online book clubs solve time problems](#)

[Schools' website loaded with useful info](#)

KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



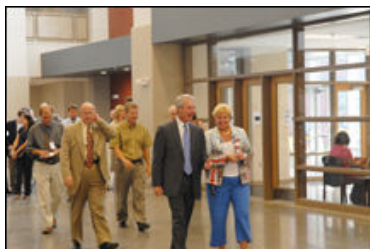
This was a tragic week for Knox County, and particularly for the members of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. I am sure that the thoughts and prayers of all Knox County citizens continue to be with the families and friends of those who were killed or injured. We also offer prayers of support to those who have been traumatized by the horrific event.

We saw truly heroic efforts at that church last Sunday, as one man gave his life and others risked theirs when they stepped in harm's way to ensure that others did not die. We honor all of those men, and mourn the loss of both of our citizens who died in this tragedy.

Mike Ragsdale

Hardin Valley Academy ribbon cutting set for August 8th

Mayor, Superintendent, Commissioners do early walkthrough



For the first time in more than three decades, Knox County will cut the ribbon on a new high school on August 8th when Hardin Valley Academy is officially completed. Several County officials took an informal tour of the new facility this week, and the word "awesome" was uttered over and over again. Principal Sallee Reynolds led the informal walkthrough for Mayor Mike Ragsdale and Superintendent Jim McIntyre, along with Commissioners Richard Briggs, Mike Hammond, Greg Lambert, Craig Leuthold, and Bob Rountree, school officials, and representatives from the Public Building

Authority, Merit Construction, and the Lewis Group on the tour. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday the 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the school at 11345 Hardin Valley Road. The public is invited to attend the event, which will be followed by a reception for Superintendent Jim McIntyre and then a "sneak peak" at the new facility.

The \$50 million, state-of-the-art "Home of the Hawks" will house four learning academies when it opens on August 11th. While the school is designed for up to 2,100 students, it will open with about 1,200. Most of the students in this first year are freshmen and sophomores, with over 100 juniors and no seniors. Hardin Valley will be comprised of four academies as well as a regular high school program. The four academies are (1) Health Science, (2) Law and Public Affairs, (3) Liberal Arts and (4) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.



Free community college plan endorsed by State officials

Last week, the [Nashville Tennessean](#) highlighted growing support from education officials for the proposal to provide free community college in Tennessee's four urban counties. Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor of the State Board of Regents, contacted Mayor Mike Ragsdale late last week to offer his enthusiastic support for the plan, which is still in its formative stages. According to the Tennessean article, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission endorsed the concept at its quarterly meeting. In addition, the article notes that Secretary of State Riley Darnell also endorsed the idea.

Mayor Ragsdale and Shelby County Mayor A.C. Wharton have signed on to the Tennessee Urban

Nominate Your VOLUNTEER STAR

If you know an adult or young person who is an outstanding volunteer, nominate that individual for the **Governor's Volunteer Star Award**. Nominations are due by August 15.

The nomination form and more information are available from the [Knox County website](#).

Mosquito Spraying Schedule

The schedule is available from the [Environmental Health Department](#) website. Spraying takes place from 12:00 midnight to 6:30 a.m.

For more specific information, call (865) 215-5200 or email mosquito@knoxcounty.org.

THINK GREEN #52

Make "duplex" your default

Remember all that talk about the paperless office? Do you still have paper on your desk? Most of us do. In fact, **the**

Mayors Forum, where the plan is being developed. Davidson and Hamilton County mayors are expected to join the forum in the near future.

The Higher Education Commission coordinates our two systems of higher education: the University of Tennessee institutions and the Tennessee Board of Regents institutions that include Pellissippi, Roane, and Walters State Community Colleges.

First Day Festival kicks off school year August 11

Varsity Fan Club concert scheduled

Parents and school kids are invited to the annual [First Day Festival](#) featuring Varsity Fan Club and their debut single, *Future Love*. This annual event is designed as a celebration of education and the completion of the first day of school.

Practicing weather forecasting on an interactive television "Weather Wall" presented by Comcast and the Weather Channel is just one of many activities and live entertainment events presented by the than 75 exhibitors. Other activities include meeting and greeting UT athletes, as well as Smokey and other area mascots; jumping and bouncing on inflatable Moonwalks; interactive games live from center stage; and giveaways and prizes that include backpacks, school supplies, and bicycle helmets.

For more information, call (865) 524-0270 ext. 10 or e-mail firstdayfestival@gmail.com

Knox County Mayor's



typical American worker uses 10,000 sheets of paper every year, the equivalent of a full-grown tree. According to True Green, most of that paper comes from native pines, and they produce toxic dioxins. So let's cut this in half, at least, by duplexing our printing and photocopying whenever we can. **Set printers and copiers to duplex as their default.** To cut down on paper jams in the copier's duplexer, be sure to **put copier paper in right side up** (seriously!) and store the paper in a dry place.

**True Green from National Geographic's Clean Up the World campaign*

Movies on the Town at World's Fair Park

YOU Pick the Flick starts August 13

Preparations are under way for this year's outdoor Movies on the Town in September and October. We're trying out new digs at World's Fair Park for our September films (Fridays, September 5, 12, and 19), but we'll be back at Market Square for October (Fridays, October 3, 10, and 17)! Pre-show entertainment starts at 7:30 p.m. with the movies kicking off around 8:30 p.m.

Don't forget to have your say! [YOU Pick the Flick](#) starts August 13 on the library's website. Choose your favorite family-friendly movies (all movies are rated PG-13 or lower). Then get your blanket or lawn chairs in tip-top shape and prepare for a night in front of the silver screen!



Library's online book clubs solve time problems

If you can't remember the last time you read a book because you simply can't make the time, the Knox County Public Library has an answer. The library has developed 11 online book clubs. Once you join one of the clubs, you start receiving a daily email (Monday through Friday) with a five-minute selection from a chapter of a book. By the end of the week, you'll have read 2-3 chapters. Every Monday, the clubs start a new book. The clubs are fiction, nonfiction, teen, business, romance, Good News, science fiction, mystery, horror, audio, and pre-publication. [Sign up and start reading!](#)

The more you know

Schools' website loaded with useful info

There will be long lines in the stores this weekend as parents shop for school supplies during the tax holiday. That means that the beginning of the new school year is just days away. As you prepare for the new year, we encourage you to take some time to look over the [Knox County Schools website](#). The site has a number of individual sections for staff, parents, students and the community.

You can easily find the school calendar, cafeteria information and the [cell phone policy](#) in any of them. The student section has lots of useful information to help your high schooler do some academic planning, like the new [high school student planning](#) guide. It also has lists, by high school, of the [outside reading lists](#) for honors and advanced placement students.

Knox County Calendar

August 2

Last day for early voting

August 7

State & Federal Primary Election

August 8

Hardin Valley Academy Ribbon Cutting

August 9

Second Saturday Concert at the Cove: 572nd Air Force Band

August 11

First Day Festival

August 22

Museum of East Tennessee Ribbon Cutting

August 23

Museum of East Tennessee Grand Opening

August 25

County Commission

September 1

County holiday

September 13

Second Saturday Concert at the Cove: Retroholics

From the parents' section, you can link to the [Parent Portal](#), which gives you real-time access to your student's records. The parents' section has many of the [2008-2009 school supplies](#), lets you pay for school lunches online and has all of the [student policies](#).

Look on the administration section to find out how to contact your [school board representative](#), the [superintendent](#) or members of his staff. Explore the site for yourself. There is a lot to find.

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 departments offer, like the summer reading challenge and the Second Saturday at the Cove concert series. County government starts with you, the citizen, so **join in!**

Sincerely,

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

Quick Links

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



Join our
Mailing List