



Knox County News

The schools doors are opening again on Monday. The summer certainly went quickly. I'm sure that the children will agree with me on that. Now is the time we start to look for folks to help out with our volunteer Read With Me program. You can learn more about that in this newsletter. I certainly hope you will consider participating in it this year. Every year that I have gone to read with these children, I have gained so much from them. You will be amazed at what the experience can mean to you. It's one hour out of your week, and it means so very much to our young people and their education. That's the one thing I want to urge you to think about this week as our schools go back into session. Can you spare an hour a week? It will certainly mean a lot more than you can realize.

Mike Ragsdale



In This Issue

[55,000 kids head back to the classroom](#)

[Will you volunteer for Read With Me?](#)

[County Fleet Service Center earns ASE Blue Seal of Excellence](#)

[Tips for mosquito control from KCHD](#)

[It's football time in Knox County](#)

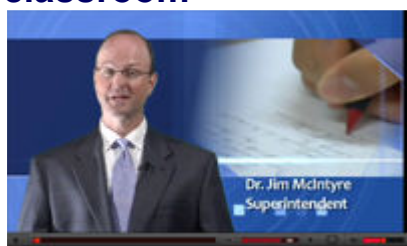
[Public library resources for kids and teens](#)

[August "staycation" opportunity continues](#)

[Tips from Fireknowledge 101](#)

55,000 kids head back to the classroom

New standards, new challenges await them



Monday morning, moms will be packing lunches and rushing sleepy children off to meet buses and new classroom teachers. The routine of the school year will begin again. Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre offers a [special greeting](#) to all students on the Schools website.

In Knox County this year, there is a new [strategic plan](#) designed to "advance student academic development and achievement." The plan sets out four goals to engage all stakeholders, a five-year timeline, and specific measure for achieving each goal. The full plan is available from the schools website at [knoxschools.org](#).

[Public library resources for kids and teens](#)

[August "staycation" opportunity continues](#)

[Tips from Fireknowledge 101](#)

It's FOOTBALL TIME in KNOX COUNTY

For schedules, standings and other information, go to

the [football section](#) of the Parks and Recreation website

It is back to school time!
Slow down in School Zones.

Will you volunteer for Read With Me?
Operation Red, White and Blue calls on you to be a classroom volunteer

Reading with children is a primary focus of President Obama's *United We Serve* call for volunteerism. It's been a focus for Mayor Mike Ragsdale since 2002, when Read With Me program began putting volunteers in 1st and 2nd grade classrooms across Knox County. This year is no different. We need your help. Here is how it works:



Volunteers in the program spend one hour each week reading to students in a classroom, and it's the same classroom each week. WBIR anchor John Becker describes it this way, "I haven't found a better way to form such a close connection to kids, teachers and schools in Knox County. **You walk into the classroom the first day nervous and worried about making a difference. The last day, you walk out with little doubt that you did.**"

Now is the time to fill out your volunteer application and get set up to read in a school of your choosing, near your home, or your place of business. Once the assignment to a school is made, a

coordinator at the school will work with you and the assigned teacher to set a schedule.

Mayor Ragsdale has also been reading in the program since it's inception. "It amazes me how much progress children can make in one short year. A couple of the children have been quick to tell me I have made good progress, too! I encourage everyone to join this volunteer effort, for the children, and for yourself."

For more information, or to volunteer, check out the [Read With Me](#) section of the Knox County website.

County Fleet Service Center earns ASE Blue Seal of Excellence

The Knox County Fleet Service Department recently earned the prestigious Blue Seal of Excellence Recognition from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) for meeting its standards and qualifications for 2009/2010. The Blue Seal of Excellence certificate for automotive and truck repair is awarded to private businesses and public sector fleet maintenance departments.

The ASE Blue Seal certification standards and qualifications are as follows:



- 75% of technicians ASE-certified in performing diagnosis and repairs;

Follow us on Twitter!

[@KnoxHappenings](#)

[@KnoxReads](#)

Knox County on Facebook

[-Knox County Happenings](#)

[-Adopt-A-Road](#)

[-Air Quality](#)

[-Emergency Management Agency](#)

[-Health Department](#)

[-Knox Recycles](#)

[-Parks and Recreation](#)

[-Public Library](#)

[-Stormwater Management](#)

[-Young Williams Animal Center](#)

[-East Tennessee Veterans](#)

Become a fan of them all!

Knox County Calendar

August 17

School back in session-students return
*

Commission's Finance Committee meeting

August 18

Commission's Intergovernmental Committee meeting
*

Audit Committee meeting

August 20

New Harvest Park Farmers Market

August 24

Commission Meeting
*

Football season opens in Knox County

- At least one ASE Master Technician in sedan and light truck repair; and
- At least one ASE Master Technician in heavy-duty truck repair.

The Knox County Fleet Maintenance facility currently maintains 1,300 diverse vehicles and pieces of equipment. The Service Center holds a 97% vehicle availability rate and a 75% twenty-four hour repair turn around rate. Collectively, 13 of Knox county's service providers hold 68 ASE certifications.

The following are ASE Fleet Service Center Employees: Marshall Agee, Dennis Carpenter, Jeff Edmonds, Jody Fox, Larry Fox, Shane Hensley, Paul Keeney, Phillip May, Bob Millsaps, Mickey Rauhuff, Jeffery Thompson, Paul Tweed and James Wardwell.

Tips for mosquito control from KCHD

Precautions against West Nile Virus encouraged

Eliminating breeding areas is an important factor in controlling the mosquito population. The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) urges everyone to reduce breeding sites around your homes by following these tips:

- Dispose of, regularly empty, or turn over any water holding containers on your property such as tires, cans, flowerpots, or trash cans
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly and water doesn't stand in them.
- Change the water in birdbaths at least once a week.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Keep swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs clean and properly chlorinated;
- Remove standing water from pool covers.

It also is important for residents to take necessary precautions against West Nile Virus (WNV) during outside activity. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to keep mosquitoes from biting you. During mosquito season (generally April through October), take the following precautions:

- Limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn, if possible, since this is the time of greatest mosquito activity.
- If you are outside when mosquitoes are prevalent, wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide); and
- Follow the directions on the label. If you are concerned about using repellent products on children you may wish to consult a health care provider for advice or contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) through their toll-free number at 1-800-858-7378 or npic.orst.edu.

More information on the mosquito control program and the treatment schedule are available by calling 215-5200 or the [Health Department's website](#).

August 27
New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

August 29
All About Women Expo



Suggestions or comments?

Story ideas?

You can email our [newsletter editor](#).

Quick Links

[Knox County](#)
[Office of Neighborhoods](#)
[Public Library](#)
[Public Schools](#)
[Parks & Recreation](#)
[Health Department](#)
[Convenience Centers](#)
[Smart Trips](#)
[Office of Aging](#)
[Senior Centers](#)
[Veterans Services](#)

It's football time in Knox County

County football program to begin week of August 24th

The Knox County football program begins the week of August 24 at both John Tarleton Park and the new Tommy Schumpert Park. Kids from 7 to 14 years old are playing on 147 different teams from throughout the county!



Knox County Parks and Recreation held the National Football Foundation Coaches Clinic on July 27 at the Neyland-Thompson Sports Complex. More than 100 youth football coaches attended; they learned rules, coaching skills and warm up drills, and heard from UT Defensive Coordinator Monte Kiffen.

Schedules and more information are available from the [football page](#) of the Knox County Parks and Recreation website.

Public library resources for kids and teens

Back-to-school resources

When your kids get back to school, don't forget that the public library in your community has lots of age-appropriate resources to help with homework or creative exploring.

The Kids Library has a number of online resources as well as books and audio and video materials available for checkout. Browse the online Kids Library and learn about the following:

- >Imagination Library
- >Homework Helper
- >Reading Corner
- >Science & Nature
- >Be Safe
- >People & Places
- >Growing Up
- >Fun & Games
- >Movies & Music
- >Storytimes to Go



For the teen set, the library

has a special teen advisory group (TAG). In addition to the teen-focused books, audiobooks, and special programming, the website hosts Teen Central which allows teens to browse the library's online offers in these specific categories:

- >How to deal
- >Your World
- >Teen's Top 10
- >Life Beyond High School

August "staycation" opportunity continues

Parks and Rec promotes Three Ridges Golf Course

If you are a golfer, don't forget about the "Staycation" opportunity at Three Ridges Golf Course through the end of August. The County's championship, par 72 course is located at 6101 Wise Springs Road. It offers 18 holes for just \$28 anytime Monday through Thursday, beginning August 3. The offer

includes green fees, a cart, and even a hot dog! On Sundays, children can play free if they are playing with a parent who is paying the advertised rate. (One child free with each adult round.)



Three Ridges features a driving range, putting green, and chipping area for practice, a fully equipped pro shop, food and beverage service, and club rentals. PGA golf instruction is also offered by appointment. Tee times are available by calling 687-4797. Or, check out the website at www.knoxcounty.org/golf.

County Joins in *All About Women Expo* Free August 29th event at Knoxville Convention & Exhibition Center

**Health Department, Parks and Recreation,
Green Team and other county services to participate**

Tips from Fireknowledge 101 Barbecue Safety

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves. Remember, the grill must be 10 feet away from any combustibles and can not be used on balconies or patios of Multi-Family Dwellings. Multi-Family Dwellings includes apartments and attached condos.
- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked or have leaks.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Use proper lighting techniques. An accumulation of gas when lighting can result in a serious explosion.
- .Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing doe.s catch fire. Call 911 or your local

emergency number if a burn warrants serious medical attention.

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