



KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community

Knox County News

It was a good week in Knox County for economic development. We formalized a relationship with Trane, launching a massive energy efficiency initiative that will save our taxpayers \$1 million every year in energy costs. In addition to the savings, the project will mean more jobs over its course. We also broke ground on an facility expansion at Melaluca. That, too, is going to mean more jobs. These are the kinds of things that will move Knox County forward and we will continue to focus on them.

Mike Ragsdale

County contracts with Trane to save \$1 million per year in energy costs

Program being viewed as global model

Knox County has signed a contract for \$16.2 million in improvements to address aging infrastructure and high energy and operating costs. The county is combining anticipated energy and operational savings with \$2.1 million in stimulus monies through a U.S. Department of Energy Tennessee Block Grant Funds to fund the improvements.

Representatives of Trane joined Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Deputy Finance Director Hugh Holt, and Knox Green Team Chair Lynne Liddington (left) this week to formalize the agreement. When completed, the improvements will reduce the county's energy costs an estimated 36% by upgrading and enhancing infrastructure in 40 facilities, 24 parks and 37 traffic intersections. The improvements are also expected to add county jobs, create one of the nation's largest solar farms and significantly reduce the county's environmental impact.



Over the 15-year life of the program, the county will save an estimated \$29 million, more than covering the program's \$27 million cost. This total cost includes: \$16.2 million in infrastructure upgrades, \$7.5 million in maintenance and repair services and allotments for debt service and



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Contact Sandy Garber today at 215-4770.

or [sign up online](#)

measurement and verification services. The resulting project requires no new tax dollars.

The improvements will have a significant positive environmental impact, equivalent to removing 2,329 passenger vehicles from County roads, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas equivalence calculator.

Flu Facts: Seasonal and H1N1

The Who, What and When

The Knox County Health Department is going to be one of your most important resources this fall as we work our way through the flu season. KCHD is keeping their website (www.knoxcounty.org/health) current with information about both seasonal and H1N1 flu.

There is a one page **Influenza Update** available now from KCHD's website with information about symptoms, recommendations for seeking medical care, and behaviors to avoid infection.



Seasonal flu shots are available now at the Health Department and local doctors. Flumist program in the schools will begin September 14.

Vaccine for the H1N1 flu is expected to arrive in mid-October.

The most important advice our public health officials are giving us this flu season are the following tips:

- If you are sick, stay home from work, school, or child care! Do not return to work or school until you are fever free (without medication) for 24 hours.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- If you don't have access to soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- To further prevent the spread of germs, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

Volunteer projects set for September 11th

Day of Service & Remembrance

Operation Red, White and Blue call for volunteers

There is no better day in the year than September 11th to call upon the volunteer spirit of Americans. We will never forget what so many of our fellow citizens did on September 11, 2001, when they rushed in to try and save thousands caught in tragedy. This September 11th, as we remember that day, we are joining millions of Americans across the nation in a Day of Service. Here in Knox County, *Operation Red, White and Blue* asks you to help us make our communities a little bit better, a little bit stronger, a little bit more American. Volunteer for one of these projects:

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!

Follow us on Twitter!

[@KnoxHappenings](#)

[@KnoxReads](#)

Knox County Calendar

August 29

All About Women Expo

September 1

Special Commission meeting

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Audit Committee meeting

September 3

New Harvest Park Farmers Market

September 7

Labor Day:
County Offices Closed

September 9

Agenda Committee Meeting

September 10

New Harvest Park Farmers Market

September 11

- **Beardsley Community Farm:** *planting an apple orchard and planting vegetables* in two sixty-foot long raised beds for Food in the Fort, a food pantry that provides 80 families with food each week.
- **Health Department: volunteering for the Knox County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).** Volunteers could participate in community preparedness activities, such as exercises for shelters, mass prophylaxis, vaccination clinics, and other emergency scenarios.
- **Parks and Recreation: *sprucing up the pedestrian bridge*** at Concord Park. The bridge on Northshore Drive is now a pedestrian walkway and part of a greenway trail, but the railings are rusty and unsightly, so volunteers are needed to scrape, prime and paint them.
- **Senior Services: *teaching fitness classes*** on Senior fitness day at Strang, Halls, Corryton and Carter Senior Centers. On September 11th, Knox County seniors are being provided a day of free health, wellness and senior fitness classes at senior centers, along with handouts discussion session sessions on volunteerism in Knox County.
- **Stormwater Management/CAC AmeriCorps Water Quality Team: *restoring outdoor classrooms*** at Halls and Powell High Schools. Volunteers will do exotic plant removal, trail renewal, weeding, planting, and trash pick up.
- **Gap Creek Elementary School: *raking mulch*** in the playground area to smooth out dips; *re-establishing the small garden area* in the back of the school that has become overgrown with weeds over time.
- **Ridgedale Elementary School: *cleaning up grounds and entry way.***

Day of Service & Remembrance
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Movies on Market Square begins

September 12
Second Saturday at the Cove: Knoxville Symphony Brass Quintet



More details on each of the projects will be available from the Knox County website and on Facebook beginning September 1st.

FREE All About Women Expo
tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention & Exhibition Center
Knox County Health Department, Parks and Recreation, Green Team and other services to participate

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](#)

14,000 reach reading goals in Library's summer reading programs

130% increase in number of adults completing program

It was definitely the summer of the book in Knox County! There were double digit increases in all age categories for those completing the Public Library's summer reading programs. Of the more than 18,000 participants, 14,000 reached their reading goals.

The most traditional program is the children's program. This year, the library enrolled over 12,300 kids and **8,500 of them completed the program**. That's an 11% increase from last year. There were nearly **1,400 readers in this year's teen**

program and more than half of them (764) finished, which was an increase of 44%.

The most dramatic results came in the adult program. The Public Library challenged adults to read at least four books in June and July. That program grew by 130% with over **4,600 adults completing the program** and claiming their prize. Why? Many of them said they did it to set an example for their children.

Research shows that reading over the summer prevents critical reading loss during the following academic year. Reading loss can be as much as three to five months for struggling readers, according to Richard Allington, professor of literacy at UT.

Melaluca adds jobs to Knox County

This week, Melaluca broke ground on a company expansion that represents a capital investment of \$22 million for a 231,000 square foot distribution facility, offices and a product store. The facility is expected to support a staff of more than 800 people over the next several years.



The Big Read: *Bless Me Ultima*

Program launch set for September 16th on Market Square

Join thousands of your neighbors as we read one book together. **The Big Read** is a month long celebration of a literary classic. YWCA and KCPL have teamed up for the third year to bring this important community reading program to you. This year's selection is *Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya in his beloved coming of age story about seven year old Antonio.

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day and Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima* by helping us launch **The Big Read** during the Market Square

Farmer's Market. Enjoy presentations from Mayor Bill Haslam, Library Director Larry Frank, and YWCA Executive Director Marigail Mullin, along with dance performances from the Knoxville Argentine Tango Society and Mexican folkloric Grupo Santa Cruz,. Giveaways include 100 copies of *Bless Me, Ultima* in English, 25 copies in Spanish, Reader's Guides in both English and Spanish, and Audio Guides.



A "Green" note at John Tarleton Park

3,000 youth football fans and players can recycle at the park

Football season kicked off at John Tarleton Park with a greener touch, a recycling program. Nearly 150 teams use the fields on Sutherland Avenue, playing 45 games a week, and attracting close to 3,000 people each day. That adds up to a lot of sports drinks and water bottles.



Working with Ijams Nature Center and Waste Connections, Inc., Knox County placed recycling containers at each field and at the concession stands. They are identified by a large white label with the green recycling arrows, and a center hole for disposal. Waste Connections will pick up the recyclables with their regularly scheduled trash pick up.

"This is a program we are really proud of," said Doug Bataille, Knox County Senior Director of Parks and Recreation. "We've been working on this since last year in an effort to be more 'green' in our parks. It will make a big impact on the amount of trash collected, and we hope to expand it to our other sports facilities in the future."

During the first few weeks of the program, Ijams Nature Center staff members will be at the park to educate folks about recycling. Announcements will be made prior to each game to encourage participation in the program. It is important that trash is kept out of the recycling containers, therefore, trash cans will be placed adjacent to each of the recycling bins.

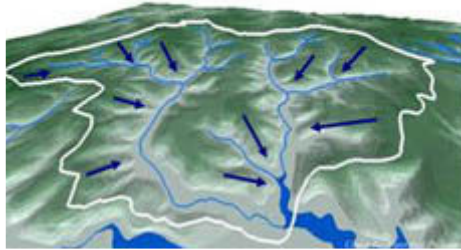
Watersheds and stormwater management

Everyone Lives in a Watershed!

Knox County Stormwater Management is involved in a number of watershed initiatives. A watershed is the area of land that drains to a particular point. Watersheds come in all sizes-some are millions of square miles, while others are just a few acres. Valley creeks drain into rivers, and small rivers run into larger rivers. Watersheds are not confined to political boundaries, so many people must work together to create plans to clean up watersheds.

Knox County's initiatives combine the talents of many different people to examine pollution problems in a particular watershed; come up with solutions to help fix the problems; and put those ideas into action to bring about positive changes in a watershed. No single government agency, business or individual can repair a damaged watershed. It takes all of us to effect change.

What Is a Watershed?



As part of the watershed initiatives, Knox County Stormwater Management is working to promote and implement low impact development, stormwater retrofits, educational campaigns, monitoring, etc., in conjunction with our other partners. Some of the watershed initiatives have received federal recognition for the work being done by the members and for the community. To learn more about these initiatives or to find out which watershed you live in, visit the [Stormwater Management website](#).

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