



**KNOX COUNTY** A Great American Community



## Knox County News

This weekend we celebrate our nation's independence. The County is also celebrating all the great things we have for you to get involved in, including the summer reading challenge and a Tennessee Yards and Neighborhood workshop. Also, you can visit the newly opened phase one of Schumpert park with your pets and vote for the New Harvest Park Farmer's market to win the American Farmland Trust contest. Read about all this, and more, below!

Mike Ragsdale

### Schumpert Park Ribbon Cut!

*Schumpert Park phase one now open to the public*

Mayor Mike Ragsdale and former County Executive Tommy Schumpert, along with Schumpert's family, Superintendent McIntyre, County Commissioners, School Board Officials and a couple members from City Council, officially cut the ribbon this morning on the new 173-acre park in north Knox County bearing Schumpert's name. Under construction for almost two years, the regional park features three multi purpose fields for soccer, football and other sports, a baseball field that will be home to the Central High School Bobcats' Baseball team, the county's first Pet Safe Dog Park, a concession and restroom facility, and a connection to the Sterchi Hills Greenway.

According to Mayor Ragsdale, "This park is important for two reasons. First, it is fulfilling a major recreation need for a growing part of our county. This is a much better use of the land than we had originally planned and will benefit all Knox Countians."

Ragsdale continued, "The park is also important because we honor one of our community's most respected and successful leaders, Tommy Schumpert. Mr Schumpert has served Knox County well in so many ways. He and his wife Charlotte are true community treasures. I will always be grateful for his friendship and dedicated efforts, which have made our county a much finer place."

Others participating in the opening were Doug Bataille, Senior Director of Parks and Recreation for the County, Dr. James McIntyre, Superintendent of Knox County Schools, Randy Boyd, President and CEO of Radio Systems Corporation, and Donna Cobble representing Character Counts! of Knoxville/Knox County. Knox County Schools contributed \$200,000 to fund the baseball field and Radio Systems donated \$100,000 for the dog



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park. The baseball field's scoreboard will feature a Character Counts! sign, one of several the organization has placed in local sports facilities.

The project team included Dan Martin from the Public Building Authority, Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon architects, and Merit Construction. The total budget for the park was \$3,812,500.

## **Business Tennessee Features KnoxAchieves**

***"Initiative provides a statewide template for improving Tennessee's workforce"***

[KnoxAchieves](#) is being highlighted in the July/August edition of *Business Tennessee*. Reporter Sara Shoemaker says KnoxAchieves is a new education initiative that "provides a statewide template for improving Tennessee's workforce."

Here's how Shoemaker describes the program: "Though every graduating high school senior in Knox County may apply for a KnoxAchieves grant--a last-dollar scholarship of up to \$2,000 annually--there are some catches. Each student must do his or her part--taking the ACT, applying for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) and enrolling in one of the approved community colleges: Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Roane State Community College or Walters State Community College."

In her article, Shoemaker relates the program's origins: "The brainchild of [County Mayor Mike] Ragsdale and further supported by City of Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam, KnoxAchieves is a program that affords every public county high school graduating senior, regardless of grade point average or American College Test (ACT) scores, the opportunity -- meaning, the financial wherewithal -- to continue his or her education at a regional, participating community college while waiting for federal assistance to kick in."

The article goes on to talk about the critical mentoring and community services components. The program has paired ~175 volunteer business professionals with students to shepherd them through the application and enrollment process. Students also commit to give back to the community by completing at least 10 hours of community service for each semester they receive funds.

Shoemaker also spotlights the work of KnoxAchieves fundraiser-in-chief Randy Boyd. "Boyd is the get-it-done, energetic CEO of Knoxville-based Radio Systems Corp., maker of pet-friendly technology products and a founding [KnoxAchieves](#) board member, who within about a week raised \$1.7 million of private contributions and pledges ... KnoxAchieves is 100% supported by business and community donations, and all of the proceeds go toward tuition fees."

Read the full article, "[To the Last Dollar](#)," online at Business Tennessee's website [www.businesstn.com](http://www.businesstn.com).

## **How's Your Summer Reading Going?**

***Four Weeks Remain in Summer Reading Challenge***

The Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing, with just the four weeks until the challenge ends on July 31st. There are great book suggestions on the

**TEEN SUMMER READING**

**Become a fan!**

**@KnoxReads**

**on Twitter**

**Follow us!**

## **Conversations with the Mayor**

Topical, monthly five-minute webcasts that you can download or listen to on [knoxcounty.org](http://knoxcounty.org)

### **Coming in July:**

In honor of Independence Day, a conversation with **Sheriff J.J. Jones** about our community heroes.

### **Previous webcasts: June '09--**

The Mayor talks with Senior Director Doug Bataille about parks and recreation programs

### **May '09--**

Recycling Coordinator Drew Thurman talks with the Mayor about the County's **Green Movement**

## **Knox County Calendar**

### **July 3**

County Offices Closed  
Convenience Centers open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### **July 4**

Convenience Centers Closed

### **July 9**

New Harvest Park  
Farmers Market

Public Library website, from the book of the week for adult readers to graded recommendations for youth and preschoolers, for example:

- Preschoolers: Celestine, Drama Queen by Penny Ives
- Grades K-3: On the Go With Mr. and Mrs. Green by Keith Baker
- Grades 4-6: Dustin Grubbs: One-Man Show by John Bonk
- Teen readers: The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon
- Adults: The Art of Happiness: A Handbook to Living by the Dali Lama

You can also find out what some Knox County folks who have taken the challenge are reading by checking out [knoxcounty.org](http://knoxcounty.org), [knoxlib.org](http://knoxlib.org) or visiting Knox County Happenings on Facebook.



School Superintendent Jim McIntyre is reading *The Audacity of Hope*, WBIR's Erin Donovan is reading *In Good Faith* by Scott Pratt, and ORNL's Thom Mason is reading *Mason & Dixon* by Thomas Pynchon. It's not too late to get started with your summer reading. *Pick up a good book today!*

### Vote for New Harvest Park Farmers Market

*New year means new activities!*

Is there anything better than strolling between vendor booths packed with food fresh from local farms at your farmers market? .



American Farmland Trust is holding the first ever America's Favorite Farmers Markets™ contest to raise national awareness about the importance of supporting fresh food from local farms and farmers. When you buy delicious and fresh fruit, produce and more from your local farmers market, you are making healthy and environmentally friendly choices

Knox County's New Harvest Park is officially enrolled in the contest. Visit the website and vote for our New Harvest Park Farmers Market! Help us support farms and farmers. [Cast your vote today!](#)

**July 11**  
Second Saturday in the Park Concert:  
The Lonetones

**July 16**  
New Harvest Park Farmers Market



**Suggestions or comments?**

Story ideas?

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

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### Pets on the Air

*Local Media Outlets Showcase Animal Center Pets*

On the Sundays, Thursdays, and Fridays in Knox County, you can see pets from the Young Williams Animal Center stealing the show on various local television and radio stations. Here is a schedule from the Young Williams Animal Center website ([www.knoxpets.org](http://www.knoxpets.org)):

**Pet of the Week**, WVLT-TV  
 When: The first Thursday of each month on the noon news and every Friday at 4:00 pm  
 Where: WVLT-TV, Channel 8

**Puppy Picks**, WBIR-TV  
 When: "Puppy Picks" every Thursday between 5:00 and 6:00 pm  
 Where: WBIR-TV, Channel 10, on Live at 5



Join the sports team at WBIR-TV, Channel 10, on Live at 5

***Pet of the Week***, WATE-TV

When: Every Sunday morning on "Good Morning Tennessee"

Where: WATE-TV, Channel 6

***Ask The Vet Radio*** with Dr. Tracy Dewhirst

When: Every Sunday, 10:00 am - noon

Where: WNOX News/Talk 100.3 Radio Station and online at Ask The Vet Radio

## **Rain Barrel Sales Net \$8,000**

***Proceeds benefit water conservation and pollution prevention***

Sales from the Rainy Day Brush-off rain barrel program and other rain barrels raised over \$8,000.00 to help promote water conservation and stormwater pollution prevention programs. In addition to fundraising, the Water Quality Forum and Knox County Stormwater Management used the



rain barrel sales to call attention to the importance of water conservation.

With rain barrels, you can collect rain water and reuse it for watering flowers, gardens and lawns. Rain barrels are also a great way to help protect our local waterways

from polluted storm water runoff.

Through these sales, over 1,000 rain barrels were distributed across the county.

If anyone is interested in learning more about rain barrels, please contact Parci Gibson with Knox County Stormwater Management at [parci.gibson@knoxcounty.org](mailto:parci.gibson@knoxcounty.org) Knox County is a founding member and strong supporter of the Water Quality Forum. For more information on the Water Quality Forum, please visit [waterqualityforum.org](http://waterqualityforum.org).

## ***Upcoming Tennessee Yards and Neighborhood Workshop***

***Register now for July 25th workshop***

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.

TYN will host a Home Landscape Workshop in Knox County on July 25, 2009. The six-hour workshop will begin at 10:00am and will be held at The Conference Center at Water's Edge.

Cost: \$35.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple.

To register or for more information, please call 865-215-2340.

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*