



Knox County News

I had an excellent opportunity this week in Washington to offer input into the Administration's new metropolitan strategy. It was interesting to hear the ideas of many in the room. I was especially encouraged by the discussion about allowing communities with varying needs and demands to have flexibility in how they implement federal programs in a way that works best for that individual community. Flexibility is going to be key to all of us as we work with the economic challenges we are facing today.

Mike Ragsdale

Mayor Attends Presidential Policy Roundtable on Developing an Urban Metropolitan Agenda

Meeting focuses on setting strategy to engage local communities

On Monday, Mayor Mike Ragsdale, in his role as president of the County Executives of America (CEA), joined former mayors and Cabinet members



Federico Peña (DOE and DOT), Henry Cisneros (HUD), and the new Director of National Drug Control Policy, R. Gil Kerlikowske for President Obama's Metropolitan Urban Policy Roundtable. Following the Roundtable, President Obama joined attendees to announce his plan to create a new metropolitan strategy for America. He will be sending

members of his Cabinet and staff to visit metropolitan regions across the country to begin engaging local communities.

All of this is being coordinated through the President's new Office of Urban Affairs, led by former CEA Board Member Adolfo Carrion. The Office is charged with working with local communities and federal agencies to create and implement this new strategy.

Participants at Monday's roundtable included Secretary Shaun Donovan of HUD; Secretary Ray LaHood of Transportation; Secretary Hilda Solis of Labor; Administrator Lisa Jackson of EPA; and Administrator Karen Mills of SBA; whose agencies have a direct impact on the development of our nation's metropolitan communities. The Departments of Transportation,



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Mentor!**

Knox County

HUD, and EPA announced at the meeting that they are working together to create an interagency program focused on sustainable or "livable" communities.

Also contributing to the conversation were White House senior staff members Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor and Assistant to President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, and Melody Barnes, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Key points from the meeting were

- The need for flexibility to implement programs in the way that they best work in individual communities
- Local communities should be seen as the incubators of very thoughtful programs
- The new policy needs to be built on the principal of investing in people and neighborhoods
- The government needs to overcome federal barriers to local collaboration
- The administration should endorse a few big, simple, measurable goals to drive integrated local response
- More ideas for federal program should come from local government

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Summer Reading Challenge

Two weeks until the July 31st deadline.
How are you doing?
Are you on book #3 or book #4?

Knox County Calendar

July 18
 Summer Medication Collection Event

July 20
 Commission's Finance Committee Meeting
 *

Bearden History Collection Session

July 21
 Commission's Intergovernmental Committee Meeting
 *

Bearden History Collection Session

July 22
 Pet Friendly Community Event

July 23
 New Harvest Park Farmers Market

July 25
 Tennessee Yards &

Library Adds Civil Rights Podcast to Website

Bob Booker discusses Knoxville and the Civil Rights movement

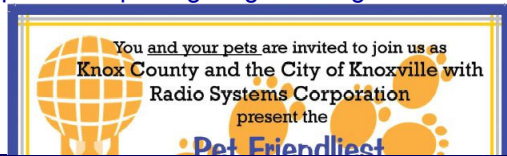
Robert J. Booker has been a civil rights leader, teacher, state legislator, historian, newspaper columnist, and Knoxville City Council member. In this podcast, offered by the East Tennessee Historical Society, he speaks to a group of history teachers about his involvement in lunch counter sit-ins in Knoxville during the Civil Rights movement.

Check out [this and other podcasts](#) on the library website.

Making Knox County the Most Pet-friendly Community in America

Groups come together, set ambitious goal

A new effort is being launched on July 22nd to make Knoxville and Knox County the most pet-friendly community in America. This impressive partnership brings together organizations such as Knox County, the City of Knoxville, Young Williams Animal Center, the University of Tennessee and PetSafe.



Neighborhoods Workshop

July 27

Commission Meeting

July 30

New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

July 31

Summer Reading
Challenge Ends



Suggestions or comments?

Story ideas?

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

Quick Links

[Knox County Office of Neighborhoods](#)
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[Health Department](#)
[Convenience Centers](#)
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The effort seeks to foster a culture of pet friendliness throughout our community by focusing specifically on the following: major expansion of pet activities and events, pet-focused tourism and more pet-friendly park acres and businesses. According to Randy Boyd, President of Knoxville-based Radio Systems Corporation (makers of the PetSafe brand), "We are staking our claim that we are the most pet friendly community in America. I know others will challenge our claim, but we will have to defend it. To do so, we have to ask ourselves what someone in the most pet friendly community in America would do and then do it."

Successful efforts of the Pet Friendly Community Committee have included the February Mardi Growl Parade hosted by the City of Knoxville and Young Williams Animal Center; the establishment of two community dog parks and planning for at least five more; and the identification of almost 3,000 pet-friendly hotel rooms in the community. Young-Williams Animal Center also recently celebrated the 10,000th spay/neuter surgery on the Spay Shuttle.

For more information, visit www.PetFriendliestCommunity.com.

NOTE: You and **your pets** are invited!!

Summer Medication Collection July 18

Turn in unwanted medication tomorrow at the new EarthFare in Bearden

You can turn in your unwanted medications at the new EarthFare Store, located at 140 N. Forest Park Blvd. just across from Mayo's Garden Center in Bearden, on July 18th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Unwanted Medications collection event



By offering an opportunity for residents to turn in unwanted and out dated prescriptions and over the counter medicines for proper disposal, we can keep pharmaceuticals out of the local

water supply. We can also recycle the empty plastic containers used for the medicines.

The Knoxville Police Department, City and County Solid Waste Offices, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, UT Academy of Student Pharmacists and Knox County Health Department have partnered to help address this growing environmental and health concern.

July 25th Tennessee Yards and Neighborhood Workshop

Register now for 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 10:00 a.m. and will be held at The Conference Center at Water's Edge. (Additional workshops are being planned for August and September.)

Cost: \$35.00 per person or \$50.00 per couple.
To register or for more information, please call 865-215-2340.

You Don't Know Bearden! Or Do You?

KCPL seeking stories of Bearden area history

To celebrate renaming the West Knoxville Branch Library as the Bearden Branch Library, the Public Library will install a permanent exhibit of the history of the Bearden area. Working in conjunction with the East

Tennessee Historical Society, the Library is soliciting stories, maps, photographs, and/or documents about the area in order to create a permanent exhibit for the newly named Bearden Branch Library, which remains the Bea De Selm Building.



The Library is hosting two sessions for gathering stories and oral histories of the area on July 20 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and again on July 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. The sessions will be held in the meeting room of the Bearden Branch Library. The public is invited to share their understanding of the history of the region or just listen to those sharing stories. Terry Faulkner, the unofficial Bearden historian, will be leading the sessions.

For more information or to share your knowledge, please contact Mary Pom Claiborne at (865) 215-8767 or by email at mclaiborne@knoxlib.org.

Be Sunwise: July is UV Safety Month

Air Quality Management provides sun safety tips

In addition to the ground level (or bad) ozone that Knox County Air Quality Management monitors and measures to ensure that the air is safe to breathe, there is another (good) ozone that shields the Earth from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. July is UV Safety month meaning the UV Index is calculated daily and predicts the strength of harmful solar rays.



You can check the EPA's UV Index so that you will know exactly how strong the sun's rays will be and then take steps to protect yourself and your family from overexposure (www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html)

Regardless of the UV Index, the following sun safety measures are always encouraged:

- Avoid sun tanning and tanning beds. Both methods of tanning can cause skin cancer.
- Use a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15. Remember to reapply every two hours, even on cloudy days and after swimming or sweating.

- Wear protective clothing, such as long sleeved shirts, pants, sunglasses and a wide brimmed hat.
- Seek shade when possible, especially between the hours of 11a.m. and 5 p.m. when the sun's UV rays are the strongest.
- Remember that water, sand and even snow reflect the damaging rays of the sun and can increase your chance of sunburn.

Tips to Have a Safe Summer Picnic

Health Department encourages prevention of food borne illness

Enjoying a picnic outdoors is a great way to enjoy the beautiful summer weather. To prevent a food borne illness, keep these food safety tips in mind.

- Wash your hands before handling food. Pack a bottle of hand sanitizer or antibacterial moist towelettes if the picnic site does not have hand washing facilities.
- Keep cold foods cold. Pack cold food products in coolers with plenty of ice or frozen gel packs to keep your food at 40 degrees or colder to prevent bacterial growth.
- Keep hot foods hot -140 degrees or hotter prevents the growth of harmful bacteria. Wrap hot foods in towels, then newspapers, and place inside a box to transport to your picnic.
- Put all perishable food back in the cooler after eating. No more than two hours is normally the rule for leaving perishable food un-refrigerated. For picnics in hot weather, one hour without refrigeration is the maximum. The best rule to remember is: When in doubt, throw it out!
- Keep melons out of the "Danger Zone." If not properly handled, melons (i.e. watermelon, cantaloupe) can cause food borne illness. Harmful bacterial are often present on the rind. Wash all melons thoroughly before cutting and refrigerate cut pieces promptly. Melons must be kept chilled after slicing.
- Keep drinks in a separate cooler from cold food because it will be opened more often, increasing the chance of getting too warm to safely hold food.



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