



KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



Knox County News

Summer is here and we want you to go outside and enjoy it! To help you do that, we're hosting a lot of GREAT summer activities. In this edition of *Knox County News*, we're telling you how to Adopt-a-Stream and letting you know about some fun family outdoor activities going on this (and next) weekend, including the Free Fishing Day, the *Get Outdoors!* Festival and the first Second Saturday concert of the summer. Read about all this, and more, below!

Mike Ragsdale



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State Teacher of the Year Finalists Named

Two Knox County teachers on the list

The Tennessee Department of Education recently announced the finalist for the 2010 Tennessee Teacher of the Year Award. The nine regional winners were comprised of elementary, middle and high school educators from each grand division of the state. Two of these finalists came from the Knox County school system: **Resa Byrd** from A.L. Lotts Elementary School and **Amey Crawford** from West Valley Middle School.



Crawford **Byrd**

Knox County congratulates these two teachers and is proud to be one of only two schools with two teachers on the finalist list.

Though only one of the nine teachers will be named Teacher of the Year, Knox County thanks both of the women that made the list, along with all the other outstanding teachers we have in our school system.

Please take the time to thank your child's teacher when you get the chance!

First Knoxville Air Alert Issued in 2009

The first air quality alert for the Knoxville Valley and Great Smoky Mountains was issued for June 1st. This alert came a month later than last year, in spite of new ozone standards that went in to effect in 2008. The revised standards are based on new scientific evidence and are more

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protective of human health. The alerts are issued just like a weather forecast in that they are issued in conditions that may result in poor air quality. Thirty-two alerts were issued last year between April 1st and mid-September, though not all resulted in poor air quality days. The Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow [website](#) provides current air quality conditions and forecasts.

Following are steps you can take to reduce air pollution:

- Car pool or use public transportation (KAT is free on air alert days)
- Limit engine idling, skip the drive thru
- Combine errands
- Conserve energy by turning off unneeded appliances/lights
- Cut back on air conditioning
- Postpone lawn mowing and filling of gas tanks until evening
- No open burning
- Take your lunch or walk to a nearby restaurant



Knox County Calendar

TONIGHT
County Officials
Softball Tournament

June 6
Free Fishing Day
*

TENNder Care Family
Health Fair

June 10
Brown Bag
Green Book
with
Dana Christensen

June 13
Get Outdoors! Festival
*

Second Saturday
Concert at the Cove
with Dishwater Blonde
(1st of the season)

Suggestions or comments?

Story ideas?

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

Quick Links

[Knox County Office of Neighborhoods](#)
[Public Library](#)
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[Health Department](#)
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Scripps Green Team Adopts a Stream

Quarter mile of Beaver Creek receives first clean up



Scripps Green Team has adopted a quarter mile of Beaver Creek at the corner of Clinton Highway and West Emory Road. The newest members of Knox County's Adopt-A-Stream family conducted their first clean-up and stream walk on Saturday, May 30, 2009. With a crew of four green team members and two Water Quality Forum members, approximately 10 bags of trash, four tires, one shopping

cart, a grill hood from a kitchen, a cooler, the top of a metal trash can, and a large sign were removed from the creek in just two hours!

The Scripps Green Team conducted a stream walk using the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol developed by the National Resource Conservation Service. They evaluated ten stream characteristics (channel condition, hydrological alteration, bank stability, riffle embeddedness, water appearance, nutrient enrichment, riparian zone, barriers to fish, pools and invertebrate habitat) and gave each a score. The group's overall assessment of this section of Beaver Creek was "fair".

The Scripps Green Team (Julie Lien, Tabatha Breeden, Amanda Myer and Heather Jagels) plans to conduct four stream watches and one more creek clean up within the year. Stay tuned for updates about their section of the creek.

To find out how you can get involved, visit the Water Quality Forum [website](#).

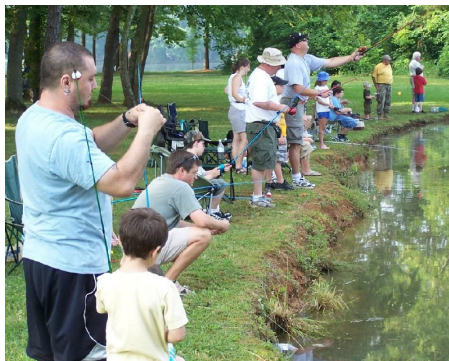
One fish, two fish, why don't you fish?

Free Fishing Day at The Cove, June 6

The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) and Knox County Parks and Recreation TWRA presents the annual Free Fishing Day at The

Cove at Concord Park on Saturday, June 6 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Participants are allowed to fish without a license for the day.

TWRA sponsors the event throughout the state in an effort to promote fishing. The pond at The Cove will be stocked with catfish, bait will be provided, and borrow and return fishing rods will be supplied for those who don't have one.



TWRA officers and volunteers will be on site to help first-time anglers, and prizes will be given out throughout the morning.

For more information, contact the [TWRA website](#) or Knox County Parks & Recreation at 215-6600. You can also visit [Knox County Happenings on Facebook](#) to learn more.

TENNderCare Coalition combines health and fun!

Family Health Fair to take place Saturday, June 6

The Knox County TENNderCare Coalition will host the Family Health Fair this Saturday, June 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Knox County Health Department on 140 Dameron Avenue. Tents will dot the landscape to give a carnival-like atmosphere to the day of fun for families. The public is invited to this free event.

The *"I Get It"* theme will emphasize educating families on health benefits available through the TennCare program and the importance of regular well-child check ups for children.



Activities for kids will include inflatable games, face painting, music, food, door prizes and other giveaways. Dental and blood pressure screenings will also be provided along with information on a variety of health topics including sun safety and smoking cessation.

The event is sponsored by Volunteer State Health Plan/BCBS, AmeriChoice, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, All Occasion Party Rentals, Natural Springs Water Group, Mayfield Dairy, and Knox County Health Department.

TENNderCARE is a state-funded program designed to encourage parents to take their children for their Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), which are designed for the care of children from birth to young adulthood.

Brown Bag Green Book Continues June 10

Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal

The Brown Bag Green Book lunch and learn series sponsored by the

Knox County Public Library and the City of Knoxville continues on Wednesday, June 10, at 12 p.m. at the Market House Room of the Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership at #17 Market Square. Dana Christensen, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Laboratory Director of the Energy and Engineering Sciences Directorate of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), will discuss the book *Coming Clean: Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal* by Michael Brune.

In this timely book, Brune, executive director of Rainforest Action Network, shows how Americans can kick the fossil-fuel habit and pressure policymakers and corporations to change their energy priorities. Overflowing with pragmatic and well-tested advice, *Coming Clean* is rooted in the author's faith that Americans acting together can create profound change.

The public is invited to join the conversation, but reading the book is optional. Participants may bring their own lunch or order in advance and pick up lunch from a downtown restaurant.

The series will continue on Wednesday, July 15, at 12 p.m., with Ben Epperson, Coordinator of Beardsley Community Farm, leading a discussion of the book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver in the East Tennessee History Center's auditorium, 601 South Gay Street (across from the Tennessee Theatre). Please note that this is a new location for the series.

Get up and Get Outdoors!

The fun begins on June 13th at 1:00 p.m.



Join us June 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Cove at Concord Park for a celebration of all there is to do outdoors in our community.

The event will feature exhibits, demonstrations and challenges of activities ranging from fishing and rowing to skateboarding and disc golf. You can also [Get on the Water with Ed](#), [Get on the Greenway with Jim](#) or [Get on the Trails with Missy](#). You don't have to pick one, you can do them all!

Don't miss out! Get outdoors!

Together! Healthy Knox focus groups still being held

There is still time to speak your mind about health in Knox County



Together! Healthy Knox focus groups are still being held around the County by the Knox County Health Department.

These focus groups are community meetings that provide you the opportunity to express your concerns about health in Knox County. Each group lasts approximately 90 minutes.

The schedule of times and locations is available on the [Together! Healthy Knox](#) website. Your candid input will help the Health Department get a better understanding of the community's health and wellbeing and help us

decide on the path to move Knox County forward to a healthier community.

Don't delay! Sign up today!

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