



Knox County News

This is the summer of service and reform! We're excited to announce Knox County's participation in the United We Serve national service initiative. This week, you can also read here about Superintendent McIntyre's five-year strategic plan for the Knox County Schools.

If you are using social media, you'll be interested to read that we're expanding our Facebook presence and have our first County Twitter account. We are also throwing out a challenge for YOU to join your kids and other community leaders in the Library Summer Reading Challenges. Read about all this, and more, in this week's issue!

Mike Ragsdale

County, United Way and Non-Profit Representatives Gather to Plan for United We Serve

On June 22, President Obama will launch *United We Serve*, a national call to service with a focus on economic recovery. Today representatives of

United We Serve

This summer, the President is calling on all Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by serving in our communities. There are many ways to get involved. America's new foundation will be built one community at a time – and it starts with you.

county departments and programs gathered with non-profit and United Way representatives to discuss Knox County's response.

In May, as President of County Executives of America, Mayor

Ragsdale joined national leaders in Washington, D.C., for a meeting with First Lady Michelle Obama, where she laid out the purpose and focus areas of the program: energy and environment, education, health, and community renewal.

The program launches with an 81-day summer of service campaign that culminates on September 11th with a National Day of Service and Remembrance. That day coincides with the United Way's September 11th Day of Service. Mayor Ragsdale proposed creating a joint effort between the County, the United Way, and other volunteer organizations and the faith-based community. This morning's meeting was the initial discussion for that effort.



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**ALL on
FACEBOOK**

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

Current (June):
Mayor Ragsdale talks
with **Parks and
Recreation Director
Doug Bataille** about
the County's
vast Parks and
Recreation programs

Coming in July:
In honor of the July 4th
holiday, a conversation
with **Sheriff J.J. Jones**
about our community
heroes.

From May:
Mayor Ragsdale and
**Recycling
Coordinator Drew
Thurman** talk about
the County's
Green Movement

Knox County

Attendees at the meeting saw a short video presentation from President Obama that is available on Serve.gov, the website for *United We Serve*. Serve.gov is an online resource for non-profits to register their projects and recruit volunteers, for volunteers to find opportunities in their communities and to create their own. It also allows volunteers and volunteer organizations to share success stories.

**June 30th deadline to complete surveys for
Together! Healthy Knox**

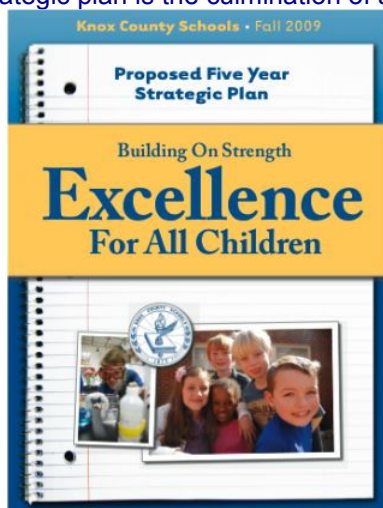
Complete your survey today at www.healthyknox.org

Superintendent Presents Strategic Plan

Five-year plan places emphasis on realizing higher level of academic success for all students

Earlier this week, Dr. McIntyre presented his five-year strategic plan for the Knox County School System. His strategic plan is the culmination of a year-long effort to identify and assess the strengths and the needs of the Knox County School system. The plan builds on his vision for the future, Building on Strength: Excellence for All Children, that was presented to the Board of Education and the community in December 2008.

Dr. McIntyre's proposal provides a blueprint for future actions of the schools, and defines their success for the next five years. There are areas in his strategic plan that are specific in nature, elements that are more general, and some components that will require additional research and analysis, but they have clearly established the goals and initiatives that include:



- Focusing on the student to ensure they excel academically and are prepared for life beyond the classroom;
- Recruiting, selecting, inducting, developing, supporting, promoting, compensating and retaining effective educators;
- Engaging parents and the community in a meaningful way that supports student learning;
- Building the infrastructure to enable and support student learning and district goals; and
- Ensuring that all adults are focused on achieving results for children.

The strategic plan also provides for the productive development of instructional practices, processes and systems, as well as an educational culture that will enable Knox County to realize higher levels of academic success for all students and achieve Excellence for All Children.

Feedback on the five-year strategic plan is welcomed and encouraged. To contact the Superintendent's office, please call 594-1620.

What Are You Reading?

Summer Reading Challenge not just for kids anymore!

You shouldn't think that summer reading programs are just for your kids anymore. You can be taking Knox County's Adult Summer Reading Challenge, just like lots of leaders in the community are doing this summer.

The challenge is to read four books by the end of July. We are going to track the progress of our celebrity readers on Knox County Happenings on Facebook. This not

only offers personal insight into the minds of our leaders, but also provides the community with good book recommendations.

Mayor Ragsdale is reading *Citizen-in-Chief: The Second Lives of the American Presidents* by Leonardo Bernardo and Jennifer Weiss. It explores the lives of presidents after they leave office.

Knoxville News Sentinel editorial cartoonist **Charlie Daniel** is reading *Supreme Courtship* by Christopher Buckley, in which the President decides to get even with the Senate for rejecting his nominees by selecting a judge from a hit reality television show. B97.5's **Jennifer Alexander** is reading *Foster Girls* by Lin Stepp, while over at Star 102, **Kim Hansard** is reading *Where Are You Now* by Mary Higgins Clark.

Over at the schools, **Superintendent Jim McIntyre** is reading *The Audacity of Hope* by President Obama, while Board of Education Chair **Indya Kincannon** is reading *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri.

So, jump on board with the Adult Summer Reading challenge. If unsure of where to start, watch for the list on the Knox County Happenings Facebook page. Happy reading!

New Harvest Park Celebrates Grand Opening

New year means new activities!

Knox County Parks and Recreation celebrated the Grand Opening of the New Harvest Park Farmers Market on Thursday, June 18, from 3-6 p.m. In addition to the market offerings, The Bluegrass Five entertained visitors, folks learned how to make a rain barrel, and heard the best ways to grow herbs in the East Tennessee climate.

The Farmers Market, located at 4775 New Harvest Lane in the County's New Harvest Park, features fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, organic produce, herbs, plants and flowers, fresh meats and dairy product. Bakery fresh breads and confections and homemade salsa products were also available.

Although the market has been open for a few weeks, the bulk of summer produce is beginning to appear. In addition to berries of all kinds, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots,



Calendar

June 22

County Commission

June 23

Author Inman Majors at East Tennessee History Center

June 25

New Harvest Park Farmers Market

June 26

Together! Healthy Knox focus group at South Knox Senior Center

*

Groundbreaking for Beck Cultural Center expansion

June 29

Together! Healthy Knox focus group at Burlington Library

June 30

Together! Healthy Knox focus group at Farragut Library

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Deadline to complete Together! Healthy Knox surveys

July 2

New Harvest Park Farmers Market

July 3

Holiday: County Offices Closed



squash, beans, cucumbers, many different greens, garlic, onions and snap peas are now offered.

For more information, please contact Knox County Parks and Recreation at 215-6600 and check [Facebook](#) for photos.

Suggestions or comments?

Story ideas?

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

An Evening with Inman Majors

The Millionaires author at East Tennessee History Center

Inman Majors will read from his book, *The Millionaires*, on Tuesday, June 23, 7 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center. The Millionaires is a



timely morality tale about money, politics, and ambition set during the late 1970s and early 1980s in Tennessee. Majors credibly conjures politics southern style--Knoxvillians will recognize this story based on the infamous Butcher Brothers. Sponsored by the Friends of the Knox County Public Library.

Majors, whose family roots tie him to Knoxville, received his BA from Vanderbilt and went on to get his MFA at the University of Alabama. He currently teaches English at

James Madison University in Virginia, specializing in contemporary fiction and fiction writing. He's written two previous novels, *Wonderdog* and *Swimming in Sky*. Majors has also published many poems in literary journals.

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- [Smart Trips](#)
- [Office of Aging](#)
- [Senior Centers](#)
- [Veterans Services](#)

Health Department, Adopt-a-Road Latest County Facebook Pages

Facebook offers new way for Health Department to reach community

Social networking is everywhere these days. It's a great way to stay in touch with friends, network with your local community and keep up with your favorite bands, companies and now the Knox County Health Department and the Adopt-A-Road program!



If you have a Facebook account, search for both of these pages the next time you log-in. If you're not already a fan, search for the Knox County Happenings page as well!

Additionally, three new green pages also are in the works, so keep a look out for Knox Recycles, Knox County Air Quality and Knox County Stormwater Management during the next few weeks!

On these pages you will find events, articles and status updates about what's new in each department. You can also



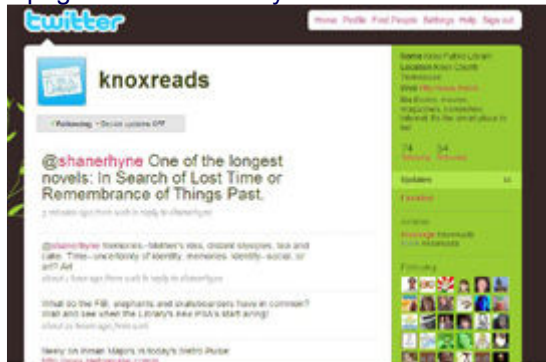
post comments and ask questions to get the most up-to-date information about what's going on in Knox County and how you can participate!

Library Seeks to 'Nurture Literary Culture' With Twitter

Bookworms can now follow Knox County Public Library on Twitter

Twitter has become a very popular way to stay informed about the people, places and topics that are most important to you. Knox County Public Library has decided to explore this growing trend in social media by creating the *KnoxReads* Twitter page.

KnoxReads is the first Twitter page for Knox County. "We're experimenting with how social media can be helpful to the citizens of Knox County," said Mary Pom Claiborne, Library Communications Administrator. She added, "Readers can do everything from letting us know what they are reading to seeing upcoming library events."



Twitter is a free service available online. To follow the *KnoxReads* on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/knoxreads.

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