



KNOX COUNTY

A Great American Community



Knox County News

As you will read, I had the opportunity this week to be in Washington to learn about a national volunteerism initiative that will be launched in June. Details are coming to us over the next week, but the idea of engaging all of America's citizens in a common purpose seems very timely as we move toward this Memorial Day observance,

I encourage each of you to take a moment on Monday to remember those Americans who gave their lives in the service of our country, as well as the families who loved them.

Mike Ragsdale



In This Issue

[Mayor Meets with First Lady Obama](#)

[Memorial Day Services](#)

[County announces resignation of Community Development Director](#)

[Llama, Llama author headlines May 30th Children's Festival of Reading](#)

[Second Saturday concert lineup announced](#)

[County Government Softball Tournament](#)

[Come hear Complete Streets Study](#)

[First annual Get Outdoors! Series set](#)

[Summertime Close Read: The Millionaires](#)

[Knox teachers receive \\$26,000 from U.S. Cellular](#)

Mayor meets with First Lady Obama

White House prepares national service initiative

As County Executives of America President, Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale was among a small group of America's leaders who attended a meeting this week with First Lady Michelle Obama. The First Lady presented the administration's national service initiative that will be launched in June in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service.



In her presentation, Ms. Obama talked about this "extraordinary moment in time" with the nation facing a "unique opportunity to come together and solve our nation's most vexing problems." The service initiative focus will be to empower Americans to participate in the country's economic recovery...to ask each American to "do something." There are four target areas for service: community renewal, energy and environment, education, and health care.

Mayor Ragsdale explained, "The whole point of the initiative is to engage new volunteers who will become involved with their communities over a longer term to help our country get through this economic downturn."

More information will be made available during the coming weeks at www.serve.gov/.

[KNOX COUNTY HAPPENINGS](#)

Memorial Day Services

10:00 a.m. Doughboy Monument, Knoxville, TN

Guest Speaker: Fred Brown, Knoxville News-Sentinel

11:00 a.m. National Cemetery, Knoxville, TN

Guest Speaker: Fred Brown, Knoxville News-Sentinel

Following this service, a special ceremony will be conducted by New York Highlanders & Daughters of Veterans of the Civil War

2:00 p.m. East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

Guest Speaker: Congressman John J. Duncan, Jr.

Presentation of Lester Speaks Award: Doug Hays, Commander, American Legion Post 2

on FACEBOOK

Become a fan!

**Bid On Rainy Day
Brush-Off Rain
Barrels**

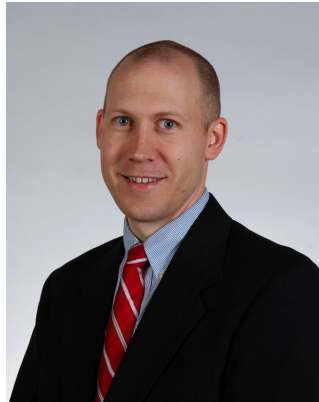
It's not too late!!
Bidding closes May
25th.

Check out the [Water
Quality Forum](#) to place
a bid.

County announces resignation of Community Development Director

Hoglund accepts position with HUD

It is with mixed emotions that we announce Erik Hoglund's resignation, effective June 26, 2009, to become the Community Planning and Development (CPD) Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



In his position with HUD, he will be responsible for the administration and management of all assigned CPD programs such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership program, Emergency Shelter Grants, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with HAID (HOPWA) within the state of Tennessee. As the Program Manager, he will ensure that CPD programs are effectively coordinated and managed.

During his tenure with Knox County, Erik has taken on progressive responsibility for managing the County's grant programs. In the last two years, under his direction, the overall department has seen increased efficiency and effectiveness. During that period, he led both the design and implementation of the Mayor's new Citizen Review Panels for disbursing the County's community grant funds. Almost certainly, Erik's ability to lead the department so capably was instrumental in HUD's decision to offer him this new position. We wish him the very best as he moves forward in his career.

Llama, Llama author headlines May 30th Children's Festival of Reading

Get 12,000 expected for event on World's Fair Site



Anna Dewdney, author of the popular Llama Llama series, is this year's featured author at the Children's Festival of Reading. On Saturday, May 30th, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, the World's Fair Park will be transformed into Knoxville's only

Summer Library Club

TEEN SUMMER
READING

adult READING
CHALLENGE



Knox County Calendar

May 25

Memorial Day: County
Offices Closed

*

Last day to bid on
[Rainy Day Brush-Off](#)
rain barrels

May 26

literary festival created specifically for children. There'll be amazing authors, illustrators, storytellers, stage productions, a mad science experiment area, giant inflatables, a hayride and even a petting zoo.

There will be a stage production of *Llama Llama Red Pajama* to help celebrate the event, courtesy of the Dollywood Penguin Players. Special guests include Allan Wolf, Bobby Norfolk, Dean Pitchford, Michael Shoulders, Kristin O'Donnell Tubb, Tracy Barrett, and mad scientist Keith Trahey. It'll be the perfect way to kick off summer reading at the Library!



More information on the Festival is available at knoxlib.org.

Second Saturday concert lineup announced

Dishwater Blonde kicks off concert series June 13

Dishwater Blonde heads the lineup of bands for the Second Saturday Concerts at The Cove concert series that kicks off June 13th at Concord Park. The free concerts are from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the second Saturdays of June, July, August and September.

The schedule for this year is:

June 13	Dishwater Blonde
July 11	The Retroholics
August 8	The Lonetones
September 12	The Knoxville Symphony Brass Quintet

Prior to each Second Saturday concert, local Girl Scout troops will coordinate craft activities for children beginning at 5:00 p.m. These activities are also free. In addition, vendors will be on site with food and drinks for sale.

The June concert will close out the Get Outdoors Festival, which begins at 1:00 p.m. that day. Exhibitors showcasing the many outdoor activities available in our community will be on site, and people will have the opportunity to try their hand at several, including rock climbing, fishing, kayaking, tennis and disc golf.

The Cove at Concord Park is located at 11808 Northshore Drive. The park features several other summertime amenities, including a beach, playground, sand volleyball court, walking trail and fishing areas. River Sports also rents canoes and kayaks at their park location.

County Government Softball Tournament

Rescheduled: June 5, 6:00 p.m

Admission: Canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank

6:00 p.m. County Commission vs. Board of Education
7:00 p.m. City Council vs. Metropolitan Planning Commission

Location: West High School Softball field at Tyson Park

Come hear *Complete Streets Study* May 26th

County Commission
*

[Together! Healthy Knox](#)
focus group at Carter
Library

[Complete Streets Study](#)
presentation

May 28

[Together! Healthy Knox](#)
focus groups at
Pellissippi State & at
West Knox Library

May 30

[Children's Festival of
Reading](#)

June 1

Deadline for County
Clerk contest for
redesign of marriage
certificate

*

[Together! Healthy Knox](#)
focus group at Cansler
YMCA

June 2

[Together! Healthy Knox](#)
focus group at Karns
Library

June 4

New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

June 5

County Officials
Softball Tournament

June 13

Get Outdoors Festival

*

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

**Suggestions or
comments?**

Story ideas?

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

Citizens invited to brainstorm at 7:00 p.m. at Health Department

Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to be safe for all users: pedestrians and drivers, transit riders and bicyclists, young and old, of all physical abilities. The Regional Complete Streets Study makes recommendations for transforming two corridors in our region into Complete Streets:

- * North Broadway in Knoxville's Fountain City Neighborhood, and
- * Hall Road and Washington Street in Alcoa and Maryville.

The study also contains a set of guidelines describing the process of creating a Complete Street, and which can be used as a guide for transforming other regional corridors.

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization's consultants will present the study to the public as a tool for transforming more streets into Complete Streets. Citizens are invited to the public presentation 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, in the Knox County Health Department's Community Room, 140 Dameron Avenue.

For additional background on the study and the Complete Streets concept, please visit www.knoxtrans.org/complete_streets/index.htm

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](#)

First annual Get Outdoors! Series set

Get on the Water, Get on the Greenway, Get on the Trails, AND Get Your Game On

In conjunction with the 2009 Get Outdoors Festival, an all-new Get Outdoors! Series featuring bike rides, trail walks, river paddles and a co-ed softball tournament is coming to Knox County Parks this summer.



Get on the Trail, a series of six local hikes led by Missy Kane and sponsored by Covenant Health BodyWorks. Beginning in June, hikes are scheduled in Victor Ashe, Concord, Hastie, and I.C. King Parks, the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, and Ijams Nature Center.

Get on the Greenway, a series of four bike rides led by Jim Richards and sponsored by Mast General Store. The bike rides start at Mast General and take in portions of Second Creek, Worlds Fair, and/or Third Creek Greenways.



Get on the Water, a series of two river paddles led by Ed McAlister and sponsored by River Sports. The first is a two-hour paddle at the Cove at Concord Park. The second, a three-hour paddle at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.

Preregistration is required for these events and may be done online at www.legacyarks.org.

Get Your Game On, a Co-ed Recreational Sand Volleyball Tournament! The double elimination tournament will consist of six-person teams, with two women on the court at all times on June 13. Families, friends, businesses – all teams are welcome! To register your team, call 215-6600, or email parks@knoxcounty.org. The entry fee is \$10 per team.



The Get Outdoors! Series and Get Outdoors Festival are collaborations between Knox County and the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation. All

proceeds benefit the Legacy Parks Foundation. Vendor applications are still available online at www.knoxcounty.org/parks.

The Get Outdoors Festival is an opportunity for individuals and families to explore outdoor recreation and fitness activities. It will be June 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at The Cove at Concord Park. The Festival will be followed by the first of Knox County's Second Saturday Concerts, featuring Dishwater Blonde, at 6:00 p.m.

Summertime Close Read: *The Millionaires*

Author visits East Tennessee History Center June 23rd

In this timely morality tale about money, politics, and ambition set during the late 1970s and early 1980s in Tennessee, Inman Majors credibly conjures politics southern style. Knoxvilleians will recognize this story based on the infamous Butcher brothers. In this fictionalized account, The Cole brothers have parlayed their father's one bank into a veritable empire and are still hungry for other outlets for their ambition. Roland decides to run for governor, while big brother J. T. wants to bring a World's Fair to tiny Glennville. They hire savvy political operative Mike Teague to lobby for their interests, and he likes their style --plenty of scotch, card games, and women.

When Roland takes as his mistress the woman who almost broke up Mike's marriage, it becomes one of the few difficult patches in their relationship. One failed campaign for governor and one highly successful World's Fair give the brothers an even higher profile until their various banks and savings and loans come under investigation by the Treasury Department. Moving from backroom poker games to pols' hangouts to the governor's office, this expansive, smoothly flowing novel offers a rich look at family dynamics and overweening ambition.



Author Inman Majors will read from his book on June 23, 7 p.m. at the East Tennessee History Center. 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* in 2004 and *Swimming in Sky* in 2000. Majors has also published many poems in literary journals.

Knox teachers receive \$26,000 from U.S. Cellular's "Calling All Teachers" campaign

60 Knox classroom projects funded

Teachers in 24 Knox County schools were among the nearly 1,700 teachers nationwide who received funding for classroom projects through U.S. Cellular's Calling All Teachers campaign. More than 50% of the funding donated to projects in Tennessee came directly to Knox County schools.

When the grassroots initiative launched in April, the company intended to grant \$1 million in classroom requests from public school teachers across the country through DonorsChoose.org, a nonprofit web site that matches

educators facing shrinking budgets with potential donors. Because of the overwhelming response from teachers during the campaign, U.S. Cellular decided to increase funding to \$1.1 million to pick up the tab on all projects submitted in the communities where it does business.

In Tennessee, U.S. Cellular funded more than \$50,000 for 116 projects through Calling All Teachers and will receive materials ranging from a listening center to help elementary school students to increase their vocabulary to a Lifepak 500 AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Trainer for high school students to receive CPR and AED training in their Health Science classes.

In Knox County, U.S. Cellular funded 60 projects totaling nearly \$26,000 at the following schools:

- Amherst Elementary School
- Bearden Elementary School
- Bearden High School
- Blue Grass Elementary School
- Bonny Kate Elementary School
- Carter Elementary School
- Carter High School
- Cedar Bluff Primary School
- Christenberry Elementary School
- Dogwood Elementary School
- East Knox County Elementary School
- Gibbs High School
- Halls Elementary School
- Halls High School
- Halls Middle School
- Hardin Valley Academy
- Lonsdale Elementary School
- Powell High School
- Rocky Hill Elementary School
- South-Doyle High School
- South-Doyle Middle School
- Spring Hill Elementary School
- Sunnyview Primary School
- West High School

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