



KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



Knox County News

It has been an eventful week as our Knox County Health Department tracked the rapidly changing H1N1 swine flu situation. Working closely with the Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, our County Health officials proved that the plans they have in place work, the staff they have on board are effective and they that are fully capable of providing us with effective guidance in emerging health epidemic situations.

I strongly applaud their efforts this week. It was highly coincidental that their display of the effective operation of County services happened during our celebration of National County Government Week. It was a demonstration from one of many effectively run departments.

Mike Ragsdale

Health Department offers free screenings for National Women's Health Week

***It's Your Time* theme sets the stage for week's events**

Women are often the caregivers for their spouses, children and parents, and neglect their own health. But research shows when women take even the simplest steps to improve their health, the health of their family improves. That's why National Women's Health Week is



observed immediately following Mother's Day each year. This year's theme is "It's Your Time," and the Knox County Health Department is hosting events devoted to women's health on Tuesday, May 12, at its Dameron Avenue facility and on Wednesday, May 13 at the Carter Senior Center and the Downtown YWCA. The public is invited to participate in the FREE National Women's Health Week events and activities. More information is available on the [Knox County website](#).

WomanActivityTracker

★ Woman Challenge - May 10 - July 4, 2009 ★

Women can also sign up to take the Woman Challenge, an eight-week program of the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH). The Woman Challenge encourages women to get at least 2



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KNOX COUNTY HAPPENINGS

on FACEBOOK

Become a fan!

Knox County Calendar

May 11

Audit Committee

*

5th District
Neighborhood Night

May 12

County Commission
Budget Hearings

*

KCHD Women's
Health Week events
at KCHD Dameron
Avenue location

*

*Together! Healthy
Knox* focus group at
Pinkston Library

May 13

Brown Bag, Green
Book discussion

*

KCHD Women's
Health Week events
at Carter Senior
Center and
Downtown YWCA

*

*Together! Healthy
Knox* focus group at
Gibbs High School

May 14

New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

*

*Together! Healthy
Knox* focus group at
Halls Library

May 15

Sign ups begin for

hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity each week. [Register online](#) for the Woman Activity Tracker. Then take the Woman Challenge Pledge, your commitment to eight weeks of setting, and meeting, personal physical activity goals.

County Softball Tournament Postponed

The May 9th Softball Tournament between County Commission, City Council, the Board of Education and Metropolitan Planning Commission has been postponed due to weather. A new date will be announced shortly.

Fifth District Neighborhood Night

Monday, May 11, 2009, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Farragut Library, 417 N. Campbell Station Road

An opportunity for residents of the 5th District to speak with Mayor Ragsdale, other elected officials or County department heads about issues of concern.

Knox Green Team website launched

Centralizes recycling, air/water quality, green space information

In conjunction with National County Government Week, Knox County unveiled its Knox Green Team website at www.knoxgreenteam.org. One of the website's chief goals is to create a central point for citizens to access the County's environmental services and to learn more about the

County's green initiatives.

The site currently provides information about air and water quality, litter and recycling, green space, and environmental events. In addition, the Knox Green Team website showcases the County's three environmental clean-up programs for which

citizens can volunteer. The success of the County's Adopt-a-Road program, with citizens maintaining more than 100 miles of county roads to keep them litter free, spawned two similar programs. The Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Stream programs were announced this spring, building on the success of the Road program. All three can be accessed from knoxgreenteam.org.

The website launch was the first of several environmental initiatives around the County during County Government Week, which included the following:

- Solid Waste officials announced a Master Recycler Task Force to develop a certification program
- Air Quality officials met with media and the public to explain new air quality and ozone regulations.
- Stormwater officials promoted water quality through the Rainy day Brush-off and hosted the first "Tennessee Yard Done Right" Home Landscape Workshop.
- Parks officials continued promoting the new Adopt-A-Park program.

Library Summer Reading Programs

May 16
eBay rainbarrels auction begins

May 18
Commission's Finance Committee Meeting

May 19
Commission's Intergovernmental Committee Meeting *

Together! Healthy Knox focus group at Central High School

May 21
New Harvest Park Farmers Market *

Together! Healthy Knox focus group at LT Ross Building

Fulton High Senior Wins \$1,000 County Government Week Essay Scholarship

Essay promotes citizen participation

Fulton High School's Mariah Richardson thought she was having a day at the mall with her family Sunday when she was forced to stop and listen to a group of County officials in front of a "National County Government Week" sign. It all quickly became worth her while when she learned she was the winner of the Knox County Government Week essay scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship was donated from the personal accounts of elected officials. Mariah has been active in the Fulton High School Student Government and Project Grad. She completed her coursework in December, but continues to act as a peer counselor in the special education department while she waits to begin the Pre-Med program at Seventh Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee in July. Mariah is the daughter of Anthony and Lisa Richardson.



All Knox County high school seniors from public, private and home schools were invited to participate in the Knox County Government Week essay contest. Students were asked to write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words on how citizens could make a positive impact on local government.

Mariah's essay focused on famous leaders who promote the idea of citizen participation in government like Presidents Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Barak Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Hallerin Hilton Hill and some other local government officials. Her essay will be available on the Knox County website at www.knoxcounty.org/govweek after May 15th.

Suggestions or comments?

We'd love to get your input.

Send comments or questions to our [newsletter editor](#).

Carter Elementary principal cited for achievement

Superintendent points to "exceptional" leadership

Carter Elementary School Principal Julie Thompson is one of three East Tennessee elementary school principals receiving this year's "Value-Added Achievement Award" from the Education Consumers Foundation. The foundation annually recognizes three elementary, three middle and three high school principals from each Grand Division of the state for their leadership qualities. Thompson is pictured here with



Quick Links

[Knox County Office of Neighborhoods](#)
[Public Library](#)
[Public Schools](#)
[Parks & Recreation](#)
[Health Department](#)

Tennessee Commissioner of Education Tim Web (l) and Education Consumers Foundation Board President Dr. J. E. Stone (r).

"Ms. Thompson has created a culture of performance within her school," said Stone. "If every school was like Carter Elementary and our other winners, Tennessee would have the best education system in the country!"

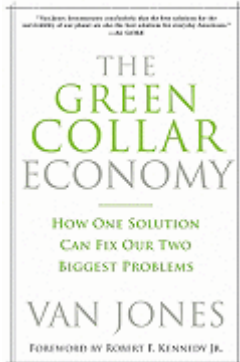
"Julie Thompson is an exceptional school leader," said Dr. Jim McIntyre, superintendent of Knox County Schools. "The insight and dedication she brings to her school have helped create a strong culture of academic excellence and high expectations for student achievement. Ms. Thompson, her staff, students and community have all worked together to reach this level of success, and they deserve the recognition they have received."

Thompson said that the focus on the academic success of each child is key. "All the staff's resources are dedicated to meeting the needs of students and the staff is continually focusing on the goals of Carter Elementary's school improvement plan," she said.

Chris Woodhull to lead Brown Bag, Green Book discussion

The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems

The Brown Bag, Green Book series sponsored by the Knox County Public Library and the City of Knoxville continues on Wednesday, May 13. Chris Woodhull, Knoxville City Councilman and Executive Director of TRIBE ONE, will discuss *The Green Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems* by Van Jones at 12 p.m. at the Market House Room of the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce at #17 Market Square.



In this landmark book, Jones illustrates how we can invent and invest our way out of the pollution-based gray economy and into a healthy new green economy. 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.

For more information, please call Emily Ellis at 215-8723.

Together! Healthy Knox focus groups begin

Public is invited to participate in community meetings

As part of the *Together! Healthy Knox* initiative, the public is invited to participate in one of several community meetings being held around Knox County. Anyone who lives, works, worships or plays in Knox County can take part. It only takes about 90 minutes. Visit the [Together! Healthy Knox website](#) for times and locations.



This is a unique opportunity to voice concerns about health-related issues that are important to the public we serve. Community feedback will be used to help identify priority problems and create action plans to address them.

There is no cost to participate. Pre-registration is required. Call 215-5160 or 5180 or go online: www.healthyknox.org/focus_groups.html.

KCHD cites three RNs for clinical excellence

Boljanovic, Persino, Cronley cited for exemplary performance

National Nurses Week is May 6-12 and the theme is Nurses: Building a Healthy America. On May 6, the Knox County Health Department joined other nursing associations across the United States in celebrating National RN Recognition Day, which is set aside to raise awareness of the value of nursing and help educate the public about the diverse role nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people.

On May 11, three KCHD nurses will be recognized in front of their peers at the Regional Recognition Dinner for RN Clinical Excellence at the Knoxville Convention Center. KCHD's honorees, who exhibit continuous dedication, commitment and tireless effort to promote and maintain the health of this community, are:

· Tatjana Boljanovic, RN
Employee Health Clinic

· Jody Persino, RN
Employee Education

· Connie Cronley, RN
Epidemiology



KCHD is very proud of all its nurses for their caring and commitment to the community throughout the year!

Master Recycler Task Force announced

Program to create recycling experts to support education effort

The Knox County Department of Solid Waste has created the Master Recycler Task Force to create a recycling certification program, which they anticipate launching in late 2009.

There is significant interest in recycling in Knox County. In 2008, recycling in Knox County grew by more than 15%. Last year, the Solid Waste Department collected roughly 4,000 tons of recycled materials, which resulted in a savings for the County of \$90,000 from diverted landfill expenses.

With this growing interest, there is an ongoing need for more people who have in-depth knowledge about the complete recycling process, including contamination and disposal issues. The program will create some local experts with knowledge about our particular recycling situation and the market realities here in Knox County. These local experts can help educate our citizens and promote recycling.

The following individuals, who have specific subject matter knowledge, are

the initial members of the Master Recycler Task Force:

- Drew Thurman, Knox County Solid Waste
- Neal Denton, UT Extension Knox County Director
- Sabrina DeVault, Ijams Nature Center
- John Homa, City of Knoxville
- Derek Senter, Rock Tenn
- Jay Price, UT Environmental Coordinator
- Brian O'Banion, SP Newsprint
- Allison Teeters, Keep Knoxville Beautiful
- Nathan Bailey, Knoxville Recycling Coalition
- Micah Reynolds, Knoxville Recycling Coalition
- Meredith Leahy, ALCOA

2nd County rabies clinics scheduled May 9th

Vaccinations required for all dogs and cats

The Knox County Health Department and the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association are cosponsoring the final community-wide Rabies Vaccination Clinic for 2009 this Saturday at 16 Knox County schools. The vaccination cost is only \$10.

Remember to bring cats in a pillowcase. Dogs must be on a leash. Dogs and cats must be at least three months old and NOT pregnant to receive a rabies vaccination.

Rabies Clinic locations are:

- Anderson Headstart
- Bearden High
- Brickey Elementary
- Carter Middle
- Cedar Bluff Primary
- Chilhowee Elementary
- Christenberry Elementary
- Copper Ridge Elementary
- Gibbs Primary
- Karns Intermediate
- Mount Olive Elementary
- Norwood Elementary
- Pond Gap Elementary
- Ritta Elementary
- Shannondale Elementary
- West Hills Elementary



County Clerk challenges artists to redesign marriage certificate

Deadline for design ideas is June 1, 2009

The Knox County Clerk's Office has a contest under way during the month of May to come up with a new design for the Knox County marriage certificate. The Clerk is calling on local artists to submit designs for the new marriage certificate that will then be judged by a committee of local artists who will choose finalists for the Clerk to consider.

The contest will run the entire month of May with a new design going to the printer early this summer. Guidelines can be found on the [Knox](#)

[County website.](#)

Submissions will be accepted by mail or in person through June 1, 2009. If mailing, please address your submission to Knox County Clerk, Attn: Will Johnson, 300 W. Main Street, Knoxville, TN 37902.

Artists interested in participating in the design contest may contact Will Johnson at will.johnson@knoxcounty.org.

eBay rainbarrels auction begins May 16th

Funds to benefit Water Quality Forum

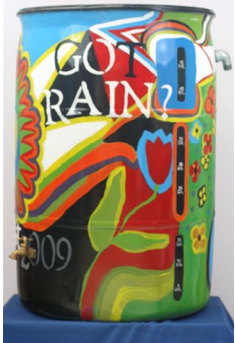
Thanks to talented artists around Knox County, 31 beautifully painted rainbarrels will be on the auction block on eBay between May 16th and the 25th. This is the second annual Rainy Day Brush-Off to raise funds for the Water Quality Forum, which works to protect and improve water quality in Knox County.



All 31 rainbarrels have been on display around the County in recent weeks, but have been gathered together in one central display at the Visitors Center at Ijams Nature Center. Citizens have been encouraged to vote for the best artwork.



The artists with the most unique votes will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the Rainy Day Brush-Off Reception to be Held on May 15th. Voting closes today, so you can still cast your ballot at the [water quality forum site](#) or by email at rainy-day-brush-off-voting@hotmail.com.



Over 1,000 gallons of water runs off of the average roof (1,700 ft²) in every normal rain storm event? Just think what you could do with all of that FREE WATER! Normally, when it rains, water runs off of your roof into your gutters and eventually into the storm drain system. Once it stops raining, that water is no longer available. Rain barrels are an ideal way for homeowners to conserve water by collecting rain water and then reusing it for watering flowers, gardens and lawns, particularly in this time of drought. Rain barrels are also a way to help protect our local waterways from polluted storm water runoff.

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

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