



## KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community

I'm so glad that in these turbulent economic times, we still have some really good things going on that I can report to you. First, I want to invite you to join us this coming Tuesday to our Mayors Big Read activity here at the City County Building. Also, I ask you to take note that early voting starts next week and that we have some activities planned for Child Health Week. This week, we kicked off our Green Team, which is a call to action for our employees to add "green efforts" to their home and work lives. We also joined with the PTA and Schools to launch the PTA Reflections Program. A piece of news that is really special for me to share is that one of our E911 employees has been honored by his peers. Tomorrow, another of our Honor Air flights takes some WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. We'll share more about that in our next newsletter. Until then, I hope you'll take advantage of this beautiful autumn weather to visit some of our beautiful parks and greenways...like the ones in Powell that we are spotlighting here.

Mike Ragsdale



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## Knox County goes green

**New Green Team signs up 160 members on launch day**

Following several months of planning, Knox County's "go green" planning committee formally launched the Knox County Green Team at the County's Health and Benefits Fair this week. The mission of the **Team** is to encourage county employees to "make personal lifestyle changes positively affecting our shared environment through county-wide green initiatives."



To support the new **green** effort, the Fair's had the theme "Think Green for Better Health!" and included a full recycling station. That station gathered 285 pounds (two full-size pickup trucks full) of various materials for recycling, which left only ~3.5 bags of actual garbage for disposal.

Of the more than 800 employees who attended the event, 160 signed up to participate as a **Green Team** member. To join the **Team**, employees have to sign a pledge "to make a conscious effort to reduce waste, conserve energy and resources, and live a green lifestyle!" Each member commits to completing an Energy Right home audit and to making green efforts in four areas (home, work, community, shopping, traveling, or garden and diet). A **Green Team** page has been established on the employee intranet that provides environmental tips, links, and suggested reading material.

Employees were surveyed earlier in the month about their green habits. Nearly 75% of those responding indicated they recycle daily at home. More than 80% recycle daily at work. Most employees who responded (87.4%) said the current economic and environmental situations are a factor in their efforts to become more more green at home and in the workplace.

In the coming months, the County will be launching a public web page to provide information on the green efforts that County government is making to conserve resources.

### Read with Me: 200 volunteers still needed

Volunteer readers are still needed in first and second grades in the following schools:

- Bonny Kate
- Carter
- Corryton
- East Knox
- Fountain City
- Gap Creek
- Hardin Valley
- Inskip
- Karns
- Mooreland Heights
- Norwood
- Spring Hill
- Sunnyview

To volunteer, call 215-4770 or fill out an application online at the [County website](#).

## Early voting starts next week

Knox County would like to remind you that the early voting period opens next Wednesday, October 15th, at 10:00 a.m. at the following eight locations:

**Knox County Courthouse**  
Five Points Village Plaza Shopping Center  
**New Harvest Park**  
Halls Recreation Center  
**235 W. Young High Pike**  
Downtown West Shopping Center  
**Farragut Town Hall**  
9625 Countryside Center Lane

On October 27th, two additional locations open: UT Center and Powell Library.

To vote early, you must appear in person at the election commission office or at one of its satellite voting locations.

More details are available from the [Election Commission website](#) (knoxvotes.org).

## Knox County Calendar

### October 13

Child Health Mini Fair,  
East Tennessee  
Children's Hospital

### October 14

The Big Read: Mayors'  
Discussion Group  
\*

Child Health Mini Fairs,  
Health Dept. locations  
\*

Superintendent's  
forum: Bearden  
Middle School

## Area Mayors, community leaders to discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* Tuesday's roundtable to be broadcast on Community Television

Next Tuesday, Mayor Mike Ragsdale will host a roundtable discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath* as part of The Big Read. The discussion includes community leaders, business people, and local high school students from South Doyle and West Highs. It will take place on at 2:30 in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building and will be broadcast live on Community Television. The public is invited to watch the discussion in several ways: in person at the City County Building, live on Comcast Channel 12 or streaming on [www.ctvknox.org](http://www.ctvknox.org). After the event, the discussion will be available as a podcast on the Library's website and will also be rebroadcast on Community Television at a later date.

Community leaders taking place in the discussion include:

- Bill Haslam, Mayor of Knoxville
- Tom Beehan, Mayor of Oak Ridge
- Jerry Cunningham, Mayor of Blount County
- Clint Abbott, Vice Mayor of Alcoa
- Dr. James McIntyre, Knox County Schools Superintendent
- Rabbi Beth Schwartz, Spiritual Leader at Temple Beth El
- Franciel Azpura Linares, Information International Assc. / Hispanic Chamber
- Rossy Toledo, Spanish Lecturer at MFLL at University of Tennessee
- Zachariah Wesley, College Prep Student, South Doyle High School
- Alexa Carter, AP Student, West High School
- Will Kronick, AP Student, West High School

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts to promote literary reading across the community. Knox County Public Library and YWCA have teamed up to bring The Big Read to East Tennessee for the second year. The month-long program includes book discussions, film screenings, and other events across three counties.

For more information and for a [schedule of Big Read events](#), visit the Library's website.

## PTA "Start the Art Week" launches Reflections Program

### Mooreland Heights Arts Integration Program set the stage

At Mooreland Heights Elementary School, you can walk into any academic classroom and see some form of the arts being incorporated. You can also go into any of their varied arts classes and see those teachers incorporating academics. They work as a team, they cross plan their lessons, and they have been cited as a **School of Excellence**. They are a nationally recognized "Value Plus" school with award-winning teachers. That's why the Knox County PTA chose Mooreland Heights as the stage to launch this year's Reflections program.



At a press conference Monday in one of the school's art classrooms, children worked on their Mexican paper-cutting project as Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Superintendent Jim McIntyre, PTA President Deborah Britt and Dr. Fred Patterson, Supervisor for the KCS Art Department, talked about the benefits of arts in education. Also squeezed into the classroom were members of the local media, Mooreland Heights Principal Roy Miller, and other county teachers and staffers.

The PTA's annual Reflections Program allows students in preschool through grade 12 to create and submit works of art in literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. Entries are judged by the PTA at school, county, state, and national levels. Last year, Bailey Kitts from West Valley Middle School received a national Award of Merit for her interpretation of the theme 'I can make a difference by....' with her photograph titled "Would you Pay to Die?" This year's student-selected program them is **"Wow!"**

## 911 employee honored by worldwide group

### Bull receives APCO's Danny Smith Award



Knox County 911's Technical Services Manager, Alan Bull, was recently awarded the prestigious Danny Smith Award by his Public Safety peers in the MTUG Organization, a worldwide group of over 800 users of Motorola Mission Critical Trunked Radio. The award is presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO). It was created in memory of Danny Smith of Tulsa, Oklahoma and is given to those who exemplify and foster in others the same leadership, dedication and vision that Smith did during his life.

Greg Brown, Motorola CEO, noted that it was clear that Bull's industry peers saw him as exemplifying the same qualities exhibited by Smith. According to Brown, "It is role models like Alan that the next generation of public safety communications professionals can look to for an example [of how] to carry on high standards of excellence."

Bull is a 21-year employee of the Knox County 911.

## Knox County celebrates Child Health Week

### October 13-17 events focus on healthy eating and active living

The Surgeon General estimates that 1 in 6 children in America between the ages of 2 and 19 is overweight. This means they are at serious risk for health consequences including asthma, diabetes and heart disease. National Child Health Week, October 13-17 is attempting to combat this problem by focusing on "Eat Healthy & Be Active for a Healthy Future." Knox County has a number of events planned during the week for the public, including the following.

Monday, Oct. 13: Child Health Mini Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobby of East Tennessee Children's Hospital

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Celebrating Child Health Mini Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. three Health Department locations:

- KCHD main facility at 140 Dameron Avenue
- Hardy Clinic at 2202 Martin Luther King Avenue
- West Clinic at 1028 Old Cedar Bluff

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Walk to Myrtle Beach Family Night, 6:30 p.m. at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road, family activities geared toward health and diabetes prevention

Friday, Oct. 17: Youth Behavior Risk Survey results for 2007, presented at 10 a.m. KCHD auditorium, 140 Dameron Avenue

## Spotlight on Powell parks & greenways

### Powell Levi Park, Powell Station Park and the Powell Greenway

This week, head to the northern part of the County to visit Powell's parks and greenways. The Powell Levi Park at 7222 Martingale Drive has 23 acres of park space with 5 baseball fields, a football field, a paved .3-mile walking loop, a picnic shelter, playground and more.

Powell Station Park at 2318 W. Emory Road is a smaller park with 3 acres and has one of the County's splashpads that just closed for the season (spring thru fall). The park has a playground and picnic pavilion and a short, paved walking rail that connects to the Powell Greenway across the street.

The Powell Greenway at 2136 Emory Road is a 1.5 -mile trail and connects Powell High School and Powell Middle School by a pedestrian path running parallel to Emory Road.

Also this week, we encourage you to visit Gibbs Ruritan Park at 7827 Tazewell Pike. The 30-acre park includes five baseball fields, two softball fields, two playgrounds, a picnic shelter, tennis courts and a short walking trail. The park is approximately nine-tenths of a mile past Gibbs High School.

Weather forecasts for the weekend are good, so get outdoors. For directions to these or other County parks and greenways, visit the [Parks and Recreation website](#).

\*  
Walk to Myrtle Beach  
Family Night

**October 17**  
KCHD presents results  
of Youth Behavior Risk  
Survey  
\*

Walking trail opens at  
South Knox Senior  
Center

**October 23**  
Neighborhood Night,  
2nd Commisison  
District

**October 15-30**  
Early Voting

**October 27**  
County Commission

**October 28**  
PTA Roundtable, Belle  
Morris Elementary  
\*

The Big Read:  
*The Grapes of Wrath*  
film screening

**October 30**  
Grand opening of  
Carter Senior Center

### Suggestions or comments?

We'd love to get  
your input. Send  
your comments or  
questions to our  
[newsletter editor](#).

### Quick Links

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

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 departments offer, like the summer reading challenge and the Second Saturday at the Cove concert series. County government starts with you, the citizen, so **join in!**

**Sincerely,**

Mike Ragsdale, County Mayor  
*Knox County, A Great American Community*