



## KNOX COUNTY A Great American Community



We have some significant things happening in the next 30 days...Halloween, voting, and Veterans Day. I urge you to get out and vote. There are few things more important to us as citizens than to take advantage of that right. Halloween is next week, and Safety City offers up a fun event for the whole family to enjoy, safely.

The Big Read continues through the end of the month as we all read and experience a Steinbeck classic. You'll read here that the Nerdfighter is coming to town. This author is finding new ways to get our young people to read, and that is great news.

I also invite you to read about the visit we had from the Rocky Hill 5th grade and the wonderful Honor Air flight that took place on October 11th. Another flight is scheduled for October 29th.

Mike Ragsdale

### You Are There: *The Grapes of Wrath*

**Head back in time with The Big Read's radio presentation**

Students at Media High, Knox County Public Library's digital media program for teens, will perform a radio play that they have written for The Big Read tomorrow at the East Tennessee History Center. The play is based on John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck and will resemble the popular CBS radio program *You Are There*. Admission is free to the event at the East Tennessee History Center.

*You are There* blended history with modern technology, taking an entire network newsroom on a time trip each week reporting the great events of the past. The show migrated to television in 1953 and was hosted by Walter Cronkite.

"As a teacher, it is always gratifying to see students grasp difficult concepts," said David Drews, Media High's Director. "These students not only grasp what happened 60 years ago, but they are beginning to find parallels with today's crisis. I see this [radio show] being a rewarding experience for both the students and the audience."

"I never thought I'd be so interested in a turtle," said student Jonathan Creasy, referring to an early scene in the novel in which a turtle makes its way down the road against great odds, symbolic of the many hardworking Dust Bowl farm families rendered helpless by circumstances during the Great Depression of the 1930s. In the *Grapes of Wrath*, the Joad family represents the thousands of people who tried to find their way in a new, often hostile life.

For more information on this program, please call Nelda Hill at 215-8729.

### KPD Hosts Halloween in the City

**Safety City Offers Fun, Safe Alternative for Halloween**

The Knoxville Police Department will host Halloween in the City on October 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. to provide a safe alternative for families on Halloween.



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**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

### Early voting started last week

Knox County would like to remind you that the early voting period is open 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 Monday, two additional locations will 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 15-30**  
Early Voting

**October 27**  
County Commission

**October 28**  
KnoxAchieves launch  
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The Big Read:  
*The Grapes of Wrath*  
film screening

**October 31**

Festivities will include free food and beverages, a costume contest, magician, straw maze, clowns, games, and candy - candy - candy! Bring your children for an evening of fun and goodies...don't forget your camera!

Safety City is located off Concord Street between Kingston Pike and Sutherland Avenue.

For more information, please call 215-7103.

## Ribbon Cut on South Knoxville Senior Center Walking Trail and Pavilion



Knoxville Senior Center visitors have done it again! They wanted a walking trail, and they got it. Knoxville Mayor and 9th District Commissioners Paul Pinkston and Mike Brown cut the ribbon on the walking trail and pavilion, fully equipped with picnic tables last week. Covenant Health was on hand to present walkers with healthy walking techniques as the Mayor, Commissioners and seniors took an inaugural walk of the track.

In honor of the walking trail, the senior center has named their new walking program "Get on Track, South Knoxville." As part of the

program, seniors are encouraged to walk the trail every Tuesday (or more frequently) in October and November.

Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. since the Fall of 2007, the Center offers recreational and programmatic activities for residents aged 50 and up. This Center is also the only one to offer an indoor swimming pool available for recreational swimming, scheduled water aerobics and arthritis water exercise programs.

## Rocky Hill Students Get First Hand Exposure to Local Government

More than 90 fifth-graders from Rocky Hill Elementary School learned first hand about local government this week during a visit to the City County Building. The students came prepared with a long list of questions after studying how Knox County government works. Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Superintendent Jim McIntyre, Commissioner Tony Norman, Deputy Law Director Joe Jarret, School Board Representative Dan Murphy and Greg Mackay, Administrator of Elections all spent time with the students and addressed those questions.

To determine which of the students would be able to sit in the 22 seats around the County Commission table, the students wrote competitive essays on various topics about County government. The students also researched the proposed amendments to the County Charter. Their project prompted a number of questions during their time with Mayor Ragsdale and Commissioner Norman. Their half-day visit also included a session with Deputy Law Director Joe Jarret that sparked a long series of questions about crimes and associated punishments.



In addition to time with government officials, the students were treated to magic tricks from the School system's Marty Iroff and Sheriff's deputies gave a demonstration with the "drug dogs."

**November 7**Pre-opening event at  
Carter Senior Center**November 10**Neighborhood Night  
Blue Grass Elementary**November 11**

Veterans Day Parade

**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](#)

**Honor Air Knoxville Flight Takes Off!****WW2 Veterans Visit Washington, D.C.**

There were more than 16 million Americans who served during World War II and now there are little more than 3 million still living today. These veterans pass away at a rate of 1,200 to 1,500 per day. Because of these numbers, Prestige Cleaners, local sponsor of the Honor Air program, is taking as many veterans as possible to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Memorial was built to thank WWII veterans for their services and to mourn the 400,000 who will never be able to see it.

The Honor Air program, founded in Central Ohio by Earle Morse and designed to honor

World War II veterans, made a trip from Knoxville Saturday, October 11. Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale and Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam were present to see the veterans off. Sponsored by Eddie Mannis from Prestige Cleaners of Knoxville, the flight is a one-day, all expense paid trip via a U.S. Air chartered flight for veterans from Knox, Anderson and Blount counties.

The flight departed at 9:00 a.m. from McGhee Tyson Airport and arrived at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Virginia. Buses then transported the veterans and escorts to the World War II Memorial. The group also toured other monuments in the Washington area, including the armed forces' memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The flight arrived back at McGhee Tyson Airport at 7:30 p.m. that same day.

Although Prestige Cleaners is the primary sponsor of the Honor Air Program in Knoxville, they welcome any support from outside contributors. Anyone interested in participating in the Honor Air Program can sponsor a veteran by making a \$300 dollar donation. Checks should be made payable to Honor Air Knoxville and mailed to: Honor Air Knoxville, 7536 Taggart Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37938. All organizational and individual sponsors will be listed in a program distributed to veterans participating in the flight.

To receive an information packet, veterans and their family members should call (865) 470-4291. The flights accommodate 100 veterans and reservations are made on a first-come, first-serve basis. If responses exceed allotted space, veterans will be placed on a waiting list for future flights.

**Calling all Nerds: Nerdfighter and Brother Coming to Town****Acclaimed young adult author and "Nerdfighter" John Green and brother Hank will discuss newest book, and other pursuits**

At a time when reading among your teens is in decline, one particular author has made "nerd" hip for kids classified as Millennials and Gen-Yers. Acclaimed author John Green and his brother Hank are headed to Knox County on Thursday, November 6 to appear at the East Tennessee History Center to read from Paper Towns, his newest book, and to "talk about books, libraries, nerds and other things that are awesome" with his brother Hank.

Almost two years ago, the brothers started communicating through videoblogs, eventually creating the popular series Brotherhood 2.0. Their work has been watched over 11 million times and is one of the most popular channels in YouTube history. Brotherhood 2.0 fans, known as "nerdfighters," have become a community devoted to books and other "nerdy" pursuits.

"We are concentrating on ways to better connect with teens, and being able to bring John and Hank Green to Knoxville is a major coup," noted Library Director Larry Frank. "They are funny, intelligent and completely refreshing for all age groups, but particularly for teens."

If you think your teens would be interested, or you'd like to take a "nerdy" gander yourself at the "nerdfighters" band of brothers, please contact Mary Pom Claiborne at 215-8767 for more information.

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*