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This October

The Big Read

If you didn't read John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* in high school, you can do it during the Big Read. Watch for more information coming soon.

It's not too late to start: Walk to Myrtle Beach

You can still sign up for the Health Department's community-wide, diabetes prevention program "Walk to Myrtle Beach." For more information, call 215-5170 or you can go to Victor Ashe Park at 6:30

Fall is a busy time in Knox County. The Governor will be here next Wednesday to help us celebrate the success of our Imagination Library. Two Knox Countians have received awards of excellence from the State. Tomorrow is the last of our Second Saturday at the Cove Concerts for the year and tonight, we have Movies on the Town. While we are gearing up for our Big Read in October, we are still looking for more than 300 volunteers for our *Read with Me* program in our 1st and 2nd grade classrooms. Our weather is on the verge of becoming much crisper, and that will make good weather to spend time in our County parks and walking our greenways. I want to encourage you to do just that, and to put on your pedometer so you can put those steps toward your "Walk to Myrtle Beach." Read here for details about all of these things.

Mike Ragsdale

Governor slated for Wednesday storytelling on Market Square

Imagination library week showcases giveaway of 500,000th book

Knox County's Imagination Library gives away its 500,000th book next week during a statewide celebration of the program. Governor Phil Bredesen will personally put Anna Dewdney's *Llama, Llama Red Pajama* in the hands of three-year-old Jacob Dixon at a special storytelling. The festivities will get under way at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 17, on Market Square during the Farmers Market. The Governor will pick one of his favorite children's books to read to children gathered for the event. Attendees at the free, public event can look forward to hearing either Richard Scarry's *Mr. Fixit*, Joy Cowley's *Miss Wishy-Washy*, or the Governor's classic favorite, Watty Piper's *The Little Engine That Could*.

The Governor will be joined at storytelling by Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale and children's musician Conductor Jack. The Conductor will offer up some foot-stompin', hootenanny music to celebrate the program's success. Since January 2005, the County has put half a million books in the hands of Knox County children. The Knox County Public Library is celebrating Imagination Library Week from September 14-20. A schedule of activities for the week is available from the Library website at www.knoxlib.org.

State Health Association honors KCHD's Harrison

Professionalism, compassion, excellence cited

The Tennessee Public Health Association Nursing Section has recognized MaryAnn Harrison, who is the Health Department's Adult Preventive Health/Travel Clinic Manager. Harrison received the *Award for Excellence in Nursing Administration/Supervision/Management*. She was nominated by several of her colleagues for the excellence she demonstrates both professionally and personally. According to one nominator, Harrison is "a consummate professional who has a passion for public health and exemplifies a leader...Ms. Harrison embodies and models the traits I value as a public health leader." A co-worker wrote, "MaryAnn is one of the most compassionate nurses I know." Another colleague said Harrison is an "example to all who have the honor of knowing her."



Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale applauded Harrison's achievement, noting that she is an wonderful example of the caliber of people working in our County government. Harrison is pictured here, standing on the right, with Tennessee Department of Health Commissioner Susan Cooper.

this Tuesday, September 16th. Dinner is included.

Homeland Security honors Knoxville's Cate, Morristown's Wisecarver First Responder Award announced on September 11th

Tennessee Department of Safety Commissioner Dave Mitchell announced the names of 25 recipients of this year's First Responder Award. Making the announcement on the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, Commissioner Mitchell said. "I am honored to recognize the courageous spirit and heroic efforts of all of Tennessee's first responders. The daily sacrifices they make to keep the citizens of Tennessee safe are worthy of recognition."



The two awardees from Homeland Security's District 2 were Ed Cate, Executive Director, Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, and Captain Chris Wisecarver, Morristown Police Department. Cate has served as a firefighter and paramedic for the past 26 years, and has more than 20 years of service with the Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad where he volunteers thousands of hours every year to ensure the safety of his community. According to the award citation, he has left a big footprint in the community touching the lives of everyone in law enforcement/EMS, as well as in his personal and home life.



Morristown's Wisecarver is a Captain with the Morristown Police Department and has been diligent in coordinating training for tactical and special response units throughout District 2 to address homeland security. According to his nomination, without his efforts, providing training at no cost, officers throughout Homeland Security District 2 would not be nearly as well prepared to address any possible security threats.

Read with Me

All schools still need volunteers!

Apply now through the [County website](#) or call 215-4770.

Knox County Calendar

September 12
Movies on the Town:
Jurassic Park

September 13
LAST Second Saturday
Concert at the Cove:
Retroholics

September 17
Governor Bredesen at
Imagination Library
storytelling on Market
Square

September 18
New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

September 19
Movies on the Town:
Sixteen Candles

September 22
County Commission

September 25
New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

September 29
All County splashpads
close for the season

October 2
New Harvest Park
Farmers Market

October 3
After Hours @ The
Library: The Bill
Scarlett Trio w/ Nancy
D'Andrea
*
Movies on the Town:

Senior Falls Prevention Seminar Slated for September 22nd 75% of fatal falls occur in senior population

Falls are the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Seventy-five percent of these falls occur in the older adult population. To educate our community about this problem, the Senior Safety Task Force is hosting the first community-wide *Senior Falls Prevention* seminar on Monday, September 22, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at John T. O'Connor Senior Center. Dr. Monica Crane, with the Geriatric Assessment Program (GAP) and Mercy Health Partners will be the luncheon keynote speaker. Pre-registration is required.

More than one of every three adults aged 65 and older falls each year, accounting for 13,000 fatalities and 1.8 million hospital visits annually. The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control shows that in 2003, the fatal fall injury rates for Tennessee adults in that age group were:

- 43.8/100,000 for men
- 31/100,000 for women

The deadline for registering is Wednesday, September 17th. Space is limited. Call (865) 541-4500 to reserve your spot today. The O'Connor Center is located at 611 Winona Street, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Get outdoors in our County parks and greenways Visit the Howard Pinkston Greenway & the French Memorial Park

This fall, explore the 5,733 acres of parks and 87 miles of greenways within Knox County. You can find the **Howard Pinkston Greenway** and the **French Memorial Park** in the south part of the County. The greenway is a half-mile trail that begins at the French Memorial Park and connects the park, library and the Bonny Kate Elementary School.

The park is located at 7752 Martin Mill Pike and has a playground, picnic tables and shelters, and soccer fields. For directions, visit the [Parks and Recreation website](#).

After Hours @ the Library

Jazz every first Friday through March

Every first Friday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., you can enjoy jazz in Lawson McGhee Library's Arts @ the Library Room. This year's free series features some of the best musicians on the local jazz scene today. Come ready to let down your hair, snap your fingers and tap your toes in the friendly, low-key atmosphere of the Public Library. This year's schedule is as follows:

October 3, The Bill Scarlett Trio with Nancy D'Andrea
November 7, Tom Johnson and the Black Stick Four
December 5, Christmas Concert with The Rocky Wynder Trio
January 2, What Is This Thing Called Jazz? with Keith Brown
February 6, What Is This Thing Called Jazz? with Keith Brown
March 4-7, Knoxville Jazz Festival

The library has a huge collection of jazz ranging from the earliest ragtime to the latest CDs from international stars. Check it out at www.knoxlib.org.

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

Napoleon Dynamite

October 7
DebateWatch Party at
UT University Center

October 15-30
Early Voting

Suggestions or comments?

We'd love to get your feedback.

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

Quick Links

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