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Small Business Series Features Neon Service Company

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Tony Saffles, owner of Neon Service Company, a sign company Mr. Saffles says he believes has "changed the way people see Knoxville."

Throughout the series, the Mayor has conducted interviews with small business owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees, and helping them share any plans they hold for the future. A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms.

During this week's interview, the Mayor and Saffles focused on how the construction and electricity of lighting and signage has changed over the years.

"When I got here there was one computer," Saffles said. "Now everyone has one. We stepped up our technology so we can compete with other people who can make signs fast and efficient."

One of the biggest projects the company has completed was in Atlanta for the 2019 Super Bowl. They put the 250-foot wide StateFarm logo on the roof of Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Saffles' favorite project was putting up the letters on Pat Summitt's memorial on the University of Tennessee campus across from Thompson-Boling Arena.

Mayor Jacobs mentioned how important it is to equip our young people with the skills they need to be successful to go to college or go to work for businesses like Neon Services Company. He asked Saffles what skills he looks for in potential employees.

"Designs and drawings…on the trucks doing install and service…metal work, molding faces and painting…everyone has a different skill set," Saffles said. "Everyone has their own skill set."

The Mayor closed the interview telling Saffles, "The future certainly seems bright."

Check out the video here.

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