

Urgent Care Center gets quick approval

By Mike Steely
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What was thought to be the most disputed item before the planning commission Thursday, the approval of the Helen Ross McIlhenny Behavior Health Urgent Care Center, passed with little debate.

Neighborhood homeowners left the meeting taking of appealing the decision to city council.

John Zimmerman, who had spoken against the proposed facility before, told the planners a urgent

care facility doesn't fit into the residential neighborhood. He called it a "72-hour drug jail diversion" and challenged the definition of "hospital" for the place. He also cited loss of property values, additional traffic, and said it would cause an increase in emergency vehicles in the Western Avenue area.

Another neighborhood resident said the facility, also known as the Safety Center, was "shoved in our face."

Chair Rebecca Longmire

said the MPC had little authority on the use of the property and MPC Director Gerald Green noted that the application "meets the definition" and reminded the appointed planning commission members that MPC cannot regulate the use of or place conditions on the operation there. The planning staff did recommend rerouting the entrance road.

Jerry Vagrier, Director of Helen Ross McIlhenny, said the Western Avenue location has been the site

of a treatment center for 19 years and said, "The safety of the community is paramount." He also noted that an officer of the sheriff's department would be there 24 hours a day.

The vote passed unanimously with the requirement that the access drive come from Ball Camp Road.

The most opposed item at the Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting turned out to be the application of USA Compound on Magnolia Avenue for an

eight-unit apartment building. The former bank building, which sat vacant for many years, was originally two houses that were connected, used for business locations, and then vacated.

A Pellissippi State student, Phillips Stevenson, received permission on a "Use on Review" for the site but only after some objections from the Parkridge neighborhood. Roof improvements there were done before a building permit was issued and

work was stopped until a permit was issued.

The opposition had demanded that the facade of the building be removed but Stevenson's father told the commission that it could not be removed because one of the sides has no other exterior walls.

Stevenson's attorney, Arthur Seymour, Jr., said that the building has been stabilized and the owner wants to move ahead with

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Neighborhood Council hears about litter

By Mike Steely
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Patience Melnick, Executive Director of Keep Knoxville Beautiful, spoke at Wednesday's Neighborhood Advisory Council and told the neighborhood leaders that her organization was formed in 1978 by the city and county to clean up for the World's Fair.

She described Keep Knoxville Beautiful as an independent affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and said that the focus is litter, recycling, and beautification toward a greener and more beautiful city.

"You are my prime leaders," she told the meeting.

Melnick reminded everyone of the March 25th South Knoxville Cleanup to be held from 9 a.m. until noon. Volunteers will meet at Duff Park at 4060 Chapman Highway. Participants will pick up supplies at the kickoff event and then disperse into their own neighborhoods to pick up litter.

She said that South Knoxville has been targeted by the organization and that, starting in July, East Knoxville will be the focus.

People not in groups will pick up leaders in the street around Duff Field.

She also said that anyone can get litter pickup supplies from Keep Knoxville Beautiful, located in at Knoxville Botanical Gardens. Supplies include gloves, orange vests, pickers, signage

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Pot of Gold for Irish?



Marquise Fifield (right) and the Grainger Grizzlies didn't have a defensive answer for Catholic point guard Luke Smith in last week's Class AA sectional round. Smith scored 35 points to lead the No. 1 ranked Irishmen to a 73-49 victory. "They just got on a run, and (as for) Luke Smith, listen, he's good," summed up Grainger Coach Derrick Combs after the game. Catholic, Bearden and Grace Christian will give Knox County three representatives in the TSSAA state tournament, which starts Wednesday in Murfreesboro. See boys and girls prep basketball coverage in Sports & Recreation Section C.

Insurance, Self-Serve Beer, and Greenway work on Council agenda

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday and the agenda calls for a final vote to require evidence of financial responsibility for anyone driving a vehicle out of the city impound lot. The council also looks at amending the city codes to permit the sale of all advertised surplus real property. To the change is to state that the property is sold regardless of the estimated value.

The council will also discuss acquiring, by condemnation if necessary, a home and property at 3740 Speedway Circle owned by Angela Fields. The estimated cost is \$4,000 and the action is recommended by the Abandoned, Blighted and Vacant Properties Committee.

The Love Creek Greenway may get a \$104,100 agreement with Fulghum,

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Crockett's early life presented in Strawberry Plains

By Mike Steely
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Want to know more about David Crockett?

Joe Swann, owner of one of Crockett's rifles and former president of the East Tennessee Historical Society, will speak about the frontier hero's life in Jefferson County today at 5 p.m.

Swann will share the story at the

Parrott-Wood Memorial Library at 3133 Old Andrew Johnson Parkway in Strawberry Plains. The author is a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and is working on a book, "The Early Life and Times of David Crockett in East Tennessee, 1786-1836."

How Crockett's life in our area played a pivotal part in the hero's life and how that developed into

him becoming an American icon is the subject. The autobiography deals extensively and in detail with the people and places in Jefferson County, which he departed in 1812.

The Parrott-Wood Memorial Library is located in "downtown" Strawberry Plains. You can get more information by calling (865) 933-1311.



East Tennessee's David Crockett, legendary Congressional member, frontiersman and hero of The Alamo, began his life in our area and spent his youth in Jefferson County. His life there will be the subject of a speech at the Strawberry Plains Library today at 5 p.m.

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