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Sidewalks, LEDs, security on council agenda

By Mike Steely
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The Knoxville City Council meets Tuesday evening in regular session and should take up a number of subjects including sidewalk funding for the South Castle Street Project. The agreement would be with Vaught & Milton Consulting Engineers for \$87,628.

The council may also approve an agreement with Siemens Industry for more

than \$9 million to provide "turnkey" products and services to convert the city's street lights to LED technology. Switching to the LED lighting is expected to save the city on electric use.

They will also consider an agreement with National Security Services to provide security services for parks and recreational activities at special events. The contract is for \$65,000 per year as needed at a rate of

\$15 per hour.

Almost \$200,000 may be authorized to resurface the tennis courts at Kyle Testerman Tennis Courts at Tyson Park and a traffic light may be approved for Cedar Bluff Road and North Peters Road.

The Knoxville Area Transit fleet may be authorized to enter a contract for \$1.1 million with Apollo Video Technology for equipment, supplies and services to

replace existing busy video systems.

The transit system is also asking the council to allow the mayor to file a grant application with the state for \$3.2 million to help fund KAT in 2018.

Increasing the size of the Knoxville Police Department from 416 to 420 employees is a request that would apply for \$452,283 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Community

Policing Services.

The Police Department is also asking the council to allow an application to the U.S. Department of Justice for \$200,000 for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The council may also memorialize the life of Deputy Police Chief Rudy G. Bradley Sr. who passed away recently. Great Schools Partnership may receive \$250,000 in grants

for the Community Schools Initiative and Volunteer Ministry may get \$60,000 for its Day Resource Center.

An apartment complex with up to 30 units per acre will be considered for approval on East Martin Mill Pike and Lippencott Road.

On first reading several council members have funding requests on the

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New Harvest Park to host 7th annual Blueberry Festival

The New Harvest Park Farmers Market will host its seventh annual Blueberry Festival on Thursday, June 29, with Knox County Commission Chairman Dave Wright ringing the bell to kick off the family-friendly event.

The market, which runs from 3 to 6 p.m. and is open to the public, will be held at the park, located at 4775 New Harvest Lane.

In addition to local blueberries and blueberry plants for sale, other activities will include:

- Blueberry Dessert Contest: Make and bring your favorite blueberry dessert to the pavilion by 4 p.m. Winners announced at 5 p.m.

- Success with Blueberries in Your Garden presentation by

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ETBA GIFTS HOLSTON MIDDLE



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Mike Davis, President of the East Towne Business Association, presented a check Thursday to Principal Kathryn Lutton of Holston Middle School. Brown said the donation is part of the association's giving back to the local community, something they hope to do each quarter. He was joined by members of the East Towne board. Brown also honored R. Larry Smith for his efforts within the community and the association. The event was held at the Legends at Oak Grove near New Harvest Park.

Committee proposes school system policy revisions

By Pete Gawda

At a lengthy meeting last Thursday the Knox County Schools policy review committee meeting discussed school system policies on human resources and on instructional goals and objectives.

Policy G-370 Administrative Leave or Suspension was rewritten to state that certified employees cannot be placed on disciplinary suspension without pay for more than 3 days with due process. Policy G-380 Dismissal of Tenured Teachers was rewritten to forbid the superintendent from dismissing or suspending a tenured teacher with pay.

Drug testing was added to the employment qualifications of fingerprinting and a criminal history records check for hiring in Policy G-480 Student Teachers and Teacher Interns. Policy G-510 Evaluation of Classified Personnel was rewritten to require central office personnel to be evaluated annually. Policy G-500 Compensation Guides and Contracts for Support Personnel was modified to authorize the board of education to set salary for substitute teacher and an hourly rate for part-time employees.

The committee decided that Policy G-600 Substitutes and Part-Time Employees should be rescinded as its contents are included in another policy.

It was noted that even though Section I, dealing with instructional goals and objectives, is very lengthy, it was recently revised. Therefore no changes were necessary to many of the policies in that section.

Policy I-100 Instructional Goals and Objectives was modified to require the school system to review and revise the Tennessee State Standards every six years on a rotating basis. Policy I-171 Interscholastic Athletics was revised to conform to current law. Changes were made

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'Bats and Bones' draws huge crowd

By Mike Steely
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There were more people than there were chairs Tuesday when two experts talked about "Bats and Bones" in Cherokee Caverns on Oak Ridge Highway. Cave manager and noted spelunker Jim Whidby was joined by forensic anthropologist Dr. Bill Bass.

Before the presentation the temperature outside was muggy and in the 80s, but inside the historic cavern it was about 58 degrees. Several people brought their own folding picnic chairs into the cave. The audience was made up of family members of all ages.

Whidby, owner of Byron Printing of Louisville, Tennessee, welcomed the audience to the

cave and gave a brief history of the caverns. He followed with a video about the various types of bats, three of which he has reintroduced to the cave after years of neglect at that location.

Holding an event inside a cave may seem unusual but Whidby says the cavern hosts several each year including movies and a Halloween and Christmas celebration. Whidby's son, Mike, called the events there "really good and safe."

Dr. Bass spoke of his experiences in identifying bodies and determining the causes of death. His "Body Farm" near the UT Hospital has become world famous for the study of how corpses decay. Bass and John Jefferson teamed up years



Dr. Bill Bass prepares for his talk during "Bats and Bones" at Cherokee Caverns Tuesday. He and Jim Whidby drew a large audience for the presentation inside the cave. Photo by Mike Steely.

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