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Harry Tindell gets nod from City Council



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Harry Tindell and Lauren Rider share a laugh at the East Towne Business Association meeting Wednesday. That evening Tindell was chosen from a tie to be Rider's 4th District Council opponent.

By Mike Steely
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It's pretty apparent that Lauren Rider and Harry Tindell get along well. During an appearance before the East Towne Business Alliance Wednesday morning the two joked and laughed with each other. Rider led the field in the recent City Primary for 4th District City Council Seat and Tindell and Amy Parker tied for second. This jovial relationship may soon be challenged as later that same evening the Knoxville City Council chose Tindell unanimously as their choice for the second slot and now Rider and Tindell will

probably face one another in the November 7th General Election.

Vice Mayor Duane Grieve chaired the meeting and council attorney Rob Frost gave background on the 4th District tie and said that "no stone was left unturned" in finding some alternative other than a vote by the council. The city charter and state law permits a run-off election but both Frost and Election Commission Director Cliff Rogers told the meeting that there isn't enough time. Mayor Madeline Rogero had earlier announced that an inquiry is under way to consider changing the charter to deal with ties. The charter also prohibits three

names on the General Election ballot. Rogers said that anyone wanting to run as a write-in candidate must be certified by September 18th.

Both Tindell and Amy Parker, who tied for second place in the primary, were given a few minutes to speak and both had two supporters each to speak briefly.

In loud applause from her supporters in the audience Parker said it was a "conflict of interest for the council to make the decision." She said her tie vote with Tindell was a result of "People Power" and said she represents "voices that have been left out."

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UNDER THE BIG TOP



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

More than 400 people attended the annual Government and Business Luncheon Friday during the kick-off of the 98th Tennessee Valley Fair. The Chilhowee Park event runs through September 17th. Con Hunley will perform Saturday at the Homer Hamilton Theatre. The week's events feature a rodeo, demolition derby and much musical entertainment. Tuesday is Senior Day and everyone over 65 years old will be admitted free of charge.

Library to offer out-of-county cards to hurricane evacuees

Knox County is expecting to see a number of people who evacuated their homes due to the hurricanes. Knox County Public Library is issuing cards to evacuees to ensure access to all library resources including computers, internet service, and materials. Those interested in obtaining a card should contact any Knox County Public Library location. They will need to present identification.

"Being displaced from your home is extremely difficult and especially stressful when fleeing a hurricane," said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. "By providing library services to hurricane evacuees, we'll be able to offer them access to resources like internet-connected computers, reference materials and entertainment for adults and children. It's another way we can say, 'Welcome to Knoxville County.'"

For more information, please call (865) 215-8750.

MPC wrestling with cell tower regulations

By Mike Steely
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What can be more confusing or misunderstood than zoning regulations? What happens when city and county regulations collide with federal and state regulations? How can both jurisdictions establish updated regulations on the location, height and type of cellular towers?

Those are the questions in front of the Metropolitan Planning Commission as it reaches out to the public with information on proposed rules. Jeff Archer, Principal Planner, held a public hearing recently at the Candler YMCA and presented the 16-page draft proposal that MPC hopes will help regulate the growing number of towers.

"We are trying to keep the city

and county ordinances similar," Archer told the meeting, adding, "We try to make the towers fit into the community as much as possible and follow federal guidelines."

Currently there are no height limits on the towers and the locations are not zone based. He said the proposed ordinances would better locate the towers "where we want."

The MPC's proposal, presented in a 16-page draft, seeks to set location priorities, specify zones, set height requirements and require either an administrative approval or a use-on-review hearing. Applicants would have to prove they have looked for five alternative locations before approval is granted. Ideally requests by cellular service

providers would be located on existing poles, buildings, towers or structures.

The changing cellular market is creating requests for more, but smaller, towers. Archer said the changes mean providing cell customers not with more reach but higher capacity.

Federal Law says a cell tower can be placed just about anywhere the company wants if all other alternatives are not available or suitable. This leaves Knoxville and Knox County with requiring companies to disguise the poles or towers as trees, lights, flagpoles, etc.

Dave Massey, Director of the Office of Neighborhoods, said the number of smaller towers "is going to skyrocket" in the next

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Dave Massey, Director of the Office of Neighborhoods, chats with Vivian Williams following a Planning Commission presentation about regulating the location and height of cellular towers.

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