

eventually became the interim sheriff of Knox County. Spangler dedicated his life to law enforcement after a stint in the Air Force.

The number of retired and current sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement professionals joining Spangler for the opening of his headquarters was amazing. It was impossible to miss that Spangler has deep and strong support from his fellow law enforcement officers, but there was a big crowd of ordinary citizens in attendance as well. That a large crowd turned out was not surprising at all as Spangler is known for being

of experience and understanding of what it takes to run the department that keeps our community safe. Tom Spangler is one of most ethical and moral men I know and he has the passion and qualities to lead the sheriff's department. The 1000+ employees can trust the leadership of someone who has the experience to lead the department.

"Tom Spangler is a candidate we the taxpayers can trust to make the most of the county's resources. If given the opportunity by the voters he will make a great sheriff for the citizens of Knox County."



PHOTO BY BOB KANE

Above, Linda and Tom Spangler at the grand opening of the Spangler for Sheriff Headquarters. Left, Spangler mingles with the crowd of citizens and active and retired law enforcement officers.



MPC talks sidewalks again

By Pete Gawda

After a meeting on Thursday, January 11, the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) once again came up against the issue of sidewalks when a developer protested what he called "a sidewalk to nowhere."

Prinos Land Company presented for concept/use on review approval a proposed 37-lot subdivision on the north side of Crisp

the conditions for approval was that a sidewalk be constructed outside the subdivision along Crisp Road. The developer requested that condition be removed. He noted that it would not connect to an existing sidewalk and that he had plans for sidewalks within the subdivision and a sidewalk going to a nearby ball field.

"I really have a problem requiring a sidewalk that does not have a connect to an existing sidewalk or where there

Chair Rebecca Longmire. "That just doesn't make sense to me."

In response to a question staff stated that there are no plans for a county sidewalk in that area.

The MPC granted approval without the sidewalk requirement.

Jim Sullivan's request for concept/use on review approval passed with no opposition and no discussion. His proposed 115-lot Hickory Creek Farms

2018's political year update

By Mike Stealy
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The primary election deadline for filing is a month away but already there are several races drawing opponents, most of them Republicans. So far of the 34 announced candidates for the various county offices only four are Democrats. The strange seat 10, where county mayor candidate Bob Thomas now serves, has two Republicans and two Democrats who have petitions for election.

February 15 is the filing deadline for the county races. Given the August 2

year for Knox County, the state and the national offices.

Thus far there are few Democrats stepping forward to get petitions for election. County Democrat Chair Emily Gregg told The Focus that there are potential candidates but they have not declared yet.

United States House of Representatives

Knox County Mayor Tim Bussett picked up his petition for U. S. Congress to replace retiring 2nd District Congressman Jimmy Duncan. Republicans announcing to become the next congressperson are Jimmy Mallick,