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Knoxville Convention and Exhibition Center to be renamed

Chip Barry displays a proposed logo for the new name of the Convention and Exhibition Center. If approved by City Council the renovated facility may open in April. Photo by Mike Steely.

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Knoxville visitors, newcomers and many local residents have been confused for years about events being held at the Knoxville Convention Center. The problem is there are two "Centers" in the World's Fair Park just off Henley Street.

Separated by The Tennessee hotel, the Knoxville Convention Center is the one on Clinch and the Knoxville Convention and Exhibition Center is the one next to the historic L&N Depot below the Holiday Inn. The similarity in names might end soon when the Knoxville City Council gives approval of a vote of the Public Properties Naming Committee.

The committee, headed by council member Lauren Rider, met Wednesday afternoon to consider an application to rename the Convention and Exhibition Center as the "World's Fair Exhibition Center."

Built in 1982 for the World's Fair the facility is undergoing renovations to help market the building. It's managed as part of the other "Convention Center" and the hope is the re-branding will end the confusion.

Chip Barry, chief of operations, submitted the suggestion to the committee and included a copy to Mary Bogart, convention center manager, and Kim Bumpas of Visit Knoxville. He spoke to the committee and introduced the suggested logo for the building.

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PHOTO BY BARBARA HARRIS

The Morningside Heights Homeowners Association recognizes acts of heroism and kindness by plane crash responders Dexter Jordan, Jackqulyn Cox and Alyssa Cox-Lewis. From left to right: George Kemp, one of MHHA's Board of Directors, Jordan and granddaughter Kahleya Brown, Knoxville City Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie, Cox and Cox-Lewis.

Plane crash heroine: East Knoxville homes put in harm's way

By Steve Williams

"Thank God everybody is alive. But it never should have happened."

Those were the words of Alyssa Cox-Lewis, who was part of three families recognized by the Morningside Heights Homeowners Association Feb. 10 for assisting at an East Knoxville plane crash site in December.

After the Bingham, Jordan and Cox families were awarded certificates "for acts of heroism and kindness," Cox-Lewis spoke out against pilot training methods used out of the small South Knoxville airport just across the Tennessee River.

"Different companies use Island Home to train pilots," said Cox-Lewis. "They turn the engine off and they simulate engine failure to test the pilots that they are training to see their response to it.

"Ideally, they would get the engine back on and land the plane like normal. But essentially for about 30 seconds to a minute, they are engineless flying over our houses. And the failure of this plane (that crashed in East Knoxville) was caused by them being unable to start the engine again."

Alyssa added: "We've known for years that they've been doing it ... if you cut an engine over people's houses, it's only a matter of time before something happens."

Melvin Tate, president of the Morningside Heights Homeowners Association, called it

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Sidewalks get City attention

By Mike Steely
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The City of Knoxville is moving ahead with an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to conduct a city-wide sidewalk study.

The Knoxville City Council will discuss the project in Tuesday's meeting and an agreement with TDOT in the $160,000 plan of which the city will pay $40,000 as its part.

TDOT and the city may also fund a $1,050,000 sidewalk project along Atlantic Avenue with the city's share to be $210,000.

The Pleasant Ridge Sidewalk Project at Wilson Road may also receive an additional $46,718 to increase the contract with Adams Contracting, LLC, to just over $735,000. The council may also discuss extending the deadline on completion of that project.

The council is also being asked to allow the mayor to enter into an agreement with Roger's Group, Inc., for a $7.7 million contract to resurface city streets.

Councilmember Lauren Rider is suggesting Bob Whetsel to serve on the Knoxville Golf Advisory Committee. Mayor Madeline Rogero is requesting approval to reappoint Mike Fowler and Chuck Morris to the Public Arts Committee.

Rogero is also asking to reappoint Amanda Busby to the

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Patti Bounds seeks re-election to school board

Last week Patti Bounds launched her campaign to run for reelection to represent the 7th District on the Knox County School Board.

Bounds, who is currently serving her second term as Chair of the Board, has made it a priority to visit all 89 schools.

Bounds joined the school board in 2014. The non-partisan election for the 7th District seat is set for May 1. Bounds has no opponent.

"I believe everyone has a stake in the success of public schools. When schools are strong and students succeed everyone benefits. Together we are investing in the future of our children, community, and nation."

Bounds partnered with other board members and legislators to push for an end to K-2 testing successfully eliminating it for Knox County students.

As a board member, Bounds is responsible for helping to oversee a $471 million budget, which included a raise for certified and non certified employees last year.

If re-elected, Bounds plans to continue to ensure high student achievement, continue to improve KCS culture, and work to close the gap in disparities.

Bounds is a member of the Knox County Retired Teachers Association, Tennessee School Board Association, the National School Board Association, serves on the Great Schools Partnership Board, serves on the YOKE Board, is a member of the Halls Business and Professional Association, is a member of the Powell Business and Professional Association, is a member of the Halls Crossroads Women's League and attends Calvary Baptist Church.

For more information, check out: www.pattibounds.com.

Patti Bounds

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