

# at Fountain City Lake

Last week, contractor crews began planting two wetlands at Fountain City Lake – one of the last steps in the City's ongoing commitment to improve the lake's water quality.

Once the plantings are completed, the spring-fed lake will refill and saturate the new beds. The fast-growing plants – including cardinal flower, blue flag iris, button bush, soft rush and wintergreen – should fill out the new wetlands beds by this summer.

For years, thick algae has overwhelmed the lake. The City's aim has been to repair the lake's infrastructure so that the ecosystem can regain its long-term balance.

"Restoring Fountain City Lake to better health and beauty has required persistent effort and a lot of patience," Mayor Madeline

quality and discourage algae growth. The wetlands do that two ways:

1. There's now better water circulation in the lake, because the most shallow, stagnant areas – conducive to the formation of thick algae – have been converted into the wetlands wildlife habitat; and.

2. The wetlands plants absorb nutrients that otherwise would promote the growth of algae.

"These wetlands plantings were selected because they'll do well and require little maintenance," McGinley said. "They'll grow to between 2 and 4 feet tall. These will be controlled wetlands – not jungle, but not manicured."

Late last fall, the wetlands contractor, Ronald Franks Construction Co., finished building the gabion baskets, which were then



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

*State Senator Becky Duncan Massey and Knox County School Board Vice Chair Amber Rountree join the news staff during the ribbon cutting of the new library at South-Doyle High School.*

## 21st century library dedicated at South-Doyle High

**By Mike Steely**  
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South-Doyle High School has a new library that will be the envy of every other school in Knox County. The new

interim Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent Bob Thomas, school board member Amber Rountree, and Principal Tim Berry.

The plans were presented to Sena

was his "hangout" and added "Jenny and I are proud to be a part of it."

Berry said the plan began by asking students what they wanted. He said the planners also went to the Apple