



Knox County Sheriff candidate Tom Spangler addresses a packed house at the Corryton Community Center this past Thursday evening.

Spangler greets supporters at Corryton campaign stop

By Ken Lay

Tom Spangler has dedicated the majority of his life to law enforcement and now he's making a bid to become Knox County's next sheriff.

"I knew, from the time that I was in the Air Force, that I wanted to go into law enforcement," Spangler told his supporters Thursday night at a meet and greet at the Corryton Community and Senior Center. "I finished my tour in 1980 and I knew that I wanted to go into law enforcement because I spent the last two years of my tour in the military police."

Spangler, who has 35 years of law enforcement experience, began his tenure at the Knox County Sheriff's Department as a corrections officer upon returning to East Tennessee after he was honorably discharged from the Air Force.

"As soon as I came home from military service, I went to work for the Knox County Sheriff's Office," Spangler said.

During his time serving in Knox County, Spangler, a Carter High School graduate, has worked in all areas of the sheriff's department. After a time in corrections, he became a patrolman, and administrator.

He later served as a Chief Deputy under two sheriffs. He also trained officers in both Knox and Blount County. He worked in Blount County after retiring from Knox County and spending time as a professional fisherman.

"I started the training program in Knox County," Spangler said. "We had to send our deputies to Nashville to train them. Then, I retired to become a professional fisherman because I love to fish."

He returned to law enforcement training at the behest of Blount County Sheriff James Lee Berrong. He trained Blount County officers and while there, he trained a few to work in Knox County.

"I've worked in every part of the sheriff's office, so that gives me a unique perspective. The people in the sheriff's office want a leader. They want a leader who has their back. But they also want a leader, who holds people accountable. They want to know that if somebody does something wrong, that they won't get by with it."

Spangler almost always had aspirations to be Knox County's sheriff. He served as interim sheriff in 2007 after Black

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Tom Spangler took time to talk to everyone who attended his reception at the Corryton Community Center. Above, he visits Loretta and Brian Richards.

Old South High School, Supreme Court Building discussed

By Mike Steely
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Rick Dover, well-known local developer who rehabilitates historic buildings, appeared before the Knoxville City Council twice Tuesday. Both appearances were successful as he obtained permission to use a parking lot at South High School during construction there and gained a longer timeframe in working out parking at the former State Supreme Court Building.

Dover, on a request from Community Development, successfully sought an agreement for access and parking on part of city-owned property at 923 Baker Avenue. Development Director Becky Wade supported Dover's request. The developer told the council that Barber McMurray has completed plans and he's awaiting approval from the state and U.S. Park Service. Old South High School is on the



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Council members Finbarr Saunders, Mark Campen and Stephanie Welch talk prior to the Knoxville City Council meeting Tuesday.

National Register of Historic Sites.

"As soon as we're able to get approval we're ready to start construction," Dover said.

The other request was to amend a contract for the purchase of the Knoxville Supreme Court property

at 716 Locust Avenue. The Office of Redevelopment asked the council for permission to revise the deadline to fully negotiate the terms of the agreement and provide enough time to produce schematic designs and specifications for the proposed use of the

property.

Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons said "nobody is at fault" and explained the delay is because of a needed redesign of parking there. Councilmember Gwen McKenzie asked about the timeframe and Lyons said the city will

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Fiscal Difficulties Ahead for School Board

By Anne Primm

All nine district representatives were in attendance for last week's Knox County Board of Education meeting which began with the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Thomas announced to the group that he had appointed Melinda Russell as principal for A.L. Lotts Elementary School. Thomas also remarked that the system-wide survey had closed on March 22, 2018, and has been sent to Tim Young for analysis. Results should be back by April 13. Superintendent Thomas congratulated Jarod Mueller, a sixth grader at Cedar Bluff Middle School, for winning the News Sentinel Southern Appalachia Regional Spelling Bee. Mr. Thomas further mentioned some upcoming

events such as the April 10 Dine Out for Education, The Teacher Tenure Celebration on April 17 at the Mill and Mine, and the Barney Thompson Scholarship Dinner on April 24 at the Sarah Simpson Center.

Next, Dr. John Rysewsky, Cheryl Hickman and Dr. Keith Wilson made a presentation about Bypassing Solway. The main concern is that the student population at Bypassing Solway Career and Technical Education Center has decreased by 133 students since school year 2014-15. A number of issues and concerns were identified but solutions were not forthcoming. In the end, it was agreed to accrue cost savings by eliminating the need for an on-site principal

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