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Memorial Day means Honor Fountain City!

By Mike Steely
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There are several events planned for next Monday as our area celebrates Memorial Day but there's nothing like the special events at Honor Fountain City Day.

The celebration, presented by Fountain City Town Hall, Inc., always draws a huge crowd to Fountain City Park on North Broadway. The theme this year is "A Walk in the Park" and preparations are underway by the Fountain City Town Hall neighborhood organization for the 42nd event that features just

about everything you can imagine during a local celebration.

Admission is free and you'll find a variety of vendors, political candidates, and lots of things for children to do including games with prizes, a bounce house, and face painting. There's also a demonstration in the pavilion at 11 a.m. by the UT Entomology Department called "Bug Zoo."

Running from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., the day features various musical groups including Nostalgia, Brandywine, River's Drift and the Tennessee Wind Symphony. A train will carry adults and children around the park and

Tennessee Model-A Cars will be on display. The Joyful Twirlers will be performing and historian Dr. Jim Tumbull will display photos of Fountain City's past.

Door prize tickets will be sold for \$1 at the Town Hall Booth and the program announcer will be Ken Clayton.

The Community Awards program begin at 3 p.m. as Kelly Ellerburg, Chair of the Fountain City Town Hall, welcomes guests. Presentation of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance will be presented by Boy Scout Troop 55 Carol Evans, Executive Director of Legacy Parks, is the keynote

speaker and will discuss the importance of greenways, trails and public parks to healthy, walkable communities.

The Community Awards for 2018 this year are:

- Commercial Restoration award, to be presented to McAllister's Deli on Tazewell Pike for their restoration and reuse of a commercial building
- Residential Restoration award, to be presented to Mr. Chad Kiser, homeowner of 412 Midlake Drive, for restoration and beautification of a residential property
- Town Hall Chairman's award,

to be presented to Mr. Bill Doherty and Mrs. Patty Cooper, owners of Savage Garden on Garden Drive, for their contributions to the community

• Friend of Fountain City award, which recognizes an individual who, although living outside of Fountain City makes tremendous contribution to the area—City Councilman Finbarr Saunders

The 2018 Fountain City Woman and Man of the year will be presented prior to the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Gazebo.

WBIR's John Becker will speak

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RAM's June 9 Salute to WWII and Vietnam Veterans will feature the organization's flagship airplane, a vintage WWII plane that took part in the D-Day invasion in 1944. (Photo courtesy of Robert Lambert, Media Relations Specialist RAM)

Project Grad, sidewalk study on Work Session agenda

By Mike Steely
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When the Knox County Commission meets today at 5 p.m. in Work Session the members face an agenda of over 90 items. Among those numerous items is a resolution to approve a partnership continuation memorandum between Knox County Schools and Project GRAD.

That program, as well as magnet schools, was slated for cutbacks until Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett promised to split \$1.5 million in funding with the school system. That promise is separate from the mayor's budget proposal.

Commission Chairman Randy Smith and other commissioners may select items from the large agenda for public discussion. Most work session items will go on to the body's regular meeting next Monday.

Gresham, Smith and Partners may be hired for just over \$265,000 to conduct a sidewalk master plan for the county to identify priorities and long-range improvements.

In South Knox County access to the I. C. King Park by way of Maryville Pike may be awarded to Whaley Construction, LLC, for work on S. R. 33 including left and right turn lanes.

The commissioners may discuss a change order with Merit Construction, Inc., for \$50,000 in additional funding for the renovation of the Carter Convenience Center.

A grant from the Department of Energy of \$16,000 may be approved to provide equipment for the Emergency Management Agency for off-site planning and

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RAM's Salute to Service includes WWII airplane from D-Day

By Mike Steely
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World War II and Vietnam War veterans will be celebrated by Remote Area Medical for the 15th annual Salute to Service on Saturday, June 9th, at the RAM hanger at the Downtown Island Airport.

RAM, the nationally praised non-profit organization that provides mobile medical clinics that deliver free high-quality dental, vision medical and veterinarian care to

underserved and uninsured people, will use the event to observe the 74th anniversary of the D-Day landing in WWII.

The D-Day invasion by Allied Forces took place on June 6, 1944, and involved both beach landings and an airborne assault on German defenses on the 50 mile French coast. More than 24,000 Americans, British and Canadian soldiers and sailors took part. The Germans lost between 4,000 and 9,000

soldiers and the Allied dead ranged from 4,000 to 10,000.

RAM's flagship humanitarian relief plane, a C-47/DC3, will be on display. That aircraft flew over Normandy during the invasion.

Ceremonies to honor veterans begin at 11 a.m. and will feature a talk by RAM President and Founder Stan Brock. Gates open at 10 a.m. and visitors to the free event can view military vehicles, historical photos, and wartime

items from various eras.

WBIR's John Becker emcees the event. Sponsors of RAM's ceremonies include Pilot/Flying J, UT Medical Center, Clayton Homes and Hart Graphics.

Featured during the event is the 80-piece Tennessee Wind Symphony and a bagpipe performance. The RAM Airborne Delivery Team will parachute into the airfield to close the ceremonies.

Magnolia Streetscape Project may finally get started

By Mike Steely
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After years of planning and numerous public hearings it looks like the Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Project is finally getting started.

The City Council may vote Tuesday evening to authorize the mayor to sign an agreement with Franklin Group, LLC, to begin Phase One. The \$4,177,339 contract involves improving the busy route in East Knoxville beginning at Jessamine Street and running

to Bertrand Street.

Two other agenda items are related to the Magnolia project. The mayor may be authorized to enter a license agreement with the state for construction of the streetscape within state right-of-way there.

The Offices of Redevelopment and Engineering Department is also requesting to hire Vaughn & Milton for construction engineering and inspection services along the project in an agreement for \$537,342.

In other business the council will probably approve on final reading the mayor's budget for the fiscal year, authorize the tax rate which doesn't change, and set pay rates for city employees.

Parks and Recreation is asking for \$20,000 to go to Legacy Parks for the Everly Brothers Park and \$10,000 to the Kingston Pike Sequoyah Hills Association for maintenance and upkeep of Talahi Park.

Mayor Madeline Rogers is asking the council to approve two

appointments. Former Mayor and Councilman Daniel T. Brown to the Public Building Authority and George Anna Yarbrough to the Board of Equalization.

The conversion of microfilm records to a digital format is being requested by Engineering in an agreement with The Crowley Company for \$74,250.

The Finance Department is asking for repairs to Parking Garage "C" at the Auditorium and Coliseum for \$135,050.

Parks and Recreation is asking

for an agreement with National Building Supply for janitorial services at various recreation centers in an annual agreement of \$147,960.

Janitorial services at the Safety Building are requested by the police department in an agreement with A & B Cleaning Service for \$68,900.

Several rezoning requests are before the council including a Knox Rail Salvage request to change the zoning of their lot

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