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Litton's serving up something new Kelly's Back Room offers home cooking to go

By Mike Steely
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Seventy years in business with thirty-eight years just off Broadway in Fountain City has made Litton's Market and Restaurant a huge success and a popular landmark. What initially started as a meat market that fried hamburgers on a three-legged electric skillet has grown into a four-generation family restaurant that took over an entire small shopping center.

Long noted for its hamburgers and desserts, Litton's now has another successful addition: Kelly's Back Room, a carry-out option featuring full meals operated by Kelly Litton, Kelly, assisted by Lynda Jones, Libby Corey and Patti Harwood and backed up by the full staff of Litton's Restaurant, serves good wholesome meals with a wide selection of meat and sides. Customers have discovered the carry-out section of the restaurant and start lining up from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. to take food with them or dine in at tables there.

"Some of our items are from Grandmother's recipes," Kelly said, adding that last Monday had "rattlesnake beans" and collard greens on the hot bar. "I like to search out old-time names of food," she added.

"There's a market for people



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Kelly Litton and her staff welcome you to the new Kelly's Back Room section of Fountain City's iconic restaurant. The full-meal offering is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Pictured here are Libby Corey, Patti Harwood, Kelly Litton and Lynda Jones.

looking for good food to go. People are busy with their family," she commented. "People are starving for good food. You can go to chain food or fast food but by the end of the day you're

still hungry."

The most popular meat offering is fried chicken. Last week some of the choices included cornbread made with sour cream, candied yams, fresh

green beans, country-fried steak and gravy, and mac and cheese.

"We try to get our food from local places like Pratt's—whatever is fresh," she said.

"We don't use a lot of additives

We use salt, sugar, butter, bacon grease, some pork, whole milk and whole buttermilk," she said, adding that their suppliers are from farms in our area. "The food is good and there are large portions."

Their vegetables and other items come from a farm in Blount County and the tomatoes, all home grown, come from a river farm in Green County and from the staff's own gardens.

"Let us do the cooking for you and you'll feel like you've eaten something," Kelly said.

Kelly's Back Room to go market started service in May and Barry, Kelly's brother, said the effort is "pushing sales" for the main restaurant.

"Sometimes I think the essence of bacon is the Chanel Number 5 of the south," Kelly says with a laugh. She and her crew have lots of fun and kid around with each other and their customers, many of whom they've known for years.

"We wouldn't do this if we can't have fun," she said.

You can find Litton's Market and Restaurant online and on Facebook. You can contact Kelly Litton at (865)688-0429. The restaurant is located at 2803 Essary Road just off Broadway.



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

City and state officials, neighborhood representatives and others joined Mayor Rogers to break ground on the new Magnolia Avenue Streetscape Phase One project.

Magnolia Avenue Streetscape project begins

By Mike Steely
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The face of Magnolia Avenue in East Knoxville has changed a few times over the years. The street, the home of iconic products like Swan's Bakery and the home of Mello Yello, is about to change again.

Once a thriving commercial and

residential area on the trolley line Magnolia Avenue began to decline and for years the city has been looking to improve the neighborhood, much as it has been and is doing along Cumberland Avenue and North Broadway. That effort broke ground Thursday as Mayor Rogers and others officially kicked off the

first phase of streetscape improvements.

Phase One, which will upgrade Magnolia Ave. from Jessamine to Myrtle Street, is expected to take until the end of next year and then Phase Two begins improvements from Myrtle to Bernard Street. The

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Strategic Plan, Kindergarten Portfolios still under fire

By Anne Primm

Chair Patti Bounds opened Wednesday's Knox County School Board meeting by welcoming students back to school as August 8 was the first day back to school for the 2018-2019 school year.

Bounds asked for any changes to the meeting's agenda. Second District Representative Jennifer Owen requested item 10C to be added to the agenda: Discussion and Possible Action on Kindergarten Portfolio. Ninth District Representative Amber Rountree wanted to add Board Forum to the end of the meeting since it was inadvertently omitted from the August 1, 2018 meeting.

Next, Dr. Lyle Ailshie, Deputy Commissioner for College, Career, and Technical Education (CCTE) Division, as well as the Teachers and Leaders Division, for the Tennessee

Department of Education, was in attendance to present Paula Franklin, the 2017-2018 Milken Award winner, with the Milken Obelisk. Dr. Ailshie stated that Franklin had already received her \$25,000 check but due to scheduling difficulties had not received the obelisk. "The goal of the Milken Award is to honor professional teachers," Dr. Ailshie said. Teacher Magazine calls the Milken Award "the Oscar of teaching."

Superintendent Bob Thomas followed by announcing that the Tennessee Department of Education in Cooperation with the Governors Advisory Council for Alternative Education and the Alternative Education Association has established the exemplary practices in Alternative Education Program to recognize districts that

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