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One step, one game at a time



PHOTO BY STEVE WILLIAMS

With Central High seniors forming a human tunnel, Head Coach Bryson Rouser leads his Bobcats to the field for their 2018 season opener Thursday night against Tennessee High of Bristol. The visiting Vikings held on for a 19-16 victory in one of the first games in the state to be played this season. Please see Week 1 prep football coverage, including scores and schedule, in Sports & Recreation, Section C.

City Police and Fire not relocating to Knoxville College

By Mike Steely
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It may be that Knoxville College failed to fulfill an agreement within the memorandum of understanding with the city or successfully negotiate to alleviate the former school's debt, but the City is back off an agreement.

The tentative agreement between Knoxville College and the City would have created space there, after much demolition, environment clean up and then construction to relocate both the police and fire headquarters. The city is now again looking for land suitable for that use.

Another factor in the proposal was money. Deputy Mayor David Brace notified the college that the school faces a \$6 million debt and the city's estimated clean-up and construction is estimated at about \$5 million.

Brace said the search for a new location will not delay the "much-needed" replacement of the outdated Safety Building "or delay the Clayton Family Foundations plans to build a \$150 million science and discovery center on the grounds of the Coliseum, Auditorium and Safety Building.

Currently the city has pledged \$40 million for a new police and fire headquarters.

"The City is disappointed that this agreement was not able to advance in a timely manner," Brace said, adding that future talks about partnership with Knoxville College on other projects is possible.

Historic Zoning Commission considers three petitions

By Pete Gauda

On Thursday, Aug. 16 the Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission (H2C) had three petitions on the agenda for their consideration.

The house at 1519 Forest Ave. in Fort Sanders is scheduled for demolition. Mark Blaik of GBS Engineering was granted permission to build two multi-family dwelling units on that lot and the adjoining lot, 1523. It was determined that the designs for these two structures appear to meet the guidelines for construction of multi-family units in

Fort Sanders. Staff noted that the applicant took care of all the neighborhood's concerns.

After considerable discussion the H2C postponed until next month a decision to allow Schweizer Properties, Inc. to install faux-grained fiber cement board siding rather than smooth finish fiber cement board siding on a newly constructed detached garage at 1019 Beane St. in Fourth and Gill. The request permission is after the fact since the faux-grained siding has already been installed. The neighborhood representative

stated that the neighborhood does not want a faux-grained cement fiber board to be used. Staff feared that granting permission would set a precedent. Since 2012 there have been seven construction projects approved in Fourth and Gill using cement board siding. In six of those cases smooth finish was specified. In one case faux-grained was specified to match rough-hewn cedar. In the following month the applicant was requested to apply several coats of paint to a small area of the garage to allow commissioners

to determine if that action will mitigate the faux-grained effect.

Christine and Kevin Sutherland, the owners of the house at 240 E. Scott in Old North Knoxville, were granted permission to replace rotted tongue and groove flooring on the front and back porches with a synthetic tongue and groove material provided the material was painted. The H2C further ruled that wooden material must be used to repair the porch railings.

In addition, the H2C received staff reports concerning four

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Two affordable housing zonings approved on first reading by council



Jeff Davis drew attention to Thursday evening's rally to save Pond Gap from a large apartment complex with a bicycle towing a large protest sign.

By Mike Steely
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Two affordable housing projects were before the Knoxville City Council Tuesday, both getting unanimous first reading approval but not without some neighbors objecting.

Elmington CG LLC is proposing low income housing on East Young High Pike in South Knoxville and on Hollywood Road in the Pond Gap Community. Both requests ask that existing commercial zones be

changed to RP-2 (Planned Community). Councilwoman Stephanie Welch told her fellow members that affordable housing is welcome there and that the "South Woodlawn Neighborhood supports that request."

Local resident, Keith McBride had several questions about the Young High Pike development but said he was not opposed to it. He asked about ingress and egress, questioned if the apartments would be

"Section 42" and asked if KDC or Elmington would manage them when built. Thirty units per acre were approved by the planning commission for that development.

The Hollywood Drive request drew some strong objections from the Pond Gap Neighborhood Association, the Bearden Council, and the Forest Heights Neighborhood Association as well as several residents along the hilly route. Twenty four dwelling units per acre

on the 5.1 acre site had been approved by the planning commission.

David Williams, president of the Pond Gap group, said after the meeting that they are requesting the city to put some "traffic calming" strips along the busy two-lane road. Williams asked the city council "not to take our neighborhood away" and noted the racial diversity of the West Knoxville neighborhood.

Stacy Varon, who lives on

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