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New leadership for Knox County take the oath

By Mike Steely
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No less than 17 new county officials and school board members took the Oath of office Friday morning including the new Knox County Mayor and new Knox County Sheriff.

Mayor Glenn Jacobs spoke after his oath and announced that he and Knoxville City Mayor Madeline Rogers are hosting an October 18th "Mayor's Call to Action" to deal with the opioid crisis. Jacobs also praised our "wonderfully diverse" county and announced he will appoint a "Diversity Development Manager."

He said he will work to encourage minorities, women and veterans to qualify to do business with the county.

"It's not politics, not government, but the people," he called for unification of the efforts and concluded, "It's time to get out there and kick some butt!" His



PHOTO BY NICK STEELY

Tom Spangler is sworn in as new Knox County Sheriff last Friday morning. With him at the ceremony are wife Linda, right, mother Evelyn, left, and other members of his family.

remarks and the installation of newly elected Knox County Sheriff Tom Spangler were the two incidents that brought the packed crowd in the City-County

Building to its feet.

The main assembly room was packed downstairs and upstairs with family and friends. One notable oath was that of

Charlie Susano. He was accompanied by his wife Robin and took the oath from his father, Judge Charles D. Susano, Jr. Outgoing County Mayor

Tim Burchett spoke at the beginning of the installation ceremonies and introduced each newly or re-elected official, who appeared for the oath

with their family members. Installed were Commissioners Randy Smith, Charles Busler, Larsen Jay and Justin Biggs.

Also taking the oath were County Sheriff Tom Spangler, Trustee Ed Shouse, Circuit Clerk Charlie Susano, Criminal Clerk Mike Hammond, County Clerk Sherry Witt, Registrar of Deeds Nick McBride, and school board members Evetta Satterfield, Virginia Babb, Terry Hill, Patti Lou Bounds, Kristi L. Kristy and Hanna Selph, the student board member.

The Crown College Choir sang the "National Anthem" and "America the Beautiful."

Pastor Daryl Arnold of Overcoming Believers Church gave the invocation and Pastor Clarence Sexton of Crown College gave the benediction.

Major Road Plan Update Available

MPC staff recently completed an update to the Major Road Plan, a tool used to coordinate and regulate land use. An overview of these changes will be presented at the Metropolitan Planning Commission's September Agenda Review, which is open to the public. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St., Knoxville, TN 37902.

The Major Road Plan exists to ensure that the public's investment in roadway infrastructure is protected as development occurs by preserving roadway facilities for their intended purpose. It is updated periodically to account for changes to the road network such as new roadways that have been built, and to reflect current transportation plans and their identified projects.

The previous plan was adopted in 2011 and served as the starting point for this update. Major changes that were made to the roadway classifications in this update include:

- Roadways added to the classified roadway list,
- Corrections to minor inconsistencies and nomenclature
- Updated termini,
- Changed roadway classifications,
- Changed right-of-way dedication amounts, and
- Removed and downgraded roadways.

In addition to these updates, other tools have been provided to make this plan more user-friendly. An appendix is provided that lists all major road

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Northside Christian Church to celebrate 60 years

By Mike Steely
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At the entrance to the church is a simple white post with words written on both sides representing four different religions: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Islamic. All of the simple quotes reflect the same ideal: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

That's the creed of the Northside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at 4008 Tazewell Pike in Fountain City. On Sunday, September 9, the church and its members and friends will celebrate 60 years. A luncheon starts at 10:50

a.m. that day. Worship services follow the luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Fritz Haverkamp is the minister and has pastored the church for 10 years.

The congregation selected a very historic site to build, according to J. C. Tumbler, Fountain City historian and member of the church. Northside Christian sits on the site of Sol H. George's mansion and horse farm. George founded the first department store in downtown Knoxville and eventually that store merged with Rich's Department Stores of Atlanta.

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A simple white post outside the Northside Christian Church proclaims, in four languages, the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The church celebrates 60 years at its Fountain City location Sunday, Sept. 9th.

Residents oppose Washington Pike subdivision expansion

By Mike Steely
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Residents along Washington Pike are planning to attend the Knoxville City Council meeting on September 25th to object to an expansion of a subdivision just north of New Harvest Park. Currently the existing development, The Legends at Washington Pike, has been granted a concept plan to build 261 more homes there as part of Phase Two.

A meeting was held recently

by the Northeast Knox Preservation Association and the Alice Bell/Springhill Neighborhood Association to oppose the project.

Preservation representative Kevin Murphy, owner of the historic Murphy Farm just north of the development, told The Focus that an appeal has been filed and the citizens hope to work with the developer, Maddox Companies, on the issue.

The area is one of many

"finger annexations" taken into the city during the 16 years that Victor Ashe served as mayor. The annexations stretched out in several directions, adding about 26 square miles to the city.

"All traffic will use the same driveway as the current Legends development and come out on Washington Pike," Ronnie Collins of the Alice Bell/Springhill Association said. During a recent MPC meeting that approved

the use-on-review Murphy and James McMillan unsuccessfully asked for a postponement mentioning the roads, traffic, and property line issues.

Minutes of the August meeting note that MPC Commissioners Charles Thomas and Mac Goodwin voted against approval. The planning commission approved 179 detached and 82 attached dwellings with one condition. Goodwin questioned any meetings between

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