



# The Knoxville Focus

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## UT honors exemplary community advocates, collaborators, alumni

The Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences held their 5th Annual Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, October 11 at the UT Visitors Center. The ceremony was opened by TPTE Department Head, Dr. Sherry Mee Bell. Community Recognitions were presented by Dr. Bell and Joan Grim.

Honorees included alumni, collaborators and community advocates.

### Outstanding Alumni

Dr. Samuel Odom completed his bachelor's, master's, and educational specialist degrees at the University of Tennessee before going on to complete his doctorate in special education at the University of Washington. He is the former Director of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he remains as

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Jennifer Owen, 2nd District Knox County Board of Education representative and newly named Outstanding Community Advocate, hops into the frame with Joan Grim, TPTE faculty member and CEHHS/GSE Community Relations Committee member, at the annual TPTE award ceremony held last Thursday.

## Early Voting Starts Wednesday

By Mike Steely  
 steelym@knoxfocus.com

Early voting starts across the state this Wednesday and if you thought there's only Democrat and Republican candidates on the ballot, think again.

The Knox County ballot lists the Republican candidate at the top of each section and the Democrat candidate second. But below those partisan candidates is a surprising number of Independents running for office. If you choose not to vote for a candidate you may write in a name in each race.

For instance, in the Governor's race Bill Lee and Karl Dean top the list and the below them are 26 other candidates.

The same is true for the U. S. Senate candidates which start with Marsha Blackburn and Phil Bredesen and then list six other people seeking that office.

The U. S. House race to replace retiring Congressman Jimmy Duncan lists Tim Burchett and Renee Hoyos plus four independents.

Voters will decide between two partisan candidates in the state races with three exceptions. For the state Senate, Randy McNally faces Stuart Starr in the 5th District, Richard Briggs and Jamie Ballinger are the only names on the ballot.

Several state representative seats are on the ballot for this general election. In the 13th District incumbent Eddie Smith faces not only former representative Gloria Johnson but also independent Zachary Houk.

In the 14th District incumbent Jason Zachary faces Justin Davis.

In the 15th District Rick Staples has no Republican opponent.

In the 16th Bill Dunn faces Kate Trudell and in the 18th Martin B. Daniel faces Democrat Greg Mackay.

In the 19th District Knox County Commissioner Dave Wright faces Democrat Edward Nelson and Independent Michelle Westover.

Justin Lafferty, Republican, faces Democrat Coleen Martinez for the 89th District seat.

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## Williams honored by Careacter Star

By Ken Lay

Knoxville Focus sports-writer Steve Williams has a long career and on Friday night, he was honored by Careacter Star, an organization founded in East Tennessee to recognize student-athletes for academics, community service and character.

Williams, who has been with The Focus since 2008, was named Careacter Star Sports-writer of the Year and acknowledged for his work and dedication on the field before Gibbs High's 24-17 victory over the host Red Devils Friday night.

The Careacter Star Athletes of the Week in Knox County and Seymour are published weekly in the Knoxville Focus during the school year.

The organization was founded nearly two decades ago by Coach Dave Moore, a former head football coach at



PHOTO BY JAMES SPEARS

Seconds before the presentation of the East Tennessee Careacter Star Sports Writer of the Year award, honoree Steve Williams of The Knoxville Focus has a surprise for Dave Moore (left), who originated the Careacter Star Athlete award 15 years ago. Like athletes sometimes reveal what school they are going to sign, Williams wanted Moore to know he was signing up with his team. Athletic directors Meagan Booth (Halls High) and Jeff Thomas (Gibbs High) take part in the presentation ceremony.

## MPC fails to heed protests of Farragut Hills Estates, Pond Gap residents

By Pete Gawda

In spite of their protests at the Thursday, Oct. 11 meeting of the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, residents of Farragut Hills Estates and Pond Gap were unsuccessful in their attempts to stall planned developments in their communities.

Several rows of Farragut Hills Estates residents, dressed in red, appeared at the meeting to protest Ahimsa Assets' proposed development on the east side of David Lane, south-east of Grovedale Drive. This 9.3 acre plot is part

of Farragut Hills Estates. David Gamble, spokesman for the area residents, stated that deed restrictions prevented the increased density of the proposed development. He was informed that the MPC was not bound by deed restrictions. The MPC voted to recommend the Knox County Commission approve the requested change from agriculture/low density to planned residential at a density of three dwelling units per acre. The item had been postponed from last month in order for developers and residents to meet and discuss the issue.

David Williams, president of the Pond Gap Neighborhood Association, unsuccessfully presented a video that voiced the area residents' opposition to ECG Acquisitions' planned 110 unit multi-dwelling development on the west side of Hollywood Road, south of I-40/I-75. Those objections included increased traffic on a street where area residents say speeding is currently a problem. Arthur Seymour, Jr., speaking for the developer, said the area was perfect for this type of affordable housing and that it was close to schools and public transportation. In

spite of the opposition, the MPC approved the development plan for the proposed project.

After some discussion the MPC voted to postpone for 30 days consideration of the closure of Lecl Road between Asheville Highway and Ruggles Ferry Pike. Some commission members expressed a desire to hear why the fire department was opposed to the closing and were also concerned that one of the affected property owners had not signed off on the closure.

The MPC approved closure of several alleys and streets between Clifton

Road and Chillicothe Street. The affected streets and alleys exist on paper only and the surrounding property is vacant land. The City of Knoxville requested these closures as the first step in a proposed Knoxville Community Development Corporation project to build housing for the elderly. Objectors to the proposed project were informed that this is only the first step and that a concept plan must come back to the MPC for approval.

Sidewalk modifications were approved for Westland Place which is located

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