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Knoxville mayoral candidate Eddie Mannis prepares to enter the early voting facilities at New Harvest Park.

Early voting ends Thursday

"If this election doesn't get city voters to the polls, I don't know what would!"

By Mike Steely
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The first seven days of early voting saw 3,428 people cast ballots in the five locations and the total is about what was expected.

Knox County Election Administrator Clifford Rodgers told The Focus that there's not a past election to compare the returns to and he had hoped for more voters, but the total number is right on line with anticipated numbers.

Downtown West saw the heaviest vote totals, with 1,447 followed by New Harvest Market with 821 voters. So far the City-Country Building saw 497 voters, Love Kitchen has 379 and the South precinct had 284 people vote.

Rodgers said the five early voting places will have extended hours Tuesday.

Wednesday and Thursday, the last day for early voting.

"We're hoping for 10,000 people to vote early. If this election doesn't get city voters to the polls I don't know what would," he said.

The election will choose from six candidates for mayor, six candidates for three city council seats and five candidates for City Council Seat C. In the mayor's race anyone getting 50% plus one would basically become the next mayor. That's unlikely with so many candidates on the ballot. The top two vote getters in the mayor and council races move on to the general election in November.

Any registered city voter may vote at any of the early voting locations.

The primary election date is Tuesday, August 27.

Voices raised at Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting

By Mike Steely
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"Unintended consequences" may be the best way to describe the bounce-back towards the Office of Neighborhood's Best Practices. The proposed policy of neighborhood recognition was the topic of the Neighborhood Advisory Council's meeting Wednesday and drew some pointed opposition from the audience.

The phrase was mentioned during the meeting by Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp as she described the proposal of categorizing the various neighborhood organizations. She said the initiative is "still in a phase of planning" and led a discussion of council members about the proposal.

One of the issues the members talked about was people speaking at public meetings purporting to represent an organization when they do not, or speakers for organized neighborhoods saying they represent the entire neighborhood.

The controversial new proposal would ask organized neighborhood groups to submit a three-page application or renewal form that includes



Larry Silverstein of Community Forum speaks at the Neighborhood Advisory Council Wednesday about a proposed categorization of neighborhoods.

a list of board members, bylaws, non-profit status if any, a map of neighborhood boundaries, newsletters and event information, and meeting minutes when a member is authorized to speak at public meetings of the city council, planning commission, school board, etc.

Neighborhood groups wishing to be recognized by the Office of Neighborhoods would be designated in one of five categories: informal, organized, proactive, outstanding or exemplary. Each neighborhood group would be re-evaluated each year.

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Knox County Schools Introduces Aspiring Principal Participants for 2019-20

By Anne Primm

Chair Terry Hill started the Wednesday, August 14, 2019 meeting promptly at 5:00 p.m. Eight out of nine representatives were present for the meeting. Fourth District Representative Virginia Babo was absent.

Hill began by announcing that there would be a called meeting at 4:30 p.m. on September 4, 2019, before the regularly scheduled workshop where elections will take place. Next, Hill asked for changes to the agenda and there were none. Hill then asked for a motion to approve the night's agenda and a motion was made by Third District Representative Tony Norman and seconded by Fifth District Representative and Vice Chair Susan Horn. The agenda was approved.

Next, Horn began special recognition of Rebecca Fisher, a Farragut High School graduate. Fisher was awarded "Distinguished Finalist" in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. This is the largest recognition program for youth based solely on volunteer community service. Fisher started what is called "The Farragut Leadership Series," a program that invites community members to speak to adolescent audiences about their professions and the importance of service and leadership.

Rebecca received a bronze medalion and a

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Council candidates address Fountain City B&P Association

By Ken Lay

Several city council candidates shared their respective visions for Knoxville Wednesday at the monthly Fountain City Business and Professional Association lunch meeting at Central Baptist Church Fountain City.

In all, 10 candidates appeared at the meeting to articulate their views and take questions from the crowd before the August 27 primary election. Early voting is currently underway and

ends on Aug. 22.

Candidates in attendance were: Charles Lomax (At-Large Seat A); David Hayes and Janet Testerman (At-Large Seat B); Bob Thomas, Amy Midis, Amelia Parker, David Williams and Hubert Smith (At-Large Seat C); and Charles Thomas and Charles Al-Bawi who are vying for the District 5 seat.

Lynne Fugate, who is running against Lomax, didn't attend due to a prior commitment.

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City Council candidates Hubert Smith, Amy Midis, Charles Al-Bawi, Charles Thomas and Amelia Parker outline their respective visions for Knoxville Wednesday in Fountain City.

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