



The Knoxville Focus

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August 26, 2019

Community Development seeks input on housing

By Bill Howard

Cities face many difficult problems and issues, not the least of them trying to provide decent and affordable housing for those who have that need. As with any issue, allocating very finite resources to virtually limitless needs is no small task.

Every five years, Knoxville's Community Development Department submits a funding request

to HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for a variety of housing and community development needs. The next five-year cycle begins on July 1 next year. HUD allocates the funds on an annual basis.

HUD requires each city to have at least two public-hearing meetings to give citizens a chance to voice what they think is the city's most pressing needs. Knoxville plans eight such meetings this

year in preparation for next year's report.

The second was held at Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center on Tuesday, Aug. 20. "Every five years we do a very large community engagement process that helps inform the plan," said Becky Wade, Knoxville Director of Community Development.

"Our mission is to revitalize low- and moderate-income communities, and strengthen all city

neighborhoods," Wade said. "We accomplish this by working with community partners and various sources of funding - federal, state and local. The city of Knoxville does not own any housing; we work with our partners to get the services we need."

Wade explained to the crowd that the city receives funding from HUD's three block grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program,

HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program.

According to CD administrator Linda Rust, current-year funding estimates for the three programs are \$1.6 million for CDBG, \$1 million for HOME, and \$150,000 for ESG.

The 20 people in attendance were then given electronic punch-pad devices that enabled

Continued on page 3

Seymour beats TKA in 'Battle across the Street'

By Steve Williams

The football rivalry between Seymour High School and The King's Academy - two schools that are across the street from each other in Sevier County - has been renewed.

The Eagles of Seymour came out on top Friday night with a 24-17 win over the "visiting" Lions in the 2019 season opener for both schools.

Senior quarterback Grayson Campbell scored on a 5-yard run for what proved to be the winning touchdown with 7 minutes, 36 seconds left in the game.

Linebackers Michael Nevins and Landon Beeler stood out defensively for Seymour.

Please check the scores and schedules of all local high school teams in Prep Football "Focus" on Page C4 in this issue and each week during the 2019 season.

History and fun at annual ETHS fair



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The 2019 East Tennessee History Fair had something for everyone. Here a re-enactor playing General Robert E. Lee watches as troops talk with children. See B1 of this week's paper for additional coverage of the annual event from Mike Steely and Ronnie Collins.

Recode remains in question

By Mike Steely
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Although the city council passed Recode in an 8-1 vote and Planning Director Gerald Green promises to work with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee to clean up all the language before the new regulations become the law on January 1, the entire Recode effort may be in limbo.

The November general election of four new council members and a new mayor may see Recode being accepted, delayed, or killed. One of the candidates for mayor, Eddie Mannis, has announced he is opposed to Recode and plans to ask the council to delay implementing the plan if elected.

Mannis also wants to expand the stakeholder committee to "reflect a wider range of the community at large" and include a broader neighborhood representation. Several active neighborhood organizations have opposed the reworking of the city's 50-year-old zoning and building regulations. The current zoning ordinances have been modified, tweaked and modernized over the years and some citizens feel that can continue without a total revamping.

Mannis lamented that Recode was passed by council and said, "The focus now needs to be on making sure Recode is a positive and beneficial thing for the entire city moving forward."

Green has called a meeting of the

Continued on page 3

Free Red Line Trolley serving a growing South Waterfront

By Mike Steely
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One week ago something happened in Knoxville that will create commerce and visitation between downtown and the South Waterfront. That Monday the Red Line Trolley began serving the area via a looping route from the Trolley Superstop on Main Avenue south across the Gay Street Bridge, west on Blount Avenue, then north across the Henley Bridge back to Main. The Red Line is a circle of free transportation that begins and ends in front of the City-County Building.

Why the need to add the additional trolley route?

A growth spurt is happening on the other side of

the Tennessee River. After being wounded by the closing of the Henley Bridge for repairs a few years ago, South Knoxville and especially its waterfront is nowadays booming with business and new residents.

The Red Line Trolley serves the growing residents and businesses in the area. The growth began with the construction of a mixed use complex at the former Baptist Hospital at Blount and Chapman Highway. Also underway is the work on a three-mile river walk from City View Apartments west of the Henley Bridge down Blount and Sevier Avenues to River Edge Apartments near Island Home. Regal Cinemas is now headquartered

in one of the former Baptist buildings on Blount and there are now coffee houses, pizza restaurants, and craft breweries along Sevier.

The public and private investments along the waterfront are drawing more residents that the city wants to lure downtown and in turn encourage downtown residents to visit the emerging area across the river.

Last week Rogero and city officials took the Red Line on its first day of operation and stopped off at Riverwalk Apartments for a visit and to take in the view from some of the riverside apartments. One Riverwalk apartment had a sign on their lawn advertising

that new apartments were available.

"It is such a convenience," one lady said as she and her husband took the Red Line from their apartment on Blount Avenue. There is a trolley stop near the Gay Street and Blount Avenue intersection and another at the south entrance to Henley Bridge.

The city hopes that employees of Regal Cinemas's headquarters and the growing number of residents on the south side use the trolley to dine and shop downtown. From the "Superstop" in front of the City-County Building, Red Line riders can connect

Continue on page 2



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

The Red Line Trolley stops along Blount Avenue to offload apartments dwellers who rode from downtown over to their homes on the first day of the new route's service. City officials are hoping the service will promote downtown dining and shopping by a growing number of South Waterfront residents and businesses.

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