



# The Knoxville Focus

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## Knox Rail Salvage Greenway store grand opening a huge success



Joel Piper and Mike Frazier cut the ribbon at Knox Rail Salvage's second location at 4214 Greenway Drive. The opening event Thursday drew about 100 customers and well-wishers. Also pictured are Nancy David, John Harbison and Michael Harbison and family, Beth Piper and Michael Piper.

By Mike Steely  
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Joel Piper, vice president of marketing and operations of Knox Rail Salvage welcomed several hundred people to the opening ceremonies of Knox Rail Salvage's 4214 Greenway Drive location. Located near Fountain City and the Washington Pike exit off I-640 the large facility offers cabinets, floors, doors and other products at the lowest prices possible.

In addressing those who attended, Piper recognized owner Mike Frazier and credited him with the success of the company. Piper stressed that Knox Rail Salvage now has two stores, one downtown at 200 East Magnolia and the new location on Greenway.

"We're focused on satisfying the

customer and we want to thank God's glory for all of our success," Piper told the crowd, adding "You all being here is a great encouragement to us."

Piper told a story of the old Southern Railroad Salvage, the forerunner of Knox Rail Salvage. He said the store had a \$39 fishing reel that he wanted as a child and his father told him to go buy it.

"Dad and I still have that reel. At the time I was so intrigued by the business. It was the first time I had saved money and bought something. Now I've worked there twenty years, it's amazing how God kind of works thing around that way," Piper said.

Piper introduced the staff of the new location including April Smith, the manager, and he reminded people that Knox Rail Salvage

continues to operate its store on Magnolia Avenue.

"We're not going anywhere," he said of that location.

Several officials spoke including Commissioner Justin Biggs, Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. McKenzie applauded Piper, Frazier and the employees for their support of the community.

"For those of us who like to fix up houses this is like Disney World," Major Jacobs told the event.

"Every time my wife and I have done business with Knoxville Salvage they've been wonderful and knowledgeable," Jacobs said.

"Congratulations on 40 years and here's to another wonderful 40 years," Jacobs said.

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## East Knoxville Community meeting series ends tonight

By Mike Steely  
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One of the more popular East Knoxville events is coming to an end. Michael Covington, founder of the East Knoxville Community monthly gathering, is ending the meetings.

Covington announced last week that the meetings, held for the past five years on the first Monday of each month at the Burlington Library, will hold the final event Monday,

October 7, at 6 p.m. The speaker will be Attorney General Charme Allen.

Allen may be asked by the audience to report on the shooting death of an unnamed man by a Knoxville Police Officer. The matter, investigated by the Knox County Sheriff's Department, apparently rests with the Attorney General as to whether or not charges will be placed against the officer for the shooting death.

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## Sidewalks, traffic signals and board appointments on City Council Agenda

By Mike Steely  
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Tuesday evening will see a Knoxville City Council meeting devoted to sidewalk and traffic signal updates, appointments to city boards, and a proposal for a scenic highway study.

The council is being asked to adopt the John Sevier Scenic Highway Corridor Study and amend the Knoxville-Knox County General Sector Plan for the south and east sectors. The planning commission is asking for the action, which passed the planners 15-0.

Sidewalk funding may get a \$43,610 boost for a new contract total of \$600,050 with Ingles Paving in a replacement program. Southern Contractors Inc. may get an increase of

\$496,772 which would bring that contract total to \$1,895,458 for Cumberland Avenue Intersection Improvements.

The Sheffield Drive sidewalk project may be contracted with Design and Construction Services for \$437,702.

An agreement with Progression Electric LLC may be approved for \$100,000 for the City-wide Traffic Signal Infrastructure Program.

Stansell Electric Company Inc. may also get a like amount for the traffic signal program.

The council may also approve a \$19,890 donation from the Knoxville Firefighters Association for use in buying supplies for the "Learn Not To Burn" program to educate children about fire safety.

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## BOE Work Session Presents 2019-2020 Teacher Advisory Council

By Amy Box Feilhoelter

After a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, an explanation was given as to the purpose of the Knox County Board of Education executive session by Mr. Gary Dupler of the Law Department. The executive meeting, which occurred thirty minutes prior to Wednesday night's work session, was for board members and the law department to discuss pending litigation.

After the agenda was approved, Superintendent Bob Thomas began his report with applauding those involved with the Knox County coupon book sales,

referencing that nine dollars returns to every school for each book sold. Thomas congratulated both Sequoyah Elementary School as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, and Powell High School Principal Dr. Chad Smith for receiving the 2019 Principal of the Year Award for the state of Tennessee. He then announced fall break October 7-11, 2019, and made great emphasis for students to read during this week.

One main focus of the October session was the introduction of the 2019-2020 Teacher Advisory Council. Council members in attendance came forward

to shake hands with the superintendent and Board Chairperson Susan Horn before gathering together for a photo. New to the council are members Elshia Baesner, Sherry Fischbach, Anthony Hancock, Michelle Staal, Dave Brooks, and Douglas James. Those serving the council for a second year were recognized as members August Askins, Rachel Evans, Stephanie Lewis, Lucius Irvin, Whitney Parson, Stacey Reece, Lynn Shuryan, and Laurie Smith. Third year members were presented as Tanya Coats, Dr. Michelle Keaton, Amy Cox, Megan Christian, Natalie Dowling, Tiffany Holmes, and Ali

Umbarger.

The announcement of a \$500 TVA Employee Credit Union grant to Beaumont Magnet Academy was added as item 10-F to the Oct. 16, 2019, BOE regular session meeting agenda.

One agenda contract that served up discussion was regarding the approval of the Interagency Agreement with the Knoxville Police Department, Knox Co. District Attorney General's Office, Knox County Juvenile Court, Tennessee Department of Children Services, Knox County Sheriff's Department, UT Police Department and the Helen Ross McNabb for participation

in the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program. Although this contract has been in effect for the past 20 years, it was added to the agenda because of a change made in the addition of FERPA which protects the privacy of a student's educational information.

Tony Norman asked, "Will there be access to information for teachers of a student who is a serious habitual offender? Do teachers receive a protective layer for habitual offenders?" He was assured by Knox County Schools Chief Operating Officer Russ Oaks that teachers

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