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Planning Commission approves zoning change for supportive housing facility

By Bill Howard

Two weeks ago The Focus reported on a Sept. 23 public-input meeting at the Knoxville Area Urban League about the proposed construction of a supportive housing facility on 5th Avenue.

After Director of Community Development Becky Wade laid out the plan - a plot of land adjacent to Caswell Park would be deeded free to the Volunteer Ministry Center, who would then build and run the facility - attendees were free to voice their questions and comments.

The free-wheeling response was, to say the least, vocal and passionate. Some were in favor of the facility; more weren't. The animus of those opposed hinged primarily on developing land that was - and should stay - a part of Caswell Park.

At its monthly meeting on Thurs., Oct. 10, Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning took up the matter. At issue was whether to change the zoning designation from OS-2 (Park and Open Space) to RP-3 (Planned Residential). The original request was for designation RP-3, which would have allowed a higher density of housing units per acre.

As the Applicant, the City of Knoxville was represented by Bill Lyons, Chief Policy Officer to Mayor Madeline Rogero. Lyons was speaking on behalf of Wade, who was unable to attend.

"We're dealing with three lots on Fifth Avenue adjacent to Caswell Park," he said. "The public park was created in 1916 and updated with ball fields in 2002. At that time, the three-lot parcel was purchased for drainage and construction of an outfield fence. Since the purchase, the city has mowed the lots as a responsible property owner. A number of years ago this was placed in open space zoning, so we're dealing with a present open-space situation."

"The Community Development Department was approached by VMC as a potential site for permanent supportive housing. These supportive housing projects serve the neediest among us. Mayor Rogero has placed a high priority on both affordable housing and the challenges of homelessness. This project is the intersection of both of those challenges. This site is very well suited for the eventual use of permanent supportive housing. It has a history of residential use and underuse prior to the time of the purchase. It's within a block of a major bus line. The cost of the land won't be an issue (since the city owns it)."

Twenty or so members of the opposition wore matching T-shirts. Their spokesperson was Dr. Greta Schroyer, board member of the Parkridge Community Organization. Her objections to the plan were

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PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Mayor candidate Eddie Mannis was joined by many supporters when he opened his East Knoxville campaign office last week. Among those were Jim Jennings, Alvin Nance, June Jones and Gail Carter.

Mannis campaign officially opens East Knoxville office

By Mike Steely
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Knoxville businessman and candidate for mayor Eddie Mannis stepped into Democratic East Knoxville last week to officially open his campaign office at 900 East Hill Avenue where he was welcomed by many of his supporters.

Mannis was introduced by former commissioner Sam McKenzie who said that Thomas "Tank" Strickland, who is hospitalized, sent his well wishes and endorsement of Mannis.

Mannis said he is committed to the future of East Knoxville and Downtown Knoxville. The HonorAir founder has a history of progressive positions and support of community projects. He said he has served on the Zoo Knoxville board for eight years and added, "There is so much potential in East Knoxville, so much opportunity in Chilhowee Park and East Towne Mall."

"I want to be intentional with our focus on East Knoxville and complete the Magnolia Corridor all the way through," he said.

"But I can't do it all alone. It takes smart decisions and I'll listen to what you say and take it into consideration," Mannis said, adding, "When we decide we'll do it collectively."

"Let's move Knoxville forward, I promise I will do that," he said.

Following the opening of the campaign office the well-wishers dined on a full meal from Jackie's Dream restaurant. Mannis then headed out for a meeting of the Parkridge Community Organization for a discussion with residents there.

Memory of Coach Moore will live on in Carter football

By Steve Williams

Assistant coaches in high school football often go unnoticed and unheralded, until they are gone.

Usually fans only see and hear the head coach, the face and voice of their team.

Most assistants are satisfied with the role they have, working behind the scenes with the players. They are the nuts and bolts of the program.

Clyde Moore Sr. was an assistant coach at Carter High for 21 years until complications from diabetes ended his life here on earth Sept. 18. The 64-year-old Moore also worked as an Engineering Associate at KUB for 42 years.

Although his death was heartbreaking for many in the Carter family, it seems fitting his last public appearance was on the football field at Carter in the Hornets' Week 2 game Aug. 30.

"Coach Moore was struggling that night," recalled Jewel Brock, Carter's athletic director, during the



Morristown West High School put this stool and sign on the sideline at its Oct. 3 game with visiting Carter, a very nice gesture in remembrance of the Carter assistant coach who passed away Sept. 18. Down 21-0 after three quarters, Carter came back to win 27-21 in overtime.

Hornets' game against Halls in Week 5 and three days after his passing. "In the second quarter of the game against Campbell County, the

they took him to the hospital and he'd been in it ever since."

Moore became a fixture in the Carter football program,

having served as an assistant under eight head coaches since the late 1990s.

"He related with the kids and was a holdover for a lot of (new) head coaches" when changes occurred, said Brock. Moore worked on the staffs of current head coach Scott Meadows, interim head coach Vic Wharton, Derek Witt, Jeff McMillan, Heath Woods, Kevin Catlett and Bobby Kimball.

Catlett elevated Moore to Carter Middle School head coach and freshmen coach in 1998.

Moore got his feet wet coaching in the Baby Roadrunners' youth program in the mid-1980s and also coached the Alice Bell middle team and Austin-East's middle school team on the recreation level.

"Clyde Moore was the epitome of a Hornet and a Hornet for Life," said Carter Principal Angie Messer on the right. Moore was remembered prior to the Rivalry Thursday TV game

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Expo Center added as early voting place

By Mike Steely
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Early voting gets underway Wednesday and runs through October 31st. Eight candidates are asking voters to select them for four seats on city council, plus voters will be electing a new mayor.

The Expo Center's Grande Event Center, just off Clinton Highway, has been added to the early polling places starting next Monday. The doors there will open at 10 a.m.

Monday through Saturday through 6 p.m. and, on the last four days of early voting, will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Other early voting places around town include: The City-County Building at 400 Main Street, Downtown West Shopping Center, Unit 40, The Love Kitchen at 2418 Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, New Harvest Park at 4774 New Harvest Lane, and Meridian Baptist Church at 6513 Chapman Highway.

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