



The Knoxville Focus

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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin visits with Robbie Franklin at Friday's chili cook-off to benefit foster children in the area. Franklin was one of Irwin's football coaches at UT as well as a retired auctioneer. He officiated the live auction at last week's event.

Tim Irwin hosts auction and cook-off fundraiser

By Ken Lay

It was a day for chili and fun. But it was also a day to raise money to help the foster children of the Knoxville area.

Knox County Juvenile Court Judge Tim Irwin hosted the 2019 Juvenile Court Assistance Board Basket Auction and Chili Cook-off Friday at the Knox County Juvenile Courts Building.

Irwin started the fundraiser, which included a silent auction, a live auction and a chili cook-off, 14 years ago. The fundraiser is designed to help underprivileged youth, foster children and foster families.

"We do this for those who Angel Tree doesn't help because of their age," said Irwin, a former Central Bobcat, Tennessee Volunteer and National Football League player who once taught social studies at Northwest Middle School. "This is a special day and a fun day for us."

"We're going to raise some money, we're going to eat some chili and, most of all we're going to help some children. Without this day, we would have to say no to a lot of kids. It wouldn't be me saying no, it would be DCS. We're here to raise money for the kid who's 15 years old and needs a new coat, a new pair of pants or new tennis shoes."

Irwin also noted that this way could keep families together.

"This is a day to help a grandma get bunk beds, so the



Juvenile Court bailiff Ron McCartney samples some chili from a cook-off to benefit the Knox County Juvenile Court Assistance Board. McCartney was one of the judges for the contest.

kids can stay with her in her house and not have to be put into the (foster care) system," he said. "This also to raise money for that kid who wants to make that safety patrol trip."

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Clayton Science Center plans to be presented

By Mike Steely

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The proposed Knoxville Science Museum for the grounds of the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum was contingent on the city acquiring another location for the police department. The current police headquarters sits atop the hill above the auditorium and, as it looks as if Knoxville will close all paperwork to relocate that to the former Tennova Hospital just off North Broadway, talks on the proposed museum are going forward once more.

A public meeting is planned now for Thursday at 5:30 in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building where Jim Clayton and BarberMcMurry Architects

will talk about three different concepts for the proposed \$100 million educational, science and discovery center.

Clayton has already signed a development agreement with the city. Mayor Madeline Rogero is calling the project "a unique opportunity to create a science educational amenity in downtown Knoxville."

She said the city looks forward to sharing the details of the concept plans.

Tentatively called "The Knoxville Science Museum" the gift from the Clayton Foundation also includes a \$50 million endowment to support the proposed center's operations.

LMU to get the former St. Mary's tower building

By Mike Steely

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One of the final steps toward Knoxville taking possession of the former Tennova Hospital, formerly known as St. Mary's, takes place Tuesday evening. City Council will be asking the mayor to sign an agreement that will lead to Lincoln Memorial University to move into the Magdalene Clarke Tower property there.

The city administration has the item on the agenda and it would convey the tower building to the Knoxville

Community Development Corporation for redevelopment and then transfer to LMU. The university plans to use the building for a future nursing school, business school and a criminal justice school. With that completed the city will be officially acquiring the abandoned hospital with plans for a \$35 million renovation for the new police and fire department headquarters.

David Brace, the City of Knoxville's Chief Operating Officer, told The Focus the Purchase and Sales

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Planning commission deals with clash over neighborhood expansion

By Bill Howard

Seldom, if ever, does a city's growth and expansion follow a smooth path. Developers forever want to build houses, subdivisions, or business centers. Existing residents often resist, fearing extra people, traffic, and noise. Sometimes the issue is whether a piece of property should be developed at all. Other times the debate is about how many

dwelling units per acre (du/a) will be allowed.

At its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 14, at the City-County Building, Knoxville-Knox Co. Planning faced the latter issue head-on when attorney John Valliant, representing applicant Ball Homes LLC, requested from the commission that a parcel of land be rezoned for development.

The 17-acre plot, located west of Andes Road and north of Middlebrook Pike in Commission District 6, is currently zoned as Agricultural. Ball Homes requested the zoning be changed to PR (Planned Residential), so they could build a subdivision of 4 du/a. The staff recommendation was for 2.68 du/a.

Unsurprisingly, area residents are less than thrilled

with the idea. A major objection is the inadequate roads. Valliant addressed that issue and more.

"The county commission voted for four dwelling units per acre," said Valliant. "What Ball Homes is ready to do is what the traffic engineering said should be done. It will redo the 13-foot road and whatever else county engineering determines need to be done in

order for this development to proceed. It seems to me 2.68 is a somewhat arbitrary number. I'm not sure how they arrived at that number. You all know Ball Homes is a good developer ... they've done a lot for the community and a lot for the schools. So we request that it be zoned the same as the adjacent tract, at four units per acre."

Representing the

opposition were two area residents. Michelle Goldman was emotional in her plea to the planning commission to keep the area unaltered.

"We sit on the porch and enjoy the field behind us," she said. "I'm here to ask you the following question." Her question list went way beyond one.

"Have you ever been to

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