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## Standard Knitting Mills may be purchased

By Mike Steely  
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It is possible that the largest eyesore in Knoxville is being sold and, if so, what do the buyers plan to do with it?

Deputy Mayor Bill Lyons announced last week that Standard Knitting Mill,

which has stood abandoned for many years on Washington Avenue, may sell to WRS Inc. from SKM Holdings, which bought the property for \$55,000 in 2012.

WRS Inc. is an investment company located in South Carolina and has developed projects like

Underground Atlanta and Mayberry Mall in Mt. Airy, N.C. The company owns mixed use and shopping centers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

On Wednesday C3 Studio of Knoxville released the following statement: "The building

will be re-purposed as a community center with and emphasis of 'Live, Work, Play'. The space is planned for art space, tech lab, concert hall, event space, and more. This building is the anchor to redevelopment in the Magnolia corridor."

Councilwoman Gwen

McKenzie, who represents that area of East Knoxville, told The Focus that it "is an ideal location for redevelopment."

"Standard Knitting was once a thriving business and I'm very excited to see it become an asset again in the community. I hope the plans will include retail

space as well as housing. I'm looking forward to hear more about the project in the near future," McKenzie said.

The old factory played a huge part in the Knoxville economy and at one point had more than 3,500 employees. It produced

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## Tyree honored at World's Fair Park

By Mike Steely  
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Current and former elected officials turned out Wednesday to honor former Mayor Randy Tyree with the dedication of part of the World's Fair Park in his honor and the unveiling of a marker and plaque.

Mayor Madeline Rogero recognized the officials and said that when the renovation of the Performance Lawn was completed it was obvious to her that it should be named for Tyree. The \$2.5 million renovated lawn will host events and festivals.

"In the 37 years since the

World's Fair, since Knoxville and Mayor Tyree hosted 11 million visitors, the momentum of the fair really got us moving," Rogero said. She said Tyree is a "really great role model of how a mayor should be."

Gary Wade, former State Superior Court Judge who was mayor of Sevierville while Tyree was Knoxville mayor, couldn't make the dedication but spoke to the audience via cell phone. He teased his old friend and noted that Tyree's time as mayor had an impact on Sevier County, boosting tourism there, and how Tyree

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Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and former Mayor Randy Tyree share a hug at the new Randy Tyree Performance Lawn marker. Rogero praised Tyree's effort to bring the 1982 World's Fair and Tyree spoke of the boost the fair gave the city, with benefits existing yet today.

## Morning Pointe residents' spirits rise with Oak Grove student visit

By Amy Box Felthoelter

Besides the many activities of passing out candy to trick-or-treaters for Halloween, eating Thanksgiving dinner with family members, and an upcoming "Breakfast with Santa" event, the residents of Morning Pointe Assisted Living & Memory Care also enjoyed "Game Night" with local students from Oak Grove Home-school Cooperative. Approximately fourteen residents from the assisted living and Alzheimer's memory care community came together to play games such as Quirkle, Sorry!, and Yahtzee either working together on teams or as opponents.

Students from pre-kindergarten to second grades look forward to seeing

their "grand friends" at the monthly event. "It's rewarding on both sides. The same kids come each month and are building relationships with the same residents," explained Oak Grove parent Hona Stovall. As a mother of four children, she coordinates the school students to visit Morning Pointe of Knoxville on Westland Drive

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Residents of Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care and students of Oak Grove Home-school Cooperative came together to build friendships while playing games at the Westland Drive location in November.



## Science center, homeless shelter and business park on city agenda

By Mike Steely  
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The current city council has a plateful of things to do before the new council takes office on December 21. Two more meetings are left for four members, Vice Mayor Finbar Saunders, George Wallace, Marshall Star and Mark Campen.

Coming up in Tuesday's meeting are final readings on amending the operating budget and appointing Dennis Owens to the pension board and Tiara-Lady Wilson to the

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## Songwriters to perform free Christmas Concert Dec. 3 at Fountain City Library

Members of the Knoxville Songwriters Association will perform a free Christmas concert from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Fountain City Library, 5300 Stanton Road.

KSA President Edna Riddick said the concert will feature original songs of the season as well as familiar tunes and sing-along holiday favorites.

"In addition to

performing, writers will tell the stories behind the songs they present," Riddick said. "Because we hold our weekly meetings in the Fountain City Library, we're especially glad to share these songs as a gift to the library staff and the community that hosts our group," she said.

KSA is East Tennessee's largest and most inclusive songwriting organization. Founded in 1983, the

group helps area songwriters develop their musical talents and broaden their understanding of the music business.

KSA holds a jam session at 5 p.m. on Tuesdays in the library's community room, followed by a meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. that includes writing lessons and song critiques. After a holiday break following its December 17 Christmas party, the group will resume its weekly meeting schedule at the library on Jan. 7, 2020.

KSA's annual membership dues are \$30 (\$15 for writers under 21 years of age). Prospective members are welcome to attend up to two meetings at no cost to jam, have a song critiqued, and get to know KSA members.



Christmas Concert Past—Performers at the 2018 Knoxville Songwriters Christmas Concert at the Fountain City Library included (from left) Stephen Ferguson Sr., Karen Bowles, Tammie Dischner, KSA Past President Bobby Johnson and Betty Williams.

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