

The Emerald Youth Foundation opened the Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex Thursday. This is one of two turf soccer fields at the new sports and community facility located on Texas Avenue.

By Ken Lay

The Emerald Youth Foundation opened a community center in Lonsdale last week. The new Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex officially opened Thursday. It's located on Texas Avenue between Stonewall and Sherman Streets.

It features a pair of outdoor soccer fields, a gymnasium with four courts, a workout room, a café, which doubles as the concession stand for sporting events, an arts ministry room and a community room.

The 30,000 square foot facility is home to educational facilities and a health center, which is a joint venture run by Cherokee Health Systems and UT Medical Center.

The facility cost approximately \$8 million and was funded by Dee and Jimmy Haslam and Elisabeth and Bill Sansom. The center will be leased to Emerald Youth



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Emerald Youth Foundation Director of Lonsdale Area Ministries Kevin DuBose conducts a tour of the new Haslam-Sansom Ministry Complex, which opened last week. Pictured with DuBose is longtime Lonsdale resident Joey Kyle.

Community Development Corporation.

The City of Knoxville had a hand in the construction of the facility as it upgraded the infrastructure around the perimeter of the complex. The city added sidewalks, street-light and other amenities.

"My message as we open this facility is very simply one of gratitude," Diggs said. "I am grateful to the owners who are not only contributing their resources to this project but believing with us that Knoxville is a city where every child, in every neighborhood,

a reality."

The facility celebrated its official grand opening in a ceremony Thursday afternoon, but members of the media were given a tour of the complex earlier in the day.

The tour was guided by Kevin DuBose, the director of

clubs in January and to approve the closure of Myrtle Street when they meet in February.

She is asking the director of parks to then include the three city-owned parcels into the programming of Caswell Park. Many Parkridge residents had no objection to housing for the homeless but wanted to save the three pieces of property. Mayor Rogers says the compromise will reflect the city's support of housing and benefit the residents as well.

TVA Tower move hits snag

By Mike Steely
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When the Knox County Commission meets today in regular session the proposed easement agreement with TVA to move the school administration offices to the East Tower may see difficulty in passing.

During the commission work session last week, Knox County Law Director Richard (Bud) Armstrong pointed out that the agreement is "very complex" and has too many blank spaces.

"I'm not happy with what you have before you tonight," Armstrong told the commissioners. He said he prefers a lease instead of an easement. He also said that the commission "does not have the right to pick school property."