



The Knoxville Focus

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THE TRADITION CONTINUES



Greg Lawson shows Rick DeMarsico a vintage Coca-Cola stadium backpack dispenser with the original cups used for dispensing Coca-Cola. This is one of the unique items that will be auctioned on Saturday, January 4th. The auction starts live and online at noon. The doors open at 8 a.m. for preview.

Stephanie Wallace's speech at council draws ovation

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

The final Knoxville City Council meeting for Mayor Madeline Rogers and four council members saw lots of action and, as Councilman George Wallace said, it was only fitting that the meeting included split votes on some issues. Wallace, a local realtor, emerged as a strong voice on the council occasionally at odds with the mayor or his fellow council members, but always in a civil manner.

Aside from the resolutions and ordinances, the public forum saw Wallace's wife, Stephanie, take the podium and give the audience a peek at what a council member and his family go through. Wallace served eight years on the body and Stephanie's talk was so insightful and humorous that it drew a standing ovation. The retired Knox County teacher's words were inspirational.

"Make no mistake, serving on council is a sacrifice not only for the one serving but for the family," she said, adding, "and now, at the conclusion of this meeting, life returns."

Her talk was a "thank you" to the retiring council members and Mayor Rogers. She mentioned that Councilman Mark Camper, now with a full beard, "has yet another

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Fountain City auction opens year with Advertisement Auction and Toy Sale

By Ken Lay

Fountain City Auction will soon begin the New Year with its biggest event of 2020.

On Saturday, January 4 it will host its 15th annual Advertisement Auction and Toy Sale.

The day-long event will be conducted live at Fountain City Auction and shoppers may also participate online where pre-bidding began earlier this month. Potential customers can preview each item and its current bidding price on-line. Customers may bid online through HiBid.com, which can be linked through www.fountaincityauction.com and the AuctionZip App.

Admission to the event, which begins at noon, is free and Fountain City Auction owner Greg Lawson said he prepares for the event, which drew more than 300 people in 2019, all year.

"We always want to start the year with our biggest event," Lawson said. "I've always

enjoyed selling these vintage items. I love what I do."

The timing of the event always falls in early January, just after Christmas, but Lawson said that is never problematic.

"Last year, we had over 300 people here and I have people who save up money all year to come to this," he said. "Last year, I had people come here from 14 states."

Buyers never know what they find at this particular auction. They may find old gumball machines, vintage Coke machines, signs from old gas stations or other retro goodies such as clocks. Vintage toys can also be found at this event.

"We have a mixture of the old and the new," Lawson said. "Most people like the new stuff because the older stuff is so expensive. We have a good selection of items like signs, and pedal cars."

"This auction brings in a high quality of

items and sellers. We collect items that all year. You can't go out and get this every day. Some of this stuff is hard to find."

The finds may be rare but shoppers can find a wide array of items including antique vending machines and vintage toys and old gas and oil signs.

Since the auction went online, it is the top viewed auction in the state of Tennessee and the sixth most viewed auction nationally on the AuctionZip website.

Fountain City Auction is located at 4109 Central Avenue Pike near the Merchant Drive Exit off of Interstate 75.

The one thing that Lawson promises is that the event will be a good time.

"We're going to have a lot of fun," he said.

For questions, call Lawson at (865) 603-3468 or email auctioninfo@fountaincityauction.com.

INSIDE The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' 2019 All-Knox County Teams



Embracing the moment! Central Head Coach Bryson Rosser hugs quarterback Dakota Fawver after Bobcats capture their second straight Class 5A state title Dec. 6 at Tennessee Tech. Please see The Knoxville Focus / Coaches' All-Knox County football team and Player and Coach of the Year selections in Sports and Recreation, Section B. Photo by John Valentine.



Immediately after taking the oath of office on December 21, Mayor Indya Kincannon, along with the four new Knoxville City Council members, joined the rest of the council to select Councilwoman Gwen McKenzie as vice mayor. Councilman Andrew Roberto was chosen to be Beer Board Chair and Councilwoman Amelia Parker was chosen as the Transportation Authority member.

Words of inspiration given at city inauguration ceremony

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
steelym@knoxfocus.com

People are still talking about the invocation given by Rev. Chris Buice at the inauguration of Knoxville's new mayor, city judge, and city council members

December 21.

Rev. Buice is senior minister at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church and spoke about tolerance and acceptance to a packed house at the Bijou Theatre. Introduced by immigrant and

restaurant owner Yassin Terou, owner of Yassin's Falafel House, Buice said, "Let us pray in that spirit of prayer that includes us all." Here's part of Rev. Buice's prayer:

"We thank you for this little city which we love

more than words can say. We thank you for our newly elected leaders and those who challenged them who gave us a contest of ideas and thus strengthened our democracy.

"We thank you for the

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