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Local candidates David Buuck, John R. Whitehead and Richie Beeler greeted voters Tuesday night at the Corryton Community and Senior Center. Pictured with them are Knox County Law Director Bud Armstrong, Rebecca Longstre and Jack Haldensten.

Large turnout for District 8 Meet and Greet

By Ken Lay

Local leaders seeking re-election stumped at the Corryton Community and Senior Center Tuesday night.

County Commissioner Richie Beeler, Knox County Property Assessor John R. Whitehead and Knox County Law Clerk candidate David Buuck appeared at a community get-together.

One person seeking

re-election was absent as Knox County Board of Education member Mike McMillan, who is hospitalized, continues to battle pneumonia. Knoxville Focus Publisher Steve Hunley spoke on behalf of his friend.

Beeler, who is running unopposed for the Eighth District seat on county commission, served as emcee at the dinner, where hot dogs, cole slaw and potato chips were served to community

members.

"It has been my pleasure to serve as your county commissioner after replacing Dave Wright (who moved on to the Tennessee State Assembly), and I look forward to serving as your county commissioner for at least the next four years," Beeler said. "I'm probably the least qualified person to run unopposed in this room."

"But that's the way the Good

Lord would have it. We're facing an important election. You hear that all the time. The next election is always important. But this election is extremely important, it's important for our nation, our county and our community."

Buuck was the one candidate at Tuesday night's meeting who is not an incumbent. He's looking to succeed the term-limited

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Who will replace Councilwoman Stephanie Welch?

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Today is an important day for District 1 within the city. Councilwoman Stephanie Welch has resigned her position to become part of Knoxville Mayor Indya Vincannon's administration. The resignation becomes effective on Saturday and today at noon is the deadline for applications to replace her.

The Knoxville City Council convenes in special session on Thursday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m. to interview applicants for her position. District 1 covers south Knoxville, Fort Sanders and the UT campus on the north side of the river.

Persons wishing to be considered for the appointment to this vacancy must return a completed and signed application in person. Applicants must provide proofs of age and

Knox Co. Charter Review Committee elects officers

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Charter Review Committee met for the first time last week and chose E-G11 Executive Director and County Commissioner Brad Anders as chairman. Anders was not at the meeting but received the highest number of votes from the members.

The committee is made up by the county commissioners representing districts, at-large commissioners Larsen Jay and Justin Siggs do not serve. Twenty-seven people serve on the committee including nine commission members, nine citizens from each district selected by their commissioner and nine named by the Knox County mayor.

Initially several members were nominated as chair. Commissioner Randy Smith suggested Anders. Committee member Dan Davis suggested Daniel Herrera and Michele Carringer nominated Lisa Starbuck. Former Councilman Nick Pavlis suggested former Commissioner Sam McKenzie.

The roll call elected Anders, who had written the commission chairman of his agreement to serve, and then chose McKenzie as vice chairman. McKenzie took the chairman's seat and led the review committee to elect Starbuck as secretary.

The county is required by state law to review the charter every eight years. Meetings are public and may be held for months if there are changes, additions or revisions proposed by the committee. Final recommendations go onto a county-wide ballot for



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Knox County Commission Chairman Hugh Nystrom (right) and Knox County Charter Review Committee Vice Chairman Sam McKenzie talk prior to the committee meeting last week.

approval or rejection by voters.

The charter is the document of authority for the county, covering everything from the number of commissioners to the powers of officers and how

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Commission action on AJ Building depends on school board vote

By Mike Steely
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The Knox County Commission meets in work session next Tuesday, February 18, and two of the agenda items will be determined by what the Board of Education does in its meeting this Wednesday. Work session items discussed will go on to the regular meeting on February 24.

The school board has the proposed move of the Knox County Schools system from the Andrew Johnson Building to the TVA Towers on their agenda. That vote, to accept or deny, will determine what the commission will discuss.

Item 1.4 on the commission agenda is "approving a memorandum of agreement between the Board of Education regarding relocation of the central offices to the TVA East Tower." Should the school board move to reject the move that item would be mute.

The second item on the commission agenda that depends on a school board vote is to approve selling the Andrew Johnson Building for \$6 million to BHA Associates, LLC. Obviously if the school board votes not to move, the building would not be sold.

Superintendent Bob Thomas, who at first opposed the move, changed his mind when Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs offered to cover the expenses of the relocation and operation there. From a quick survey of some BOE members, the vote looks very close.

The commission recently approved Mayor Glenn Jacobs' proposal to approve the easement between TVA and the county. The mayor has said that if the school board does not approve the move there are other plans, including moving the Knox County offices out of the City-County Building and relocating some other county offices into the towers. The University of Tennessee may take the top six floors and GRHL has voiced an interest in some office space.

It all depends on what the board of education decides to do.

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