



Abigail and Taylor Bennett point to Easter Eggs posted on home windows. A post by a Norwood woman caught on fast and spread like a virus on the internet. Photo courtesy of Ashley Lyons.

# Special Easter egg hunt in Norwood goes viral

By Mike Steely  
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Something special happened last week in the Norwood neighborhood. Resident Ashley Lyons was lamenting the lack of a group Easter Egg Hunt. She took to the Nextdoor website with a suggestion.

"I've been working in yard all day. Just came in catching up on news. Why would any church hold services, outdoor activities, or gatherings? Why would you risk your congregation safety? I just don't understand! You can have church at home!" she posted.

"Hi, Norwood, I was wondering if anyone would be interested in Posting an Egg in their window

for kids to hunt while walking or riding our neighborhood?" she asked.

"Next weekend is Easter Weekend and with everyone having to stay at home while staying safe I thought this would give parents and kids something to do. We have so many wonderful neighbors out walking their pets and with kids it would be fun," Lyons continued in the post she titled "Egg Hunt - Norwood with Social Distancing."

The idea caught on quickly and Lyons heard from Lou-Ann Rodgers, Bryan Thomas and Ronda Crawford of Cumberland Estates and Margie McKee of West Haven Village. Nancy Coven of



Alana Phillips of Norwood decorated her front window with Easter Egg pictures so children walking by can spot them. Many other residents did the same and the idea caught on.

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## BOE maintains business as usual in digital form

By Amy Box Fellhoelter

Keeping in step with the changes in our nation due to the pandemic, the members of the Knox County Board of Education held their meeting electronically on April 8. Following Gov. Bill Lee's Executive Order No. 16, which was issued on March 20, the BOE is required to meet openly and transparently while taking measures to protect the health of each citizen and government official.

Chairperson Susan Horn ran the regular session as usual although it took the form of a virtual gallery of faces of the superintendent, board members, and KCS staff.

After a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Chairperson Horn relayed the state BOE will meet Thursday, April 9, to address student credits, grades, attendance, and matters which are affecting educators directly. Once the Knox County BOE receives the state information from this meeting, it will be relayed to the county accordingly.

"Thanks to all those watching at home ... tremendous efforts are being made to meet the physical needs of our students through programs as our food distribution plan and ... our KCS@home program," said Horn. She explained that paper packets are available for kindergarten through eighth-grade students whose homes lack a computer.

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## Davis selected as next Election Executive Director

By Mike Steely  
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"We're going to follow the law, we're the gatekeepers of democracy," said Chris Davis on Tuesday after he was selected to replace Cliff Rodgers as the executive director of Knox County Elections. Rodgers will retire effective May 30th.

The commission, meeting together in the small assembly room of the City-County Building, unanimously voted to hire Davis. He's been working as deputy director to Rodgers for 12 years and received his boss's hearty endorsement.

"He can do everything I can do and some things I cannot," Rodgers told the board. The sometimes outspoken executive director told the board to "replace me with Chris," adding, "I ain't about to change my mind."

The brief meeting was



Chris Davis (left) stands with Cliff Rodgers at the Knox County Election Commission office. Davis has been Rodgers' assistant for 12 years and was chosen by Rodgers to replace him after May 30th. The Election Commission agreed 100 percent. Photo courtesy of Chris Davis.

streamed on the Knox County website.

Prior to coming to the election

commission office Davis was a communications director for the

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## Council postpones creation of Human Resources Department

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Possibly the most controversial matter before the Knoxville City Council Tuesday was postponed early in the opening minutes of their Zoom regular meeting.

A caller, Phillip Reyes of Mountain Park Road, asked for the postponement until June. He said a "virtual meeting is not good for this." The council agreed and little discussion was held on the matter.

Involving Mayor Indya Kincannon's request to amend the city code to create a Department of Human Resources within the executive branch.

Former Civil Service Board member Bill Pittman had warned the mayor and council in a letter that the creation of the new department "removes everything Civil Service does

and places it under the HR Department." He also said the current Civil Service Board is missing a Knoxville Police Department representative.

He wrote that when he his term ended on the board he expected his position to be filled but neither former Mayor Madeline Roger nor Mayor Kincannon has named a police department representative.

"The mayor is trying to create a HR department under her direction and remove responsibilities from Civil Service. He charged that the Mayor would have authority to reclassify any civil service employee into any job title without a civil service process.

"It leaves Civil Service doing nothing while still technically existing," he wrote, adding, "Every personnel decision will be at the will of the Mayor."

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