



# CITY WORKS

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## Mayor Holds Budget Luncheon at the Site of Northwest Park

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The 90-plus acre site of the new Northwest Park is the location for this year's Budget Luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, April 12. "We are proud of this project and want people from across Knoxville to see the potential this property has to be a great urban park," said Mayor Ashe. Stretching from the intersection of Bradshaw and Pleasant Ridge to Badgett Field, the new park will fulfill the goal of having an expansive park

in this recreation-oriented area of Knoxville.

Mayor Ashe named a 25-member park task force made up of community residents, representatives of neighboring homeowners associations, Knox County Schools, Northwest Youth Sports Commission and others who have an active interest in recreation. Consultants Lose and Associates have developed a master plan for the new park. The task force has formally received public comment during a recent open meeting.

The first phase of development in Northwest Park will include, but is not limited to, soccer fields, a greenway, picnic shelters, playground, rest rooms and parking area. The park plan calls for an expansion of the park to be left "native," with trees and native plants to be preserved. These areas will serve as play meadows and for natural wildlife observation.

*Those driving by the intersection shown at left will soon see the development of the new Northwest Park.*



## Mayor Ashe's Message:

### *Planning in the Fall Means Savings at Tax Time*



Are you one of those 1400-plus city employees who did not participate in flex spending in 2000? If you are, you will probably pay more in federal taxes this April 15 than you should. President Bush's tax-cut legislation will not help you as much as you could help yourself if you participated in a flexible spending account (FSA). This is the program where you set aside some of your salary which then becomes tax free. Even if you only put \$100 or \$200 in an FSA for medical or dependent care expenses, you save \$10 or \$20 depending your tax bracket. FSA's can be used for those medical expenses NOT covered by the city's health insurance, such as deductibles and dental care. Work-time child care expenses can also be put into a dependent care account to save taxes.

What is the down side? You can only join from October 15 to November 15, 2001 for the year 2002. If you set aside too much money and do not use it, you lose it, and you have to file the reimbursement forms.

What is the upside? **Saving money.** Depending on your medical or child care expenses, it could be a lot. I set aside \$1200 this year. With a wife and two children it is easy to have this much in costs that are not reimbursed by medical insurance. This is a savings to me of more than \$350 for this calendar year. I have never failed to spend it all and have saved each year.

You should have received a payroll flyer recently that describes three employees' experiences with FSA's. I hope that you consider setting up an FSA next year. Mark your calendar now for next October 15 to sign up. Call Abbie Hudgens at 215-2111 and ask her to call you next October 15 to remind you to sign up. She will gladly do it.

I promote this program because it seems like such a no brainer. The city cannot always provide the level of a salary increase we would like each year, but here is a way to have more money in your pocket if you would only take advantage of it. The 30 employees new to the program in 2000 only brought participation up to 10 percent.

## News About People

### New Hires

David Henry Bokenkamp, Engineering  
Photographic Records Technician  
Brandy Nicole Bradley, Development  
Services Office Assistant  
Michael Fernandez, Public Service Worker I  
Scott Cameron Holstad, Information  
Systems Technical Writer  
Robert J. Sandoval, Civic Auditorium/  
Coliseum Events Services Coordinator

### Promotions

Kenneth L. Davis, Construction Worker  
Michael R. Humphrey, Information  
Systems Engineer  
William M. Roth, Jr., Construction Worker  
Police Officer I  
Dexter B. Henderson, Joseph P. Mattina  
Police Officer II  
Bradley R. Anders  
Christopher Stewart Baldwin  
Bernhard Curt Braeuner  
Kevin Titus Downs  
Aaron John Loeffler  
Keith A. Lyon  
Bobby Joe Maxwell  
Ray Edwin Offenbacher  
Jeffrey Stephens Pappas  
Kathy L. Pappas  
Travis Porter  
James Edward Quick, Jr.  
Marvin Lee Shaw  
Lincoln Bayless Steele, III  
Robert J. Taylor  
Tommy Eugene Walker  
Anita Watson

### Police Officer III

Edward T. Johnson  
Thomas M. Lawson, Jr.  
Daniel Keith Paidousis  
Lawrence C. Presnell, Jr.  
Franklin L. Ramsey  
Norman Lee Rickman  
Scott E. Sheppard  
Stephen F. Sise  
Brian K. Wallace

### Police Officer IV

Jeffrey Wade Dunn  
David Samuel Gaston  
Richard M. Giammarino  
Carlene C. Johnson  
Samuel Rivera, Jr.  
Jeffrey Lynn Sellers  
Robert Allan Solomon  
Roger Scott Solomon  
Michael Lee Sullivan  
Robert G. Williams

### Service Awards

10 Years  
Donna Elizabeth Patty, Police  
15 Years  
Carolyn L. Cate, Risk Management  
20 Years  
Dorothy Sue Bragg, Risk Management  
25 Years  
Billy R. Huskey, Public Service  
Charles A. Flemmings, Public Service  
30 Years  
Carlene Loop, Treasurer's Office  
Kenneth C. Long, Fire  
George W. Dean, Fire  
Lynn E. Kirby, Fire  
Robert L. Blankenship, Jr., Fire  
Wesley L. Cosner, Fire  
Stanley W. Ingle, Fire  
William C. King, Fire  
Kenneth F. Milligan, Fire  
Gary B. Seymour, Fire  
35 Years  
Pat E. Cureton, Fire

### Retirees

Herman E. Beeler, Fire Officer  
Anthony L. Jones, Master Firefighter

### In Memoriam

Harvey Richard Welch,  
Development Senior Inspector

## *CityWorks March, 2001*

Contributors this month: Foster Arnett, Michelle Black, Carol Mahler and Angela Robbins. *CityWorks* is published for the employees of the City of Knoxville. All suggestions or comments are welcomed and should be sent to: Marie Alcorn, Department of Public Affairs, City County Building, 215-2264, Fax 215-4299, e-mail: malcorn.

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## *ATM Charge Change Effective March 15*

Effective March 15, 2001, First Tennessee Bank is surcharging all Moneybelt cardholders \$1 per transaction at their ATMs. Other area banks that are on the Moneybelt network will also begin surcharging.

However, area credit unions have agreed not to surcharge credit union members at their Moneybelt ATMs. These Credit Union-owned Moneybelt ATMs will be identified with a new logo that says "EASYSTREET."

Today, most credit union-owned machines are located at credit union branches around the Knoxville area. Area credit unions have also agreed to work together in the future to add more credit union-owned ATMs in the East Tennessee area.

City Employees Credit Union Main Office is at 1720 Western Avenue, 824-7200; and the branch office is located at 4424A Western Avenue, 824-7210.

## "Leftover Makeover" Winner for City Employee

Submitted by Mayor Ashe

You can usually find Public Affairs information officer Marie Alcorn setting up a press conference for Mayor Ashe, leading visiting groups on informational tours through the City County Building or researching articles and snapping pictures for the city's newsletter. Recently, I found her featured in the "Food" section of the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Marie is also an excellent and imaginative cook who won first place in the second annual "Leftover Makeover" national recipe contest sponsored by Heavenly Ham. Her recipe, called Celestial Savories, is a bite sized appetizer.

Prizes include an \$800 gift certificate from the Pampered Chef and a \$200 Heavenly Ham gift certificate. Anyone who uses Pampered Chef products knows what a great prize that is!

Congratulations Marie!

### *Celestial Savories*

*2 cups finely chopped ham  
8 ounces mascarpone or cream cheese  
½ cup Parmesan cheese  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon mayonnaise  
1 tablespoon flour  
1 cup chopped fresh basil leaves  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon onion salt  
1 package refrigerated pie crust  
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.*

*Mix all ingredients except pie crust.  
Spray mini-muffin tin with cooking spray.  
Roll pie crust to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut  
pastry with 2-inch round cookie cutter.  
Press pastry into muffin tin—it should come  
about half way up sides. Place scant tea-  
spoon of prepared ham mixture into pastry.  
Bake 15-20 minutes. Yields about 72.*

## Umbach Exits

Solid Waste Manager Ed Umbach is leaving the city to take a position with Environmental Services Corporation at the end of March.

"Ed is an outstanding employee and will be greatly missed," Public Service Director Bob Whetsel said. "He has made many contributions to this community through his

efforts to reduce costs through long-term contracts for garbage collection and disposal and composting/mulching activities. He also helped to oversee the renovations to the city's Transfer Station, which included the development of the state's first permanent household hazardous waste collection facility."

## Officer and Police Department Employee Honored

Police Chief Phil Keith and Mayor Victor Ashe recognized two employees for the actions during a medical emergency in January.

Officer David Wilson and Office Assistant Silvia Bovee came to the aid of a fellow employee who suffered what at first appeared to be a heart attack or stroke.

Without reservation, both Wilson and Bovee went to the aid of their co-worker. Officer Wilson attended to the ill worker by performing CPR, while Ms. Bovee put in a call to the 911 center. As soon as medical personnel were on the way, both of these employees stayed by the side of the fallen worker until paramedics arrived.

Due to the quick actions of both Wilson and Bovee, the employee arrived at Baptist Hospital in time for doctors to take over his medical care. The worker spent a few weeks in the hospital and was discharged last week to return home and begin his recuperation.

Medical personnel at Baptist Hospital confirmed that due to the quick actions of Wilson and Bovee, their co-worker is alive and recovering today.

"This is an excellent example of teamwork by one uniformed officer and one of our civilian staff members. While Officer Wilson began CPR, Ms. Bovee was able to summon medical personnel to the scene," Mayor Ashe said.

"I know the employee who fell ill is very grateful to these two, as is his family and they are to be appreciated for a job well done," Mayor Ashe said.

Chief Keith added, "This is truly an example of teamwork. I see our sworn and civilian staff working side by side every day, and this is just a perfect example of how our folks work together."

"By keeping calm under intense pressure, another member of the Knoxville Police Department is alive today, working towards a full recovery," Chief Keith added.

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**Diligence is the mother of good luck."**

**-Ben Franklin**

# EAP Is There When You Need Help

March is Employee Assistance Awareness Month. "We've got a great benefit with our Employees Assistance Program," said Risk/Benefits Manager Abbie Hudgens. "We want to make sure that all employees are aware of the easily accessible, free, help they can get."

The EAP is designed to assist employees and their families with personal or work related problems such as:

- Marital problems
- Problems with children or teenagers
- Substance abuse
- Job related stress
- Anxiety or depression
- Grief

EAP services are available through Westside Psychology. Services include short-term counseling (up to 10 sessions per

issue), as well as treatment referrals for more complicated problems. All services are confidential.

*There is no cost to you for this benefit.*  
**You can reach the EAP 24 hours a day by calling 981-9030 or 1-800-769-0962.**

In addition, since the city is associated with the State of Tennessee health plan, materials and programs provided by the state and its EAP are available to city employees. State health newsletters are sent to city employees' homes, and city employees are being notified of state EAP-sponsored programs, such as a money management workshop held on March 14.

For any overall questions regarding the EAP and other benefit-related programs, call Carol Mahler in Risk Management at 215-4236.



*Various city departments continually work together in providing the best of services to the public. For example, KPD Lieutenant Gary Holliday, whose responsibility is traffic, is called in on an on-the-scene conference (at the corner of Locust and Church) with engineering department representatives and private consultants regarding downtown street projects.*

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