



# CITYWORKS

February, 2002  
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*Mayor Ashe, Deputy to the Mayor Craig Griffith and Director of Public Affairs Mark Ritchie (left to right) meet in a working lunch.*

## Mark Ritchie Named Public Affairs Director

Contributors this month: Michelle Black, Ruthie Kuhlman and Cathy Maples. *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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Mayor Victor Ashe named Mark Ritchie as the new Director of Public Affairs beginning January 28. Ritchie had been a reporter for WATE Channel 6 since October 2000.

"I look forward to working with Mark on communicating the important projects that the City of Knoxville has underway. These include bringing the new Convention Center on line, the redevelopment of the Coster Shop, Homeland Security and improving neighborhood conditions and revitalizing downtown," Mayor Ashe said. "With Mark's experience in journalism and community relations, I am sure he will be an effective communicator for our city," Ashe said.

"Working with the mayor and the department directors is exciting during this time in the city's history. This is a city burgeoning with opportunity," Ritchie said.

In 1985 Ritchie started working for Freedom Life Ministries, Inc. in Montgomery,

Alabama. There he served as public relations director and marketing coordinator until 1996. Freedom Life Ministries president, Bishop Donald Ritchie, is Mark's father.

From 1985 through 1991 Ritchie produced a syndicated radio show, which aired in ten markets across Alabama and Florida. He also produced and hosted a public affairs television show from 1991 through 1995. Freedom Life Magazine aired on WCOV TV20. Freedom Life Ministries, Inc owned the thirty-minute, weekly TV show.

In 1996 Ritchie started in broadcast journalism at WSFA in Montgomery. From there he moved to Birmingham, Alabama to work for WBRC as a photojournalist, a reporter and a special producer. In 2000, he moved to Knoxville to report for WATE.

He is married to Sylvia S. Ritchie, MSW. Their son is Mark Gabriel (The Prince). Mark's daughters are LeTerrica and LaQuansay (The Princesses).

# A Message from Mayor Ashe



While the State is going through some pretty tough times, Knoxville is still growing. There are several projects in the works including the Caswell Park re-development, the Hope VI project, Coster Shop re-development and our new, world-class Knoxville Convention Center.

The convention center is on time and on budget. It's set to open this June. The city will benefit from this development for years to come. It is a bold statement for the future of tourism and economic development for the entire region.

So, what does this mean to you personally? The new convention center gives each of you a new and exciting place to hold many events, like wedding receptions, church banquets, class reunions and a host of other things. I encourage each of you to take ownership of this valuable asset. Show it off when friends and family come to town. It will be a crown jewel and source of pride for our community.

The Convention Center will take this community to another level in terms of our ability to attract large scale groups and gatherings, not only because it offers a larger venue but state-of-the-art technology that will allow for high technology presentations, video conferencing and "meetings of the future."

Along with the convention center the World's Fair Park will be a beautiful addition to our downtown area. It will offer a wonderful new place for outdoor events and great place to visit and relax.

It will put Knoxville on the map, raise our profile, generate new private investment and bring people here for the first time, as they recognize the close proximity to the Smoky Mountains, our cultural resources and the warmth of the people like you.

*CityWorks* is profiling one of each of the council members sworn in on December 15, 2001.

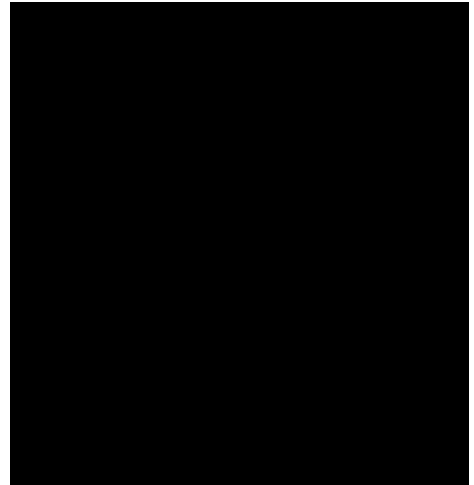
## Council Member Profile

December Joe Hultquist, 1st district  
 January Barbara, 2nd district  
*This Month* *Steve Hall, 3rd district*  
 March Rob Frost, 4th district  
 April Mark Brown, 6th district

Steve Hall is the President of Interior Finishes Corp, a medium-sized commercial building contractor doing mostly retail construction. He and his wife Janet have five children and three grandchildren. Hall is also an active member and deacon of Gospel Light Baptist Church and is the host of *Politics Knoxville*, a live call-in show on every Friday night from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on CTV.

Fellow council members elected Hall to serve as the current chairman of the Beer Board.

Hall has enjoyed his first months as a council member. "This is an exciting time to serve on council," said Hall. "It is interesting to work with the different departments in government, such as Department of Development and the downtown residential incentive programs, to move Knoxville forward."



*Steve Hall with Mayor Ashe at the special council meeting in the Fowler's Building downtown on February 14.*

## ***N\*ew\*s A\*b\*o\*u\*t P\*eo\*o\*pl\*e***

### **New Hires**

Mary Alarcon, Technical Writer  
 Richard Bradley Boruff,  
 Transportation Officer  
 Roger R. Breeden, Public Service Worker I  
 Charles Brian Flood, Hazardous  
 Waste Technician  
 Michael E. Gresham, Civil Engineer Tech I  
 Joshua A. Householder, Public  
 Service Worker I  
 Diane L. Knight, Data Entry Operator  
 B.J. Meigs, Office Assistant I  
 Roger A. Milam, Stormwater  
 Engineering Tech III  
 Dale A. Taylor, Public Service Worker I

### **Promotions**

George D. Aubuchon, Codes Officer  
 Judy Lynn Kirby, Collections Officer  
 Dwayne O. Miley, Equipment Operator III

### **10 Year Recognition**

Jack Robert Lay, Fire  
 Alfred Leon Knight, Public Service  
 Robert Allen Hutchens, Fleet Services

### **15 Year Recognition**

Charlotte K. Bounds, Civic Auditorium/  
 Coliseum  
 Debbie H. Jackson, Parks and Recreation  
 Fannie Poullette Maples, Fleet Services

### **20 Year Recognition**

Charles A. Goosie, Jr., Public Service  
 Gregg Hudson, Public Service

### **25 Year Recognition**

Phyllis J. Davis, City Court  
 Erma H. Holloway, Engineering

### **Retirements**

Ernest J. Ault, Fire  
 James A. Begalla, World's Fair Park  
 Alva T. Breece, Engineering  
 James P. Donnell, Fire  
 Tony E. Robertson, Fire  
 Doyle W. Shelton, Fire  
 Ira E. Shinpaugh, Fire  
 Richard R. Voiles, Police  
 Billy W. Whitaker, Public Service  
 Kyle F. Widner, Jr., Fire

## Calloway Enjoys New Role As Pension Board Member

Scott Calloway, who on January 1 started a three-year term on the Pension Board, Uniformed Bodies Seat B, "loves his job" with the Knoxville Fire Department and welcomes the opportunity to work on pension issues on behalf of his fellow firefighters.

"Some of my co-workers encouraged me to run for the position, so I did," Calloway said. "I have a degree in economics from The University of Tennessee, and it seemed like a great way to apply my education."

Calloway had worked in different business-related positions before coming to the Fire Department six years ago. "I never felt as fulfilled in my other work as I do as a firefighter." He and his station (Number 14 on Central Avenue Pike) were once named firefighter and fire station of the year for rescuing a woman and two girls from a burning home in the middle of the night.

Calloway has found the two pension board meetings he has already attended "very detailed . . . and very interesting." He



*Scott Calloway*

also serves on the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Credit Union.

He and his wife, Tammy, have two boys, Thomas, age 5 and Carson, age 2. "And yes, the boys are taken with the idea of having a daddy who's a firefighter," Calloway said.

## Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center Gets "Physical" with New Programs

The new "Knoxville Performing Arts Studio" in the Candy Factory at the World's Fair Park began classes on January 28. The studio is offering performing art classes in conjunction with existing visual art classes held in the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center. The studio is conveniently located on the second floor of the Candy Factory beside the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center, 1060 World's Fair Park Drive.

"The new Performing Arts Studio will offer a variety of dance and cultural arts classes that will be coordinated through the existing Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center," stated Recreation Director Sam Anderson.

The center director, Cathy Maples, has

contracted with several area performing artists including Mike Bensey, a performer with the Knoxville Ballet Company, and Tennessee Titans Cheerleader and fitness instructor, Carrie Atchley.

The center is also offering **yoga classes**. Stephanie Moyers is leading the classes on Mondays, from noon to 12:50 p.m. for eight weeks, starting March 4 through April 22. The fee is \$40. "This class will help you to relieve stress and revitalize yourself through a series of stretching positions and breathing technique," said center director Maples. "No experience is required and more advanced students will be guided through more complex postures."

For more information, please call 523-1401.

## Aid Available for Tax Filing

City Employees once again have access to free assistance in filing their personal income taxes, compliments of the City of Knoxville and the VITA tax program. Please call the Central Payroll Office at 215-2099 or 215-2223 to set up an appointment for the City County Building or 215-6014 for Loraine Street. Appointments are available on a first come, first serve basis.

There are many advantages to filing electronically with the City:

--You would have to pay from \$25 to \$40 for electronic filing at a tax preparation agency,  
--You usually get your refunds 2-3 weeks from the date that the IRS acknowledges receipt of returns, as opposed to 4-8 weeks for paper returns.

--You can use the direct deposit option to have your refunds deposited directly into your savings or checking account.

--You can be assured your returns are filed because the IRS will electronically send an acknowledgement of receipt to the Treasurer's office.

--You can have the return transmitted anytime during the tax season, but you do not have to send any payment due until the April deadline.

**It is necessary that you bring all the documents required for filing your tax return, which would include W-2s, 1099s, interest income, etc. If you have children, you will need to provide their social security numbers and birth dates. Both spouses must sign a return filed jointly. If you are having a refund directly deposited into your account, you must bring a blank voided check.**

***"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."***

***— Hamlet***

***(by William Shakespeare)***

## Brian Henderson Named Officer of the Month

December Officer of the Month honors go to five-year veteran Brian Henderson for his arrest of a robbery suspect on December 14, 2001.

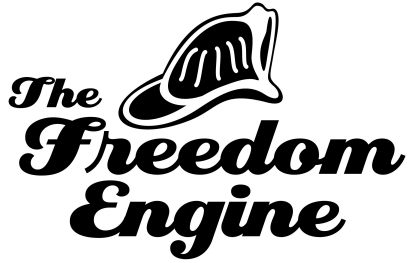
Hearing of an armed robbery that had just been committed at the Burger King Restaurant on Merchants Road, he monitored the

police radio and ultimately spotted the suspect vehicle.

After Henderson pulled behind the suspect vehicle and activated his emergency equipment, the suspect fled in his car for a short distance before abandoning his vehicle to take flight on foot. After covering several

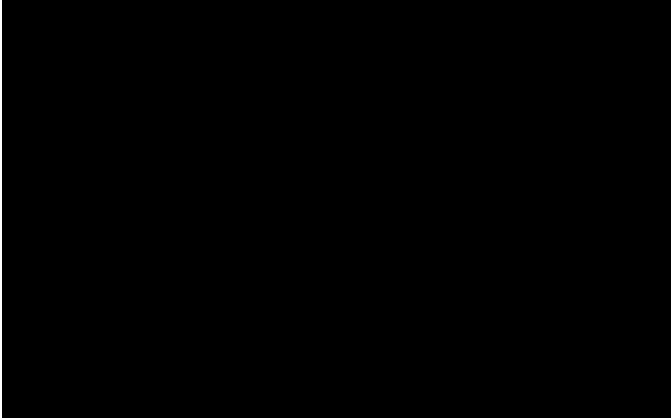
blocks Officer Henderson was able to take the suspect, Willie Dixon Jr., into custody.

A subsequent search of the suspect and his vehicle provided evidence linking Dixon to the Burger King robbery as well as an earlier robbery of the Pilot Store on Cumberland Avenue.

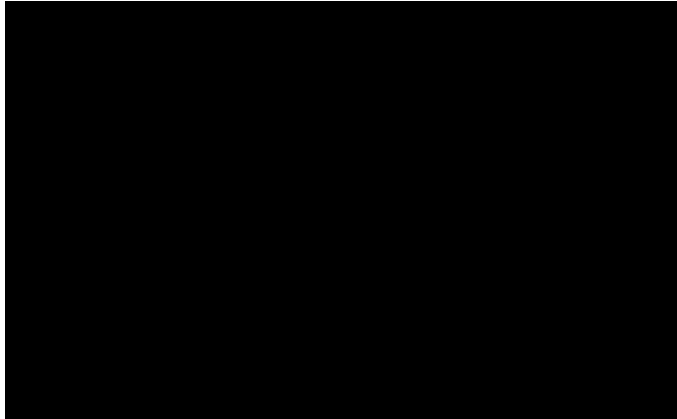


**The  
Freedom  
Engine**

At noon on February 8 Knoxville's Main Street was the scene of a grand salute to the Freedom Engine. The 96-foot-tower ladder truck was on display as numerous dignitaries participated in a ceremony at the City County Building. The symbolic key was presented to two of the New York City firefighters who will be using the Freedom Engine, Captain Stephen Damato and Lieutenant Ewald "Eddie" Pollich of Ladder Company 14 based in Harlem, by Knoxville Fire Department Chief Gene Hamlin and Rural/Metro Chief Karl Keierleber.



*(Below) From left to right: Lieutenant Ewald Pollich FDNY, Captain Stephen Damato FDNY, Mayor Ashe and KFD Fire Chief Gene Hamlin*



*(Above) Numerous city employees attended the Freedom Engine downtown celebration. From left to right are Paul Dunn, Annette Lovelace, Jason Chadwell, Vicki Hatfield and Alison Elliott.*

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