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Police Hold Memorial Service

Mayor Victor Ashe and Police Chief Phil Keith paid tribute on May 15 to officers in a Police Officers Memorial Day Service. The service, held at the Safety Building and part of the National Peace Officers Memorial Day, is an annual event to honor the officers who have died over the past year.

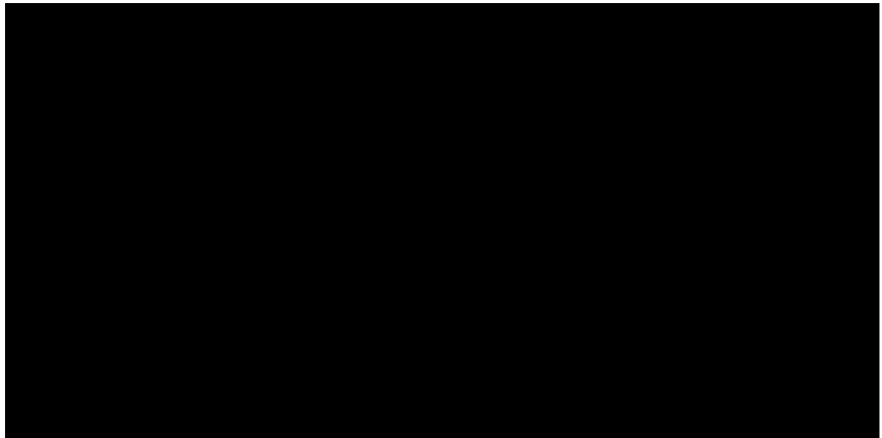
Five former members of the Knoxville Police Department have died since last year's service. The five officers include:

- Captain Buford Ford
- Captain James Rucker
- Lieutenant David Mase
- Lieutenant James Ridenor
- Sergeant Isaiah Rogers

Collectively the officers accounted for 118 years of law enforcement service.

"We honor these officers because they made a difference in the lives of many Knoxvilleans," said Mayor Ashe. "Each of these men served with honor and distinction."

Chief Keith added, "Our officers answer the call for service everyday without fail. For officers, today's ceremony is especially important after the unforgettable day of September 11th, 2001. While we remember the ones who have gone on before us, let us also honor the officers who protect us today and who will be there for us tomorrow."



Sergeant David Rausch (left) and Officer Eric Reeves participated in the Honor Guard during the memorial program at which Mayor Ashe made remarks.

Officers Praised For Outstanding Work

Mayor Victor Ashe and Police Chief Phil Keith named Officer Jeff Pappas as the Knoxville Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2001. Officer Pappas has been with the department for ten years and has been cited numerous times by his peers and community groups for his outstanding work ethic.

Chief Keith said that after receiving numerous citizen complaints about the condition of the Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park in addition to illegal activities going on during the daytime hours, Officer Pappas was asked

to do a Problem Solving Kit (PSK) to address these problems. The goal of the PSK was to take necessary actions to correct the problems so that families who wish to enjoy all the benefits this scenic park has to offer could once again use the park.

Officer Pappas started on the PSK in March of 2001. At that time, the park was in dismal shape. Litter was strewn about, vandalism was abundant, and the park facilities had been neglected for a long time. Individu-

Police Honors, Continued on Page 6

Mayor's Message

So Long, Howard Russell



Government works best with private input, and we had the opportunity recently to salute an individual who worked passionately in conjunction with the city on behalf of his neighborhood.

We dedicated the walking trail in the Westview Community to Reverend Howard Russell. Reverend Russell has been a very powerful component in advocating for community clean ups and park development. I believe since the very first day Reverend Russell came to Knoxville, he's been working with the city on one project or another. In the early 1990's, Reverend Russell spearheaded the community effort to rebuild West View Park after the initial park was taken with the widening of Western Avenue. Russell, along with community resident Ellen Adcock (long before she was Administration Director), served as liaison between residents of the West View community and the city to collate ideas and develop the new park's design. The West View Park development replaced blighted run down houses with picnic shelters, a paved greenway, and basketball courts.

Russell served as the pastor of Joyce Avenue Wesleyan Methodist Church for 16 years. Russell's other efforts included the clean up of abandoned cemeteries in the West View community, the formation of the West View Community Action Group, and serving as President of the Board for the Center for Neighborhood Development.

We are sad that Russell and his family are moving to Barberton, Ohio, where he has a new commitment as executive director of Christian Brotherhood Newsletter.

From the number of city employees who were on hand to salute Reverend Russell at the greenway dedication, the neighborhood network of Knoxville is losing an effective liaison with government agencies.

News About People

New Hires

- Chris M. Aubuchon, Equipment Operator II
- J. Scott Boles, Civil Engineer I
- Ronald D. Collins, Public Service Worker II
- Carol Jean Dabney, Records Specialist
- Terry D. Gilland, Public Service Worker I
- Richard Gene Holzer, Trades Craftsworker
- James Ray Jenkins, II, Building & Zoning Inspector
- Rickie L. King, Trades Craftsworker
- Nathan E. Manis, Public Service Worker II
- David E. Newman, Public Service Construction Worker
- Michael A. Richard, Public Service Worker I
- Christian St. John Thompson, Civil Engineer I

Promotions

- B.J. Meigs, Office Assistant II
- Shane T. Powell, Equipment Operator I
- Jason A. Slagle, Public Service Worker II
- Richard D. Smith, Equipment Operator I

Promotions to Fire Officer

- Stephen Scott Lee
- Joe G. Milsaps
- Brian Keith Osterman
- Michael David Rickman
- Curtis G. Romines
- Jeffery Harold Stooksbury
- Jaquetta Zann Brooks Ware

Service Recognition

- 10 Years*
- Charles David Marshall, Fire
- Marci Ann Ware, Public Service
- David Ernest Shepherd, Development
- 15 Years*
- Donald M. Partin, Jr., Fire
- Glen A. Sharp, Civic Auditorium/Coliseum
- 25 Years*
- W. Mark Geldmeier, Engineering
- 30 Years*
- Robert P. Pressley, Fire
- Larry E. Davis, Fire
- Timmy W. Kirby, Fire

Retirees

- Carl E. Cummings, Police Captain
- Cary Gale Gatlin, Police Officer III
- Gary G. Sharpe, Master Firefighter
- William O. Warwick, Fire Officer
- Mikael H. Roberts, Fire Assistant Chief

Contributors this month: Mary Alarcon, Michelle Black and Ruthie Kuhlman. *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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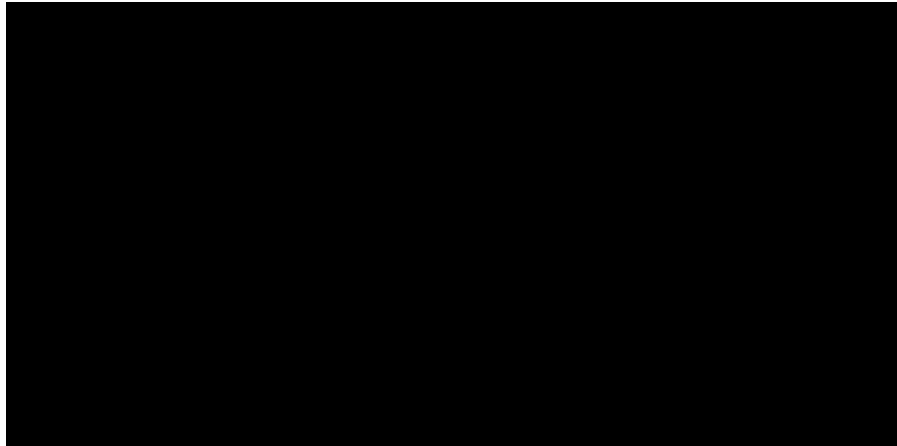
City Employees Have Dreams Come True

Cicely Henderson Is Now A Homeowner

Come to the Community Place subdivision off Boyds Bridge Road and you'll find no prouder homeowner than Community Development's Cicely Henderson. But her obtaining the house was no short and easy process.

Community Evangelistic Church, with assistance from Knoxville Leadership Foundation, decided to develop some of their extensive property into a reasonably-priced home neighborhood. Even though Henderson belonged to the church, she had to apply with many others for one of the lot grants. "After I obtained the lot, I applied to Habitat for Humanity to be one of their four homes built in Community Place."

Henderson was chosen. While members of Central Baptist Church of Bearden and Fountain City Presbyterian Church comprised the majority of the work force,



Cicely Henderson at her new home.

fellow Community Development staff members responded to Henderson's need to provide her own work crew members. "Actually, even though I moved in last August, some of them are still working," she said. "Rogers Doughty was over just last night putting up a ceiling fan. And my little boy, LeShon (age 8) had always wanted a tree in the backyard, so Bill Curran and he

planted one just a little while ago."

So just how does LeShon feel about the move. "He loves it! We lived in an area where he couldn't go out and play. Now he can go out in the yard and has lots of kids to play with."

"My house" – Henderson used the term frequently and almost with awe. She's certainly had a dream come true.

James McCarter's Son and Daughter Healthy with Transplanted Kidneys

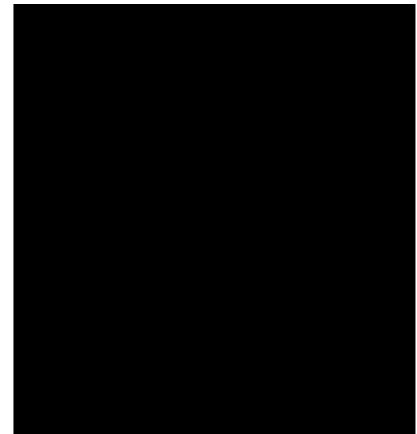
Area 2's James McCarter and wife Teresa are the proud parents of 18-year old daughter Jamie and 10-year old son Jesse Cole, yet a few years ago they faced the possibility of losing them both to nephrophtisis, a kidney disease that causes blood clotting and bone damage.

Jesse Cole was very lucky. The first of the siblings to have clear evidence of the disease, it was determined that his mother was a match, so she successfully donated one of

her kidneys to him in May, 2000. "We knew Jamie could have the disease—it's genetic and she had had a lot of illness as a child," said James. After the diagnosis was confirmed, no ready donor was available. James was not a match. Yet the need was met as a result of Jamie attending her boyfriend's church.

The congregation at Blessed Hope Baptist Church was alerted to the need. Rick Moats came forward, was tested, and was found to be a match. On March 14 the transplant was completed with no complications. Chronic illness is now a thing of the past for Jamie.

"Bob Barker (Public Service Operations Manager) and Charles Flemmings (McCarter's Service Area Manager) have



Jamie and James McCarter

gone the extra mile to accommodate me during all these family crises," McCarter said. "In fact everyone in the Public Service Department was so supportive during it all."

Impressed with the success noted above? Want to get involved, either giving or receiving?

Knoxville Leadership Foundation
901 East Summit Hill Drive,
Suite 300
Knoxville 37915
Phone (865) 524-2774

Habitat for Humanity
719 Dameron Ave
PO Box 27478
Knoxville 37927
Phone (865) 523-3539

Tennessee Donor Services
5908-D Toole Drive
Knoxville 37919
24 Hour Number:
(865) 588-1031

National Kidney Foundation of East Tennessee
4450 Walker Boulevard
Knoxville 37917
688-5481

Many City Employees Are LOSERS



Joy Jesse reads the scales printout to Ruthie Kuhlman, who exceeded her goal of losing 10% of her body weight since January 7.

From January 7 to May 10, 20 city employees took on a challenge to lose ten percent of their body weight.

Dubbed the "Ravishing Rubies and Studly Stans" contest, each person provided a \$75 check on January 7 and was then "weighed in." Each individual's weight was sealed in an envelope and guarded along with the uncashed checks. Again, on May 10 the scales were laid out. While not everyone weighed that day met the ten percent reduction goal, a few people acknowledged their defeat by simply not showing up. The result was \$91 in each winner's pocket.

"I thank those who participated," said Development's Kevin DuBose, who initiated the contest. "I trust both the winners and losers had a lot of fun." The nine winners, Ruthie Kuhlman, Selene Turner, Linda Coffey, Marie Alcorn, Tom Reynolds, Bill Curran, Kevin DuBose, Joy Jesse, and Janna Backhurst, lost a total of 260 pounds — ("the equivalent to two permit writers," noted DuBose).



From left, Ruthie Kuhlman, Janna Backhurst, Kevin DuBose, Leslie Henderson, Cicely Henderson and Selene Turner celebrate their weight loss with (what else?) doughnuts!

"Special congratulations goes to Tom Reynolds and Selene Turner, who lost the biggest percentage and Bill Curran and

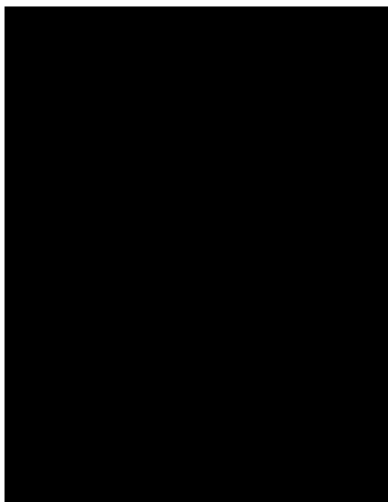
Ruthie Kuhlman, who lost the most weight."

Other city employees have chosen a more conventional route in joining Weight Watchers, which is long-standing in its success. WW groups wrapped up sessions at the end of May in the Safety and City County Buildings. The City County group continues a new session throughout the summer.

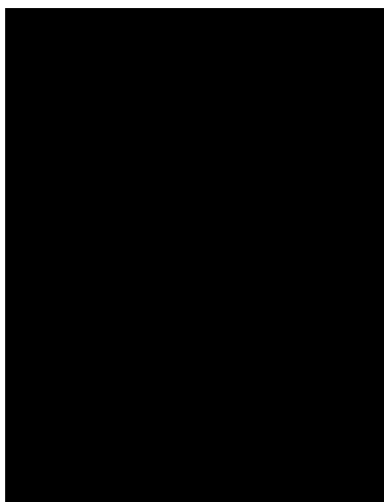
"With the 'point system,' the Weight Watchers program is great because it's so simple!" said Finance's Sherrie Bates. "I don't really think of it as being on a diet. Attending the meetings and journaling provide a support system that really helps me keep on track, and having all the helpful information, such as figures on popular restaurant foods, has helped me steer clear of some surprisingly fattening foods."

This summer will be a healthier one for all of our "losers." One Weight Watcher participant got her cholesterol down by 110 points and her triglycerides down by more than 65%. According to Roche Laboratories, even modest weight loss reduces health risks. "A sustained weight loss as little as 5% to 10% has been shown to improve disorders associated with obesity," such as hypertension, high cholesterol and type II diabetes.

Achieving even a 5% in body weight loss can help reduce many harmful health factors.



Cheryl Davis waits as Weight Watchers' April Burt checks Sherrie Bates's progress at the City County Building.



YMCA's Jackie Roberts, who works with the domestic violence unit, is happy with her weigh-in at the Safety Building.

New Business Tax System Implemented

Knoxville's Business Tax transactions run much more smoothly now thanks to a new computer system implemented by Information Systems and the Business Tax office of Finance. On January 28, the Business Tax office went "live" on a new software package that was developed by the Department of Information Systems with input and support from members of the Business Tax staff. On February 5, members of both departments gathered for a project luncheon hosted by Information Systems to celebrate the successful implementation of the new Business Tax software.

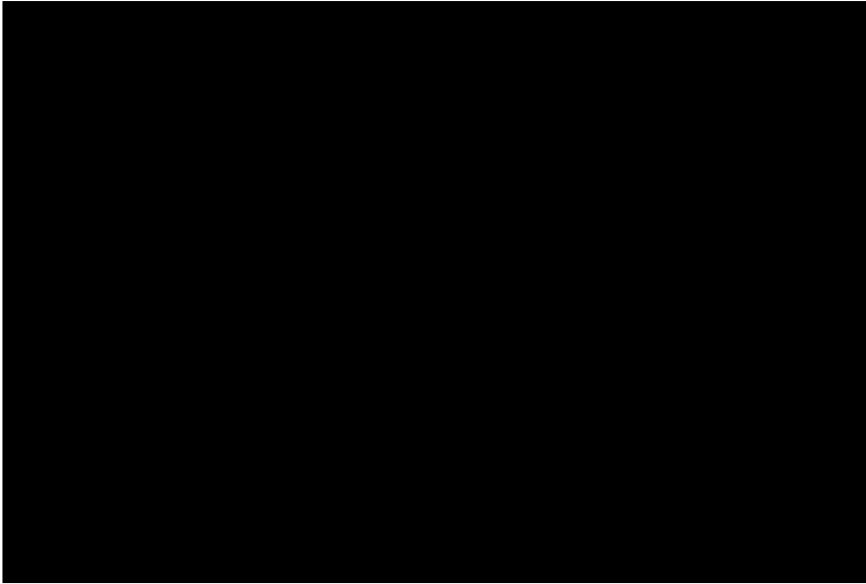
The Business Tax project (nicknamed "BTAX") began in earnest in March of 2001 and combined the Business Tax office's knowledge of procedure and process with Information Systems' knowledge of technology and product implementation. Implemented at both the City-County building and

Collections Supervisor Donna Dyer notes improvements such as "more flexibility, audit trails, security, (and) ease of entry."

City Hall at the Mall, this new system has already improved the lives of city employees by increasing speed and accuracy.

Donna Dyer, Supervisor of Collections, notes improvements such as "more flexibility, audit trails, security, (and) ease of entry." Doti Martin and Donna Dyer provided leadership for the Business Tax office while Lisa Bradney and Nancy Tompkins spearheaded efforts for Information Systems. Key project team members included Wanda Day and Karen Long from Business Tax, and David Harrison, Donna Best, Jill McManigal, Johnnie Ratliff, Patti Randolph, Richard Cureton, Michael Humphrey, Karen Abshire, Carol Runyan, Dan Jones, Kenneth Clarke, and Mary Alarcon from Information Systems.

Project team members from both departments worked rigorously on developing a comprehensive solution that would ease the transition between the older, mainframe software to the newer Windows™-based sys-



Business Tax Project Team (from left to right): Lisa Bradney – IS (seated), Nancy Tompkins – IS, Karen Abshire – IS, Patti Randolph – IS, Donna Best – IS, Johnnie Ratliff – IS (seated), Wanda Day – BTAX (seated), David Harrison – IS, Jill McManigal – IS, Dan Jones – IS, Doti Martin – BTAX, Karen Long – BTAX (seated), Donna Dyer – BTAX, Richard Cureton – IS, AND Michael Humphrey – IS

tem. Training was held on Saturday, January 5 and parallel testing started on Monday, January 7. During parallel testing, business tax transactions were entered into both the old and new systems. Information Systems used the parallel testing period to iron out remaining issues to ensure the reliability and validity of data produced by the new system.

Information Systems has big plans for new software programs as expressed by Janet Wright, Director for Information Systems, "The new business tax software is the beginning of a planned replacement of all revenue collection software for the City. Our next goal is to replace beer permit software in the summer followed by property tax software by the end of the year."



Karen Long of the Business Tax Office at her work station.

***Police Receive Honors,
Continued from Page 1***

als engaging in sexual activities were also using the park.

After identifying the problems, Officer Pappas reached out for assistance from other units within the police department as well as the City Law Department and the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department. Pappas presented several suggestions on how the park could be returned to the citizens of the community by restoring it to the era when families would visit the park for picnics and relaxation, including the removal of brush and trees that provided cover for illegal activities, scenic markers at the overlooks, installation of a play area for children, and the placement of wildlife-proof trash receptacles.

Officer Pappas also conducted several undercover operations in the park to either cite or arrest persons engaging in illegal activities. Pappas also arranged a clean-up day with the help of the Knoxville Ornithological Society and members of the Students For Proactive Environmental Action in Knoxville.

Officer Pappas also arranged for a survey

of park users to seek suggestions from citizens on what improvements they would like to see implemented. During the PSK time frame, 922 persons were surveyed.

Mayor Ashe said, "Through the efforts of Officer Pappas, Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park is once again an area that the citizens of Knoxville can take pride in. This is an excellent example of how these officers care about the community in which they serve."

Chief Keith said, "Officer Pappas has displayed an unparalleled work ethic and leadership abilities while conducting this assignment. Due to Officer Pappas' commitment to making this project work, this PSK, aptly named "Taking Back The Ridge!" has set a new standard for future PSK's to be measured by. His efforts have set into motion a process to restore the park to its former glory so that again it can be a scenic and serene location that Knoxville can be proud of."

Other KPD Officers of the Month and civilians who were honored included: Sylvia Bovee, David Wilson, Chris Starr, Paul Taylor, Jeff Damewood, Larry Gilland, Joe Huckleby, Edmond Randolph, Frank Carraher, Brian Evans, Terry Pate, Scott

Tidwell, James Gadd, Robert Hembree, Kenny Miller, Justin Ruth, John Williams, David Rausch, Erik Reeves, Chuck Sands, Donnie Huskey, Brandon McCosh, Mark Taylor, Josh Shaffer, Jeff Anderson, Jeff Dunn, Mary O'Neill, Derek Weller, Tony Willis, Todd Smith, Felix Vess, Brian Henderson

During the same program, Officer Norman Rickman, who was shot during a routine traffic stop last July, received the Purple Heart. This honor is awarded to officers who are injured in the line of duty. During the traffic stop, the suspect pulled a gun and shot Officer Rickman once in the chest. After several exchanges of gunfire, the suspect committed suicide.

Officer Jim Vichich received the Award of Merit for coming to the aid of Officer Rickman as he battled for his life during a shootout with the suspect. The actions of Officer Vichich that morning prevented Officer Rickman from being shot a second time and possibly killed.

Officer Will Wilson received the life saving award for coming to the aid of a wheelchair bound man as his house was on fire.

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