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With the Help of City Employees,

Knoxville Blooms in Spring

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Horticulture Division of Public Service employees put the finishing touches on Cradle of Country Music Park in downtown Knoxville. Left to right are Phyllis Richards, Tresia Connor, Lonnie Williams and Johnny Ketrone.

Think of Knoxville in the spring and you are sure to think of dogwoods. Knoxville's Dogwood Arts Festival, this year being held from April 11-27, is consistently recognized as an outstanding event and has received numerous awards as one of the top

Festival events host more than 250,000 people with approximately 50,000 visitors coming from outside the Greater Knoxville metropolitan area. Visitors from almost all 50 states and numerous foreign countries come year after year.

Although the intermittent lines serving as Dogwood Trail route indicators are applied with Department of Engineering's retro-fitted "go cart," the turn indicators still need to be applied by hand. As Steve Sharp looks on, Wade Ketrone manually spray paints a turn arrow on the Dogwood Trail in Sequoyah Hills.



attractions in the nation.

An army of volunteers makes this festival happen each year, as they have for the past 42 years; and, likewise, city employees make sure that the city looks great, with trail markers in place, public areas in tip-top shape and logistic and safety needs of the dozens of festival events addressed.

Thousands of Knoxvilleans, including those along the Dogwood Trails, strive each year to showcase their community.

The festival contributes substantially to the Knoxville economy. Annual estimates range from 10 to 13 million dollars.

Traffic along seven Dogwood Trails (representing 60 miles of natural beauty) increases between 400 to 600 percent during the festival dates.

For more more information, contact the Dogwood Festival Office at 637-4561 or at www.dogwoodarts.com.

Mayor's Message

Hard Choices Only Options for Budget



As this newsletter was composed, I met with the presidents of the four employee groups in the city, plus I held a special edition of Mayor's Night Out where more than 100 employees came . . . primarily from non-uniform ranks.

I held public departmental hearings where each director offered a five percent cut in their department. In my own office, I have decided not to fill the Director of Public Affairs position and have cut seven percent from the total budget. The next mayor's pay raise has been deferred two and a half years.

The city will be short \$10 million this year. This budget is the toughest and most difficult I have put together. I am having to make cuts that I do not like or want to make. The loss of \$2 million in state-shared taxes hurts. The faltering economy cuts our revenue.

There are major increases in health care costs, workers' compensation exposure, pensions, and KUB is raising rates for water and power.

Council has not indicated any willingness to raise taxes to offset this loss.

If I have to recommend a one-year suspension of the 2.5% pay raise, then the current ordinance would be suspended for one

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All suggestions or comments for *CityWorks* 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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News About People

New Hires

Adam Beeler, Utility Worker
Mark Randy Bolles, Data Entry Operator
Jennie R. Caissie, Intern II
Janice Clark, Office Assistant I
Robert Gibson, Public Service Worker I
Chelsie M. Graves, Intern I
Claude Edward Keith,
Transportation Officer
Phyllis Patterson, Executive Assistant
Maralena Updyke, Office Assistant I
Benny E. Williams, Public Service
Worker II

Service Recognitions

10 Years
Police
Wallace E. Armstrong
Dennis R. Bible
Christopher Caulpetzer
Daniel W. Crenshaw
Jeffrey L. Cunningham
Mark Fortner
Kenneth Todd Gilreath
Ronald K. Green, Jr.
Lisa D. Green
Edward D. Kingsbury, Jr.
Charles T. Lee
Kevin P. Maycann
David B. Rausch
Robert G. Rose
John D. Shelton
Jerrod W. Smith
James B. Tallent
Eve M. Thomas
Shawna R. Williams
15 Years
Joe Inman, Public Service
Albert Helfenberger, Public Service
Howard G. Montgomery, Jr., Police
Valerie Whittington Upton, Recreation
25 Years
Gary R. Broyles, Information Systems
Ernest S. Broome, Development
Kathy A. Fox, Public Services
30 Years
Benny Ray Bailey, Public Services
Regenia D. Hubbard, Administration
Curtis G. Romines, Fire Dept.
Clarence L. Hackney, Jr., Fire Dept.
35 Years
Gerald L. Barnes, Police
40 Years
Paul W. Dunn, Fire Dept.

Promotions

Karen Ree Briggs, Administrative
Supervisor
Lori K. Williamson, Collections Officer
Charles Beckner, Mechanic
Jeffrey Conner, Transportation Officer
Mayme Jacqueline Hopper, Office
Assistant II
Heather Sumpter-Blakemore, Executive
Assistant
Lieutenants
Monty Ward Boone
James Earl Wilson
Sergeants
Savanah Ayub
Christopher Baldwin
John B. Dalton
Gordon E. Gwathney
Scott Sheppard
Jared R. Turner
Anthony R. Willis
William Victor Wilson
Police Recruits
Jennifer Ellen Ball
Jason R. Culvahouse
Jeremy Luken Jinnett
Justin Wayne Ruth
Patrick M. Stubblefield

Retirees

Harlen L. Breeden, Fire Officer
David M. Brummett, Senior Firefighter
Charles Coleman, Police Captain
Bryan K. Cox, Fire Assistant Chief
Jerry W. Dyer, Fire Officer
George W. Dean, Fire Officer
Bobby G. Evans, Fire Officer
Carl F. Ford, Fire Officer
William B. French, Criminal Investigator III
Charles R. Gass, Police Sergeant
Bobby E. Hanshaw, Master Firefighter
Samuel E. Hayes, Fire Officer
Edward Ray Herrell, Fire Officer
Barry L. Hill, Police Officer IV
Phillip Carl Maxwell, Jr., Police Officer
Donna Whitson McMahan, Accounting
Technician
Jerry W. Miller, Rec. Prog. Specialist/
Boxing
Donald W. Roth, Fire Officer
Calvin J. Stafford, Demolition Specialist
James E. Tindell, Master Firefighter
Victor Voiles, Criminal Investigator

In Memorium

Vernie H. Ammons, Retired
Norman E. Jefferson, Rec Center Leader
Kenneth A. Kitts, Equipment Operator II

Changes Made to Civil Service Merit Board

Jinks Named Officer of the Month for Recovery of Missing Child

Officer Phil Jinks, who has been with the department for three years, was named the Officer of the Month for January for his efforts in the recovery of a missing child.

At approximately 9:00 a.m. on January 19, 2003, Central Sector officers received a call of a missing child who had been abducted from the mother's apartment located at 121 Pruitt Place. The mother of the missing two-year-old female indicated she had left her child with a sixteen-year-old female named "Hope". Upon the mother's return to the apartment, both the two-year old and the sixteen-year old were missing. No information had been left as to their location.

Central Sector officers responded to the scene and obtained information and descriptions of the two missing individuals. That information was then broadcast to officers throughout the city.

While en route to his assigned beat, Officer Jinks noticed a person that vaguely matched the description of the missing teenager. Jinks stopped his cruiser and approached the female. During questioning the female indicated her name was "Megan". Not believing this was her real name; Officer Jinks asked if she ever used the name "Hope" to which she replied yes. The suspect was immediately placed into custody for questioning on the disappearance of the child. During questioning it was determined the child had been left with someone in the Townview Towers area. Officer Jinks acted quickly by alerting officers to the possible location of the toddler.

As officers were arriving at Townview a female with the missing child in her arms was seen entering the courtyard area. The child was recovered from the female and immediately sent to Children's Hospital to be checked for injuries. The female along with the teenager and mother of the toddler were transported to the Safety Building for questioning by investigators. The investigation determined the child had not been illegally abducted, but that the mother could face criminal charges.

The Civil Service Merit Board has oversight for the operation of the city's personnel program to ensure that the city adheres to the merit system principles and practices. The five-member board is named by the mayor and confirmed by City Council to serve five-year terms. At their March meeting, the board and city employees said good-bye to veteran member Carolyn Bryant and welcomed Pamela Chesney, whose first meeting as a sitting board member will be in April.

Rudy Bradley presents Carolyn Bryant with a plaque in appreciation of her work on the Civil Service Merit Board.



As Joanne Hurd, Alison Elliott and Jason Chadwell listen, Melissa Berry responds to Board members during an overview of departmental focus.

Ms. Chesney, a nurse by training, is a program manager for the home health agency Care Plus. Through her professional career she has worked for fairness and equality. "I've worked on behalf of various groups, particularly minority concerns such as those of African-American women." In addition she has advocated for those dealing with HIV-AIDS, mental illness and concerns of the elderly.



Pam Chesney (second from left) listens to Melissa Berry's presentation, along with Civil Service department's Vicki Hatfield and Valerie Coleman.

City Recognized for Clinch Avenue Viaduct

The Clinch Avenue Viaduct Restoration Project received two awards this spring.

The Award for Structural Systems was presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee. The city's Department of Engineering also received the Excellence Award from the Rebuild Tennessee Coalition for the 2002 Infrastructure Award.

"We are happy to receive statewide recognition for the restored viaduct, which was an important part of the overall convention center site enhancements," said Mayor Ashe. "The historical character of this thoroughway was not compromised in the remodeling and meeting today's traffic and safety standards."

The original scope of the project was to give a cosmetic "face-lift" to an aging, dilapidated, nearly 100-year old structure that was closed to vehicular traffic in 1981.



Engineering's David Harrell, Mayor Ashe and Engineering Director Sam Parnell

However, with the development of the new convention center, the scope of the project was significantly changed to a widening and rehabilitation project, making the bridge capable of once again handling vehicular traffic and linking Ft. Sanders with downtown.

Mayor's Message, continued from page 2
year only, and the council and next mayor would have to vote on it again in June, 2004. I hope I do not, but clearly it is a possibility in terms of what I propose. However, not getting a pay raise for one year beats being laid off.

We will go through this, and I feel better times are ahead as the war winds down and we focus on the domestic situation as a nation and a city.

I will deliver my budget message on April 30 at Williams Creek Golf Course. The luncheon is being paid for privately.



Mayor Ashe held the special "Mayor's Night" for employees on March 31 to voice their opinions about budget issues. Pictured above, he responds to Development Department employee Anita Cash as she shares her views on cost cutting measures in consideration of the \$10 million budget shortfall for the next fiscal year. Surrounding them are city employees and members of city council.

What IS going to happen to the ABC bowling center in June?

**Throngs of volunteers are going to
rip it up,
tear it up
and give it up for
Habitat!**

**If you have a
"desire to deconstruct"
during June 23-28,
contact John Homa at
215-2921 to sign up.
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP
IS MAY 23!!!**

**Be part of the blitz-like
tear-down that will make
more than 15 tractor trailer
loads of materials available
for Habitat for Humanity.**

**City of Knoxville
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