

CITY WORKS



NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Celebrating the Impact of the CDBG and HOME Programs

Ribbon-cuttings mean new beginnings.

The atmosphere was jubilant on March 28, as friends, neighbors and supporters of The Restoration House gathered to mark the completion of Phase 2 of The Village, where single moms live with their children and receive emotional, spiritual and educational support until they can support themselves financially.

At the event, Mayor Madeline Rogero spoke about the importance of supporting single moms and other vulnerable populations who are disproportionately affected by the current lack of affordable rental housing within the city limits.



Ribbon cutting event at The Village

A year ago, Mayor Rogero announced the \$2 million Affordable Rental Housing Development Fund to address that lack of rental housing, and one of the first allocations from that fund – \$180,000 – was granted to The Restoration House for the completion of Phase 2.

And, in the next 10 years, The Village will have a restorative impact on approximately 150 single mothers and 300 children.

It was a perfect way to (unofficially) kick off National Community Development Week.



Mayor Madeline Rogero, Community Development Director Becky Wade and ADA Coordinator Stephanie Cook with Equity Award honoree Jimmy Stone of Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Officially April 2-6, NCDW is a chance for communities to acknowledge and celebrate the ways that community development teams, their partners and collaborating agencies help revitalize low- and moderate-income communities and strengthen city neighborhoods.

The annual Equity Awards Breakfast, held Tuesday, April 3, presented more reasons to celebrate. Our Community Development staff planned and put on the event, which honors local businesses and leaders who partner with the City to reach our mission. (The breakfast of biscuits and gravy, bacon, eggs and sausage was a delicious bonus.)

Housing Finance Supervisor Jenny Stuart recognized Michael Haynes Construction and HomeSource East Tennessee for their commitment to Fair, Affordable and Accessible Housing.

ADA Coordinator Stephanie Cook presented Jimmy Stone of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) an award for his efforts to improve Access and Inclusion of People with Disabilities and Seniors. Stone created an

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EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 YEARS

Dewayne Edward Cole
Dallas Andrew Hord
Gregory Stephen Jones
David Massey
Eric Ross Miller
Benjamin James Peterson
Tim Woods

20 YEARS

Stephanie Brewer Cook
Kathliene Ferguson Hall

25 YEARS

Jeffrey Cunningham

See CDBG HOME Page 4

Mayor's Message



Mayor Madeline Rogero

Welcome to the April/May edition of CityWorks! Spring has been a little sluggish in getting here this year, but I know we're all enjoying the flowers and blooming dogwoods (if not the allergies). This month, I will be making my annual State of the City address and present my proposed budget for 2018-19. As we review the operations across all of our departments, I want you all to know how grateful I am for all of your dedication. The City of Knoxville provides an amazing range of services and amenities to people who live and work here as well as all of our visitors. None of that could happen without you.

In this edition of the newsletter, you can learn about some of the recent efforts of our Community Development Department and the great collaboration between Special Events, Police, Fire and Public Service to create new safety guidelines for event organizers. Also, meet Kathy Sanchez, who provides great customer service in Plans Review and Inspections. And get caught up on news from across the City. Thanks again for all you do.

Follow the Mayor:

 [Facebook.com/MayorRogero](https://www.facebook.com/MayorRogero)

 [Twitter.com/MayorRogero](https://twitter.com/MayorRogero)

UPCOMING HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES

04/19/18 at 2 p.m., Public Works Center Community Room, Lessons from Blue Zones How to Eat for Longevity

04/26/18 at 11 a.m., City County Building Room 549, Harmful Effects of Low Carb Diets

05/03/18 at 2 p.m., Safety City, Lessons for the Blue Zone

05/08/18 at 1 p.m., Safety Building Courtroom, Success Family Budgeting

05/17/18 at 7:30 a.m., Public Works Center Community Room, Harmful Effects of Low Carb Diets

05/22/18 at 2:30 p.m., Facilities on Loraine Street, Harmful Effects of Low Car Diets

05/30/18 at 1 p.m., City County Building Room 549, How Sleep Affects Your Health

06/14/18 at 11 a.m., Lakeshore, Successful Family Budgeting

06/21/18 at 11 a.m., Safety Building Training Room, Harmful Effects of Low Carb Diets

06/25/18 at 2 p.m., Public Works Center Community Room, How Sleep Affects Your Health

To sign up for classes please visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/employees and click on "Class Signup" or call The Center at 215-6150.

Department News & Notes

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

David Massey, who has served as the City's Neighborhood Coordinator since May 2008, will retire in June.

Mayor Madeline Rogero has appointed Debbie Sharp to succeed Massey in that role. Sharp has worked in the Office of Neighborhoods since September 2014, when she was named the Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator.



Retiring Neighborhood Coordinator David Massey, Mayor Madeline Rogero and new Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp

"David's tireless dedication has built the Office of Neighborhoods into an essential connection between neighborhood associations and City government. He has helped neighborhood groups organize and advocate effectively for their priorities," Mayor Rogero said. "Debbie shares his commitment to working with communities across Knoxville, and she will make sure the Office remains an invaluable resource for our residents."

Prior to joining the City, Massey worked as a reporter and editor covering the energy industry. He was president of the Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization in the early 1990s and was involved in the successful multi-neighborhood effort to stop the construction of a large garbage incinerator on Baxter Avenue.

Sharp is active in the South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association and was a driving force behind the neighborhood's designation by the National Wildlife Federation as Tennessee's first certified community wildlife habitat. She has also been active in the League of Women Voters and was a member of CAC's Community Leadership Class of 2005.

Prior to joining the City, Sharp worked for Community Connections, where she managed a team of five caseworkers who advocated for clients with developmental disabilities. She also served two years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, where she helped young people learn leadership skills and form an eco-tourism group. She's also worked for the Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center and Catholic Charities before joining Community Connections.

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Welcome aboard to Jennifer Searle, who's recently started in the Mayor's Office as the City's new Special Program Manager. She oversees community and arts grants, and she helps coordinate the Mayor's appointments to boards and commissions.

See Department News Page 5

10 Questions with Kathy Sanchez

Kathy Sanchez is a Permit Technician Senior in the City's Plans Review and Inspections Department, which means she's the first face that people see when they come searching for a permit.



Kathy Sanchez
Permit Technician
Senior

1. Tell a little about yourself.

Well, I was born in Galveston, Texas, but was raised in Weslaco, Texas, which is in South Texas, approximately five miles from the Mexican border. I have three children and I am not married.

2. What brought you to Knoxville and to work for the City?

The father of my children was born and raised here. He always talked about what a beautiful place it is to live and raise children with the changing of the seasons, the Smoky Mountains and all the rivers. I thought that Knoxville was going to be this small town and did not realize that Knoxville was such a big, booming city!

What brought me to work for the City was that my accounting position at my previous place of employment (along with over 300 jobs) would be sent overseas to India. We learned that we were going to lose our jobs and/or change to a different company, where we were going to be under contract rather than be employees. That motivated me to come to work for the City of Knoxville. I'm learning the value of working with people who care for you and your future!

3. How long have you been with the City? Please describe your role at Plans Review and Inspections.

I have been with the City for three years and four months. My position is a Permit Technician Senior, in which I help contractors and homeowners while issuing building, electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical permits. I also assist and direct Spanish-speaking clients to the appropriate departments and personnel to ensure their needs have been addressed.

4. Where did you learn to speak Spanish?

I learned Spanish while living in South Texas. Approximately 90 percent of the people speak Spanish there. Also, my previous in-laws did not speak English, so I decided to learn Spanish in order to communicate with them and the people around me.

5. What kind of client intake do you do in Plans Review and Inspections? What permits are customers seeking?

Customers are seeking permits for new multi-family apartments, new commercial buildings, new tenant build-outs, new single-family residences and duplexes, repairs to commercial buildings and single-family residences, new accessory structures (sheds, garages, etc.), and even chicken coops.

6. What are some of the most unique requests you've seen come through?

The most unique requests I think would have to be related to tiny houses and chicken coops. Just people inquiring about what is needed for tiny houses. People also call or come requesting permits for chickens after either being cited by Animal Control or just finding out what it takes to raise a chicken in the City of Knoxville limits.

7. Tell us about your kids.

I have three children – Jesse (27), Kaitlyn (13) and Nicholas (11). My daughter, Kaitlyn, attends South-Doyle Middle School. She loves to draw, participate in karate, and play with animals. My son Nicholas goes to Bonny Kate Elementary. He loves any kind of sport there is. My oldest son, Jesse, loves to travel.

8. What do you like to do in your personal time?

In my spare time, I love being a mom, but I also love to dance or hang out with my friends. There's not that much time for that right now, being a single mom with two kids at home, so instead I love throwing myself into spending time with my children and watching them grow.

9. What kind of dancing do you do? What music do you enjoy?

I love all kinds of music! However, I love to dance to Country and Tejano (Mexican) music. I haven't found one here in Knoxville yet, but would love to have a great male dancing partner who knows how to dance and not be afraid of who is looking. It's about just having fun and relaxing.

10. The City is currently in the process of renovations to offer the public a one-stop shop for permitting services between Stormwater Engineering, Plans Review and Inspections, and MPC. With you being the first person in Plans Review and Inspections that most citizens meet when they walk in the door, how will this impact your role?

This has already impacted my position here, since the Stormwater permits are temporarily being issued from our desk in suite 505. We are learning Engineering permitting and the Engineering process, which is quite different. I'm excited to have the opportunity to enhance my skills and learn about another part of the City!

SPRING SAFETY TIPS FROM RISK MANAGEMENT

The weather is getting warmer, and the sun is setting later. Springtime presents opportunities for regularly-scheduled safety checks, as well as for spring cleaning.

Here are some seasonal safety tips:

- Update your list of medications and supplements while disposing of those that are expired. Residents can utilize the permanent drop box collection point at the Knoxville Police Department, 800 Howard Baker Jr. Ave.
- Post emergency contact information on the refrigerator or near a phone.
- Discuss and update your family's Emergency Action Plan.
- Update smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check your fire extinguisher at least once yearly.
- Avoid falls by being aware of wet surfaces.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings.
- Follow application instructions and warning labels on lawn and garden chemicals.
- Bees are attracted to sweet scents, so avoid wearing flowery perfumes or leaving sugary food out.
- Be safe in the sun. Use a minimum of sun protective factor (SPF) 15.
- When traveling, pack a mini-medical kit with any prescription medications.

Remember: Everyone is a risk manager!

- Kathleen Gibi

City Working with Festival and Public Event Organizers to Enhance Safety

Think you're busy? Each year, the City's Office of Special Events manages or helps coordinate 1,500 festivals, parades, rallies, concerts, cultural celebrations, farmers' markets or other public gatherings.

On average, that's more than 125 events each month that come through the three-person Special Events Office.

Starting last month, Judith Foltz, Kyndra Brewer and Elaine Frank just got a little busier.

At a March 22 public meeting, Special Events, Police, Fire and Homeland Security representatives outlined for dozens of non-profit group leaders the City's new safety and security measures.

The new requirements include communications and evacuation plans, to be implemented in the event of emergency situations due to weather or other public safety concerns. The emphasis on more extensive, proactive planning will allow public events to continue to operate smoothly and safely.

Special Events Director Judith Foltz says her staff will do whatever is necessary to help event organizers continue to host safe and successful public gatherings and cultural celebrations.

That includes working with event planners, giving them choices of venues, and helping people who might not have ever put on a public festival with figuring out logistics – like crafting an evacuation plan.

"Festivals are a lot of fun, and we know they contribute to Knoxville's vibrancy," Foltz says. "The new safety measures – and new venues, like the South Lawn at World's Fair Park and Suttree Landing Park – will actually increase the city's capacity to host public events.

"In the short term, the Special Events Office might be doing a little more, as we help everyone understand and incorporate the new safety measures. We'll be working hand in hand with the event organizers, and we're happy about that, because that's the right way to go about this.

"The organizers will have great ideas, and with teamwork, these wonderful public events can grow in size and complexity, while public safety will be further enhanced. It's a win-win."

- Eric Vreeland

CDBG HOME, from Page 1

intern program that provided mentorship and training to people with autism, and three of those interns were in attendance to accept accolades.

Economic Development Project Manager Ken McMahan presented Sanders Pace Architecture with the Community Impact Award for innovating and eye-catching contributions to several new buildings in and around downtown, including the long-awaited Tombras Group headquarters.

Senior Project Specialist Gwen Winfrey presented the Economic Development Award to the partners behind Elkmont Exchange Brewery and Eating House – Joe Fox, Nathan Honeycutt and Brett Honeycutt – for their accomplishments in rehabilitating a derelict building on North Broadway, creating 100-plus jobs and leveraging \$3 million in private investment.

The official theme of #CDWeek2018 is Celebrating the Impact of the CDBG and HOME programs, and those federal funds – and how the City plans to use them – is the focus of Community Development's Annual Action Plan.

The draft plan will be posted online at KnoxvilleTN.gov/development starting April 6, and open for public comment and questions for 30 days. City residents are invited to bring their questions and comments about the plan to a

public hearing being held at 5:30 p.m. May 7 at the John T. O'Connor Center, 611 Winona St.

Public input on the draft plan is significant for gauging the community's housing and development needs and how they may change year to year. Input from partners and residents has been particularly key in recent years to identifying the loss of affordable rental housing.

Pinpointing the number of affordable rental units lost over recent years (either because the properties were changed to market-rate housing or no longer accepted vouchers) led to the Community Development Department focusing its efforts and budget on sustaining support for groups and programs that help build new or maintain current units of affordable rental housing.

Those efforts will be championed later this spring, when ground is broken for Southside Flats, a new affordable housing development located just across the river between Chapman Highway and Martin Mill Pike and being constructed with support from the Affordable Rental Housing Development Fund.

And where there's a groundbreaking, a ribbon-cutting – and new beginnings – won't be far behind.

- Paige Travis

FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY BUILDING

MONDAYS

6:00 AM	Group DVD Class w/Carol - FREE
12:00 PM	Body Strengthening w/Kent - FREE
1:00 PM	Line Dancing Aerobics w/Kathy \$10 month/\$3 class
2:00 PM	Group DVD Class w/Amy - FREE
3:30 PM	Group DVD Class w/Jennifer - FREE
4:40 PM	POUND® Class w/Ginger - FREE

TUESDAYS

12:30 PM	Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Leslie - \$8
1:30 PM	Group DVD Class w/Amy - FREE
4:00 PM	Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Leslie - \$8

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 AM	Group DVD Class w/Carol - FREE
12:30 PM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$30 per 40 min.
1:30 PM	Group DVD Class w/Amy - FREE
3:30 PM	Group DVD Class w/Jennifer - FREE
4:40 PM	POUND® Class w/Ginger - FREE

THURSDAYS

11:30 AM	Group DVD Class w/Amy - FREE
12:30 PM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$30 per 40 min.
1:30 PM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$30 per 40 min. Session
3:30 PM	Group DVD Class w/Jennifer - FREE

Department News, from Page 2

A 20-plus-year resident of North Hills, Searle has worked for and with non-profits most of her adult life as a board member, director, employee and volunteer.

**Jennifer Searle**

She serves as the board president for the Knox County Schools Clothing Center, and she's previously been the director at Bridge Refugee Services. Other non-profits for which she's worked include the Volunteer Ministry Center and Catholic Charities.

"I am excited to work with a great City team and provide support to the many nonprofits and volunteers in our community," Searle says.

She and her husband Jon have three children: Aidan, a sophomore engineering student at the University of Tennessee; Maya, a senior at West High School; and Henry, a freshman at West.

Searle follows in the footsteps of another experienced leader with the same appreciation for building strong community partnerships. Indya Kincannon, former chair of the Knox County Board of Education, resigned as of March 30 after serving with distinction for 2½ years as Special Program Manager in the Mayor's Office.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Stephanie Cook, the City's ADA Coordinator, sees plenty of progress being made in terms of City departments working to make downtown and neighborhoods – as well as City parks and recreation programs – more accessible to people with disabilities.

Cook touts Suttree Landing Park, with its accessible picnic tables, overlooks and playground. She's pleased the City is prioritizing walkable neighborhoods, and more paths are being opened for people using wheelchairs.

**Stephanie Cook demonstrates the new accessible picnic tables at Suttree Landing**

The City is committed to "complete streets." Knoxville Area Transit employees are trained to best meet the needs of senior and disabled citizens. The City's Community Development

Department embraces the concept of "visitable housing," and the Parks and Recreation is expanding the inclusiveness of its recreation opportunities.

"The past few years have been good ones in terms of accessibility," she said. "We're definitely going in the right direction."

For more details on how City departments are moving the needle toward Knoxville becoming even more disability-friendly, click on this City Blog post: <https://bit.ly/2pKJNCm>

PARKS AND RECREATION**Welcome to Browning Baby!**

Congratulations to Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Aaron Browning and his wife, Brooke, on recently becoming parents! Ellie Frances Browning was born Feb. 23 at 7 pounds, 10 ounces. Aaron and Brooke are both avid tennis players and have aced the new parenting role, as was to be expected!

**Aaron & Brooke Browning with baby Ellie Frances****Welcome to New Urban Wilderness Coordinator!**

Be sure to welcome Rebekah Jane Montgomery, the City's first Urban Wilderness Coordinator. Montgomery joined the Parks and Recreation Department last summer, but she was profiled in a City Blog post – <https://bit.ly/2p58Klr> – a few weeks ago. Her job is to collaborate with an array of partners to help further develop and enhance the Urban Wilderness' 1,000-plus-acre collection of parks, Civil War forts, trails and natural features.

**Rebekah Jane Montgomery****POLICE**

KPD Capt. Ronald Green had a proud father moment as his son, Hunter Blake Green, recently signed to the Virginia Tech football team. Hunter just completed his senior year as quarterback at Webb High School. He has signed as a

FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY BUILDING**FRIDAYS**

- 6:00 AM Group DVD Class w/ Carol - FREE
- 11:00 AM One-on-One Thai Yoga w/ Leslie \$30 per 40 min.
- 12:00 PM Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Tiny - FREE
- 1:00 PM Group DVD Class w/Amy - FREE

All classes are at City County Building in Room L217. Classes are subject to change, please call 215-2111 to verify schedule.

FITNESS CLASSES - PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE CENTER**TUESDAYS**

- 1:00 PM Line Dancing Aerobics w / Kathy, \$10 month/\$3 class

Classes at Morris Ave. are held in Zone 1 Room or Community Room. Classes are subject to change, please call 215-2111 to verify schedule.

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cornerback/safety for Virginia Tech, though he is also being considered for play as a quarterback and receiver.



Capt. Ronald Green, Hunter Blake Green and family on signing day

Hunter has not yet been assigned a jersey number, but he is hoping to continue with the same No. 3 that he sported in high school. Congrats to the Green family!

KAT

Mayor Rogero proclaimed March 16 to be Knoxville Area Transit Driver Appreciation Day, and she, State Rep. Rick Staples and Transit Director Dawn Distler celebrated with some of KAT's 170 transit operators at Knoxville Station.

The Mayor praised KAT's operators for doing an amazing job, day in and day out. They drove 2.9 million miles last year.

The group saluted a special group of KAT bus operators – the 25 members of the Million Mile Club. These operators have each driven a million or more miles behind the wheel of a KAT bus without a preventable accident. The veteran of the



Million Mile Club members Joey Carpenter, Jeff Cashion and Jimmy Leatherwood with Mayor Madeline Rogero, Transit Director Dawn Distler and State Rep. Rick Staples

group, Jeff Cashion, has driven more than 2 million miles, accident free, over 28 years.

The drivers and KAT staff also gave a round of applause to Ventrice Hodge, who was driving the Route 23-Millertown bus last year when she noticed an elderly woman who had fallen in her driveway. The bus was safely parked, and Hodge didn't hesitate to jump off the bus and help the woman get back on her feet.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Recently, some Horticulture crew members in the City's Public Service Department were able to help a greenways bicyclist get back to pedaling again.

As Joe Collins, Jeremy Mitchell, Eddie McDonald and Aaron Farmer were removing invasive exotic plants along the Third Creek Greenway, they noticed a man carrying his damaged bicycle. The back wheel was broken.

"This gentleman was struggling since had just carried his bike up a hill, and he still a long way to go – you could just tell he was tired," Collins said. "We don't send anyone away that needs help – you have to step up when you can!"

Collins happened to have a bike repair kit on him, and volunteered to make a quick fix. The other crew members assisted as Collins made the repair.



Joe Collins repairs citizen's bicycle

Minutes later, the bicyclist was on his way and the crew went back to clearing brush.

"Joe's somebody who's always helping others, so I wasn't surprised to hear about this," said Mark Wagner, Horticulture Manager. "Our crew members are quality people, and they're always looking out to help their fellow citizens."

More details here: <https://bit.ly/2EYmk9O>.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFO

If you have a story idea or an employee you would like to see interviewed for 10 Questions please contact:

Jesse Fox Mayshark
Sr. Director of Communications & Government Relations
865-215-3710
jmayshark@knoxvilletn.gov

Eric Vreeland
Deputy Director of Communications
865-215-3480
evreeland@knoxvilletn.gov

Traci McDonell
City Webmaster & Photographer
865-215-2177
tmcdonell@knoxvilletn.gov

Kathleen Gibi
Public Affairs Specialist
865-215-2946
kgibi@knoxvilletn.gov

Paige Travis
Public Information Specialist
865-215-3659
ptravis@knoxvilletn.gov