



CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES UPDATE
GET TO KNOW DANIEL ALEXANDER
LAW DEPARTMENT STAFF CHANGES
BENEFITS ENROLLMENT AND MORE

CITYWORKS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Winter Work: How City Employees Make the Holidays Happen

Layers. That’s the secret to enduring outdoor work in cold weather with the City’s fall and Christmas in the City events.

Just like City staffers’ wardrobe strategy, there are many layers involved in making these public events successful.

City employees played a direct role in 20 events during the holidays, in addition to supporting nearly 100 events by other organizations.

City Communications caught up with a handful of employees that help bring the magic of the holidays to Knoxville.

ELAINE FRANK, SPECIAL EVENTS

Position: Office Manager

With the City since: 2011

The Special Events team - Judith Foltz (Director), Kyndra



Special Events staff, Kyndra Brewer, Judith Foltz, and Elaine Frank.

Winter Work: continued on page 2

Mayor's Message



Mayor Madeline Rogero

Welcome to the fall edition of City Works!

In this hefty edition, you can get to know the new staff attorneys in the Law Department, as well as Employee of the Year Daniel Alexander, a Recreation Specialist with Parks and Recreation.

You can get useful information about benefits enrollment.

Find out about food trucks near the City County Building, and which City employees are the best chili cooks. And be sure to read an entertaining item about Dan Frye's

sponsorship of Tylee, the underdog winner of the Great Llama Race.

Most of this newsletter is dedicated to the City workers who brave the cold and rain each fall to get downtown looking its very best for Christmas in the City. That includes the crews who string 100,000 holiday lights and build the Market Square ice skating rink, those in uniform who keep everyone safe, and many others.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

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

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

Winter Work: continued from page 1

Brewer (Deputy Director), and Frank – are among the busiest trios in the City. They coordinate approximately 1,100 events annually.

This team is also the powerhouse behind the seasonal Christmas in the City. It begins with plans and sponsorship acquisitions in July. Then there's the execution of a series of events, through all weather conditions, from November through January. Then, there's the post-holiday evaluations, and efforts get underway immediately in preparation for the following year.

When asked if they go out for celebratory drinks following major events, Frank laughed, saying, "No! We're all too exhausted and just head home into bed, but we do usually go out to eat together before a big event."

The Special Events team has experienced just about every form of

weather that Mother Nature decides to throw at East Tennessee – from floods or snow in late October to T-shirt weather in December. Frank recalled an event where the temperature once dropped to a low of 11 degrees.

While New Year's Eve on Market Square tends to be the coldest event of the year, the staff manages to thaw out between events with portable heaters.

"It's always rewarding, though," Frank said. "Just watching everyone have a good time...taking photos...making family memories...and knowing that we're the reason it happened makes it all worth it."

It's worthwhile to downtown businesses, too. Christmas in the

City brings tens of thousands of people downtown each year, and those patrons often shop and dine when they visit.

Winter Work: continued on page 4

Employee Anniversaries

10 years

Mark Barbra
Mark Anthony Byrd
Kortni Cook
Kevin Andrew Crigger
Roger Craig Fernandez
Shannon Michael Hodge
Joseph Leek Holloway
Jonathan Travis Howard
Donald Ray James
Gavin Lowe
Lennon Blaine Marcum
Randal Grant Martin
Joseph Wayne Whitehead, II

15 Years

Lenny Blair
Ronald B. Cook, Jr.
Vanda Dalton
Joel Goucher
Christopher Lee Jones
William Lyons
Colin Campbell McLeod III
Charissa Oglesby
Mark Patrick Parker
Eric Douglas Parks
Christopher Nelson Patterson
Lesley Stinnett Pressley
David A. Smith
Kevin Tippens
Christopher M. Webster
James Eugene Williams, Jr.
Dava Wyatt

20 years

Stephen Burchfield
James Delbert Burrell
Kenneth Bush
Alinda Cox
Dana Crocker
Darrow Davenport
Jeffrey Day

Employee Anniversaries

20 Years

Brian Evans
John Kiely
Boyd Kitts
Brian Leatherwood
Albert Long
Travis Shuler
Alan Spears
Wally Spitzer
Clifford Thomas
Trisha Ward
Howard Williams
Gregory Womac
Janice Thrift Woodard

25 years

Patrick Shawn Langley

30 years

Gary Scott Compton
William Mason Elmore
Sandra Kelley Schade
James Delbert Trentham

40 years

Eddie Ault



Annual Enrollment has officially begun and continues until Nov. 30!

Unless you experience a qualifying event during the year, annual enrollment is the one time of year when you can add, drop or change your benefits. And it's a great time to review how your coverage suits you and your family, your stage of life and your budget.

Medical and pharmacy vendors are the same as last year: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee for medical and OptumRX for prescriptions. BCBSTN replaces Delta Dental as our new dental insurance provider. And there's a new opportunity to add life insurance coverage without answering medical questions.

An easy way to learn about 2019 benefits and share it with your family is by watching this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/p7p3WCldD08>

Visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/benefits to watch the video or read the 2019 Guide to Your Benefits. If you have questions, you can attend the last in a series of the City-wide enrollment meetings on November 27. It's at 2 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room, City County Building.

The 2019 Summary of Benefits and Coverage can be found [HERE](#).

Deadline: You have until Nov. 30 to make your elections in PeopleSoft. Even if you don't want anything to change, you'll still need to make your elections.

If you are ready to make your 2019 elections now, please click [HERE](#) to log into PeopleSoft. Your User ID will be the same as your City Employee ID. If you do not know your password, you can click the Forgot Password? link or call the Help Desk at 215-3030.

Tylee the Llama Won Some Moola

Dan Frye, who joined the Communications team in August as the City's first full-time graphic designer, recently won \$3,000 for Powell Middle School through the Great Llama Race. The event is hosted annually by Casa de Sara and raises funds for its programs, Knox County schools and llama rescue organizations.

The race, held Oct. 6 at the World's Fair Park, includes llamas that each represent a Knox County school and a sponsor. Frye sponsored a llama through Dan Frye Designs.

"Casa de Sara is a great non-profit that works to benefit at-risk children and their families through programming," Frye said. "This race is a really fun way to raise money for those in need in the community - and it's especially fun when your llama wins!"

Frye walked away with a golden llama trophy. And what did the winning llama get out of it? Knowledge that "he's still got it."

Tylee is 20 years old - the oldest llama racing. The true underdog, Tylee chewed his youthful four-legged opponents up and spit them out!

For more information on Casa de Sara, visit www.casadesara.org.

Winter Work: continued from page 2

When asked to pick her favorite Christmas in the City event, Frank said it is hands down the Regal Celebration of Lights, because of the way downtown is transformed.

Frank said the collaboration between City departments around these events has become a family affair.

“We couldn’t do it without our co-workers in Public Service, Police and Fire,” she said. “They’re the ones who do the hard work in the early morning hours to keep everything clean and safe, and they keep a sense of humor through it all.”

Thanks to the City’s Special Events Office for always helping us to celebrate in big ways!



**Mark Karns, Maintenance Coordinator,
Public Service Area 100**

MARK KARNS, PUBLIC SERVICE
Position: Maintenance Coordinator
With the City since: 2006

The number of downtown visitors swells due to the Market Square ice rink and seasonal events. But the City stays perpetually neat and clean. How does that happen? Thank Mark Karns and his crew.

They pick up litter. Blow leaves. Empty trash cans. And prep sites for special events.

“People don’t know how much our guys do, and it can often be a thankless job,” Karns said. “We can fish leaves out of the pond in Krutch Park, blow them out of Market

Square, have everything in pristine condition, and a windy night can make it look like we were never there.”

Their work is required in all weather conditions and at any time or day - including Christmas morning. During the holiday season, these employees average 55 hours a week, due to all of the extra activity.

They take immense pride – and ownership – in keeping downtown looking pristine. Their efforts do not go unnoticed.

“One thing we have going for us is that when you’re downtown, you interact with people, and many let us know that they appreciate what we do,” Karns said.

During recent years, residents of the Holston Building have given them hand warmers when the temperature drops. Talk about getting into the holiday spirit!

Thanks to the team in Public Service Area 100 for keeping downtown Knoxville looking great.

Winter Work: continued on page 8

Food Truck Zone Near City County Building

Did you know there’s a food truck zone located less than a five-minute walk from the City County Building?

The City established permitted on-street parking for mobile food vendors to set up between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday on Main Street in front of the First Baptist Church and Bank of America buildings.

Several City employees enjoyed lunch from the SoWich and Southern Sisters Kitchen food trucks on Friday, Oct. 19. Those vendors generously offered a portion of their sales that day to our Consolidated Charities fundraising campaign.

There are additional food-truck zones in downtown, but this is the closest to the City County Building.

Check the calendar to see what days food trucks are scheduled to be in the Main Street food truck zone. SoWich has signed up to be there on Nov. 9, 16 and 30.

For more details, [click here](#).



FOOD TRUCK
HOT FOOD

Departmental News & Notes

Fleet Services

■ Congratulations on snagging a two-star Tennessee Green Fleet designation from Tennessee Clean Fuels for converting half of the City's mowers to propane use. Each year, fleets across the state are evaluated based on its petroleum use and emissions reductions. Knoxville was the only fleet this year in Tennessee to achieve a two-star status.



■ **Tom Collins**, an Automotive Master Technician and a 31-year City employee, was recently recognized by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) with a service medallion for achieving 25 years as an ASE-certified Technician. This is a difficult-to-achieve and very prestigious award. He is the only current Fleet Services employee to have achieved this award.

Public Service

■ **James Edwards** of Service Area 3 proved he is a leading knuckleboom operator when he won Third Place at the Tennessee Chapter of American Public Works Association's State Equipment Rodeo in Nashville last month. Congrats!



Engineering

■ Congratulations to Civil Engineer Manager Karen McKeehan, who is being honored as a member of the 12th annual Knox.biz 40 Under 40 class. The 40 Under 40 program celebrates the best of the best in the Knoxville area's business community. A civil engineer with the City of Knoxville since 2006, McKeehan manages the annual street resurfacing and curb cut programs, and she just completed the in-house design of the 600 Block of Market Street. She was awarded the 2016 Young Engineer Award by the Tennessee Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).



Neighborhoods

■ Read a terrific profile of Neighborhoods Coordinator **Debbie Sharp**, entitled "Paying it forward, one act at a time," in the Knoxville Ledger. [Click here](#).



Fire

■ Fire **Capt. Chris McReynolds** was honored as Firefighter of the First Quarter of 2018. Capt. McReynolds was off-duty and driving past Bell Walker Crossing Apartments when he noticed heavy smoke coming from building 8331. He called 911, parked his vehicle, then ran to the occupied building and began knocking on every door, alerting the tenants of the danger. Capt. McReynolds single-handedly cleared all of the occupants from the building before emergency crews arrived.

Congratulations to our outstanding Officer of the Month, Lifesaving Award and Unit Commendation Award recipients.



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas awarded the January Officer of the Month award to **Sgt. Jeremy Maupin.** ([read more](#))



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas named Knoxville Police Department **Officer John Pickens** the March Co-Officer of the Month for the Knoxville Police Department. ([read more](#))



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas named Knoxville Police Department **Sgt. Josh Shaffer** and **Officer Todd Childress** the March Co-Officers of the Month. Read more [here](#).



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas awarded the Life Saving Award to Knoxville Police Department **Officer Garrett Fontanez.**([read more](#))



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas named **James Erskine** the March Co-Officer of the Month for the Knoxville Police Department. ([read more](#))



■ Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Police Chief Eve Thomas awarded the Life Saving Award to Knoxville Police Department Officer Carl Kennedy. ([read more](#))



KFD Holds Memorial Service for Fallen Firefighters

The Knoxville Fire Department held its annual Memorial Service Honoring Fallen Firefighters at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at the KFD's Headquarters Fire Station in downtown Knoxville.

The annual ceremony honored the 24 KFD firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty since 1875 and the retired firefighters who have died since the last memorial service. As part of the ceremony, attended by active and retired firefighters and family and friends of those being honored, a bell was rung once for each of the fallen firefighters.

At the same time, as each fallen firefighter's name was read by Fire Chief Stan Sharp and the bell was tolled, a single red rose was placed into a gold-colored vase bearing the department's insignia.

Mayor Madeline Rogero and Chief Sharp spoke at the ceremony and placed a wreath at the firefighter's statue in Firefighter Memorial Park in front of the station.

Read more [here](#).



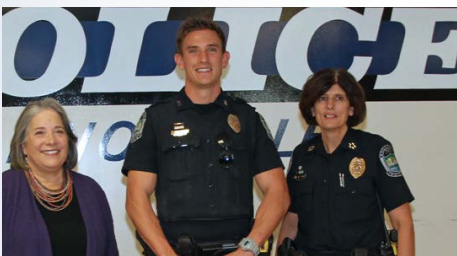
David Chandler & Ethan Grantham, May officers of the month with Mayor Rogero and Chief Thomas.



Officer Floyd Fox Officer J.D. Hopkins

■ Officers David Chandler and Ethan Grantham were named May Officers of the Month ([read more](#))

■ Officer Floyd Fox ([read more](#)) and Officer J.D. Hopkins ([read more](#)) earned June Co-Officer of the Month recognition.



Lifesaving Award recipient, Officer Derrick White

■ The Lifesaving Award went to Officer Derrick White ([read more](#))

■ KPD's Animal Control Unit received the Unit Commendation Award ([read more](#)).

Below: KPD's Animal Control Unit



Hellos and Goodbyes in the Law Department



Christina Magráns-Tillery

There's been plenty of change in a short period of time at the Law Department.

Two new attorneys have been hired, replacing two veteran attorneys – each with more than five years of experience – who have left to pursue other opportunities.

Devin Lyon joined the law firm of Arnett, Draper & Hagood as an associate, and Crista Cuccaro, returning to the area where she and her husband have family, is now working as a staff attorney with the City of Durham, N.C.

The City welcomes Christina Magráns-Tillery, who came on board in September as a new staff attorney, and the Law Department's newest addition, George Shields II, begins later this month.

Magráns-Tillery has taken on Cuccaro's areas of responsibilities, including land use and zoning, business support, and emerging issues, such as

[continued on page 8](#)



■ On Oct. 22, Gov. Bill Haslam announced a roughly \$1.87 million TDOT grant that will fund Phase II of the Northwest Greenway Connector, which will stretch 1.5 miles from the pedestrian bridge over Western Avenue to Middlebrook Pike at Third Creek Road. City Parks and Greenways Coordinator Tim Hester completed the application with supportive help from City Engineering, particularly Karen McKeehan and Shawn Fitzpatrick.

■ Aaron Browning, Deputy Director, served as co-chair of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association state conference, which Knoxville hosted. The Mary Vestal Greenway extension, built by the Public Service Department's Greenways Service Crew, received the "Best New Facility" award.



Winter Work: continued from page 4

CODY FOSTER, PUBLIC SERVICE

Position: Equipment Operator II
With the City since: 2014

A large part of downtown's holiday magic happens when more than 100,000 lights shine in the night. It may feel like magic, but Public Service workers - including Cody Foster - spend two weeks putting up the lights up.

"Yeah, it can get pretty cold when we're installing lights - and especially when we're taking them down in January," Foster said. "But we're provided with work clothes that allow us to adjust with the day-to-day weather."



Cody Foster, Public Service, Equipment Operator II

Winter Work: continued on page 9

Hello and Goodbyes in the Law Department



George Shields II

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regulations for electric scooters. Magráns-Tillery was previously an attorney with Legal Aid of East Tennessee but also has a background as a mediator and with housing law.

Shields, who also worked with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, began his career with the U.S. Air Force and will work with departments including Community Development, Employee Benefits & Risk Management, Fleet Services, Civil Service, Real Estate Management, and Community Relations.

To learn more about Magráns-Tillery and Shields, and for updates on Lyon and Cuccaro, read more [here](#).

—Fiona McAnally

Winter Work: continued from page 8

It takes 10 days to fully assemble the 42-foot tree on display in the Krutch Park extension at Gay Street - a day to first construct the tree's frame, and then the "devil is in the decorating details."

"It's intricate work, but we get a lot of positive comments along the way," said Foster. "It's fun to help bring in the holiday season."

This year, Foster and several other Public Service workers had the tree topper hoisted from the ground and installed within a few minutes - quite the feat, as winds caused it to swing as it was guided to its perch.

Work doesn't stop for the crew after everything's installed. Mischievous squirrels chew wires, and people whom Foster calls "Bah Humbug folk" knock down lights, requiring the occasional replacement.

"It's a nice change of pace to install the tree and lights, and I love seeing people's positive reactions when they realize what we're doing," Foster said.



Lt. Sammy Shaffer, KPD, Special Events Coordinator that all stays merry and bright.

Lt. Sammy Shaffer helps coordinate downtown special events for the Knoxville Police Department. KPD probably has the most visible presence during the parade and festivals, as officers help with road closures and keep bystanders in the safe viewing areas along curbs.

Depending on the weather, the hours outdoors and in the dark can be bone-chilling.

"There are a lot of officers that you see, but also some you don't," Lt. Shaffer said.

In colder weather, you'll likely see officers sporting toboggans to hold in the heat. Many also use some form of thermal underclothing.

And even throughout the holiday season, the crew continues to do its routine work of brush and trash collection.

LT. SAMMY SHAFFER, KNOXVILLE POLICE
Position: KPD Special Events Coordinator
With the City since: 1994

At each special event, there are public safety officials working behind the scenes, ensuring

"We can prepare for cold temperatures to an extent, but we always have to be conscious of the fact that we need the dexterity to execute every aspect of our job at any given moment, so to do that, we can't really bundle up as much as civilians," Shaffer said.

On the coldest days, KPD officers simply make an effort to grin and bear it, he added.

"Giving the public a sense of safety is as important as ensuring safety, so we try to hide the grimacing in the weather," Shaffer said. "We've got a job to do and the mission comes first."



Hal Pena, Traffic Engineering, Signal Installation Crew Leader

One of America's biggest downtown holiday traditions is a decorated streetlight - just try to find a miniature Christmas village set without one!

Each year, the City's Traffic Engineering Division staff uses bucket trucks to decorate an estimated 100 streetlights with banners, lights and garland. This is quite a change of pace from the typical maintenance and emergency work on traffic lights.

"We're working in all weather conditions year-round, so holiday work doesn't really expose us to anything that we wouldn't experience anyway," said Harold "Hal" Pena of Traffic Engineering. "We are well-outfitted for any form of weather."

Pena represents Traffic Engineering on the Special Events holiday planning committee.

"The nature of our regular work is response and repair, so I really enjoy being a part of the creative process on the front end of things during the holiday season," he said.

This year, streetlights from Hill Avenue to Emory Place will be decorated. Pena and his team have also been working with the River Hill Gateway Association to install decorations along the Hill Avenue viaduct.

Thank you to all of our officers for working to keep us safe in all conditions year-round!

HAL PENA, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
Position: Signal Installation Crew Leader
With the City since: 1990

"City streetlights... dressed with bright red and green..."

Winter Work: continued on page 10

Winter Work: continued from page 9

On the Gay Street block that includes the Tennessee Theatre, holiday banners will commemorate the venue's 90th anniversary.

"People make positive comments as we install banners, and it's nice to get appreciative feedback," said Pena.

Our Traffic Engineering Division does its part to herald in the holidays!

CAPT. JOHN DODSON, KNOXVILLE FIRE



Position: Oversees EMS Division
With City since: 1996

The Knoxville Fire Department's EMS Division is tasked with establishing contingency plans to ensure the safety of the large crowds congregating downtown around the

holidays and throughout the year.

Dodson, who oversees the EMS Division, said the biggest work around each event is preparing "instant action plans." With these plans, our EMS professionals must take into account details like:

- How to get emergency vehicles in and out of crowds;
- How they will communicate with hospitals and dispatch; and
- What to do in the event of sudden, extreme weather.

"Most of what we do is strategically position our utility vehicles that we equip with life support equipment and staff them with one EMT (emergency medical technician) and one paramedic," said Capt. Dodson. "I guess describing our work during an event can seem kind of boring, but it's the key to preventing tragedy in a chaotic event."

EMS work can get pretty cold - especially when it involves having to arrive well in advance for events like the early-morning Jingle Bell 5K Run.

"You just have to bundle up because, hopefully, you're not going to be moving much during the event," Dodson explained.

Typically, EMS workers will have 20-30 interactions with the public - usually dealing with minor issues, like cuts that require bandages or ice packs for a swollen joint. Every now and then, they'll see a chest pain that leads to hospitalization.

Dodson and his team may not be the most visible asset to the untrained eye during the colors and excitement of Christmas in the City. However, they're ever-present

and prepared to lead civilians to safety in the event of an emergency.



**STEVE OGLE,
PUBLIC SERVICE**
Position: Construction Foreman
With the City since: 2010

The City's Holidays on Ice skating rink on Market Square has become a focal point of Christmas in the City. After evaluating the process of constructing

the rink years ago, the City determined that it would be more cost-effective to build the "sand box" foundation for the ice skating rink with in-house expertise and labor.

Enter the Public Service Department.

Public Service's Pipe Crew, which in general is called in to install any pipes needed in a City construction project, was enlisted to build a frame based on Civil Engineering's measurements. Steve Ogle, Construction Foreman, has overseen the 40-by-100-foot construction for the last six years. His crew is able to reuse the frame every other year, saving on time and materials.

"People come up and ask us what we're building, and our guys always joke that we're building a giant kitty litter box," Ogle said.

After the frame is completed, the Heavy Equipment Crew spreads 200 tons of sand - that 2½ times the weight of the Space Shuttle - within the frame constructed on Market Square. Staff from the City's new Greenways Service Crew will expedite the sand delivery process with new, specialized equipment. The sand helps to prevent the ice from melting and is reused in City projects after Christmas in the City ends in January.

The Facilities Crew also contributes and creates the space for the rink on Market Square by removing benches and fencing and by building the ice rink stages.

Between 15,000 and 17,000 skate the rink each year. Among them are Ogle and his grandkids; skating has become a family holiday tradition.

"It's pretty special to skate with them, knowing that I had a hand in building the rink," Ogle said.

Thanks to these crews from the Public Service Department for helping to make holiday memories for thousands of families enjoying Holidays on Ice over the years!

—Kathleen Gibi

10 Questions with Daniel Alexander



City Employee of the Year, Daniel Alexander with Sheryl Ely and Mayor Rogero

During the Employee Appreciation Picnic and Benefits Fair at Caswell Park on Oct. 17, Mayor Madeline Rogero announced that Recreation Specialist Daniel Alexander was the City's Employee of the Year for his inventiveness and inclusiveness in programming.

The Parks and Recreation staffer, who moved to Knoxville from Nashville when he was 10 with his parents, Jo Ann and Steve, and older brother Matt, accepted the award from Mayor Rogero and Parks and Recreation Director Sheryl Ely.

Alexander graduated from Farragut High School, attended Pellissippi State and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation.

1. What role did sports play during your youth?

Playing sports helped me feel part of something bigger than myself and showed me how to work with others toward a common goal.

2. What sports did you play?

I enjoyed playing basketball and baseball as a child. Then in high school, I like to say I didn't really play football, but I got to practice it a lot! Lacrosse in high school was my favorite sport to play.

3. How did you identify Therapeutic Recreation as the field you wanted to go into?

In college, I took a class which had a week-long lab at the end of the semester called Camp Koinonia. [Camp Koinonia – derived from the Greek words for “fellowship” and “caring community” – is an outdoor education program for 150 children ages 7-21 who have multiple disabilities.] I was paired with a young man named Michael, and my experience of taking care of him filled me with a purpose and sense of fulfillment that led me to change my major from Communications to Therapeutic Recreation.

4. In the Employee of the Year nomination form, Sheryl Ely and your colleagues praised you for helping transform the Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center into a hub for dynamic/accessible athletics.

I promote Inskip-Norwood as a starting point. I am able to use not just Inskip but also our great greenway trails, parks and ball fields to promote recreation and leisure services to our citizens with and without disabilities all over the City.

5. Describe an instance when you're on the job and you feel like you're really helping someone.

A part of my programming is offering Special Olympic training for adults who want to compete in local events. Working with them leading up to an event and then getting a chance to watch them compete and meet the goals we set is an amazing feeling!

6. What's your favorite sport to play?

I don't really have a favorite sport to play as I enjoy just about everything. I have recently gotten into running and hope to complete my second Knoxville Half Marathon next spring.

7. What's your favorite sport to watch on television?

Football! There's nothing better than a Sunday afternoon with the Redzone channel.

8. Have you invented or imagined a dynamic sport that doesn't exist yet but you'd like it to?

I haven't invented one that doesn't exist, but I am very happy with the Life Size Foosball I was able to adapt to my gym at Inskip. I attached six ropes to each side of the gym and use PVC pipes on the ropes as handles and a large exercise ball to kick between cones as our goals. It's a lot of fun!

9. What advice would you offer to someone wanting to get more physically active?

I think the biggest challenge is more mental than physical. Pushing down all the reasons or excuses not to never goes away for good. Getting into a routine and having a support system to help you keep your commitment to being physically active is a big part of success.

10. What's your favorite sports movie?

“The Natural”

—Paige Travis



Queen of Hearts (Whitney Crowe) and Traci McDonell

Consolidated Charities Chili Cookoff

Was it the best year ever for the City-wide chili cook-off competition to raise money for the annual Consolidated Charities campaign?

That was the consensus among cook-off planners and winners of the coveted prizes, who pulled out all the stops to offer tasty chili and inventive booths and themed costumes for the chance to receive fame and glory.

Donations at the door totaled \$743, which will be split equally between United Way, Community Shares and Community Health Charities.

Parks and Recreation's Yo Mamma's House won the Celebrity Judges' Chili Cauldron prize for Best Chili. The ground beef-based recipe cooked up by Yolanda Crowe had a subtle heat that didn't overpower the palate. The Law Department took Second Place with chili concocted by a ringer: Cheri Hollifield from Codes Enforcement!

Additional honorees are:

People's Choice "Best Chili" (Large Department)

Golden Ladle: Parks and Recreation

Second place: Finance and Purchasing, for their Jurassic Chili

People's Choice "Best Chili" (Small Department)

Golden Soup Bowl: Civil Service, for their smoked pork chili

Second place: Law

People's Choice "Best Booth" (Large Department)

Red Colander: Community Development, for their Knoxopoly themed booth and costumes

Second place: Finance and Purchasing, for their Jurassic Park theme

People's Choice "Best Booth" (Small Department)

Swagalicious Prize: Civil Service, for their Alice in Wonderland theme

Second place: Law, for their Alyson's Wonderland theme

Thanks to all the departments that participated and everyone who attended.

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

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